

political record of the past, it is not sufficient, even when coupled with a statement to the effect that his operations are understood to be as reported, to place the matter beyond doubt.

Another reason why we prefer to await developments before accepting the statement as correct is that if true it would place Mr. West in the light of an unmitigatedly depraved wretch. To call a man who would be guilty of such a breach of confidence as well as of common honesty, a thief, would be to pass upon him an undeserved compliment. What could be more dispicable than for a man to be employed to further a given purpose, to use the money paid him for the service agreed upon against the interest of those by whom the pay was furnished. Instead of carrying out the object for which he is paid to take the means of his employers and use it to aid in depriving them of their rights and liberties. This would be precisely the position, a large proportion of the members of the Chamber of Commerce being members of the Church against which the pending disabling legislation is aimed.

In connection with this subject one thing seems clear to us—that the directory of the Chamber owe it to themselves and the public to ascertain, by close probing, whether or not there is any foundation for the report regarding Mr. West's work. If it be true of man who has any self respect and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce can support him for a moment in the position he holds, either as a representative or President of the organization. If on the other hand he is entirely free from the odium of using other people's money and the influence of a professedly non-political body for the perpetration of an outrage upon a large number of those who belong to it, let the fact be made clear.

### THE ANTI-NARCOTIC LAW.

By request we publish the law passed by the last Legislature on the subject of selling tobacco, opium and other narcotics to minors:

#### AN ACT

Prohibiting the selling, giving or furnishing of tobacco, opium or other narcotics to, and the use thereof by minors.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, That any person who shall sell, give or furnish any cigar, cigarette, or tobacco, in any form, opium or any other narcotic in

any form to any minor under eighteen years of age, in this Territory, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars.

Sec. 2. The provisions of this act shall not apply to the use, sale, giving or furnishing of any narcotic upon the prescription of a physician.

Approved March 13, 1890.

There is a manifest incongruity in the law, brief as it is. The title includes "the use thereof by minors" while there is no reference to the use of the proscribed articles in the prohibitory section of the statute. The same absurdity exists in section two wherein it states that "the provisions of this act shall not apply to the use" etc.

It is a matter of deep regret that such glaring instances of culpable slovenliness should have to be placed among the statutes of Utah as a standing evidence of carelessness on the part of the lawmakers. This is by no means a solitary example in that direction. A practical examination of the new laws exhibits the fact that many of them are in an exceedingly crude condition. The punctuation is, as a rule, execrable. Where there are evidences of attempting to introduce it at all, it is generally wild and unintelligible. This feature alone places the public printer in an awkward position, as he is supposed to print the laws as they are placed in his hands.

### THE POSTMASTER.

THE general public of this city will regret to part with Postmaster Barratt, who it is said is soon to be supplemented by Mr. Benton. If there has been cause for complaint against the office, we do not believe that blame for it attaches to the gentleman who has for several years had charge of it. Had the department afforded proper facilities the service would have been, we believe, as good as could be desired, Mr. Barratt being the possessor of both the requisite will and ability to produce that result. Fault-finding is an easy employment. It is regrettable that an inspecting agent should have reported to the department that the postmaster's methods were not abreast with the growth of Salt Lake. If he had stated that the facilities placed in his hands by the department were inadequate to meet the demands of the Salt Lake public, the representation would have been much more correct.

The straightest trees are the first felled.

### A COMING STRUGGLE.

BISHOP VINCENT of Buffalo, N. Y., according to a leading Chicago paper, lately expressed himself with refreshing directness upon the attitude of the Catholic Church in this country. As his statements afford food for profitable reflection on a subject of great interest, we here present them:

"Before long," said the Bishop, "the Catholics and German Lutherans will condemn the compulsory education law in Illinois and other States. I've watched the progress of this issue in Wisconsin ever since Mr. Bennett framed the law which has become famous, and I believe the issue of compulsory education will supersede all tariff and other political interests at the next Presidential election. The great question as to whether Americans or Roman Catholics shall control this country has reached a point where an open fight is inevitable. While the Americans have been sleeping the Roman Catholics have been laboring with untiring energy, and their efforts have not been futile. They are building up a power in this country which threatens to prove disastrous to the United States. Not only do most of the Roman Catholics put their children in parochial schools, but they place Catholic teachers in the public schools to exercise an influence over the children of other denominations.

"A movement is being started in Buffalo to require every Catholic teacher in the public schools to swear unqualified allegiance to the laws and institutions of the country, that they will not allow religion to control their public services. The situation in Buffalo is worse than in Wisconsin or even in this State. Our public schools there are absolutely in the power of the Romish priesthood. The Americans in my city practically have nothing to say about the management of their schools.

"Such a state of affairs is bound to reach a crisis, and that, too, before long. It will simply be the experience of other countries.

"When the Liberals went into power in Belgium, in 1878, they established an excellent system of public schools. No expense was spared in making the institution efficient and modern. A Catholic priest was forbidden to cross the threshold of any of the schools. But this cabinet fell in 1884, when, through the Pope's influence, the Clericals obtained absolute power. The first thing done was to overthrow all the schools established by the Liberals. Unless we make a national issue of this question we will likewise be defeated, and all of our schools will be under the Pope's thumb.

"The fight is inevitable, and the sooner it comes the better. Delay will only strengthen the other side."

That the Roman Catholic Church has adopted a vigorously aggressive policy the object of which is to Catholicize the United States is beyond question. Its purpose is to use politics as a lever to climb into power. That the contention which will arise out of this effort will become a national controversy is, as Bishop Vincent asserts, inevitable, and the nature of the struggle