

way through the court's decision, all the county schools would have been closed this winter, and that would have been a calamity which not even the generality of heavily burdened city taxpayers would have welcomed. Any rule to relieve city property of the load complained of should be by clearly understood legislation, if it be advisable to invoke it at all.

### NIAGARA AND UTAH.

The dispatches of November 16 told of the great feat of harnessing the mighty Niagara at the Falls and utilizing its power to turn the wheels of industry twenty-two miles distant. It was a wonderful achievement, and none the less so because the means by which it was accomplished has become familiar even to school children. The event is so notable in marking the world's progress that its occurrence is heralded in glowing phrases wherever telegraph service and newspapers go, and the enterprise is received by the people with full favor for its advent among them.

Appreciating the magnitude of and interest in the Niagara Falls project, it is yet timely to note the fact that as a triumph in the line of mechanical engineering conception and skill, that project is surpassed in Utah. We have not the large river or the mighty falls provided by nature and ready for utilization. In Utah's greatest enterprise of the same class, that of the Pioneer Electric company in Ogden canyon, the water power has to be conserved, while at Niagara the dam already had been constructed by nature; and the preliminary work alone of making the Ogden canyon dam is a mightier undertaking than is that celebrated at Niagara Falls. Then, when the work is done, the electric current is to be conveyed thirty-seven miles or more, instead of twenty-two. Putting the two enterprises side by side, that in Utah is by far the greater; and considering all the circumstances of locality and topography, the Ogden canyon works will be tenfold more important in their comparative beneficial results to the people here than will be the Niagara scheme to the residents of that locality.

But ahead in the feature named, there may be some associations therewith in which the people here are behind. It is noted with regard to the Niagara Falls enterprise, that people there take such cognizance of its importance that they welcome it with open arms. There are no petty jealousies to keep it away or to retard or hamper its operations; no effort is made to obstruct its progress or load it down with unreasonable conditions that tend to make its promoters look for other fields in which to work, or cause them to feel like throwing up the business altogether. Without distinction of class the people are far-sighted enough to recognize that as an addition to their industrial enterprises it is an acquisition to be hailed with delight. Would the people of this locality feel the same toward a like institution? The reply is in their attitude upon the opportunities given them.

This part of the country needs an

influx of capital, to open new fields of industry and improve upon those already known. Capital will come if the encouragement given thereto is not virtually wiped out by oppressive restrictive conditions and unreasoning hostility. And the way new capital learns how it will be treated is not from fair promises in words, but from the way in which capital already invested receives encouragement and protection in legitimate operations.

### STRANGE POLITICAL BEDFELLOWS.

A city contemporary, Republican in politics, which, a year or so ago, was simply frantic in its opposition to one of the Senatorial candidates, a Democrat, on Sunday last brought him to the front with a flourish, and in its issue today still more frantically defends him. This paper still claims to be Republican, and the candidate is still a Democrat.

Another city paper which, at the time referred to, was a recognized Democratic organ, and was the ardent champion of this candidate, in measures long and loud proclaimed that his election was the only means of vindicating certain principles that had to be vindicated in order to prevent our new State from going to the everlasting how-wows, this morning gives an assurance that the conflict involved in his candidacy will not be precipitated.

This candidate's organ of last year did not bring him out this year, and gives him only perfunctory support, if any at all; while the paper that bitterly opposed him last year, is now, with even greater ardor, working to his interest. The sincerity, steadfastness and consistency of political organs in this State is sufficiently indicated by this brief reference to their course.

### ABSDUR HEROICS.

In its issue of yesterday the News pointed out certain grave objections to the selection of one aspirant for the seat in the United States Senate, concerning which there is so much anxiety among Utah politicians just now. We tried to show that both good sense and good politics were opposed to the candidate; and yet there was no politics in the article itself, neither was there any animosity towards anyone. There was no expression or implication of any threat. Attention was merely called to the fact that the election of the individual referred to would not be otherwise regarded than as an attack upon and an affront to the body of religious worshippers most numerous in the State; that in fact his recalcitrant attitude was the chief basis of excuse for his candidacy; and that those who sought to promote his boom ought to know that they were deliberately attempting to undermine a vital feature of the organic law of a Church, which the latter might naturally be expected to try to maintain.

From the manner in which a pair of morning contemporaries comment upon the News' observations, one would imagine that Sumpter had just been fired upon, or some similar event of awful portent had just occurred or was imminently

impending. One of them talks incoherently of "tyranny," and "opening the old fight," and with mock heroism shouts: "Hands off!" Another prattles with its customary simplicity when trying to say something without knowing what to talk about.

The grotesque absurdity of all this is as difficult to account for reasonably as it is to describe adequately. Here is one paper which, when a prominent ecclesiastic is first named as a United States Senator from Utah, opposes him with a vigor which exceeds all discretion; declares his candidacy means an opening of "the old fight;" calls upon his superiors in the Church to require him to withdraw; insists that his candidacy means a clash between Church and State; and for weeks and months fills its columns with editorials in this strain. When the announcement is made that the Church, which has been thus long and frantically appealed to to "call off" this candidate, is affirmatively opposed to his election, this same paper, with a vigor which far exceeds its former excess of discretion, calls wildly upon the Church not to interfere with the candidacy of the individual in question, on pain of "opening the old fight," etc.

What senility! What stultification and hysteria! What inconsistency and rubbish! May we venture to ask our contemporaries and all other critics to draw in the wanderings of their minds long enough to concentrate them upon one plain proposition? That proposition is this: The candidacy of the person to whom all this has reference, is antagonized by the News because it is an assault upon the doctrines and organic existence of the Church of which this paper is the official organ. His appearance in the political arena at this time is nothing more nor less than this, and every candid voter in the commonwealth will admit it. He himself announces that he stands upon a platform equivalent to this very proposition. It is not a political question, for the candidate's politics cut no figure in it. It is religious, pure and simple, in that it involves nothing more nor less than questions relative to the integrity of a religious organization, the maintenance of its discipline, and the perpetuity of its doctrines. Yet we note that "Young Utah" is appealed to to support this candidate. Why? That they may be prevailed upon to oppose their Church discipline and doctrine; in other words, become anti-Mormon. When a candidate, therefore, steps out upon a distinct and unequivocal anti-Church platform; when it is expected by his friends that his "vindication" means the rebuke of the Church, can any sane man deny the right of the Church to put forth efforts to preserve itself, and to save the souls of its members from that condemnation which its theology teaches will be visited upon all who, having partaken of its blessings, become its opposers?

The protest of "hands off" may properly come with force and justice from the Church, on this occasion, but with neither from any political paper, clique or party. As to the threats with which one of the local papers closes its diatribe, they have become utterly