

ment had it not been for the secret encouragement given to them by Russians, who endeavored to stir up a rebellion. It was the existence, Dr. Hepworth thinks, of a Russian propaganda that furnished the sultan the pretext for the outrages and massacres in Armenia, and these have by no means ceased, for recent dispatches tell of the robbery of Armenians of the little they had managed to gather together for their sustenance since the close of the riots—gathered largely by the help of American contributions, thus rendered mere waste, or worse, being actual contributions to the robber tribes.

The commission exonerates the missionaries. These, it is said, never interfere with political affairs, although the obvious result of their labors is to kindle in the people a desire for liberty and progress. But they know that revolt is useless and hence always counsel against it. Great Britain, Dr. Hepworth thinks, might have stopped outrages on innocent Armenians and compelled Turkey to grant reasonable reforms. She has assumed the position of sponsor for Turkey for half a century and cannot evade responsibility for what is going on within its borders.

There is no doubt that the Armenians are a serious problem on the hands of the sultan. They are a vigorous race, keen and enterprising and would under favorable circumstances attain a commanding position in Asia Minor. The policy of extermination is an alluring one, and will probably continue, unless some time the Turkish government should see its way clear to grant them liberal political and religious liberties under sufficient guarantees of their intention to remain loyal to the government. Perhaps this would best be accomplished by allowing them to establish settlements of their own in some convenient locality far away from their old enemies, the Kurds, where they might prosper and be a source of material benefit to the country.

#### A PORTRAIT OF CHRIST.

A friend of the "News" has sent to this office a copy of an English newspaper of recent date, containing what purports to be an authentic description of the person of our Savior. It is said to be taken from a manuscript now in the possession of Lord Kelly, which supposedly was copied from an original letter of Publius Lentullus at Rome. It is as follows:

(Copy of a description of the Person of Our Savior.)

It being the usual custom of Roman governors to advertise the senate and people of such material things as happened in their provinces in the days of Tiberius Caesar, Publius Lentullus, president of Judea, wrote the following epistle to the senate concerning our Savior: "There appeared in these our days a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who is yet living among us, and of the Gentiles is accounted for a Prophet of truth, but His own disciples call Him the Son of God. He raiseth the dead and cureth all manner of diseases. A man of stature somewhat tall and comely, with very reverend countenance, such as the beholders may both love and fear; His hair of the color of chestnut, full ripe, plain to the ears, whence downward it is more orient and curling, and wavering about His shoulders. In the midst of His head is a seam or partition in His hair, after the manner of the Nazarites; His forehead plain and very delicate; His face without spot or wrinkle, beautified with a lovely red; His nose and mouth so formed as nothing can be reprehended; His beard thickish, in color like His hair, not very long, but forked; His look innocent and mature. In reproving He is terrible; in admon-

ishing courteous and fair spoken; pleasant in conversation, mixed with gravity. It cannot be remembered that any have seen him laugh, but many have seen Him weep. In proportion of body most excellent. His hands and arms most delicate to behold. In speaking very temperate, modest and wise. A man for His singular beauty, surpassing the children of men."

#### THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYSHIP.

The struggle that has been going on for some months, having for its object the capture of the Utah district attorneyship, has not been an edifying spectacle, whether viewed from this or the Washington end, or from an Ohio standpoint. In fact, the two Ohioans, one of whom is credited with being able to influence, while the other must finally decide, the result, seem both to be averse to giving the prize to either of the combatants who are prominently in the arena. If Mark Hanna had fully endorsed either of them, probably President McKinley would have appointed that one; and the long delay in making a selection indicates that the group of aspirants does not embrace timber entirely satisfactory.

The Salt Lake Herald's Washington correspondent makes a statement to the effect that President McKinley has been inclined to appoint a Mormon to the office named, but that this disposition on his part has been antagonized by the friends of the three rival candidates who have used "the argument that the appointment of a Mormon as district attorney was not the thing to do, because the new order of things in Utah was still, to some extent, experimental."

The "News" prefers to receive this statement with incredulity. It prefers to regard as wholly unfounded any assertion to the effect that the prominent gentlemen who have supported the respective candidates for appointment as district attorney for Utah, have done a thing so unjust and so indiscreet as to represent to the President of the United States that it would not be wise to appoint a Mormon to the office named, or to any other in the State to be filled by presidential selection, for the reasons suggested by the Herald's Washington correspondent.

Were it to fully appear that they had resorted to such an argument with President McKinley, and were the facts constituting such an offense on their part to be laid before the people of Utah, accompanied by satisfactory proofs, such a storm of indignation would sweep over the entire State as would cause those gentlemen to realize, with a vividness never to be forgotten, the magnitude of their mistake; and the hurricane of popular condemnation would totally obliterate all party lines.

This is not said with a view to influencing the appointment of any Mormon to the position named, for the "News" neither knows nor cares whether any Mormon is aspiring in that direction. But it does hope that no member of that Church will become a participant in the scramble for the place which has presented for so long a time an appearance so unseemly. A respectful and dignified application for the position should suffice.

Pending further developments, and the bringing forth of further evidence, it is probably best to regard the correspondent's statement as not based on facts that have actually occurred.

#### A NATIONAL EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Ever since manufacturing industries began to be developed in the United States, New England has taken the lead in fostering them. In the

same section organized labor has been to a considerable extent successful in the struggles it has engaged in for the attainment of its leading objects. It has succeeded in securing better wages for mill operatives and other kinds of toilers, and has firmly established the eight-hour system.

During recent years, however, some of the southern states have made vast strides in the development of textile industries, thereby coming into direct and powerful competition with the New England manufacturing centers, and in this great commercial and industrial contest the southern manufacturer has the advantages that naturally accrue to him from the imperfect organization of the working classes, and particularly from the long working day, which has not been curtailed by legislation.

In the south the number of hours which the employer may require his operatives to remain at work in order to earn a day's pay is not limited by law, nor are the operatives organized well enough to force an increase in their wages. In New England, however, eight-hour laws prevail, and labor is so well organized as to be able to maintain wages that are considerably higher than are paid in the south. The result is that the southern manufacturer can undersell his northern competitor, and the mill operatives of New England are suffering in consequence.

This condition of affairs has given rise to an agitation in favor of an amendment to the national constitution which shall authorize Congress to regulate the hours of labor in all the states in the Union. As a matter of course the proposition originated in Massachusetts. Representative Lovering of that state has introduced a bill into the present Congress looking to such an amendment to the national charter. Similar bills were introduced by Massachusetts congressmen at each of the four preceding Congresses, and Mr. Lovering's measure is being cordially endorsed by the cotton manufacturers of the northeastern states.

Organized labor in all the states is unanimously in favor of such an amendment to the Constitution, and a majority of the mill owners of most of the Northern states would probably favor it. Opposition to it would come from certain Southern states. The Springfield Republican, in a thoughtful article upon the subject, expresses the view that it is quite possible for the friends of the measure to procure the necessary two-thirds vote, in Congress, and the ratification of three-fourths of the states of the Union, both of which are required in order to amend the Constitution.

The labor troubles now in progress in New England will tend to give prominence to this issue, and it is very likely that it may figure effectively in the next presidential campaign. Such an amendment to the national charter would open the way for others on similar lines, with the probable result of making far-reaching changes in social and industrial conditions in this country.

#### CONDUIT STREET RAILROADS.

Last month the "News" had an article in reference to the possibilities in the way of electric power for transportation and other purposes in this State. The article met the eye of an inventor named George H. Wilson, residing in Muncie, Indiana, and he has forwarded to this office a tracing and description of a conduit street railway system invented by him, with the request that it be submitted to some person interested in electric improvements. Pursuant to this request, the tracing was shown to W. P. Read, Esq., superintendent of the Salt Lake City Street