

by those who redeemed that part of Utah from being a wilderness forty years ago. So far as we can learn, it has been used for no other object.

We cannot but regard this action of Mayor Kiesel as one of the most barefaced efforts to steal that can be imagined. We know of no mitigating circumstance that in the slightest degree justifies it. One might look with as much expectation of success for an element of justification in the act of the train robber who awaits the approach of his victims, and on their arrival dislodges the expressman from his car by exploding a dynamite bomb under him. So far as honesty is concerned there appears to us to be no difference. The distinction is only in the method applied in the endeavor to secure the booty. The object is, in our view, the same—robbery.

What does a circumstance of this character teach the majority of the people of Utah? If it teaches anything it is this: That if they supinely repose in a condition of political inactivity they are in danger of a similar condition of things in other quarters of this Territory.

We have stated repeatedly—we repeat it again—the evidence being invincible, that spoliation is the ultimate motive of those who are seeking to seize the reins of local government and deprive the great mass of the people of all their rights. When anyone attempts to controvert this position, all that is necessary in the premises is to point to facts as they exist and as they are transpiring. "Facts are stubborn things." If Tooele County, which, for a time, was under Liberal sway and subjected to processes of robbery, was not a sufficient warning to the people to be alive to their own interests and to cause them to combat the enemy step by step, let this late occurrence at Ogden make an impression that will be beneficial in its results.

We have no idea that the movement inaugurated by Mayor Kiesel regarding the taking of the property devoted to religious purposes by the Latter-day Saints who reclaimed the region from the condition of a wilderness, will be successful. But if it does not result in success, the lesson should be none the less powerful on that account. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Doubtless the attempt made to take the Ogden Tabernacle square will cause litigation which will "drag its slow length along" through the courts and may serve a good pur-

pose after all, as an opportunity will be given by this incident to further demonstrate the "true inwardness" of those who are continually claiming that their main object is to Americanize Utah, when they are seeking by all the power they possess to make it un-American, that being the character of their methods.

Spoliation is opposed to the whole genius of American institutions and American freedom.

### THE ACQUITTAL.

The popular dissatisfaction with the result of the trial of the McManamy-Stokes murder case has not appreciably abated. The general judgment is that the verdict of acquittal was not justified by the evidence—not even by that of the defendant himself.

This case brings to mind that of John H. Burton, who was shot down and instantly killed over a year ago in this city. He was at the time unarmed. His slayer was acquitted. In that case the condemnation of the result was, as in the present instance, general.

At the time Stokes was killed he was under arrest for disturbance of the peace. Two men had him in charge, McManamy being one of them. The unfortunate victim of McManamy's anger was unarmed. While the case evidently lacked some of the elements of murder in its most aggravated form, there was undoubtedly, in our opinion, a flagrant breach of the law on the part of the man who has been discharged. A human being lost his life, yet his slayer is allowed to go forth unscathed to shoot down another victim at any time when caprice or passion may prompt him to do so.

We fail to see where the law has been vindicated in this matter or the public safety subverted. It is such laxity of legal administration that increases crime wherever it exists. There is nothing in the case of the killing of John H. Burton or the later one of the slaying of Charles Stokes to act as a warning to any viciously disposed person inclined to imbrue his hands in the blood of a fellow creature.

Are not these instances of immunity from punishment of persons who have been guilty of such grave deeds incitements to repetition? The query is, Who is to be the next victim, and who the next slayer to go scot free? Such a laxity in the administration of the law is greatly to be regretted. It is not conducive to the welfare of the commonwealth,

but in our view is a fruitful means of propagating crime of a violent character.

In other parts of the country such instances lead to directly criminal acts on the part of an infuriated people, who, seeing that the law is not enforced against the takers of life, assume on their own account those responsibilities which are outside the duly appointed and acknowledged channels, and thus become criminals themselves. Fortunately, here it is different. The great majority of the people are peace-loving and law-abiding, patient and long-suffering. Being of this disposition they prefer to see wrong done, to the detriment of the public welfare, rather than endeavor to prevent it by the adoption of improper or illegal methods.

### THE INAUGURATION.

THE inauguration of President Harrison was a grand affair in all respects. It is claimed for it, and we have no doubt that the claim is correct, that it surpassed all previous occasions of the kind. The street pageant, notwithstanding the discouragement poured out upon it from the upper deep, seems to have been a kind of *Mardi Gras* in its attractiveness and ceremony, lacking only the fantastic characteristics. The decorations, both external and internal, seem to have been designed and executed upon a scale of magnificence not even attempted before, the long lines of banners and emblems of various designs constituting a bewildering array. The ceremonies attending the swearing-in of the new Executive appear to have more nearly approached the republican simplicity inaugurated by Thomas Jefferson as the true line of conduct for such occasions, but even this was attended with more of demonstration and display than is customary; while the grand State ball in the evening was a plunge at a tangent from the periphery of orthodoxy, and as nearly a "Vanity Fair" as such occasions ever are among the most worldly-minded. Of course President Harrison did not arrange this; it was done for him, and he merely accepted the work of others' hands. It may truthfully be said that his administration came in with a blaze of glory.

Take upon you the name of Christ, and speak in truth and soberness.—*Doc. and Cov.*