

## A PALPABLE BLUNDER.

WHATEVER may be said by way of denial, the public remain under the impression that the chief reason why the County Court has stopped sprinkling on the most frequented streets outside of the city limits, is the failure of the voters to give that body control of \$300,000 by bonding the county.

As far as Judge Barch is concerned we do not think there is personal blame. We believe he is too just and highminded a man to condescend to the plane of spite and vent individual resentment by retaliation on the public. But the fact remains that a good deal of ill-feeling was exhibited by members of the County court, when the returns came in and it was evident that the bonds election was a failure. Two members petulantly tendered their resignations which were not accepted, and at once the sprinkling was stopped, to the great annoyance of the public and the disgust of all citizens who interpreted this petty act to mean a paltry method of revenge.

Economy may be necessary, in view of the demands to be made on the treasury and the probable insufficient means to meet them. But we think there are other leakages that might be stopped, which would save larger expenditures than the comparatively meagre amount for sprinkling, and that would not expose the Court to the censure which this step has occasioned.

The excuses thus far set forth for the parsimonious if not revengeful act, are really too thin to give public satisfaction, and we think the County Court would do well to wisely reconsider its resolution, and not continue to throw dust in the eyes of the taxpayers, who can see more clearly than is supposed, and will show what they can see when they go to the polls in November.

## THE COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR.

THIS continuous clash between the Mayor and the City Council is becoming not only monotonous but disgraceful. We do not pretend to decide who is to blame. The indications, however, are that it is mutual. The Mayor takes ground independent of the Council in some things, and that body, feeling provoked, retaliates and shows a disposition to act independently of the Mayor.

It seems to us that this can be avoided. If the ordinances are vague in relation to the respective powers of the Mayor and the City Council, they can soon be adjusted to meet the difficulty and, meanwhile, a proper disposition by both parties would avoid any such scandals as arise at nearly every meeting of the Council when regular business is introduced.

The law of 1892 which makes the Mayor an executive officer with veto power, separate and apart from the Council, does not fully harmonize with some of the old provisions which contemplated the Council as a body presided over by the Mayor. But there need not be any collision in consequence if each party has a desire to render to the other all that is due. And common courtesy requires this, if nothing else.

If it is true that the Mayor is technical, or that he assumes more authority than belongs to him, or desires to snub the City Council, we do not think that would justify the Council in taking a similar course in reference to the Mayor. That would be only retaliation, which is not right and is paltry, and between the two opposing influences the welfare of the city is imperilled.

The Mayor and Council ought to drop all ill-feeling and boy's-play and come together, literally and in sentiment, equally desirous of supporting each other in all public measures, and careful to concede to the other every right and power that have been authorized by charter or ordinance. There should be no clash among the various departments of the city government. Let us have harmony!

## THE GREAT SALT LAKE RAILROAD.

THE *San Francisco Chronicle* of August 21st has the following:

"The subscription lists of the Great Salt Lake Railroad will soon be thrown open to the public, who will have a guarantee of the soundness and business character of the enterprise afforded them by seeing the names of shrewd men heading the subscription for large amounts. If the signs are not deceptive every share of stock allotted will be promptly taken in this city as soon as the people get a chance to invest."

## AN IMPORTANT SUIT.

MESSRS. YOUNG, Smith and Tuddenham have entered suit against Messrs. Hall, Cohn and Noble, to recover the amount of salary due to them as members of the City Council while the defendants unlawfully occupied their seats in that body.

It will be remembered that the first named gentlemen were duly elected Councilmen from the Fourth Precinct, or City Ward, at the election of 1890. Also that the "Liberal" majority of the Council, under advice from the "Liberal" boss and voiced by the Mayor, refused to receive these members, and that the "Liberals" who were defeated in the Fourth Precinct were sworn in and took their seats. Further, that the matter was tested in the courts and was decided in favor of the complainants, but the "Liberal" policy of chicanery and obstruction was continued until the last possible moment, and the rightful incumbents of the office were kept out of their places until the greater part of the term had expired.

They subsequently applied for the salary of the offices to which they had been judicially declared entitled, but the City Council refused to pay them. Suit has therefore been entered to recover the amount from the parties who received it, and what might have been settled by the City is now demanded of those individuals.

It looks as though the complainants had good ground for their suit. If they were legally entitled to the office they were legally entitled to its emoluments. If the City will not or may not pay the salary, it ought to come from somewhere, and where else but from those who unlawfully received it? If we are not mistaken, there is a precedent for this in

the cases of the Territorial Auditor and Treasurer, in which the latter view of a similar question was taken by the Court. At any rate the matter is now in litigation and it furnishes one more illustration of "Liberal" methods in elections and particularly of the "Liberal" tactics of 1890.

## RELIGIOUS REVIVALS.

SALT LAKE is to be treated to what is called a "revival." That is to say, a gentleman who possesses the influence termed "personal magnetism," is fluent of speech, and emotional in feeling, and who has had experience in stirring up the masses, is to hold forth specially on religious topics and endeavor to excite abnormal religious interest. Regular ministers of different denominations are to unite in aiding the movement and welcoming the revivalist.

There may be good arising from these periodical tempests that are fomented in the sectarian world. Agitation is very often beneficial in physical things and it may be so in spiritual things. But we have never seen any permanent good arising from "revivals." People of bad habits may be temporarily induced to reform, and that, of course, is so much gain to morality. But the cause of religion, true religion, is, in our opinion, injured instead of assisted by those emotional upheavals and the agitation that attends them.

Religion does not consist of undue excitement and exaltation of feeling. The effects of revivalism on the internal being are somewhat similar to those of alcoholic stimulants on the external being. Each is a species of intoxication. Neither is nutriment. The soul is not nourished, the mind is not informed by the former, any more than the body is benefited by the latter.

The exhortations of the revivalist are sensational rather than intellectual, and appeal to the senses rather than to the spirit of man. The antics of the "converted" are indicative of mental aberration caused by the biological influence of the revival manipulator. The whole business is outside of genuine religious faith and feeling, and the gymnastics that enliven it are occasioned by spiritual inebriety.

The reaction is sure to come. When the magnetic exhorter is gone, the spell is broken, the "convert" lapses into the old ways and goes further in them than before, and the pure religion of Christ is made the subject of mockery. The infidel is encouraged in his filbes and immorality frequently makes greater inroads than ever when the "revival" is over, and sometimes while it is in progress.

Encouragement should be given to men and women who are gifted with light and power to move upon the better part of human nature and increase the sum of information and religious faith and action. But the sentimental mountebank how plays upon the fears and the emotions of weak-minded people, as is the custom at "revivals" and sectarian shouting circuses, is to be given the cold shoulder by all rational people who desire knowledge instead of noise and pure devotion instead of yelling exaltation.