

the amounts improperly collected as loans made by taxpayers to the school board, and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising money where with to pay those loans. At a cursory glance there seems no obstacle in the way of illegality or injustice, to the carrying out of this plan. If, adopted, however, it would render necessary the issue of bonds to the amount of \$150,080 in addition to the amount previously determined upon, viz. \$300,000.

Some of the members of the school board desired to have bonds issued to the amount of \$600,000, in place of \$450,000, as recommended by Col. Nelson, but that sum is too large. The amount voted upon at the recent election, \$300,000, with an addition to that sum of \$150,000—to be raised for reimbursing taxpayers—is enough.

The contemplation of this subject compels recognition of the fact that our municipal debt is increasing with great rapidity. City bonds to the amount of \$300,000 have been sold during the present administration, and others to the amount of \$200,000 are about to be disposed of. If \$450,000 worth of school bonds shall be issued, our municipal debt ought to be deemed heavy enough to satisfy even those who regard such a burden as a good thing. The above figures should be considered in connection with the fact that the People's party left in the city treasury over \$280,000, fourteen months ago. Such pointers aid the taxpayers of this city in forming an idea whither we are drifting under "Liberal" rule.

#### AN UNPROGRESSIVE TOWN.

AS CARTHAGE, Illinois, was the scene of the cruel assassination of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, the Patriarch, the following, from the *Nauvoo Rustler*, will be read with some interest by a number of our readers:

"Behind the affectation of enterprise in our weak little sister city, Carthage, appears so plainly the decree written upon its court house that 'all thou hast is in the past.' Its efforts to blow itself up to a rivalry of Nauvoo will result disastrously and explosively, and it is doubtful whether there is anything left for the town to do except to settle down as a suburb of Nauvoo. Commercially, its history is dotted with failures; socially, its record has been scandalous; naturally, its location is unfortunate, and prophetically, its future is a dead line to zero. In the whirl of the coming boom she will be forgotten and it is sad to reflect that our little neighbor is destined to become a deserted village whose demise may be poetically wept over by some coming Goldsmith. Great city is Carthage."

The Methodist Protestant church has been engaged in revising its articles of faith, and the committee will submit its work to the next annual conferences for approval.

#### HUMAN "FADS."

THE New York *Recorder* has a long article on the hobbies or fads peculiar to men of wealth and distinction. Fads are not necessarily ridiculous, though the word carries with it a deprecatory taint. The fact is, a hobby is merely enthusiasm exhausting itself. The exhaust, however, may be of such a character that it will drain common sense, reason and judgment.

Morosini, Jay Gould's bosom friend, is a collector of watches. He has several cabinets filled with pocket time-pieces, many of them rare and costly. He also does a little in jewelry, porcelain and bronze.

Robert Bonner's hobby is fast horses. He wants always to own the fastest horse in the country. He paid \$40,000 for Maud S. and when she was beaten by Sunol, he paid \$41,000 for the latter. He will not race his horses for money. He does it entirely for fame.

Henry Clews prides himself on his house. He expended \$40,000 on his bathroom alone. Every part of this room is made of onyx. He has the finest summer residence at Newport.

George Vanderbilt, the youngest son of William H., is a book collector. William K. Vanderbilt is a collector of oak carvings. He is also fond of rare trees and plants. W. Seward Webb, a son-in-law of the Vanderbilts, is a collector of English hackney horses, and has several stables of them.

Ex-Secretary of the Navy Whitney, and Elbridge T. Gerry are collectors of Gobelin tapestries. Henry Villard the railroad magnate has the music hobby. W. H. Treadway, of the firm of R. G. Dun & Co., is a collector of sermons. He has 16,000 now bound in volumes and carefully indexed. Every known sect is represented in the collection.

William Astor is a collector of old china. Pierre Lorillard is a collector of pipes. He has one twenty-four inches long. His collection is worth \$10,000. Ogden Goelet, Dr. Norvin Green and George Gould are also pipe collectors. Austin Corbin is a collector of old chinas. H. Victor Newcomb collects old laces. Senator Hawley is stuck on violins. So are Theodore Havemeyer and Cooper Hewitt, son of the ex-Mayor of New York. Charles Lanier is a book collector. Russell Sage plays chess. Alfred de Condova is a pigeon fancier. President Harrison fancies bric-a-brac. John Wanamaker fancies Sunday schools, Jay Gould's hobby is railroads and his collection is worth quite a sum. Erastus Croning, W. S. Kimball, and Frederick L. Ames are orchid worshippers. Ames paid \$1,000 for one white orchid. James Pitcher is crazy on chrysanthemums. Robert Hoe of press fame has spent fortunes on books and on vellum manuscripts.

#### A MEMORABLE DATE.

THIS date, April the 22nd, is not an unimportant one in the annals of American history. It is the anniversary of the day in 1519, on which Hernando Cortez landed on this Continent. He disembarked on the spot where Vera Cruz, in Mexico, now stands. His army numbered about 700 men. He proceeded to the ancient City of Mexico, laid siege to it, and succeeding in capturing Guatemozin, the last of the Aztec monarchs, on August 13, 1521. In 1586 he visited California, and surveyed a great part of the Gulf separating it from Mexico. Like Columbus he was the victim of repeated conspiracies by rivals for the royal favor of Charles V. of Spain. Cortez returned home and gave up all his titles and powers in Mexico.

In his conquest of Mexico, Cortez was aided by a tradition which prevailed among the Aztecs. This was that a white God, or Messiah would come from the East who would rule over the Aztecs, and would inaugurate a millenium of peace, harmony, prosperity and happiness. In fact the tradition was equivalent to what is taught by Christians as the second coming of Christ. Cortez was regarded by the Aztecs as this white god, and whole tribes allied themselves to his standard.

The city of Mexico at this time had, it is said, 300,000 inhabitants. Cortez, when he reached there had only 400 Spaniards besides his Indian allies. After several years of hard fighting, in which Cortez was opposed by his own countrymen, he finally reduced Mexico to subjugation. When the war was completed, the population was reduced to 40,000. War and famine had done their work. The great capital of the Montezumas lay in ruins "like some huge churchyard with the corpses disinterred, and the tombstones scattered about." All was not smooth sailing for the conqueror. He died in Seville, a heartbroken, disgraced and dishonored man, in December, 1547.

#### HERESY AND CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE

THE efforts of leading ecclesiastical bodies to cast off heresy and excommunicate heretical teachers have become quite energetic of late, and have occasioned much discussion in the religious world. The idea that ministers of the orthodox sects who have outgrown or repudiated doctrines which they were ordained to teach, are martyrs in any sense because they are disciplined by the churches to which they belong, is in our view extremely absurd. Yet this is the posi-