

the fund derived from taking "a large amount of property from a church." Messrs. Zane & Zane and a few other active politicians—joined with the trustees—were the sole cause of the investigation, which results in little more than a scandal and expenses to the tune of probably about \$4000. And this is the *modus operandi* by which these disinterested patriots protect the school fund from being depleted.

LAW AND LOGIC IN IDAHO.

It is hardly fair to be continually pointing out a neighbor's eccentricities and irregularities, and it is for that reason, among others, that we refer to matters and things in Idaho only now and then. There is generally enough to talk about to make it an endless talk, but that would be useless. It is a very safe thing to say that the "Gem of the Mountains" is a political peculiarity, and that the evidences of it tread upon each other's heels, so fast they come; it is never safely off with the old absurdity before being fairly on with the new.

This paper took occasion to refer to the manner in which the late Legislative Assembly of that Territory recently got together after it had dissolved and its members were private citizens, and in the latter capacity went to work making so-called laws again the same as though they were a *bona fide* legislative body. Perhaps this boy-play would have gone on without notice thereafter had it not been for the determination of some of the participants to not let their light go out in any such manner. After the President of the Council and Speaker of the House had declared their respective departments duly adjourned by limitation, they of course stepped down and out, and the persons who were chosen to these places by the "moot" legislature took their seats, got through with what work the bodies had on hand and then proceeded to sign the journals containing the records of the whole proceedings of the six weeks' sitting, denying to the officers who had presided during the whole of that time the right to affix their signatures in their official capacity! These latter did not "disperse" with the solons, they remained in Boise and applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel the custodian of the books to let them get their autographs thereon. The case is now being heard on demurrer, the re-

spondent setting up that mandamus will not lie and that the court has no jurisdiction. What the outcome will be no one can tell.

One of the points raised by the attorney for the respondent was the fact that the terms of members of Congress expire on the 3rd of March, but they generally sit on the 4th till about noon.

The aptness and force of this "point" will doubtless make it tell in Idaho, certainly nowhere else. If after the Speaker of the House at Washington has formally declared that body adjourned without day, the members were to get together, reorganize, pass a few acts, then order the *functus officio* clerk to permit their man-of-straw Speaker to sign the session's records and refuse to let the regularly chosen officer do so, and upon a test this had been held to be proper, there would be a precedent for the Idaho luminary that would win his case without further effort whatever. But none of these are present and he relies solely on an assumed correlative circumstance which does not figure even as an incident of the proceeding in chief, let alone fill the place of a parallel, and hands it up to the court with an assumed air of triumph, in blissful ignorance, no doubt, of the fact that he is all the time arguing another case—that the bird he wants to bring down is in one tree while he is firing away at another.

It is not to be wondered at, after all, that the learned advocate is so much at sea in the matter of authority for his case. No such things ever happened before, not even in Idaho, and therefore precedents are not to be had, so he has to rely upon cases in which the law-making power figures, albeit in an entirely different capacity. He must say *something* while upon his feet and do the best he can, perhaps as well as any one else would try to do under similar circumstances.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY.

THE familiar adage that "patriotism is the refuge of scoundrels" receives many exemplifications in this Territory. The "active politicians" who have operated on the line of anti-"Mormonism" in Utah have persistently denied that their chief object was the spoliation of the Latter-day Saints. Current events constantly arise, stretch up their hands, and tear the masks from the faces of the hypocrites.

Through the efforts of that class, aided by a popular sentiment which they created by the spread of falsehood, Congress was induced to pass the law which confiscates the property of the Church. They have attempted to deny that this was the result of their work. But the truth will not down. They have made it manifest by their own subsequent actions as well as their previous operations.

Since the beginning of the enforcement of the escheating clause of the Edmunds-Tucker law the political cormorants have been gathering around the carcass—represented by the property of the "Mormon" people—endeavoring to help themselves to portions of it, snapping and snarling at each other erstwhile, making a sorry spectacle of themselves. While claiming to protect it they have been making dashes at it in order to obtain the largest possible mouthfuls. All this and more has been manifested by the recent investigation before an Examiner.

The same class have resorted in the past to every conceivable device so as to obtain political control in this Territory, both as a whole and in part. By what we have good reason to believe to have been fraudulent means, the party to which they belong recently gained the ascendancy in the City of Ogden. This result was ratified with great characteristic rejoicing, in which whisky and boisterous uproariousness conspicuously figured. At the outset of their dominion in that municipality highly colored promises were made with respect to the great things which were about to be done in our unfortunate neighboring city on the north.

Of course a spirit of fairness was to pervade the doings of the new officers of the corporation. What this means will be apprehended when the action of the Mayor on the evening of March 1 is taken into consideration. At a meeting of the Council he left the chair, a member of the corporate body presiding in the interim. This eccentric functionary, acting on what appear to be his ideas of justice, moved for the framing of an ordinance so constructed as to enable the corporation to steal a certain block of land.

The property referred to is the piece of ground on which stands the Tabernacle in which the Latter-day Saints of that section meet for divine service. That land was set apart for religious purposes