

mitted that "honest men can not be made by legislation," but said that "to the power for evil of those who are dishonest and careless a limit can and should be fixed," and that "The principal source of abuse is not in the disposition to do wrong, but in the license to speculate and plunder." When the belief that the majority of those who sought election to the council of a city had dishonest motives became general, respectable men shrank from positions which would subject them to such an imputation, and very many would not participate in city government even so far as to vote at city elections. Other means having failed, many cities of the union have sought, in the absolute separation of legislative and executive functions, a remedy for both those evils. They believe that it will prove efficacious.

And, writing of evidence given before the Commissioners by a large number of Toronto gentlemen, they say: "All agreed that the time has come when the Mayor should have more power and more responsibility, and when the legislative and executive functions should be separated, wholly, as some thought, or to a very great extent, as a few would prefer."

After describing the evils into which Philadelphia had fallen, they report: "Could any mere change in the system of government rescue a city from such a condition? The people thought it could, and the main change to be wrought by the measure on which they placed such reliance was the complete separation of the executive from the legislative functions. They resolved to entrust the legislative function to the Council, but to do away with the old committee system, and to entrust to the Mayor all executive functions, and to hold him responsible for their proper discharge."

In the city of Buffalo, the duties of the Council are chiefly legislative, and in Waltham all the actual work is done by boards, of which no Alderman can be a member.

The City Legislative Council.

"One of the beneficial results which would arise from the separation of the executive functions would be that the members of the Council would be relieved from the work which now requires so much time and attention, and which no man actively employed in business can afford to give. The power of legislative appropriation and general supervision would still remain in the Council. All by-laws necessary for the good government of the city would still be passed by them.

"No work could be undertaken, no tax imposed, no duty or toll charged, no money borrowed, and no money expended, unless perhaps the interest on the debt, without their express sanction."

The number of members could be with advantage considerably increased. In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom. There is safety in numbers, safety against corruption and jobbery, "rings," and other immoral collusions. Most of the business men of the city could afford time to attend the Council meeting, especially as they need not occur oftener than fortnightly, or perhaps only once a month.

Home Rule for Cities.

The committal of legislative functions to civic municipalities, by the State, should be as complete as possible, reserving only such control as is necessary to keep the home rulers within the limits of their charter.

The present power to pass by-laws seems to include an ample range; but there are one or two statutes in force which have a most mischievous tendency, and should be instantly shorn of their dangerous clauses.

For all public purposes, one incorporation is sufficient within the municipal limits. And, seeing that an incorporated municipality by its very nature includes all the citizens, other corporations are not only unnecessary, but are positively deleterious. This is, to a certain extent, admitted by the constitution of the City Councils, as the sole taxing powers for school and free library purposes. Why, then, should the Board of School Trustees and the Board of Management of Free Libraries be also corporations and bodies politic. Cannot the whole citizens be trusted to manage and to be trustees for their own affairs, in their corporate capacity as a municipality? Why multiply corporations within a corporation? The idea is irrational and absurd.

The School Act a Retrogression.

There is also an uncalled-for invasion of the rights of the people in the School Act, 1891. Previously, the school trustees were elected by the people direct; but now the City Council elect three and the chairman, and the Government