

THE "WORLD'S" FINE FEELINGS.

THE New York *World* is one of the papers that violated the law when Kempler was executed, by publishing a sensational report of the affair. On the strength of its blood-curdling extravagancies it then insisted that the legislature should instantly repeal the electrocution law. It now make another feeble effort in the same direction. In substance it says:

"The legislature neglected a duty last winter in not repealing the law for the killing of condemned men by electricity. This method of execution is tentative at best, and the execution of condemned men ought not to be a matter of uncertain experiment, involving possibilities of torture. Even if electric execution is instantaneous and certain—a point of much doubt—it is attended by appearances of agonizing torture which render the very thought of it shocking to humane minds. As a necessary consequence it is increasingly difficult to secure conviction in capital cases, and that is a detriment to the public, whose protection against crime is a consideration of the first importance. Besides all this, hanging is good enough for cold-blooded murderers."

We quote this jumble of nonsense for the purpose of showing what foolish predicaments are involved in the custom that some otherwise great papers have of pursuing a notorious fallacy, as if it was an established fact, solely for the material which it may contain for manufacturing sensation. The proposition that, the execution of condemned men ought not to involve the possibilities of suffering, would indeed be a beautiful sentiment and might be convincing, if the same paper that voices it would propose some other method than hanging as a substitute for the mode objected to, or else to be consistent cease its habit of spreading out before its readers the details of executions by hanging, wherein the most shocking scenes of torture possible to the taking of human life are graphically portrayed. It seems to us rather silly to protest against the possible torture of electrocution, and in the same sentence contend for a substitute the possible tortures of which are infinitely more horrible.

The second objection, that though death by electricity may be instantaneous it has the appearance of torture, would also be very fine, except that the remedy which the *World* proposes is a thousand times more shocking to human sensibilities than the evil could possibly be.

Besides this fine sense of sympathy for the feelings of the public would, we think, take much better, if the organ that assumes it did not on every occasion exert itself so prodigiously to agonize the sensitive public with exaggerated pictures of those very "appearances" of torture in order

to make itself interesting. This same habit on the *World's* part renders ludicrous its assumed solicitude lest this shocking "appearance" of torture should be an obstacle in the conviction of criminals whose offenses are punishable with death.

But the finishing touch of all this beautiful sentiment is reached in the closing observation that, "hanging is good enough for cold blooded murderers." Such a sequence to such editorial utterances is quite sufficient to stamp them as the mere babbling of a buffoon.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Education was held July 10th, President Scott in the chair.

The members present were Messrs. Nelson, Snow, Lett, Colbath, Pyper, Newmau, Pike and Duke.

A. L. Simonds offered to sell to the board a piece of ground 10x20 rods in block 20, plat A, for \$16,000, in school bonds at par. Referred to the committee on sites and buildings.

O. H. Avey, W. F. Jamison, G. N. McKay, J. W. Newbern, A. S. Martin, William Bradford and James Sterling asked that they be appointed enumerators to take the school census. On motion of Mr. Pike the matter was left with the members of the board to select enumerators from their respective districts.

J. B. Walden offered to sell to the board a school site consisting of 230 square rods of ground for \$21,000. Committee on sites and buildings.

William M. Stewart, in behalf of the University of Deseret, offered to furnish the board two school rooms free of rent, on condition the University be given the privilege to use the teachers and pupils for the purpose of training or teaching its normal students. Committee on school work.

The following reports were read, received and filed:

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Education:

Gentlemen—Pursuant to law I present my first annual report as president of the board of education of Salt Lake City school district.

The reports of the finance committee, superintendent of city schools and clerk of the board of education go so fully into the details of the school work of the year that it will not be necessary for me to set those details forth in this report. I shall therefore confine myself to a brief general review of the year, and to such recommendations connected with the needs of education as present themselves.

As is well known, the finances of the board have been much embarrassed the past year, chiefly on account of the litigation growing out of the special tax levied in the several districts of the city prior to the consolidation. This litigation deprived the school revenues of sums amounting to about \$30,000, directly involved in the suits contested, and about as much paid under protest and affected by the adverse decision. The absence of this money leaves the schools in debt at the close of the school year \$26,390.06. I trust a better showing may be made next year. It may not be out of place for me to add that since those who contested the special district school taxes, above referred to,

were successful in resisting the payment of them, equity requires that those who paid such taxes without protestation or resistance should be reimbursed. I therefore heartily approve the action of the board in suggesting and favoring a plan whereby, with the approval of the legislature, those taxpayers who paid will be put on an equality as to the school burdens with those who did not. The expenses have necessarily been large the past year, because the year's work had to include the formative period. There has been much litigation, caused by uncertainties of the law, and many forms of procedure to provide, all of which has been costly. Rents also have been at the maximum; the board has paid rental to the amount of \$4833.38, and yet the schools have been all overcrowded. Lastly, there have been large sums paid on old district accounts.

The enrollment of pupils and the average attendance of the schools within the city were as follows for the past year and the year previous:

	1890.	1891.	Increase.
Total enrollment.....	4395	4968	1973
Average attendance.....	2735	3515	880

This is a gratifying increase, but it is reasonable to expect yet better results with the erection of school buildings better located and more commodious than the structures now in use. With regard to the contemplated new buildings I trust I may be pardoned for urging upon the board the need of careful consideration of plans, that the best models may be adopted and those that have the fullest recognition of the modern ideas in roominess, convenience, ventilation and sanitation.

Healthfulness is the prime object, and adaptation for the use required is scarcely second in importance. Care should be taken in locating the buildings. Some of a primary character should be placed further on in all directions from the center of the city than any of the public schools now are to meet the city's growth and wants, and to accommodate the primary pupils near their homes. With respect to sites, every care should be taken to have them so placed as to best accommodate the population. Also, to procure title in the board to the school property in the city as contemplated by law, a duty which has not so far been attended to. Present sites can doubtless be added to from time to time as adjoining property comes into the market, where the locations are satisfactory; but some new sites should be purchased immediately.

In addition to the crippling of finances previously mentioned, the board has had to pay out \$52,128.49 on building account to complete contracts, pay indebtedness and put school houses in condition for use. The general fund should be reimbursed this sum on the sale of the lands authorized by the vote of June 12th.

Teachers should be encouraged in their work, and there should be a recognition of good service by such increase of salary as is fair and their merit would warrant.

In spite of all drawbacks, a favorable beginning has been made, and the work consolidated so that the future will be easier. The courses of study have been established, the grading of pupils made and a large and gratifying measure of success has attended the work.

There has been less friction than might have been expected in the welding of twenty-two districts into one. All have labored for harmony and efficiency, and I have reason to believe that your efforts toward the betterment of our schools have had and now possess the full support and approval of the people.

GEO. M. SCOTT,
President of Board of Education.