

ject will not be allowed to rest. No official wants to rob or oppress anybody. The great desire is to meet the general demand in all quarters, and act within the laws and ordinances and the powers conferred thereby.

In this emergency, prior rights, secondary rights and all other rights, should not be held in view to the exclusion of justice, equity and the general welfare. Let us beware of selfishness, sectionalism and individualism. The best good of the greatest number should be the "Mormon" desideratum. If a full supply of water can be had, and we believe it can, local claims and Ward demands will, or ought to, be dropped because it is water we all want and not merely a victory, particularly when it is over our friends.

Any man who tries to make it appear that the officials who have been struggling with this question are the people's enemies, is himself a foe to the best interests of the people. And any man who at this juncture seeks to divide the Latter-day Saints, is a traitor to them and his religion. We need unity and fidelity today more than ever, and the exercise of common sense and prudence instead of so much irrational complaining and unjust accusation. Let us quit growling and bring forth sensible suggestions and practical plans. Friends, is not this the more reasonable and Saintlike way?

BRUTAL BUSINESS.

ONE would think that Mr. Balfour, in charge of the Irish department of the Tory government of Great Britain, would "let up" some time on his treatment of the people across the little sea. His actions and utterances from the first have been of a nature to irritate, annoy and antagonize the Milesians; and when in their rage they turn on one or more of the evictors whose proceedings have been unnecessarily harsh, Balfour steps in with more coercion and more oppression as a remedy. The Procrustean system established by him for technical offenders of his cast-iron regulations, have made him thoroughly despised, not only by the victims, but by the better classes of people in all parts of the world. He seems to fairly revel in this kind of thing, and enjoys his unpopularity so much that he prefers increasing and extending it to making explanations or putting forth any sort of defense.

The latest instance in which the

unsavory statesman figured to the oppression and distress of a number of Irish tenants, was the recent eviction of tenants of the Pousonby estate. There was a difference between the aggregate amount demanded and what the tenants were willing to pay, of several thousand pounds, the latter offering to pay £104,000 out of £110,000, and both sides had agreed to a compromise as to the other £6000; everything promised to move on smoothly to a settlement, when Balfour dawned on the scene and advised the landlord's agent to drop the matter and resort to eviction. Of course the advice was followed and the driving out of the people from their homes took place.

It was so flagrant a breach of confidence, so arbitrary an appeal to what had hitherto been considered a measure to be used only when all else had failed, that the populace became alarmed and armed violence became so imminent that each house was surrounded with a cordon of soldiers as the hapless people and their furniture were being turned out of doors. Over fifty families were thus dispossessed, at a time, too, when everything had looked so bright for a settlement.

It is said that Balfour receives such news without removing the cigar from his lips and with no other sign of emotion than a sardonic smile. He is a peculiar personage, truly.

LAWMAKERS ARE LAWBREAKERS.

THE State of Colorado is in a bad way because of the Legislature and at least one of the State officials having "gone wrong." It seems that during the last session of the law-making body, more stationery was allowed and appropriated for than seemed actually necessary, and legal proceedings were had with a view to discovering the leakage and putting a stop to the payment. Acting Secretary of State Wyatt was served with a *subpoena duces tecum*, requiring the production of certain books and papers relating to the case. He obeyed the summons to appear, but ignored the other part of the mandate, whereupon he was fined \$100 and sent to jail for ten days for contempt. He is now lingering in the dark and lonely recesses of his place of detention, and it is said of him that he did not intend to contemn the powers that be, but only to give his "friends" time to make explanations.

The "steal," as it is now freely

called, amounts to the snug little sum of \$20,000, enough, one would think, to provide the solons with stationery, pocket knives, etc., for the remainder of their natural lives, let alone one Legislative session.

THE NEXT ECLIPSE.

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun will take place on the 21st of next December, but in this region it will not even be partial; not the smallest segment will be cut out of the grand disc. The line of totality will not touch North America at all; it will skirt the northern shores of a portion of South America, and thence proceed across the South Atlantic Ocean to St. Paul de Loando, in the State of Angola, about 200 miles south of the mouth of the Congo River, on the west coast of Africa, at which point the American expedition will take observations. The last Congress appropriated \$5000 for this purpose, and of course it will be thoroughly attended to.

It is rarely that we have a total eclipse so near home as that of last January, on which occasion the nearest point of the southern side of the belt of totality was about 100 miles distant in a direct line. So near was it, and so much attention did it attract from all over the world, that the News deemed it of sufficient interest to dispatch a special messenger to the best point of observation, near Pocatello, Idaho, an elaborate account of it being published a day or two after.

We believe Salt Lake City has never been favored with one of these awe-inspiring spectacles, and there have been but one or two in the Territory since its settlement by white people. Still, eclipses are very common; it is only when the belt of totality is easily accessible, or the period is longer than usual, that great interest is taken in them. That of next December will have a period of over four minutes at St. Paul de Loando, while that of last January, in Idaho was only a few seconds over one minute. Much valuable data was acquired from it, and more is expected from the next.

Annular eclipses and eclipses of the moon are almost valueless except as mere phenomena, in which capacity they are as useful to the savage as to the savant. The former visitation, in particular, when viewed from the best point, is extremely beautiful, the sun being reduced to a band of dazzling light surrounding a dull and lifeless disc.