

sold by order of the British admiralty, the purchaser being a German speculator and the price paid comparatively trifling. The purchaser proposes cutting it up into small pieces and selling these throughout the world as historical curiosities. Several Britons became so shocked at the idea that they started a subscription for the purpose of buying the ship back, but the owner wants £6000 for it, and at latest advices the entire amount subscribed was about one-twentieth of that; so it is probable the sacrifice will be made and fragments of the "Foudryant" with the purchaser's certificate of genuineness attached will be on the market.

### SKY-SCRAPING BUILDINGS.

The tall building mania grows by what it feeds on and it is always being fed. It used to be the case in this country, and not so very many years ago either, that an eight-story structure was considered a monster and as big as we would ever have; then, with the inflated condition of things following the war, ground in some places became so high and room so much in demand that one story after another was added until a ten or a dozen story building in some places would look quite squatty now, while in some cities, notably New York and Chicago, there are some that are twice that height. All of which merely illustrates again the utter recklessness which seems to have become an inseparable phase of American enterprise.

A hotel is now being erected in New York City that will be, when completed, the tallest structure of the kind in the world. The excavation for the foundation is from twenty-two to forty feet deep and will be solidly lined with rock. Above this the building will rise to a height of 225 feet, there being seventeen stories; it will have 100 feet front on one street and 165 feet on another, so that it will be more than twice as long as it is thick. It will take two years and a million dollars to build it.

Every city should have an ordinance on this subject. Sky-scraping structures should be prohibited as contributing greatly to the dangers and inconveniences of modern life. It is very true that if a man falls from a ten story building, or even one of six stories, it means death just as surely as though he fell from the tallest house in the world; it should also be remembered that the tendency to fall is increased with the height. Thousands of men and any number of women who could view the landscape from the top of any building in Salt Lake City with the utmost composure, would shrivel up and become helpless on the last landing of the Eiffel tower. Besides this consideration is the corresponding and attendant one of the "deadly elevator," not only in the upward and downward movements of the cage but the long and unrelieved shaft as well; also the greater difficulty, the ratio of which increases with the height, in effecting escapes in case of fire or other calamity, and the largely enhanced dangers to the workmen who put up such structures—all these and perhaps other considerations place

the matter of the height of buildings within the control of the law-making department, and it ought to act upon its privilege at an early day. Eight stories, or ten at the most, of a reasonable number of feet, are all that ought to be allowed in any community here or elsewhere.

Not to assume the character of alarmists without sufficient cause and thus placing stumbling blocks within the way of progress, we take occasion to say that this subject is not original with us, that it was begun in the very place where the mania rages the most violently—Chicago—some time ago, and is occasionally referred to by the press there now. It is a proper subject for agitation.

### THE COUNCIL'S WORK OBJECTED TO.

There are a good many complaints from property owners in this city over the new garbage ordinance. Some even go so far as to say that they will pay no attention whatever to it, and if the officers see fit to arrest therefore, let the arrests proceed. This is the same spirit on a smaller scale as that which actuated the patriots of '76 when they dumped a load of tea into Boston harbor, and later in England caused the people to rise up in revolt against the corn laws—it permits those who are entrusted with the duty of making enactments to go so far in the matter of oppressive legislation and then "call them down," that is, notifies them in a purely democratic manner that they are exceeding their authority.

An old and at times fitting adage is, in effect, that resistance to tyranny is obedience to Providence. The only trouble about its application is that when people imagine themselves aggrieved, or permit demagogues to make them believe that such is the case, if they cut loose from the centripetal restraint of the law as it is and rush off at a tangent, they are like anything else that has departed in like manner—they never stop until violently encountered by some opposing force. Such procedure has been on many occasions resorted to by organized bands of communists, anarchists and others who always yield to the requirements of the law by constraint and under protest; and every such attempt has resulted in the needless destruction of property, the death of many of the malcontents and too often that of innocent parties. Vastly different was the revolt of the colonists, for they, in the name of the law and by its authority, made appeal after appeal and protestation upon protestation, with but the effect of receiving "additional violence and insult," and at last being "spurned with contempt from the foot of the throne."

It hasn't got to be so bad as that, even in miniature, with us yet, though we are free to confess that many acts of the municipal lawmakers do not bear the impress of careful consideration, investigation of the subject legislated upon, or a due regard for the best interest of all classes; perhaps this garbage measure is one of that kind. If it is, the remedy is not in violent or any form of lawless resistance, but in a dignified appeal to the courts through the peaceable and or-

derly channels of the law. The higher philosophy and profounder wisdom of those who sit in judgment in the courts authorized to test all local enactments are an ample safeguard against arrogant assumption of power and any inflections which usurpers of authority may seek to impose. Let those who are aggrieved, or even those who consider themselves aggrieved, make up a test case whose object shall be the ascertainment of the rightfulness or wrongfulness of this or any other ordinance complained of, but let such resistance go no further.

This is a proper time for defects in the corporation's by-laws to be pointed out, as they are now and have been for several months undergoing revision. Any assistance which the taxpayer may be able to render in making the code all that it ought to be is not only his privilege but ought to be his pleasure, as it is certainly very much to his interest. The compensation being paid to the revisor, as we are informed by a councilman himself, is excessive and goes on every day whether the solons keep him employed or not. It is not for us to say whether it could have been done as well and for less money or not, but while it is under way it would be as well if an occasional reminder from those who pay the bills were put in, so that in the final footings the work done and the amount paid for it will not show a discrepancy beyond all reason, thus giving other grounds for complaint.

We don't like the way some people have of continually "nagging" the City Council and that, too, very frequently regarding measures of which they know but very little and do not understand at all. That kind of thing is productive of no good results and is a custom more honored in the breach than in the observance. But it is a different thing altogether to complain of enactments, the enforcement of which would result in needless hardships to some without corresponding benefits to any. Above all have those who foot the bills a right to demand that no more be paid out for any scheme or purpose than is actually necessary; they can stop this in the manner suggested if they feel disposed to do so, but generally they are not so disposed as long as the outlays come anywhere near reason. As to the garbage ordinance first referred to, there is widespread and apparently well-founded antagonism to it. Some of the objections cited are serious, and these allude to provisions which are unfair as well as cumbersome. All agree that its enforcement will add heavy expenses to the citizens, while some are free to class it as infamous. The matter is not now open to amendment, but it is still within the reach of repeal if an outraged public sentiment demands it. Furthermore, as already stated it is not yet beyond the crucial test of legal interpretation and endorsement; the community is not left without a means of redress.

IT HAS been decided that linen surplices cannot escape duty on the plea that they are to be used as regalia in churches. Hence, observes a light-minded Boston cotemporary, a further expansion of our surplice revenue.