are sovereign; but they do not exercise their sovereignty authoritatively as such directly, nor of themselves. Bancroft further says: "The people of the United States have declared in their Constitution that the law alone is supreme; and have defined that supreme law." It is plain that to sustain the Territorial court, the United States Supreme Court had to seek for a sovereign authority. And as there is no such thing known to American principles, the court was necessarily driven to foreign governments for their authority. The Supreme Court further said:

"The principles of the law of charities are not confined to a particular people or nation, but prevail in all civilized countries pervaded by the spirit of Christianity. They are found imbedded in the civil law of Rome, in the laws of the European nations, and especially in the laws of that nation, from which our institutions are derived."

In this argues the *Sentinel* the court subjects itself to criticism, and shows plainly that it is not acting in harmony with American principles nor American law. In European governments a sovereign authority existed. They were not governments of the people, but of the sovereigns and the people were subjects. The government of Rome was absolutism pure and simple. The Emperor was father of the country. He alone ruled, and it is only a few days ago since Emperor William of Germany said "he alone ruled." In England at the time of the revolution, though the monarch was not absolute, yet the system prevailed and the terms sovereign and subject were and are rigorously observed. Our institutions were established on principles contrary to those of England. There and in Europe, sovereigns held their places by "right divine," in America the government of the United States was to derive its just powers from the consent of the governed.

SCHOOL BOARD VS. CITY COUNCIL.

THAT the present government of this city intends to increase the municipal debt to the limit allowed by congressional law, and will do it and consume the funds, unless prevented, is so strongly believed among prominent "Liberals" that a movement has been inaugurated by some of them looking to such legal proceedings as will check the voracity and extravagance of the City Council.

Under a provision of a law of Congress passed in 1886, a municipal corporation in a Territory cannot incur an indebtedness in excess of four per cent. of the value of the taxable property within the corporation, as shown by the last county assessment roll. While there has been some contention to the contrary, it is generally, and no doubt correctly held by lawyers and public men of this Territory that indebtedness for school purposes must be included in the amount of liabilities a municipality may incur.

Under the congressional statute referred to, Salt Lake City may go in debt to the extent of $1,800,000, in round numbers, and if the meaning generally conceded to the law is the correct one, that sum must include all liabilities of the city as a municipality and as a school district. City bonds to the amount of $800,000 have already been floated and are now outstanding, and a sale of $200,000 worth more is being advertised. This will make the city's bonded debt a round million, to which sum must be added its floating debt, which varies greatly in amount in brief spaces of time, but which will average some tens of thousands. Over $100,000 is due from the city for taxes collected in advance for laying the water mains. Including the bonds now being advertised, the city's liabilities will not fall much if any under $1,200,000.

A Territorial law authorizes a school district to go in debt to the extent of two per cent. of the valuation of the taxable property embraced in it. But this statute is, of course, subordinate to the congressional provision; and if an incorporated city, in its capacity as such, shall incur a debt of more than two per cent. for city purposes, the amount it can borrow as a school district, to be used for the benefit of schools, will be correspondingly limited; in other words, the schools have only such a margin as the City Council may leave.

The schools of this city are represented as being in need of a large amount of money. The present proposition is, in fact, to issue school bonds to the amount of $600,000. This sum, vast as it is, is far less than would be produced by the two per cent. levy authorized by Territorial law to be made for school purposes, yet it would increase the municipal debt to the limit, or thereabouts.

It is held that the Territorial law contemplates that the schools may have the benefit of a two per cent. indebtedness, or half of what the law of Congress allows to be incurred, provided the taxpayers so vote at a school bond election. But it is also urged that, if not restrained, the present City Council will run the debt up so high as to leave for the schools only a fraction of what they are entitled to, or perhaps nothing at all; and the proposition now mooted is to plant an injunction suit to prevent the City Council from incurring liabilities to an extent that will cripple, or infringe upon the rights of, the schools. It is for this reason that legal advice has been sought with a view to taking steps to prevent them from being deprived, by the City Council, of the money imperatively needed by them, for the erection of school buildings, etc.

The proceeds of the $200,000 worth of city bonds will quickly be disposed of to meet existing demands, outside of the city and county building. It is believed, and the inference is drawn from the circular issued to architects by the joint committee inviting plans, that the cost of this structure will not be limited to $350,000 as at first proposed, but that, since the committee made its trip east to inspect similar public structures, the purpose has been formed to make the cost half a million at least. Some of the plans that will be submitted by competing architects will contemplate the latter figure. So far as now appears, there will have to be another issue of municipal bonds to pay the city's share of the cost of this building, which will make still narrower the margin left for the schools, and it is warmly urged that the courts will have to be appealed to if the schools are to be protected from spoliation, at the hands of the present City Council. Whether or not an injunction suit for this purpose will be planted, has not yet, we believe, been decided. And whether the taxpayers when called upon to vote will decide to favor the issue of $600,000 school bonds, will depend somewhat upon the settlement of the legal question above referred to, but principally upon the force and promptitude with which the school board shall bring forth its strong reasons.

HAYTI'S DISTRACTED STATE.

NEWS of another revolt comes from Hayti. Fred Douglas, our Senegambian statesman, is U. S. minister in that country, and it is to be hoped that he will keep out of the fight, though when he first went there he was very near being entangled in the troubles then existing. Hippolyte, the present ruler, has failed to bring about peace between the factions. There was an attempt made to assassinate him a few days ago. A common rule finds exemplification in his case: he obtained his place by force of arms, and by that force he holds it, governing like a tyrant. He cannot move about without guards, and his rule is a military despotism. A civil war, long and bloody, is among the probabilities.