

of an oath provision. In view of the fact that a case is pending in the Supreme Court, an early decision of which is expected, involving the constitutionality of this provision, the committee decided to grant the request for a postponement.

Returned Elders.

Elder M. Dunford, of Bloomington, Bear Lake County, Idaho, has just returned from a two years' mission to the Southern States. His field of labor was in Georgia until forced to leave on account of the mobocratic spirit. From Georgia he went into Alabama, where he labored for two months, and was then transferred to Virginia. He returns home in good health.

On January 1st, **Elder George M. Pickett** returned from a mission to the Southern States. He left Tooele February 7th, 1888, and was assigned to the South Alabama Conference, where he remained during the whole of his mission. In that field he found the feeling very bitter against the Saints, and there was great indifference to religious matters generally. There were quite a number baptized, however, and nearly all of them have emigrated west. It is believed that nearly all of the Saints in that part will move west this year. **Elder Pickett** enjoyed good health in his missionary labors.

Government Building.

A representative of the *News* this Jan. 4th, met Governor Thomas, and the latter stated the reasons why he felt sanguine that Congress would make an appropriation for a government building in this city. The matter was laid before the committee of each house as soon as Congress was organized, and before the members of those committees had been wearied with similar applications. The supervising architect of the Treasury Department and the Secretary of the Interior have recommended that a government building be erected in this city, and Senator Stanford, chairman of the Senate committee on public buildings, and Mr. Millican, chairman of the same committee of the House, both favor it, and the members of both committees will, it is believed, unanimously recommend it.

With such support as this the bill making the appropriation can hardly fail to pass, especially when the needs of the building are properly presented, as they will be, when the bill comes up for consideration. Governor Thomas expressed the opinion that no offer of a building site which Salt Lake City Corporation could make would in the least affect the action of Congress in the matter. If the government concludes that it wants a building here, it will appropriate a sum sufficient for its erection and the purchase of a site, the latter to be chosen by appropriate officers.

Resolutions of Respect.

The Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting Monday, Dec. 30th, appointed a committee to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of

the late Francis Cope. Following is the result of the committee's work:

Resolutions of respect passed by the board of directors of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce in memory of Francis Cope.

Like an oak, that years upon years withstands the storms and tempests, and all at once by a sudden stroke of lightning is felled to wither and decay, so fell in our midst one of the towers of strength, whose words but yesterday controlled the iron bands as if by magic, and who today lies cold in death among us.

In the demise of Francis Cope, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce has lost one of its most active and most honored members. He from the first recognized the value and importance of the institution and with heart and hand supported every move made by that body. To him is largely due the result achieved by Salt Lake's exposition car.

With indefatigable energy he worked for Utah and our city's growth, and while he left the work but half completed, he passed away as soldiers do upon the battle field, right at his post. He lived and died a man.

In recognition of this fact, the board of directors of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting called, has seen fit to pass this testimonial, and with it tender to the widow and the children of the deceased their heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement, that the same may be published in the daily papers, and a copy thereof be tendered to the family.

FRED SIMON,
J. V. PARKER,
J. H. BENNETT,
Committee.

A Singular Interruption.

The religious services in the Tabernacle, Sunday, January 5th, were strangely interrupted. The opening exercises had been concluded and **Elder B. H. Roberts** had proceeded but a few minutes with his discourse when a unique figure entered the building by one of the south entrances. His head was uncovered, and he was clothed in Oriental splendor. A long cloak, or robe hung from his shoulders and almost touched the floor. This garment was white, and made of costly material—fine satin. Under it was a blue silk tunic, while his lower limbs were encased in scarlet leggings. In his right hand he carried a white banner, made of silk material. It was about seven feet in length, and surmounted by a metal spear-head. In front of it was a crucifix, attached to which was a figure of the Savior. The hair and chin beard of this peculiar visitor was black, its jetty appearance suggesting the use of dye-stuff.

As soon as he entered he stalked down the south aisle and around the west end, in front of the stand. Turning east he strode along the north side to the east end, where he wheeled around and retraced his steps westward. When he had traversed a little over one-half the length of the building on the return trip he was taken in charge by the ushers. At this point he covered his head with a tall black hat, which he had hitherto carried in his left hand. The stove-pipe hat did not harmonize with the gorgeous habiliments in which he was arrayed the

effect being exceedingly grotesque. He was then conducted from the building.

The incident caused considerable commotion among the congregation for a few moments, but **Elder Roberts** requested the people to keep their seats and order was soon restored. He was taken to the City Hall. His name is A. J. Möller, a resident of the Eleventh Ward, who has for a long time been considered to be of unsound mind. There is, however, no violent feature about his conduct.

Mr. Möller was asked today the reason for his singular action. He stated that he had had three visits from an angel, the visitations being three weeks apart. He had been told to make a robe and a sceptre, and did so, the material used being silk satin and silk lace. He also said he had been directed to go through the Tabernacle as he did. He had intended to go out at the northeast door, but it was fastened, and he had turned back to find a place for egress when the ushers required him to leave. He said he came to the door in a carriage, which was waiting to take him home again, but this was not permitted, as he was taken to the City Hall on the charge of disturbing a religious meeting. There he was required to divest himself of his strange garments, and was then permitted to go. His sceptre was examined by many persons today. Mr. Möller said he had no thought of disturbing the meeting, but believed it would please the people to have him appear in the manner related. He felt bad because he had to leave his suit at the City Hall, as he did not want others to handle it. In response to inquiries he said he had made it all himself, and that the material had cost him about \$50. It is plain that no harm was intended on his part. He will not be prosecuted.

Snow-Melting Machine.—A new device for getting rid of snow in the streets or on the horse car tracks has been patented. Experiments with it show that it can melt a ton of ice in five minutes, or a ton of snow in four minutes, at a cost of about four cents for the melting of every two-horse load. The machine has somewhat the general appearance of a fire-engine.

Halpine Torpedo Boat.—Lieut. Halpine has set to work to overcome the defects of the existing type of torpedo boat. He argued that a subaqueous torpedo which would deliver an explosive charge to a point beneath the keel of a vessel was needed, the boat being arranged so that after leaving the explosive charge it would move backward and away from the point of explosion. Following on this plan, he has designed a torpedo boat, which, after depositing an explosive—carrying the case in close proximity to the vessel to be destroyed—would be automatically backed to a position of safety. This is effectively done by electricity.