

gates owe it to their party and section to couple the protective features of the one with the special demands of the other; that is, to be Republican representatives in the fullest and truest sense, they should permit neither principle to dwarf or obscure the other even temporarily. This seems to be the present temper of the party hereabout, and those who act in its stead and behalf cannot well afford to be otherwise than in consonance.

GOOD FRIDAY.

The anniversary of the crucifixion of the Savior is observed today, April 3, in many Christian communities as one of the most solemn festivals of the year. From the earliest times it has been considered a suitable occasion for humiliation and contemplation of the great sacrifice that forms the central fact, the foundation of the Christian religion.

The existing accounts of the death of the Son of God prove that although innocent of offense, He was put to death as a malefactor. By the highest ecclesiastical tribunal He was declared guilty of blasphemy, but so artificial was the evidence that even the cruel Pilate felt prompted to make no less than five separate attempts to secure His release from the infuriated mob. The charge was then changed to a political one and the death sentence was reluctantly pronounced.

The scenes that preceded and followed this judicial proceeding constitute one of the most tragic dramas ever enacted on this world's stage. The express image of the Father, God's beloved son and representative on earth, was crowned with thorns, scourged, mocked, ridiculed, tortured in the midst of demoniacal surroundings, until His soul, sinking in the depths of darkness, saw no ray of light from the Father's abode. To those who perceived nothing but His agony and the triumphant attitude of His many enemies, He was only a malefactor, forsaken by God and man. His "crime" was heralded to the world, recorded in history and repeated from city to city in the great empire, until the very name Jesus of Nazareth was a by-word and reproach.

But what a remarkable change time brought! Little old Anna and Calaphae, the real murderers of the Nazarene, or Pilate, their political tool, think that a time would come when the sufferings and ignominy they inflicted should be commemorated with veneration by the greatest and best of men and women in after-ages. But it is so. At the cross today millions kneel in adoration and multitudes are ready to devote themselves for the principles for the suppression of which it was raised on Calvary. What was at that time intended for a perpetual reproach is an everlasting glory to the followers of Jesus—an incontrovertible proof of the divinity of the cause for which He died, for how could such a change have been brought about except by the power of God?

It has often been remarked that there is great similarity between the circumstances attending the establish-

ment of the Christian Church on earth by the Son of God and its re-establishment in this age. With the veneration for the world's Redeemer which may not be accorded to any mortal man, we cannot but note the striking point of resemblance in the treatment accorded the Prophet Joseph and his fellow-servants. All throughout his life, the efforts of the opposing power was to represent him as a malefactor, a criminal. Time and again his life and death have been depicted as those of a law-breaker. To Latter-day Saints at least the lesson of Good Friday is, that the Prophet of our age has this seal affixed to his divine credentials, that he was put to death under circumstances similar to those of his great Master and his fellow-Apostles in former ages. And it is also this, that a time will come when men and women will read about Carthage jail and venerate it as a battleground where the forces of light and truth obtained a signal victory over darkness and error. The history of Christianity will be repeated in the history of Mormonism.

It is profitable to contemplate the work of the Almighty and notice the ruling principles in His providence. The Church in this age has great promises, all of which will be fulfilled if the people continue to adhere to the truth as revealed from heaven.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Governor Wells has given the eight-hour bill his official approval and it is now a law. There can be no question as to his having acted conscientiously in this matter, or that he gave the subject ample consideration and acted in accordance with his judgment in the premises; but that his action will give as much satisfaction to the thinking part of the public as nearly all of his other official acts have given is hardly to be looked for.

There is a certain class of people who think, or seem to think, that the human family can be taxed into prosperity; another class hold that the favorable action of the law-making power is the panacea for poverty and want. That both can give reasons which are at least plausible for the grounds they take, is a matter of course; that some, perhaps many, features of their doctrines are sound is not to be controverted; but that in their broadest sense and best light they are wholly good is a proposition which at the very least admits of controversy if it does not invite it.

There is still another class who believe that there is no royal road to wealth any more than there is to education and honorable distinction; that even a slight or temporary surcease of the sorrows which result from meagre circumstances must as a rule be the reward of industrious, persistent, meritorious action. These do not concede that because they are willing to work in accordance with fair and reasonable terms they are thereby serfs or the lower strata of society. Neither will they admit that they are opponents of or in co-nivance against the best interests of others who work because unable to see the feasibility of a statute which proposes to either regulate their times of work, fix

the limit of the same or prescribe the compensation therefor; on the contrary, they regard the actions of those lawmakers who claim that this can be done and still violate nobody's freedom of action and interfere with no one's contract, as themselves laboring under a delusion or else doing something worse—making a bid for the votes and influence of the inconsiderate and injudicious.

No just and sensible person will attempt to place obstacles in the way of the working people's prosperity and true advancement, but those who clamor most loudly for these desiderata are too frequently the ones who desire them the least. It is more likely than otherwise that selfish ends and personal ambitions lurk beneath the demagogic expressions which find their greatest favor among those who are also selfish as well as envious and inconsiderate. The News hopes and believes that better times for all hands are about to dawn upon the land; but any attempt to abridge the freedom of contracts or otherwise interfere with unowned labor is a blow at free institutions that will sooner or later recoil upon its authors and retard the advancement which might be ours. We repeat, the Governor is undoubtedly satisfied that he and those who have acted and are acting with him are right; but we look at it differently and believe the courts will do the same.

VALE THE LEGISLATURE.

One day more ends the legal life of the first General Assembly of the State of Utah. Of course it will prove a very long "day," for the reasons that there will be a mass of unfinished business requiring attention and which, as usual, includes matters of great importance; and the final day being Sunday, and Easter at that, it is not likely there will be much inclination to devote the day to continuous hard work. Perhaps all that will be done will be to preserve the semblance of a session and take recesses from time to time, for an adjournment would necessarily be fatal; meanwhile the fraudulent fiction, which deceives nobody, of making the official clock stand still will be indulged in until the end is reached.

A review of the work accomplished by our law makers shows it on the whole to be voluminous and creditable. That it is not free from blemishes or actual faults is a matter of course; that some of the members themselves have been shorthanded and remiss now and then is also undeniable, but such occasions have been agreeably rare. It is also a fact that some of the Senators and Representatives have been diligent, attentive and painstaking all the time, never seeming to be weary in well doing and always having the welfare of their constituents in full view. It would be invidious and in bad taste to mention names, especially when there is no call for it; so let the record stand as at first set out—all have done well when the work as a whole is taken into full consideration.

One of the gratifying features of the session has been the comparative absence of partisan rancor. Very few measures have been passed by a strict