

how much further it would be necessary to go in the direction they take to get there. The ordinance in question forbids the sale or exhibition of "any obscene, lewd or indecent book, pamphlet, picture, card, print, paper," etc. There is an appropriate penalty attached to an infringement of this wholesome ordinance. At any rate, if the posters in question are unlawfully exhibited it is fairly to be presumed that the police could be authorized to destroy them and prevent a repetition of the suggestive and demoralizing exhibit.

Taking the pictorial bills as giving a fair indication of the character of the performance, it must be unfit for presentation to the public. Its tendency must necessarily be demoralizing. It is not unlikely that it will attract a large number of people of mature years, one of the mammoth pictures suggesting this by the introduction of a formidable array of hairless heads in the front part of the auditorium. It would have been a still better portrayal if the same craniums could have been represented as internally empty. The examples of older people are followed by the young, whose minds are thus tainted with uncleanness, the fundamental condition which superinduces actions of a similar character. Students of Roman history are aware that unchaste dramatic entertainments did much toward producing the universal demoralization and consequent enervation which resulted in the destruction of that mighty empire. History is repetitive. It is the duty of the conservators of the public weal to see that the histrionic temples of our nation are kept as free as practicable from the taint of immorality. While this is true with respect to the country at large, it has a hundred-fold more force with regard to a community such as ours. The difficulty is in all such matters that custom renders many things that are in bad taste familiar, and this familiarity serves largely to hide from our eyes their logical and inevitable consequences. We do not presume that these strictures will have the effect of diminishing the number of people who will occupy the auditorium on the occasion of this morally distasteful performance. If they do not have this effect, however, we will have the satisfaction of having done our journalistic duty in protesting against such vitiating exhibitions.

A man in a peck of trouble is in a measure to be pitied.

KEMMLER'S CASE.

THE professional experts who have been giving testimony on the subject of the electric current in New York for several days past, are somewhat diverse in their opinions, but all seem to agree with reference to one point—that it is not the same in all cases; that is, a current of a given number of volts or ohms which would kill one man might not another and even weaker one, there being no means of determining beforehand what a person's resistance is. It seems that science has not before been called upon in a mandatory way to determine such a question, and has thus made examination of a human being's susceptibility to the deadly current a *post mortem* affair in every case.

It is a strange commentary upon law-making in the Empire State, where legislation costs nearly as much as it does in Congress, that a law of so much consequence, involving so much that is new and untried, without giving it the consideration it is now having beforehand, should be pushed through. The first man sentenced under it is in a fair way to escape because of its being unconstitutional and there being no other penalty prescribed. This man, under the old law, would now be out of his suspense through the intervention of death; but here he lives, reading the daily reports of an investigation the object of which is to determine whether he shall live or die by the means proposed. It is additional punishment, this state of things, and therefore wholly unwarrantable.

THE TOBACCO HABIT.

IN France there is a society which calls itself *Société Contre l'Abuse du Tabac* (Society Opposed to the Abuse of Tobacco), having for its objects the collection and dissemination of statistics and general information regarding the use of that leaf. The society proposes to be impartial in its investigations and publications, giving results as to the practical examination of the subject fairly, in order that the useful (if any) and baneful results of using the weed may be laid before the public. The replies received from the chiefs among the French *litterati* form a curious symposium, some in favor of, others neither opposed to nor in favor of, and still others radically against the use of tobacco. Zola, while deprecating the practice in the

main, concludes with an egotistical palliation of it in the following words: "If genius is a nervous affection, why cure it? Perfection is so dull a thing that I often regret having cured myself of smoking."

Dumas *filz* is unsparing in his denunciation, showing that tobacco, together with alcohol, is the most formidable foe of intelligence. But perhaps the most consistent and most plainly spoken enemy to the practice is Gustave Feuillet, who convinces as he talks when he says:

"I have been a great smoker, and it cost me a great deal of trouble to give up tobacco. But I have been absolutely compelled to do so, some years ago, by the aggravation of fits of nervousness, which for a long time I refused to attribute to nicotine, but which in reality had no other cause. I was obliged to surrender to the truth when the nervous fits became more frequent and more intolerable. On the whole I think tobacco is very injurious, especially to nervous persons. It produces at first a slight excitement and intoxication, which ends in somnolence. It blunts the faculties of the mind. One is compelled to fight against its action in a reaction which fatigues and wears the will."

It is a real source of wonder that a habit so painfully acquired and so filthy in its continuation should become such a tyrant when it gets a firm hold. It requires almost as much fortitude and determination to break away from the tobacco as from the alcohol habit, and the latter is much more easily acquired. The misery inflicted upon our race by the improper use of the two, in poverty, degradation and death, exists not only in records but is constantly before the eyes of all who can see, and still the fiends pursue their work almost unchecked.

"THE DESERET WEEKLY," BOUND.

VOLUMES of THE DESERET WEEKLY, new issue, can now be had, bound, at this office. Volume thirty-eight of the series is Volume One of the new form. It makes an excellent book for the library and will be invaluable in years to come. It is an epitome of the principal events of the first half of the present year, and the editorials it contains on current topics, the reports of foreign missions, the doings of the courts, the correspondence from various points in this and other countries, and the original articles on religion, politics and other questions, render it interesting, instructive and almost essential to progressive Latter-day Saints. People of