

position not alone on the ground of mere partizan work, but because of having overcome the legitimate majority of the opposition, by dishonest processes, their infliction upon the people takes on the character of a public calamity. It would always be much better to hand them each a ten thousand dollar check and have done with them, as the affliction would not then necessarily, in such case, be continuous for any length of time.

### "IT WAS REAL MEAN."

THE leading "Liberal" organ of February 18, contains the following paragraph:

"The wicked politicians rather played it on Brother Iliff Saturday night at the Walker banquet. They set the clock back as the midnight hour drew nigh, and when the doctor was called upon for his speech, he glanced anxiously at the clock, which indicated 11:55 p.m., remarked that he had only five minutes to speak in, and quit at what he thought was midnight, when it was really 1:30 a.m. It was real mean to put up a Sabbath violating game on this good man."

This was very bad. If the reverend gentleman had confined himself to an occupation for which he seems admirably adapted—drawing upon the credulity and pockets of eastern audiences in connection with the "Mormon" question—he would have escaped this terrible pitfall. Instead of confining himself to his forte, he paraded the streets in the ranks of the "Liberals," in a "go-as-you-please," and when, in addition, he proceeded to eat, etc., etc., with classes not complimented in holy writ, how could he expect anything better?

We join in condemnation of the heartless joke of the tricksters, and must express regret at the inability of our jovial friend to tell the time within an hour and a half. But the paper which gave the thing away is worthy the greater condemnation.

The incident seems to furnish another illustration of the claim that religion and politics, like many other mixtures, make an injurious and confusing compound.

### AN INADVISABLE MEASURE.

THE Legislative Council has passed a bill to restrict the selling and giving of tobacco and other narcotics in any form to minors under eighteen years of age; also to prevent their use by all persons under that head. We believe the passage of the measure in its present form to be a mistake, and consequently trust it will be changed by

the House, or, if need be, as a last remedy, it not be affirmed by the Governor.

Here is what we deem to be the objectionable feature of the bill:

"Any minor convicted of the using, sale, giving or furnishing of any such narcotic shall be fined in any sum not less than five dollars."

In nine cases out of ten the punishment would fall upon the parents instead of the individual guilty of a breach of the law. The injustice of a measure that would compel a man to go down into his pockets, especially if he be poor, and pay not less than five dollars for an offense committed by his boy, ought to be self-evident. In many instances the fact would also be developed that the father had exhausted every means in his power to prevent the boy from forming and indulging in the pernicious habit. In cases where unusual poverty existed the punishment would be still greater, as the parents would have the mortification that necessarily ensues from seeing their child committed to prison, a humiliation the well-to-do could easily escape. The alternative of imprisoning boys has been proved from time immemorial to have a demoralizing in place of a reformatory effect.

Unless the measure be confined to the selling of the injurious articles, so far as tobacco is concerned, it would be properly classed as sumptuary legislation, and would be inoperative. Acts of that nature serve to bring the legislative department into contempt, any production that proves abortive necessarily having that effect. So far as the sale of narcotics is concerned, we would even go further than the bill under consideration, and favor an act prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to any persons whomsoever, as they have been specially proven to be to a high degree poisonous.

It is an open question as to whether the tobaccousing habit exists to as great an extent among the youth of Utah as has been by some people estimated. But be that as it may, we have more faith, as a curative means, in sound reason and moral suasion than in legal punitive processes. Besides, all legislation that borders on the forcible interference with the liberty of the individual should be approached conservatively; otherwise it defeats its own object.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.

THE *Columbian* of Astoria, Oregon, publishes this manly thrust at the

political corruption by which the recent election in this city was won:

"The dishonest methods by which the Gentiles carried the Salt Lake election cannot be approved by honest men. Fighting the devil with fire is usually justifiable, but the Utah method deserves condemnation. The penalty for fraudulent voting is readily applied and the Utah courts are to be depended upon. It is good to see Salt Lake controlled by Gentiles, but this crookedness in the election is likely to be followed by crookedness in the city government. Even if this were not so, there is no excuse for the men who perpetrated these frauds in a good cause. Let the guilty ones, Mormon and Gentile, be punished."

Our Oregon cotemporary appears to be a little out in just one particular: It does not appear to know that trial by jury has been virtually abolished in Utah.

### A SOUND LEGAL OPINION.

WE are enabled to place before our readers in this issue the decision of Judge U. S. Zane on the Municipal Election statute. It is clear and unmistakable in terms, and we think sound in law. It confirms our opinion of the ability of the official who gave it. He is a clear-headed lawyer, and as a judicial officer he has had few if any equals on the bench in this Territory. Outside of one particular line of subjects we have seen but small reason for objection to his administration.

### THE NEW MAYOR A PARTISAN.

IMMEDIATELY after he had taken the oath of office February 18, Mayor Scott made a few remarks, the tenor of which was creditable to him. Among other things he declared it to be his intention to be just and impartial in all his acts as Mayor. Within a few moments after he had uttered this sentiment he made what will appear to thousands of our citizens to be a striking departure from it. At a certain juncture of the proceedings, Richard W. Young arose and requested, in behalf of himself and certain gentlemen claiming to have been elected members of the City Council from the Third and Fourth municipal wards, that their bonds be approved and that the oath of office be administered to them. Not a word was uttered by any member of either the old or new Council relative to the matter. Indeed there was no time for this, for Mayor Scott instantly replied to Mr. Young's request by saying, in effect, that it could not be complied with.

Mr. Young made a second request,