

occasion should be as nearly unanimous as circumstances will permit, on the part of all the members of the Church in the gathering places of the Saints.

In passing through the events under the shadows of which the Church is now lying, it will be purified as by fire. But during the ordeal it will need the help and guidance of Jehovah, as will each and every one of its members. A strong combination of opposing powers has been formed for the purpose of waging upon the Saints a warfare designed to result in their destruction; and the handful of people who are thus threatened and imperiled, can look to no earthly source of power for help, or even sympathy, and must rely upon the God whom they worship and their own efforts aided by Him who rules on high.

The servants of the Lord who occupy the positions of watchmen and leaders of His people, in surveying the environments of the Church, perceive the advisability of the Saints making a strong, earnest, humble and united appeal to Jehovah. The help of the Almighty is needed not only for the protection of the Church from the power of its enemies who operate from without, and fight against it with such weapons and means as men in the flesh are familiar with, but also to save it from the foes that operate within its body, the pale of its organization. Insidious, temptations of a peculiarly dangerous and potent character are presented to the Saints, in their own religious, social and family circles, which many find it difficult to resist, and which sap the spiritual life of such as yield to them. The Saints have need to humble themselves, to repent, and to plead with the Lord for spiritual light, strength and deliverance.

Prayers, to avail with God, must be offered in faith. Faith comes by sacrifice; hence when the pleasures and cravings of the flesh are sacrificed in a proper manner and from a proper motive, the faith of a true believer in the Gospel becomes stronger. Thus it is that prayers which are offered by one who is fasting have greater weight with the heavens. The petitioner, by the sacrifice he is making, acquires increased faith, and places himself in closer harmony with those spiritual influences that radiate from the throne of the Almighty. His flesh being subdued, it is easier for him to subdue his spirit, and to attain to

that condition of meekness and humility which calls forth the sympathy and responsive mercy of his Heavenly Father. These are among the reasons why it is desirable that the Saints should observe, as strictly and universally as may be consistent with wisdom, to fast during the period specified in the instructions that have been given by the First Presidency of the Church.

A portion of the directions that have been given upon this subject, and heretofore published in these columns, we here reproduce:

"The fast is to commence at sundown on the 22d inst. and continue until sundown on the 23rd, and it is expected that the members of the Church will have special prayer meetings at home, and in their ward assemblies, and in those places set apart for those purposes. The Presidency of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion desire the Bishops in the different wards to make arrangements for meetings on the 23rd instant, according to their respective circumstances. In this city it is recommended that in addition to the regular meetings on Sunday evening, the 22nd inst., morning and afternoon meetings be held on the 23rd, and that in the early morning and between the meetings on that day, prayer meetings be held in the places specially set apart for that object.

"All this should be done in the spirit of meekness and faith. There ought to be no expressions or desires for wrath and judgment upon those who have persecuted, reviled and falsely accused us and who seek to oppress us, but rather that they may turn from their wicked ways and be led to do right.

"It is to be hoped that all business places conducted or controlled by members of the Church will be closed on the 23rd inst., so that persons employed there may be free to fast and pray and attend the meetings that will be convened. This is an important matter, and the results that will surely accrue will be of vastly more value than gold and silver and any material interests that may be involved."

In order to be in harmony with the spirit and proprieties of the day of fasting and prayer, this office will be closed on Monday, and no paper will be issued until Tuesday next. We understand that there will be a general closing of business establishments of Latter-day Saints on that day, though some of them have announced that they would open at five o'clock in the afternoon.

GROUNDLESS INDICTMENTS.

In our columns appears a statement in relation to the indictments specially found against Mayor Francis Armstrong and Marshal Solomon. The grounds upon which the indictments were found for misappropriation of public funds of Salt Lake City, are creditable rather than indictable. There is no claim

that the money was not actually paid, but to the contrary, and the outlay was in the interest of law, order and morality. Had the indicted gentlemen not sought to enforce the municipal ordinances they would have been chargeable with culpable neglect, and had they not paid for the service rendered in that line they would have been guilty of dishonest conduct.

The public will also note the facts associated with the cases growing out of the payment of amounts to Judge Elias Smith as salary connected with the office of supervisor of county affairs. How do these indictments agree with the theory of impartiality connected with the office and functions of a jury? There never was a grand jury, in our opinion, that operated with stronger prejudice, nor one that sought as unscrupulously to injure innocent men as the one who made a political report to the court a week ago today.

MORE DEFAMATION OF THE DEAD.

THE fact is stated in another article that the late grand jury of the Third District indicted the late Mr. Joseph G. Romney, who died eighteen months since. It is understood that the same body of inquisitorial imbeciles also indicted the late Bishop Samuel R. Bennion, of Taylorsville.

That much respected veteran died during last summer. A more frank and honest man than he was can scarcely be found. Just how many dead men were indicted by the recent political jury is not at present known.

L. D. S. COLLEGE.

The exercises incident to the conclusion of the first term of the fourth academic year of the Latter-day Saints' College were held in the Social Hall, December 20th, commencing at 11 a.m.

A well-rendered selection, "Home of our Youth," by the choir opened the proceedings, and prayer was offered by Brother Israel Barlow, one of the students.

A duet, "God bless our Mountain Home," was given by Miss Mamie Clark and Bro. Allen R. Cutler, with chorus by the choir.

An eloquent address in behalf of the theological organization was delivered by Brother Nathan Porter, who dwelt upon the instructions given in theology in the various classes and exercises devoted to that branch, and paid a beautiful tribute to the spirit accompanying such instructions.

He was followed by another student, Miss Aretta Young, who spoke in behalf of the ladies of the