

species of iniquity. Its exceeding length is of itself an objection, rendering it difficult of comprehension in its numerous parts. There is nothing "fragmentary" about that draft.

What we specially desire to draw attention to now is its proposal in reference to the construction of privy and barn-yard vaults, especially the former, which it requires shall be constructed on "every man's premises." In relation to the trouble and expense the framers say: "How small a thing it is in the individual case." This is flimsy and unstatesmanlike talk, as the measure would affect all the citizens, to the poorest among them owning a home.

Let us see how small a thing it would be for the poorer people to construct such privy vaults as those required under the proposed ordinance. We understand that they should be in dimensions not less than six feet deep and four by six feet, to be of brick, with stone floor, the whole to be plastered with cement. The brick work to be durable and satisfactory should be laid up double and in cement. Thus the walls, including labor, would cost \$46.20. The floor, either in stone flags or cement, would cost \$9.60. Cementing the interior of the vault, so as to prevent any tendency to leakage, would not be less than \$10.80. The excavation, which should perhaps have been named first, would be \$1.25. These added together make a total of \$67.85.

These are not fancy figures, but solid ones, obtained from a leading contractor and builder of this city. Of course the amount is perhaps not great in the eyes of professionals who rake in fat fees, but to the poor man it is a large sum, and hundreds would have to mortgage their homes in order to raise it.

The estimate of the framers about the insignificance of the amount reminds one of a noted English lady of the aristocracy. On being informed that in a certain district many unemployed people were perishing from starvation, she said, "I do not see any reason for such a condition of things. Before I would die of starvation I believe I would eat bread and cheese." She was so ignorant of the situation of the poor that she never imagined that they could not get at least these two common articles of food.

As to the aggregate cost of the vaults, one can obtain a fair idea of it by computing the number that would be needed by this tremend-

ously sweeping proposed measure. Taking the population at 40,000, and assuming that it would require one vault to every six persons, the total would be 6,660, the cost of which, in round figures, would be \$450,000, or running close up to half a million dollars. If the proposed barn-yard vaults, which would number say one to every fifty of the people, be figured on and added, some conception of the burden sought to be placed upon the citizens by the framers and friends of this measure may be formed.

Besides the individual phase of the burden, if time and space permitted, we would enter into the details of the enormous outlay of public funds that would be required to empty those vaults "once a week in summer and every two weeks in winter." Only think of 6,660 weekly visits of the tank wagons in summer, and 951 daily, including Sundays.

We might say a good deal more on the subject, but we will prefer to wait for a printed copy of the ordinance. It is to be hoped, however, that the City Council do not intend to occupy the position of an appendage to the Chamber of Commerce, or any other body, but will seek to pass only that kind of legislation that has been analyzed and digested, and that will be for the benefit of the people as a whole. We are in favor of a comprehensive and strictly enforced system of sanitation, and believe that one more effective and inexpensive than that proposed by the measure under consideration could be devised.

COMMANDER M'CALLA.

THOSE who have followed closely the investigation into the charges of inhuman and brutal treatment of subordinates preferred against Commander McCalla, of the American war ship *Enterprise* have doubtless been appalled and disgusted at the consequent disclosures. That such barbaric treatment should have been carried on aboard a vessel belonging to the great Republic is an anomaly. The accused officer treated his men as if they were dogs. For trivial offenses he struck them with his sword, felling them bleeding to the deck, or would order them placed in irons, threatening some of them with death. He was, according to the testimony of the witnesses, explosive and unreasonable. When persons who displeased him endeavored to explain to him, in justification, he, blinded with rage, refused to listen.

The effect was, as might have been anticipated—chaos reigned. Insubordination is certain when a commander, by his despotic and unfeeling conduct, teaches those under his direction to detest and excrete instead of respect him.

The result of the investigation is inevitable, should McCalla receive his deserts. He is not only unfit to command a body of men, but has scarcely enough of the milk of human kindness in his composition to qualify him to have the oversight of a herd of hogs. The United States cannot consistently retain such an embodiment of concentrated tyranny in her naval service.

Those terrors to tyrants, the newspaper reporters, have been indulging in a little side investigation on their own account, not connected with that relating to McCalla's conduct on the *Enterprise*. They interviewed him upon a report of his alleged cruelty to seamen on another vessel, asking what he had to say in regard to an assertion to the effect that when, on one occasion, a man before the mast offended him he drew his sword and lopped off the poor fellow's ear. Commander McCalla refused to make any statement on the subject, and his dumbness was assumed to be an evidence of his guilt.

Probably on no naval vessel of any other civilized nation could such barbarities be practiced and insubordination exist for such a length of time as they did on the *Enterprise*. Recent developments have shown that here and there a similar condition of demoralization has prevailed in portions of the army, some of the officers of which are accused of treating men in the ranks after the McCalla pattern. Two court-martials have been ordered for the purpose of investigating some of the charges. Both the naval and military forces need overhauling and remodeling.

THE FACT APPEARING.

"AT LAST night's meeting of McKean Post it was proposed to memorialize Congress to turn the Women's Industrial Home into a National Soldiers' Home. Captain Bailey thought the women might be corralled in one wing and the veterans in the other. But this beautiful scheme was not viewed with favor. However, it was agreed that so many people would sign the petition that the precious plans of Shaughnessy, McKay, Dyer & Co. would be easily knocked in the head."

The above is from our unesteemed "Liberal" contemporary of Tuesday, March 25. The DESERET NEWS has