

grow, to yield. Some of those to whom the word of God came received it with joy, and the seed sprang up; but they were too impatient to await the time of taking root, therefore they were compared by the Savior to a rock on which the young plant withered away because it lacked moisture. Some of those who today are numbered as members of the Church exhibit similar impatience. Things do not move rapidly enough to suit them; they wait to crowd along the day of judgment before the day of warlog is ended. Sometimes very good people manifest great impatience. When experience has gained them more knowledge they may realize the need in themselves of forbearance toward others.

It is not a reasonable requirement to insist that a proper manifestation of patience is a never-ending submission to extreme irritability of temper in others. Such a patience as that is of the kind that ceases to be a virtue, which the genuine article never does. But it requires careful discrimination and thoughtful judgment to draw the line. A continued bratling of temper toward others is a sin, and in the home circle especially is productive of widespread evils. A continued submission to it when it might be checked by firm, peaceful and decisive action and a better state of things thereby be inaugurated, is also improper, just as the unnecessary permitting of wrong actions is sinful. It is sometimes necessary for people to protect themselves from unpleasantness in others, but it is never justifiable in so doing to fall into the same error that is being resisted. Irascibility in one person does not act as an emollient on the irascibility of another. The divine patience is that which leads men, by softening their harsher natures when they will permit it and harmonizing them with true principles, to a higher and better life. This is the attribute which Saints cultivate in themselves and seek to impart to others, that by the earnest, constant and powerful works of faith they may render acceptable service to the Divine Ruler.

THE LEGISLATURE.

There are not many new laws, or amendments of old ones, needed at the hands of the Legislative Assembly at its present session. The Territory already has a tolerable surfeit of enactments, and the proverb tells us that "enough is as good as a feast." We venture to say, in behalf of the whole commonwealth, that the new legislators will most acceptably earn their \$4 per day each, and mileage, if during the next sixty days they study how few, not how many, fresh measures and changes in those already in force, they find it necessary to force upon the statute books. That community is governed best which is governed least; and in the multitude of laws with vexing paraphernalia and complicated provisions, the average mortal finds more mystery than satisfaction, and more confusion than sense. In the changes that have occurred during the last two years, and the changes that are imminent in the near future, important items of legislative necessity are of course before us; what

we wish to urge is, not that any needed measures be postponed, but that the standard of legislative excellence be sought rather in the quality than in the quantity of the work done.

The News welcomes the representatives of the people to the capital, and wishes them a pleasant and profitable session. We believe they will be actuated by the sole desire to promote the Territory's welfare; and in pursuance of that end they will receive, regardless of politics or creed, the encouragement and applause of this paper and, we believe, of the whole people.

A VERY BAD JOKE.

The Brigham *Bugler* of Saturday, Jan. 6, contains an account of a mock marriage performed in that city on New Year's day. It appears that "a young dude" of Salt Lake and an equally young widow of Brigham City met at a party. Among the fun indulged in was that of a marriage ceremony, the above mentioned pair consenting to appear as the principal actors. It so happened, however, that the fun-loving gentleman who drew up the license was a notary public, and the one that performed the ceremony was an ecclesiastical officer, with legal power to tie hands and hearts together. All this did not dawn upon the principals in the disgusting farce, till everything was over. But when light came upon the situation the youth was ready to faint. He has a sweetheart, it is understood, in this city, and, should the ceremony be declared legal, as similar ceremonies have been in other parts of the country, by the courts, he finds himself in a truly awkward position.

In some countries in the civilized world a mock performance of this kind would render the performers liable to prosecution and probably result in fines or imprisonment. From the position of the Church, it deserves the severest condemnation. Marriage being instituted by the Lord for man, partakes of the nature of a divine ordinance. Like baptism, the Lord's Supper, and other ordinances, it should be considered holy, and not a subject of merriment and laughter. But apart from any religious motive, wise men have considered the relations entered into by the marriage ceremony the main foundation of society. All just laws aim at the protection of the family in its various relations. No true patriotism can exist where the marriage covenants are disregarded or made light of. To be true to these covenants and to regard them as a sacred trust is the essence of that virtue which leads to the defense of home and country in times of supreme danger. No matter, then, from what point of view a practical joke like the one referred to is regarded, it is an act which the serious part of the community will censure. Some will regard it as being almost blasphemous, and all will agree that it is dangerous in its demoralizing influence, if it is allowed to pass without some consequence to its perpetrators and participants. It would probably gain pretty general approval if the young couple were made to undertake in earnest the responsibilities involved in the cere-

mony which they have profaned. No other reparation within their power would appear to be adequate; and yet the enforcement of those obligations might, and probably would, result in mutual unhappiness. In whatever way the parties may succeed in extricating themselves, the duty of the community is plain: to visit upon the act full public censure and convey adequate notice that it is regarded as little less than a grave crime.

DIPHTHERIA IN SCHOOLS.

Anything pertaining to the study, prevention and cure of that dread enemy of childhood and youth—the deadly disease diphtheria—is certain to be received with interest by every class in every community that has suffered from the destroyer's ravages. It is accordingly with pleasure that the public will learn that, according to the report of the New York health board, diphtheria is a preventable ill; precautions against it are advised that are said to be effective, and the promise is that where strict sanitary regulations are enforced, there is no need of the disease obtaining a foothold at all.

This gratifying news is associated with a report that advances some very novel suggestions as to the cause and spread of the malady. It is well known that the disease is increasing; that it is most deadly in its effects—one in four cases proving fatal, whereas in the dreaded scarlet fever only one in twenty results fatally; that its germs are not readily killed by the ordinary extremes of heat and cold; and that it is spread and propagated chiefly by the contact of children in the public schools. The recommendations referred to are to the effect that the living of janitors in school buildings should be strictly prohibited; that muslin covers for books ought to be discarded; and that since the contagion is spread by means of indiscriminate mingling of slate pencils, these should be done away with entirely, and instead of them and slates, pens and paper should be substituted. These suggestions are reinforced by a cloud of expert testimony, and they are strongly urged upon the attention of all those who have at heart the preservation of life and the success of the country's common schools. Whether our local physicians are prepared to agree with their eastern colleagues in the position taken, we have not taken the time to ascertain; but the matter is important enough to deserve their notice without further invitation, to the end that if there is any negligence that can be avoided it may be pointed out, and the measure of immunity this Territory has already enjoyed may be made effectual and still greater through the employment of every precaution that skill and observation can suggest.

OUR FRIENDS, THE RAILROADS.

In the local railway situation there ought to be much food for thought on the part of every man who now is, has been, or expects to be in business for himself or for another, as well on the part of those whose hopes are