

EDITORIALS.

MAYORS AS MAGISTRATES.

UNDER a recent date "A Subscriber" writes from Cedar City, and propounds the following questions:

"Will you kindly inform me through the columns of your valuable paper if it is necessary for the mayors of cities to be commissioned by the Governor when the charter under which the mayor is elected does not authorize him to act as a magistrate?"

Have mayors any right to assume the functions of a magistrate unless authorized to do so by the act incorporating their city?"

The answer to both questions is, Yes. A mayor ought to have a commission, which serves as *prima facie* evidence of his right to perform the duties of his office, no matter whether or not the charter of the city specifically requires him to be commissioned.

Under a general law of the Territory, the mayors and aldermen of all incorporated cities are made justices of the peace, and have authority to sit as courts in trials for misdemeanors, and as committing magistrates in cases of felony.

AN IMPORTANT LOCAL QUESTION.

THE question of sewerage for this city has been discussed, off and on, for many years. Recently a report has been made to the City Council from a committee appointed to investigate the subject. They recommend a pipe system, which appears to them the best in use in other places. Their report seems to have been well considered, and made with the sole view of benefiting the city and not to favor any particular person or system, or to foster any private interest whatever. The City Council which will be elected on the 13th inst. will have to grapple with this matter and put into practical operation, either the suggestions of the aforesaid committee or some other plan that may appear suitable and the best adapted to the needs of this locality.

So far as we have been able to determine, the recommendations of that committee are sound and based upon substantial reasons. But the intention is to convey the sewage to some point on the Jordan, and by means of that stream carry it away to the waters of Salt Lake.

It is to the disposition of the sewage, rather than to the method for its conveyance, that we desire to call attention. There are many objections as it appears to us, to carrying the refuse matter to the contemplated point of discharge. Among the chief of these are, the cost of piping so great a distance and the fouling of the Jordan to the injury of people dwelling near its banks, to say nothing of what may occur from overflow in certain seasons of the year. Perhaps these may not be considered fatal to the scheme, or the supposed evils may be greatly exaggerated. But the question arises, is there not a more excellent way? If there is, it ought to be favorably considered before anything definite is done.

The great city of London used to turn its immense streams of sewage into the Thames, a broad, deep and swift-flowing river purified by the ocean tides. But it was found to be a bad system and a wrongful one. Therefore another method was adopted to prevent the fouling of the Thames and secure the worth of the waste material. So, immense engines are now used to pump the sewage into receptacles from which it is forced to a point distant from the populated region, where it is utilized as both solid and liquid manure.

Somewhat similar to this, but less expensive and possessing better features, in our opinion, is the system now in successful operation at Pullman, Garden City and other eastern towns, in which a pipe system, similar to that advised for this city, conducts the refuse matter to points where it flows into receptacles prepared according to a patented process, by which the whole mass is thoroughly deodorized, the liquid separated from the solid matter and both made available as fertilizers. An eastern company has purchased the patents covering this entire system, and will either build the whole apparatus and conduits, supply the material and leave the city to perform the work of construction, lease the works or sell them to the city, or, for a given sum, dispose of the right to use the system furnishing plans and specifications, as any city or town may elect.

We do not pretend to say whether or not this system is the one that Salt Lake ought to adopt. That is for the City Council to determine. But it appears to be admirably adapted to the needs of this and other cities in this Territory that will need some practical system of sewerage before long. We are not fully informed as to the expense, nor as to the value of the fertilizing material which can be used upon the fields and farms adjacent. These are matters to be well weighed by those entrusted with the settlement of this important question. But upon general principles it seems desirable that, instead of befouling a fluctuating stream, with possibilities of

making a nuisance and spreading disease, a plan to change foul refuse into means of promoting fertility and giving life to plant and tree instead of spreading germs of death, must be the preferable method.

We have no ax to grind in the matter. We speak for the benefit of the public. We are not committed to any particular system. All we ask is for a full and careful investigation of the systems which use has proved efficacious and economical, and likely to be the best adapted to inland cities and towns situated in valleys or other natural local depressions. Let this be well weighed before action is taken on the sewerage question.

TYPOGRAPHICAL PROGRESS.

It seems as though human ingenuity was being taxed to the utmost in devising means for improving the present method of type setting. Many machines have been made for this purpose on various principles, but generally of such complicated mechanism that they have failed to secure a place in popular favor. The most recent of these contrivances is said to be much simpler than any of its predecessors as it is claimed that it occupies little space in the composing room, and does not interfere with the arrangement of the ordinary cases and is so constructed that a stick is not required. All the type needs to do is to pick out the proper letters, spaces, etc., and throw them into a funnel which turns them right side up and arranges them in the column. It is said that experts with this machine can, by using both hands, set up from three to five thousand ems an hour.

The most wonderful thing in the printing line that has yet made its appearance, however, hails from Washington, D.C. An exchange says:

In Washington there is a company that takes manuscript, and in a few hours returns it in metal cast in lines, every line perfect so far as the mechanical part of the work is concerned. It is not set up in type and stereotyped, as one would naturally suppose, but the machine that does it has a keyboard at one end and a pot of metal at the other, and the result of playing on the keyboard is to produce solid lines with the letters accurately cast upon them. It is useless to say it can't be done, because it is done, and done successfully as a commercial enterprise.

If this statement is reliable it will make a great change in the course of time in the work of the composing room.

However this may be, such changes are not effected in a day, and there will probably be work enough for years to come to keep both machines and men fully employed.

"POLYGAMY IN SCANDINAVIA."

UNDER this heading the following extraordinary article appears in the New York World of Feb. 1st, 1888:

"The little kingdom of Sweden and Norway is on the verge of civil war. The nation is divided into two hostile camps, the one of which, composed of the Liberals, is fighting in favor of the adoption of polygamy, while the Conservatives, who are in the minority, are strongly opposed to any question of plurality of wives. Strange to say, the women of Scandinavia have all ranged themselves under the Liberal banner, and one of the most eminent divines, a M. Nissen, who is president of the National Temperance Union, has placed himself at the head of the crusade. The movement is a distinctly popular one and has already become so deep-rooted and universal that the government finds itself unable to stem it. King Oscar attempted to the other day to show his disapproval by withdrawing a subscription from his privy purse to a student corporation at Stockholm which has just ranged itself under M. Nissen's banner. So great was the outcry, however, throughout the country that the King was forced to reconsider his determination and continue his subscription.

"The leaders of the polygamist forces assert that, in proportion as civilization has advanced, the capacity for the procreation of the human race has diminished, and they claim that nothing but a plurality of wives can save humanity from eventual extinction.

"Meanwhile Scandinavia is flooded with literature professedly bearing on the subject."

LEFT ANIMOSITY DIE AND BE BURIED.

FROM information that has come in from the several municipal wards, it appears that the election has been conducted peacefully, there having been no breaches of order worthy of mention. At the present writing the exact status of the contest cannot be given, but it is safe to say that there can be no doubt that the full citizens' ticket has been elected. It only remains for the count to determine the extent of the majority by which this desirable result has been attained.

THE storm which has been raised by and waged in the ranks of the opposition will, it is presumed, subside after today. We believe the anti-fusion advocates will regret the exhibitions of passion and prejudice of which they have been so conspicuously and unwarrantably guilty. It is disingenuous to assume that the struggle has been recently waged between the two factions of non-"Mormons." The personalities that have been indulged in and the passion displayed were not directed at questions but at men, and showed an intolerance, not to say bigotry, that was scarcely pardonable. It is needless for men to use abusive and denunciatory expressions with one breath and with the next say that they love the objects at which they are hurled. It is too much after the manner of a facetious fellow who said that so and so would be a most excellent man if he were not such an infernal scoundrel.

But if such denunciations have been made use of in the heat of what was held to be a political difference, notwithstanding that it partook more largely of the nature of a business proposition, there is no sense in perpetuating such unseemly animosities. A little magnanimity will hurt nobody, except it be those to whom it is such a rarity as to act like poison to their mental organisms; therefore, in the language of the late General Grant, "Let us have peace."

Seeing that the gentlemen who have been placed on the citizens' ticket, by a large number of prominent members of the Liberal party, are not and cannot consistently be personally objectionable to that party, those who have raised all the fuss and fury that has made the air hot during the last few days will see the inconsistency of the position they have assumed. They will be forced to concede that they have been given a representation in the municipal government after they have exerted their power to prevent it. They will probably be led to the conclusion that it is better for them that their efforts in that direction were unavailing; that it was themselves that were mistaken, and not the men of their own party, who were largely instrumental in bringing about the minority representation.

It will be admitted that nothing is more conducive to the growth of a city than the establishment of confidence on all sides in the integrity of its government. If the two most distinct elements of Salt Lake City society participate in the management of public affairs, now that it is practicable, it will contribute largely to that end. This proposition needs no argument to sustain it. It is plain on its face.

Now let us all, as good citizens, get down to business and seek to exhibit on all sides something like a liberal and Christian spirit.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

THE origin of the anniversary which is signalized by the sending of anonymous messages of an amorous character, is lost in the obscurity of Pagan times, while Christianity, or that form of it which prevailed in the third century, was gradually subduing the Paganism of Italy to its sway. Probably the most reliable account of the origin of the day is substantially as follows:

Prior to the Christian era, the Pagans of certain portions of Europe, at a stated season of the year, celebrated a festival, the leading feature of which was the selection, by unmarried men, of wives, by means of a matrimonial lottery, in which chance was the match maker. In the third century a pious and zealous priest named St. Valentine was martyred at Rome by being beaten and beheaded. The day set apart for signalizing his memory happened to fall at or near the time of the pagan festival of the matrimonial lottery, and the missionaries of the Church, unable to entirely uproot the custom from among their pagan converts, sought to change the nature of the exercises. Instead of having the young men choose wives by lot, the priest prevailed upon them to choose from among the deceased worthies of the church who had been canonized, a patron saint for the ensuing year. This substitution of patron saints for birds, in the manner of celebrating an ancient and deeply seated Pagan festival and anniversary was never thoroughly accomplished by the priests; but the name of St. Valentine came to be given to the day on which the ceremonies of mating took place. Thus the only connection which the pious and venerated St. Valentine has with the anniversary that bears his name, is the fact that his martyrdom was signalized on or about the day on which the Pagan festival of choosing wives by chance occurred.

In a manner which is not fully explained, the custom of sending loving missives in the middle of February spread with the doctrines of the church, and for centuries has prevailed throughout Europe. As a poetic support of the custom, it is often asserted that birds choose their mates on or about St. Valentine's day; but the investigations of naturalists by no means fully substantiate this hypothesis. The custom probably owes its great longevity more to the efforts of poets to keep it alive, than to any other one cause, for it has been a favorite theme with them since the rise

of literature in the Christian era. In fact the earliest poets seem to have mentioned St. Valentine's day most frequently, though Shakspeare has repeated reference to it.

A custom which justifies the sending of anonymous messages or tokens of love, is one which a certain class of young men, whose infatuation exceeds their courage, have ever been ready, in all ages and countries, at least of our era, to take advantage of. It would not be easy to urge any serious evil as necessarily growing out of such a proceeding, however silly it might be esteemed by practical and unromantic people, were the character of the missives exchanged to remain what it originally was.

But the tendency of modern times to turn to ridicule things long venerated and held sacred, has corrupted the customs of St. Valentine's Day so far as to almost make a nuisance of them. The single step from the sublime to the ridiculous has been taken, in observing this anniversary, with an effectiveness which has almost obliterated its beautiful and poetic features, the insufferable comic valentines having gone far in the direction of supplanting the delicate *billet doux* of former times.

AN AUDACIOUS ACT.

THE action of Mr. Link, real estate speculator from Colorado, in jumping the Arsenal Hill property belonging to Salt Lake City corporation, indicates that that gentleman is endowed with a degree of audacity that might be considered phenomenal even for one of the class to which he belongs. According to our view, his scrupulousness is no greater than his modesty. We are unable to see that he has any more right in the premises to seize the property in question than he has to squat upon the city hall lot. The fact that he still has a squad of men at work fencing in the land on Arsenal Hill is a humiliating spectacle, seeing that he has not and cannot have the shadow of right to it. We presume, however, that before many hours pass away an effectual legal stopper will be placed upon his high-handed proceeding.

It is rumored about town that a number of local real estate agents have given aid to Mr. Link in this transaction. We doubt the truth of this report on the ground that such a step on their part would be little, if anything, short of sheer idiocy. It cannot have any other than an injurious effect upon their business. Let the impression be created that titles and possession of realties in this city are unsafe, and especially if they cannot be protected against the invasions of jumpers and the market is at once depreciated. If there has been what is termed a boom, present or prospective, connected with this city, the violent act of this Colorado real estate speculator has already done more to wipe it out or retard it than any one incident that has yet occurred. Any clear-headed person ought to be able to see that point with only one eye open and the other half shut.

Thus far, as a rule, the sentiment of this community, without regard to class, has been refreshingly unanimous in relation to the genus land jumper, whether he happened to be indigenous to the soil or imported. It is a healthy feeling and should be cultivated. When the rights of property are endangered by unscrupulous assaults in any degree or direction, those of the whole are rendered unsafe. Men who engage in such business should be given to know that they are not only striking their heads against the stone wall of the law, but against the unwavering and unmitigated sentiment of the whole people.

AN EXPLODED FABRICATION REVIVED.

A CORRESPONDENT in the north writes as follows:

"Seeing an enquiry on the origin of the American Indians in the columns of the New York Sun some time ago, on which the editor did not throw much light, I sent a reply which was published as follows: 'In the weekly Sun of Dec. 7th, J. H. W., of Mayav, Texas, asked: 'Is there any reliable evidence going to explain how the Indians came to be in America?' The reply I would suggest to him and any others who may be interested in this subject is: Read the Book of Mormon. He will at least find it interesting if he does not think it very reliable.' H. L. J., Fort Logan, Mont."

Following was the editorial comment which appeared in the Sun:

"The 'Book of Mormon' throws no light on the subject of any real value. Everybody knows, though the 'Mormons' won't believe, that the 'Book of Mormon' was written by the Rev. Solomon Spaulding in 1810-12 as a romance to account for the peopling of America by the Indians. He sent the manuscript to a printing office with which Sidney Rigdon was connected. Rigdon had access to the manuscript and copied it. The manuscript was returned to Mr. Spaulding in 1816; he died shortly afterward. After Rigdon had 'discovered' the 'golden plates' on which the 'Book of Mormon' was written in an unknown language, and the book had been published by Martin

Harris, Mrs. Spaulding produced the original manuscript. Still, as H. L. J. says, the 'Book of Mormon,' in small doses, is not uninteresting."

The correspondent also says that he is aware that the veritable Spaulding manuscript was not long since discovered, and found to have no resemblance whatever to the Book of Mormon, but is not familiar with the particulars. He suggests that they be reproduced in the News.

The Spaulding manuscript theory of the origin of the Book of Mormon has been generally and necessarily abandoned by those who repudiate the latter as an authentic record of the history of the ancient inhabitants of America, but it appears from occasional blunders such as that made by the Sun, that the information regarding the discovery of the paper upon which it was based is not so wide as it should be. The original manuscript written by Mr. Spaulding is now in Oberlin College, State of Ohio, where it can be inspected by the curious. An exact copy, including all of its crudities has been published by and is on sale at this office. The details of its discovery and other particulars are incorporated in the publisher's preface, from which we extract, for the benefit of those who do not believe the testimony of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, the last of whom, David Whitmer, recently reiterated his on his death bed:

The history of the discovery of the Manuscript can be told in a few words. D. P. Hurlburt, an apostate, the originator of the fabrication that the Book of Mormon originated in Mr. Spaulding's tale, wrote a bitter assault on the Latter-day Saints in 1830, entitled, "Mormonism unveiled," which was published in the name of, and by E. D. Howe, of Painesville, Ohio. During the time Hurlburt was gathering material for this work, he obtained from the family of the then deceased clergyman the original of the Manuscript Story, but discovering that it would, if published, prove fatal to his assumptions, he suppressed it; and from that time it was entirely lost sight of until about two years ago, when a Mr. L. L. Rice, residing at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, found it among a numerous collection of miscellaneous papers which he had received from Mr. Howe, the publisher of Hurlburt's "Mormonism unveiled," when in 1839-40, he, with his partner, purchased from that gentleman the business, etc., of the Painesville Telegraph.

In 1834 President James H. Fairchild, of Oberlin College, Ohio, was paying a visit to Mr. Rice, and suggested that the latter look through his numerous papers, in the hope of finding amongst them some anti-slavery documents of value. In his search he discovered a package marked in pencil on the outside, "Manuscript Story—Connicut Creek," which, to their surprise, on perusal, proved to be the veritable, long-lost romance of Dr. Spaulding, to which so much undeserved importance had been ignorantly or maliciously given. After retaining the manuscript some time Mr. Rice presented it to Oberlin College, but before doing so, made an exact copy, with all its peculiarities of style, errors of grammar and orthography, alterations, erasures, etc., which copy he placed in our hands with the distinct understanding that it should be printed and published exactly as he had copied it.

JUMPING CORPORATE LANDS.

An act of Congress approved March 2, 1867, provides:

"That whenever any portion of the public lands of the United States have been or shall be settled upon and occupied as a townsite, and therefore not subject to entry under the agricultural pre-emption laws, it shall be lawful, in case such town shall be incorporated, for the corporate authorities thereof, and if not incorporated, for the judge of the county court for the county in which such town may be situated, to enter at the proper land office, and at the minimum price, the land so settled and occupied, in trust for the several use and benefit of the occupants thereof, according to their respective interests; the execution of which trust, as to the disposal of the lots in such town, and the proceeds of the sales thereof, to be conducted under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the legislative authority of the state or territory in which the same may be situated."

The same act contains other provisions relative to this subject, among which are specifications of the amount of land permissible to embrace in a townsite, which is based upon the population. A town site containing a population of 1,000, may embrace 1,280 acres, and for each additional 1,000 inhabitants, not exceeding 5,000 in all, 320 acres shall be allowed.

On July 1, 1870, Congress passed an act "For the relief of the inhabitants of Salt Lake City, in the Territory of Utah," as follows:

"That the words 'not exceeding five thousand in all,' contained in an act entitled 'An Act for the relief of the inhabitants of cities and towns upon the public lands,' approved March two, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, shall not apply to Salt Lake City, in the Territory of Utah; but said act shall be so amended and construed in its application to said city that lands may be entered as provided in said act for the full number of inhabitants con-