

It may be tolerable for a citizen, by courtesy, to be allowed to present a respectful petition and the reasons he has to furnish in support of it, but that he should be allowed, with or without permission, to join in a debate in progress in a legislative body, and in the course of it to bandy epithets with members is so utterly foreign to good sense and propriety that no consistent person can endorse it.

However, the latest exposition of this character is but following up the liberty given two attorneys for the applicant for a whisky license. After the Council had denied the application these limbs of the law were permitted to appear before that body and make arguments in favor of their client, notwithstanding that the matter was pending in the courts. Thus the Council appears to be becoming "all things" to some men. At one time it assumes the role of a court of law, minus the necessary acumen, and at another takes on the appearance of a "free and easy" debating club whose rules do not require the participants to confine themselves to the most ordinary decorum.

These symptoms, combined with the evidences of jobs and unconscionable expenditure of the people's money on holes in the ground, are the almost constant food for reflection supplied by the present city government. There is no nutriment in it. The public is thoroughly nauseated with the allopathic doses with which it is being constantly supplied by the Council.

One of the lamentable features of the Council squabbles and scurrility-throwing episodes is the utter and childlike helplessness of the Mayor, who seems to have no more power to preserve order than a kitten suffering from a severe attack of the grippe.

SCHOOL BONDS.

MORE schoolhouses are needed in this city, there is no doubt. The free school law, with its provisions in reference to compulsory education, has caused the overcrowding of our district school buildings, and other places have been utilized for their accommodation. The issuing of bonds to the amount of \$300,000 has been determined on by the Board of Education, and with the amount thus raised it is to be hoped present needs at least will be supplied.

The taxpayers need not be alarmed in regard to this matter. There is no arbitrary power vested in the Board to issue bonds for school purposes without the consent of those who are chiefly interested. An election must be held, at which a majority of the

voters decide in favor of the issuing of the bonds before they can be issued. Due notice of such election must be given. Every adult male taxpayer resident in the city for thirty days and in the Territory six months can vote on the question. The amount of the bonds must not exceed two per cent of the taxable property in the city. Thus, if the taxpayers do not want to have the bonds issued they have the power to suppress them.

We believe, however, that the majority of the taxpayers will see the need of more school accommodations and be ready to aid in providing them. Also that they will see that raising the needful funds by bonds will be an easier method than paying a large special tax. The Board of Education can levy and collect a tax of not to exceed two per cent on the taxable property, and will no doubt be governed in this matter by the amount raised through bonds.

Extravagance should not be encouraged in any direction. But wise economy will suggest that good, spacious and suitable buildings for school purposes should be provided that will be likely to serve necessary purposes for some time to come. And it should be the desire of every public-spirited citizen to promote the cause of education, and make the schoolhouses of this city a credit to the people and ample for the wants of the school population.

DEATH OF ALMENA FARR.

AT no time in the history of the Church have so many of the veterans, of both sexes, of the community passed away as during the last few months. The latest of this class, in Salt Lake City, to depart to the other life, is Almena Farr, of the Seventeenth Ward, a widely known and greatly respected lady. Her death occurred at fifteen minutes past two o'clock February 27, the immediate cause being general debility superinduced by old age.

Almena Farr was a daughter of Henry and Sarah Randall, and was born in St. Lawrence County, New York, November 28, 1814; removed, when about twenty years old, to Niagara County, where she embraced "Mormonism," being baptized by Elder Samuel Mulliner in April, 1843. Formerly she had been a staunch Methodist. In 1845 she migrated to Nauvoo, Ill., where she became the wife of Elder Winslow Farr, and passed through all the trying and self-sacrificing ordeals, under which the Saints of that time suffered. Together with the rest of the family she left Nauvoo for the West in June, 1846,

tarried at Winter Quarters and Kaneshville nearly four years, her husband in the meantime performing a mission to the Eastern States. After her arrival in Great Salt Lake Valley, in 1850, she occupied a lone habitation near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, where she was often exposed to great danger from marauding Indians. Subsequently she lived on a farm on Big Cottonwood, where her husband died in August, 1866. Previous to his death she had removed to Salt Lake City. For over forty years she followed the profession of midwife, and in that capacity waited upon thousands of her sisters. Her life has been an example of unflinching faith and unwavering integrity.

The funeral was held Saturday, February 28th, at 1 p.m., in the Seventeenth Ward meeting house.

REPORTING IN "YE OLDEN TIME."

IN LONDON, England, a book entitled, "Newspaper Reporting in the Olden Time and Today," has just been printed. In this book the history of the reporter is traced as far back as the times of Cicero and Caesar. And what strikes the modern reader most forcibly, is the similarity between the items of the modern newspaper and those of the ancient.

There was published in ancient Rome, a journal entitled the *Acta Diurna*. It was not printed of course. It was written under the direction of the magistrates and placed in the Hall of Liberty. It took cognizance of all the passing events, and did not ignore very trifling items. It shows that the reporter of ancient Rome was not a long way removed from his brother of modern New York or Chicago. Here is an item translated from the "Acta Diurna" of ancient Rome:

"It thundered, and an oak was struck with lightning on that part of the Mount Palatine called Summa Velia, early in the afternoon. A fray happened in a tavern at the lower end of the banker's street, in which the keeper of the Hog-in-Armour Tavern was dangerously wounded. Tertinius, the Aedile, fined the butcher for selling meat which had not been inspected by the overseers of the markets. The fine is to be employed in building a chapel to the Temple of the goddess Tellus."

This is under date of the 4th of the Kalends of April.

Here is another paragraph, the subjects of which would seem to demand more extended treatment:

"Paulus, the Consul, and Cn. Octavius, the praetor, set out this day for Macedonia, in their habits of war, and vast numbers of people attending them to the gates. The funeral of Marcia was performed with greater pomp of images than attendance of mourners. The Pontifex proclaimed the Megalesian plays in honor of the Cybele."