

spirit and letter. He says that "free public education" is "denied by the existing school laws." This is not how we understand the statute. There are several free schools in operation under the "existing school laws." And there is nothing to prevent any school district from establishing a free school if the taxpayers therein so decide. We admit that a more complete system of public education is a demand of the times. We hope the Legislature will be able to mature what is needed. We merely take exception to the statement that "a free public education" is "denied by the existing laws;" that is manifestly incorrect.

We might dispute with the Governor as to the causes which have retarded the progress of the Territory, and show that they have originated from a different quarter than that which he names. But we give him credit for believing what he asserts, and as his views are given courteously and with a desire to promote harmony and progress, we have no desire to raise an issue on this subject.

There are many things in the message which we consider timely and for the public interest, to which we may hereafter allude. But, for the present, suffice it to say the Governor has presented a strong and practical paper, and we endorse the resolution of the Assembly to print it for the public benefit. We hope the work of the legislators will be done promptly and in due season, that the Governor may have time to give every measure due consideration, and that such unanimity of views may prevail between the representatives of the people and the Executive as will secure the passage of measures necessary for the welfare of the Territory.

ANONYMOUS SLASHING.

WE HAVE received an anonymous communication under the letter head of one of the hotels of this city. Enclosed is a printed slip containing an array of charges against Theodore Burmester. They are very damaging and exceedingly sweeping.

Now, we are not infatuated with Mr. Burmester. According to our view he is not a specimen of mortality to be specially adored by anybody. But notwithstanding that, according to our estimate, he does not, in the scale of being, stand by any means on the sublime summit of exalted manhood, if any person

who makes a covert attack upon him imagines that he can use this journal to do his underhand work, he has missed his reckoning.

The anonymous correspondent states that his charges can be authenticated by our reporter if he will inquire on the street. The News reporters are not used to do journalistic scavengerism, a monopoly of that business being left, so far as this paper is concerned, to those whose course indicates that it is their forte.

While the gentleman assailed is not to our liking, as we have before stated, we deny that *all* of the charges can be authenticated by any means whatever. For instance, the slip states that he is a purchased "Mormon" tool, which is untrue. The "Mormons" have no use for him. We name this charge because we can refute it; we would be ashamed to publish the others.

The written communication explains the object of the assault. It is political and directed at W. W. Gee, "Liberal" nominee for Justice of the Peace for the Fifth Precinct, who is asserted to be under Burmester's control, an assertion that we would not undertake to dispute, and Mr. Kahler, Burmester's clerk, "Liberal" candidate for the candidate for the same office in the Third Precinct. These candidates are slashed over the broad shoulders of the irrepressible B., as will be observed by this extract from the letter:

"Can't you do something to help save us from the infliction of such officials on the people, by showing them up?"

We can only say, on general principles, that if the writer of the communication imagines that he considers these men any more unfit for the positions for which the "Liberal" party have nominated them than we and a large majority of the citizens of this city (including "Liberals") do, he is subjecting himself to a mental hallucination. But why should they be thus singled out for attack when the majority of the candidates on the ticket are in the same box? When one talks of infliction in that connection, the political fly-blister would be very broad. We expect to do what we can to prevent it by urging sensible people who favor good government to vote for better men, who will be nominated by the People's Party, and thus lay the scrubs under the snow on the 10th of February. The better class of "Liberals" are showing a strong

inclination to apply a counter-irritant to the infliction in chief, and thus prevent the consummation of a political catastrophe.

FAVORABLE AUSPICES.

EVERYTHING passed off smoothly in both branches of the Legislature January 13th. There was a marked contrast with the opening day of last session. On that occasion there was confusion, and so informal and irregular were the proceedings in the House, that the validity of its organization was at one time questioned. At intervals during the session, especially the early part of it, a disposition was shown to spring political questions and to incite political debates that were extraneous to the legitimate business of the Assembly.

So far no symptom of such a spirit has been manifested. The speedy and intelligent disposal of business seems to be the leading purpose of every member of the Assembly, if one may judge from the expedition with which the preliminary work of the session was dispatched. Spectators have seldom seen item after item of business disposed of with greater celerity, in either house, than was the case yesterday.

The selection of officers is excellent throughout. Apparently no one thought of even nominating any other candidate for president of the Council, so fitting and obvious were the qualifications of Hon. F. S. Richards for that position. The election of Hon. James Sharp as speaker of the House meets with the hearty approval of every People's Party member, and the gentleman has the respect and confidence of every member of the other side of the House.

The auspices under which the Assembly opens are pleasing and satisfactory in the main. They pre-empt earnest, harmonious and disinterested work on the part of the members, and a patriotic manipulation of the public business. The Assembly has a great deal to do, and the time allotted by law to the session is too brief in which to do full justice to the business on hand unless it be economized.

The necessity of maturing important measures before the closing days of the session is suggested in the Governor's message, and cannot be denied. It is also to be hoped that the all-night sittings which have characterized the close of several sessions past will be obviated this time. The indications are that the present Assembly will make an excellent record in the way of useful and wholesome legislation.