

While evidently convinced that he has not a shadow of right to it, he persists in retaining that which he believes belongs to another. We do not see how it is possible for an intelligent man such as he to reconcile his position with any phase of manly honor or dignity. His situation is all the more anomalous because in some respects he seems to strive after the fair and honest side of subjects coming under his consideration.

Returning to the matter of the proposed sale of another \$200,000 worth of the bonds of the city, the public would probably like to know what the "other purposes" beside the Parley's conduit are to which this money is to be applied. This mysterious, indefinite, explanation brings up before the mind's eye the ghastly financial spectres referred to by a member of the council, in conversation with a representative of the *Salt Lake Times*, as "family" (meaning party) "secrets," which, mere bagatell's at first, were asserted to be likely to grow into bug-bears. Do "other purposes" mean these skeletons in the closets of the present city government?

A MASTERLY STATE PAPER.

THE reply of Secretary Blaine to Premier Rudini regarding the difficulty that has arisen between the United States and Italy, on account of the New Orleans tragedy, appears among our dispatches. It is a clear, forcible and logical state paper. It covers the ground of the question in a way that is at once statesmanlike and apparently unanswerable. Were it not for a slight vein of asperity which characterizes it, the document would be almost perfect. But its general excellence is so marked as to cause the reader to lose sight of the fact that there is in it scarcely enough of the spirit of conciliation. This, however, is merely the result of Mr. Blaine's predilection for polemic warfare, for which he has been greatly distinguished throughout his entire public career.

The Secretary of State concedes that in such a case as the one in controversy between the two countries the institutions of this Republic admit of a degree of federal interference. This applies to the civil aspect of the subject. Aliens from countries with which this nation has treaty relations can, when injured in person or property, by American citizens, pursue the offenders either in the State or federal courts, as they themselves may elect. Under certain conditions the general government may interfere, by action of Congress on representation of the Chief Executive, when indemnity, in

case it is improperly denied by lower sources, may be awarded. The criminal part of the proceedings, involving the punishment of those charged with perpetrating the offenses against aliens, must be confined to the operation of the laws of the several States.

It was broadly stated in the journals of this country that Mr. Blaine intended to transmit, in connection with his reply, a large amount of data regarding the crimes committed in this country by the secret society known as the Mafia. We discredited this report, holding that the Secretary had too much good judgment to in that way beg the question. If any such statement shall be at any time necessary, it must occur further on, and then it would only be associated with a proved connection with the Mafia of the Sicilians killed in the New Orleans prison. This is no time nor occasion for indulgence in recriminations.

The shrewdness of Mr. Blaine projects at every point in the correspondence, and no more conspicuously than in the following deftly worded qualification:

"Therefore, if it should appear that among those killed by the mob at New Orleans, there were some Italian subjects who were residents of, and domiciled in that city, agreeably to our treaty with Italy, and not in violation of our immigration laws, and who were abiding in the peace of the United States and obeying the laws thereof, and of the State of Louisiana," etc.

The immigration laws of the United States forbid the landing of criminals on our shores. It appears as if, behind the secretary's qualifying clause, there may be some important information in his possession which will prove that before the aliens killed at New Orleans came to the United States, they belonged to the criminal class. If this can be proved, then their entrance into this country was a breach of the laws of the Republic and they had no legal right to be within its confines. If so, as the case develops the point will probably be raised that persons in that situation are not entitled to the protection of the laws, and they would not come under the obligations of the international treaty.

At this stage of the question it looks as if the rupture between the two countries is likely to blow over without bloodshed. The aspect has more of that nature now than it had a short time since.

ILLEGAL ORDINANCES.

A MORNING anti-"Mormon" contemporary has a reference to the illegality of a certain ordinance in relation to street paving, and to the regrettable consequences of its unsoundness.

The ordinance passed by the city council authorizing certain street paving to be done on First South Street is not the only illegal one passed during the present administration. The whole sewer ordinance is invalid, for one reason, if no other: It was never read in open session prior to the final vote upon it. A member remarked that it was a very long ordinance, that the reading of it would consume a great amount of time, and that the committee had examined it carefully and found it all right.

On the strength of this assurance, and without being amended, or even read, this important ordinance was passed, by a thumbs-up process. If it were ever to be tested in court, and these facts were to be properly shown, that ordinance would, we believe, be set aside, as courts cannot properly tolerate such a reckless method of enacting legislation.

An examination of the minutes of session after session of the present city council, will show an astonishing amount of illegal procedure. The ordinance in relation to poundkeepers was passed in defiance of recent judicial decisions upon that very subject, and failures to conform to formalities required by law for the protection of public funds and interests, have often occurred. In short, much of the work that has been performed by the present council could be destroyed by properly conducted contests in the courts. But what else could be expected? A legal record was hardly to be looked for from a body largely composed of usurpers.

A MUSICAL CENTER.

THIS city has long been noted on account of more than one peculiarity. From it have emanated the most diverse and conflicting influences. It has been a central point from which has radiated spiritual light that has carried unspeakable joy to the hearts of many thousands, and at the same time there have been issuing from it floods of falsehood that have caused it to be regarded as the citadel of all that is bad in human nature and society. To spread the truth about this city, and the social and moral status of its founders, has been indeed an arduous task.

But a development is in progress here which, without the utterance of a word of argument or controversy in connection with it, will prove a potent agency in melting mountains of prejudice that now exist, in regard to the Latter day Saints. Reference is here intended to the character this city is fast assuming as a great musical