

Doubtless many who signed the petitions for such action were moved less by sympathy with the unhappy Davis or by knowledge of or interest in his case at all, than by the sentiment against capital punishment under any circumstances. All such are invited to remember, however, that it is no part of the Governor's duty or privilege to set aside or annul a statute; and that any request asking for the abolishment of the death penalty should be addressed not to the executive but to the legislative department of government.

#### CHURCH AND STATE.

It is announced in a dispatch from London that the efforts of Signor Crispi, the Italian premier, to bring about a better feeling between the chief representatives of the state and the church have been crowned with success and that a reconciliation is about to take place. As an evidence of this it is mentioned that the premier's private secretary has had an interview with a high cardinal of the papal household, this being the first time in nearly a quarter of a century that an Italian official has paid his respects to the rulers of the Vatican. The consultation was followed by several significant acts indicating a desire both on the part of the king and the pope to come to terms.

Ever since the occupation of papal territory by Victor Emmanuel's troops in 1870, the pope has considered himself virtually a prisoner. The last vestige of temporal power, exercised for centuries and gradually diminished as a result of the religious and political revolutions of Europe, was then gone, and the various states were free to develop independent of influence from Rome. The arrangement has never been entirely satisfactory to devout Catholics who necessarily must look upon the head of the church as the highest authority on earth, the viceroy of the Almighty. It is therefore all the more significant that the Italian premier manifests a desire to see the wounds healed, the chasm between the church and state bridged over and harmony established. Crispi is a shrewd statesman and the reasons for the steps he takes must be weighty.

It is not improbable that his policy indicates a reaction in sentiment toward the church. Possibly the conviction is being arrived at that the state as such is threatened by enemies against which the political power, standing alone, is inadequate, and that the aid of the strong influence of the church is needed in the battle.

The forces at work everywhere for the overthrow of government and order and moral principles are mighty and active. The state as such is necessarily confined to defensive acts. By the laws those who attack its institutions can be punished and put out of the way whenever the laws are violated. But the results of this will after all be but negative. There is nothing even in the most severe punishments to create in man that love for morality on which the safety of the state depends. The fierce, brutal instincts may thereby be checked to some extent; the fire may be confined temporarily, but its devour-

ing flames burst forth again and again, and remain forever a menace to the whole structure. The influence of religion is of another nature. Its aim is to ennoble the human family by inspiring its members with principles and sentiments which induce them to follow the paths of virtue as voluntarily and naturally as the birds lift their wings to airy flight. It aims at making man pure, benevolent, kind and just, thus preventing in their first origin the outbursts of lawlessness which the state can reach only when the damage is an actual fact.

If this view is admitted as correct, it follows that the church and the state are equally necessary for the perfection of the human family. In cases where the former fails to accomplish its object the arm of the latter properly bares the sword to confine the evil to the smallest limits possible. It also follows that a society is most blessed when state and church mutually support each other, each conscious of and conscientiously performing its own functions and both acting in harmonious sympathy.

As to the Roman church, while its opponents sharply point out that that religious body has greatly sinned in this respect during the ages, constantly encroaching upon the prerogatives of the rulers; that it is a question whether this ever can be remedied, considering the doctrines held by Rome; and that the constant ruptures are thus explained and are only natural—it is nevertheless true as a general principle that religion is necessary to successful government, and that a state without true religion must sooner or later fall to pieces.

#### MARS SIGNALS.

The planet Mars is drawing near to the earth and astronomers are diligently studying the heavenly orb in expectation of making discoveries of a startling nature. It is seriously claimed by some enthusiastic scientists that the inhabitants of Mars are signalling to us, while others, more conservative, deny that the planet has an atmosphere and conclude that it is uninhabited. The question is far from positively settled, unless reasoning from analogy with the earth be accepted as conclusive. Flammarion thinks that all the discoveries made regarding Mars during recent years go to prove that the planet is peopled, and that the burden of proof now rests upon those who deny it, and there the scientists stand.

It is no longer disputed that some very mysterious phenomena are taking place on the surface of our neighbor in space. Mr. Lowell, at Flagstaff, reported that on July 19 of this year he had seen a well cut nick in the edge of the disc and nine days later the noted astronomer Javell observed a projection like the arm of a semaphore thrown out against the dark background of the sky. It glowed with a ruddy light and was so conspicuous that it could not fail to draw the attention of an observer. It was also noted that three lights formerly discovered had disappeared. Professor Barnard of the Lick observatory then discovered mysterious shadows flit-

ting about the south pole over the vast fields covered with ice and snow. These shadows assumed the forms of geometrical figures such as squares, triangles, straight lines, etc. Coincident with these mysterious marks a big pyramid was discovered, which, if being a structure reared by Martians, might possibly have been erected for the purpose of signalling or for astronomical observations.

All these startling reports have caused astronomers all over the world to suspend their work in other directions in order to study the surface of Mars. Early in October the planet will be nearer the earth than for a long time to come, and if there are intelligent beings there who are endeavoring to attract our attention, the fact will probably be established by that time, if it is possible to do so with the instruments now at the command of science.

#### DON PIO PICO.

During the closing days of July, 1847, the Mormon Battalion members who left Los Angeles upon their disbandment on the 16th to search for the place which the Utah Pioneers had selected as a home, camped near the ranch of General Andreas Pico. The general had been a Mexican officer, and in his veins mingled the blood of the Spaniard and native American; and upon California becoming United States territory he decided to transfer his allegiance to this country. Thus it was that he remained on his possessions, where he provided the Battalion boys with fruit and wine, and became quite friendly with them. What gave additional interest to his personality was the fact that he was the brother and had been the warm supporter of Governor Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, who had been just deposed by the United States authorities, and who was buried at Los Angeles, California, yesterday (Sept. 13) as stated in the telegrams from there.

Don Pio Pico was over 93 years of age at the time of his demise, having been born May 5, 1801, at San Gabriel mission, Alta California, as it was known then. He was in turn an assistant priest, a ranchero, saloon-keeper and politician, and in 1834 became governor of Upper and Lower California, in which Utah was then included, but with which the officials had no immediate association as this part of the continent was wholly given over to wild Indian tribes. Governor Pico established the capital at Los Angeles. When the rush of Americans to California began, he was averse to them, and favored the English plottings to secure the country. He openly advocated the British side, and it was he whom old General Vallejo fairly bearded in the Santa Barbara conference, in 1846, by declaring that Californians were republicans and would not submit to a monarchy but would cast their fortunes with the United States. Governor Pico raised an army, but on the approach of the American forces, he saw the hopelessness of his cause, and fled to Southern California, from where he returned two years later