

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## DESERET NEWS PHONES.

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## GOD IN CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

In a religious publication called "The  
Christian Statesman," published in  
Pittsburgh, Pa., we find an article on  
"Our National Christianity and Funda-  
mental Law." It argues in favor of the  
incorporation into our national Constitu-  
tion and laws the "acknowledgment  
of Almighty God as the source of all  
authority in civil government, of the  
Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler of na-  
tions, and of His revealed will as the  
supreme standard to decide moral is-  
sues in national life." Reasons are ad-  
vanced why this should be done.It is declared that "the nation gets  
its being from God and has fixed for it  
by Him its place in time and territory."  
That "the life of the nation is in  
God's hands to be taken away at His  
pleasure." That "government itself,  
which is for the execution of the na-  
tion's will, is a divine ordinance and  
civil rulers are the ministers of God." The  
conclusion is reached that "God is,  
then, the source of all authority in civil  
government, Jesus Christ a rightful  
king, and the Bible the supreme law;  
that these are simply matters of fact,  
established by divine revelation, and  
are beyond dispute by believers in the  
Bible, and should be suitably acknowl-  
edged by a nation that is so undoubt-  
edly Christian."We have only given the gist of the  
article, which is lengthy if not pro-  
found. We do not direct attention to it  
because we endorse the sentiments it  
contains, but simply to show what reli-  
gious ministers and associations,  
which are not "Mormon," can put forth  
without arousing hostility from Con-  
gress, or committees, or learned law-  
yers hired to place the "Mormon"  
Church in a hostile attitude, which it  
does not itself assume, toward the  
Government of the United States. If  
this Church were to formally promul-  
gate such notions as are set forth in  
"The Christian Statesman," what an op-  
portunity would be afforded for such  
casualties as Mr. Taylor, now a Federal  
Judge, to indulge in apologetic and in-  
dignant denunciations!The idea that this nation must "sus-  
tain a relationship definite and real to  
God's revealed will, which is its su-  
preme law," is something startling, in  
view of the theory set forth in the re-  
cent investigation before the committee  
on privileges and elections of the United  
States Senate, that any man who be-  
lieves in revelation from God is unfit to  
be a United States Senator. We regard  
both notions as extreme and out of  
harmony with the genius of our na-  
tional Constitution and laws.The Government of the United States  
is a "government of the people, by the  
people and for the people." It dis-  
claims all authority to regulate in mat-  
ters of religion. It could be carried on  
by individuals who have no faith in  
God and make no acknowledgment of  
His power over nations or individuals.  
And it leaves those citizens who recog-  
nize the Supreme Being as the Author  
of all good and power and authority  
in the heavens and on the earth, to  
hold to their faith and acknowledge  
God as their spiritual ruler, so long as  
that does not interfere with their duties  
of citizenship and their fealty to this  
earthly government.Belief in revelation lies at the very  
foundation of all forms of religion,  
whether Christian or otherwise. Divine  
revelation and inspiration are the al-  
leged source of every creed that com-  
mands or has commanded the devotion  
of human beings, in every age and  
every land. To deny divine revelation is  
to reject religion entirely. But, it will  
be argued, opposition to present reve-  
lation does not necessarily imply hostility  
to the Bible or revelations from God to  
man in past ages. The logic (?) that ad-  
mits the fact of divine communications  
at one time and denies its possibility  
at another time, does not rise above the  
level of inconsistency and absurdity.The Bible, which is claimed as the  
religious guide of all Christendom, not  
only contains revelations from Deity in  
past ages, but speaks most positively  
of revelations to be given in after  
years and especially in the latter days.  
But if no such promises were contained  
in that book, common sense would bear  
out the reasoning, that if revelation  
could be given from God to man in one  
age of the world, it can be given also in  
another, unless it be either that God  
loses the power of communication or  
that man becomes unfit or unable to re-  
ceive it.Why a man who believes in ancient  
revelations should be competent to sitin the United States Senate, and another  
man who believes also in the prin-  
ciple of modern revelation should be  
unfit to occupy that exalted po-  
sition, does not seem very clear to an  
ordinary and rational thinker. Yet that  
is the exact position taken by a  
learned lawyer, who is considered suit-  
able to sit as a federal judge and in-  
terpret constitutional law as a repre-  
sentative of this great government.  
But, then, he was acting in the inter-  
est of people vigorously hostile to a  
member of the United States Senate  
because he is a "Mormon" in religion,  
and that, of course, makes a wonder-  
ful difference.While our national form of govern-  
ment does not admit of a formal recog-  
nition of the Christian religion, either  
in the aggregate or in any of its  
numerous divisions, and ought not to do  
so, because every citizen should be left  
perfectly free to choose any creed that  
seems right to him, or reject all that  
seems wrong to him, it does not and  
ought not to place any bar in his way  
to belief in and recognition of that  
which to him is a divine communica-  
tion, whether given in former or in  
later times, if it does not interfere  
with his free agency, or hinder him  
from performing the duties of a citizen,  
whether in the ranks of the people or in  
the highest position possible in the  
Government of the United States.

## A WAVE OF "REVIVALISM."

A "Revival" wave appears to be  
passing over some parts of Great Brit-  
ain. The Cambrian gives an account  
of the movement in Wales. A young  
man with no great pretensions to or-  
atory or scholarship, and who is but a  
poor coal miner, has been holding  
meetings in South Wales and causing a  
tremendous excitement, which some  
people call "religious." It is stated  
that hundreds of people are "convert-  
ed instantaneously," and he is follow-  
ed around from place to place by agi-  
tated hearers, and a number of young  
girls to do the singing for him, and  
when they chant the old Welsh hymns  
the congregation shout and clap their  
hands and the Cambrian says, "A sin-  
ner comes into the meeting, and in a  
minute he is graciously pardoned by  
God and starts to sing. Trains that  
follow the meetings are called Christ  
trains, because they are crowded with  
revivalists."Press dispatches from London, Eng-  
land, tell of a similar excitement in the  
British metropolis. It is of the same  
shouting, singing and hysterical order.  
There is nothing particularly new in  
this, but merely a repetition of the  
work performed by so-called "Evangel-  
ists" of different sects, who obtain an  
influence over the public which is not  
defined, and the results of which are  
of an irrational character, producing a  
species of spiritual inebriety. It is en-  
couraged by most of the Protestant  
denominations, because it helps to  
swell their ranks, if only temporarily,  
and helps to keep up some interest  
among them."Revivalism" as this agitation is  
called, is not religion. It is only en-  
thusiasm and excitement, it seldom  
brings forth anything practical or re-  
formatory. It is usually evanescent.  
True religion appeals to the soul, not  
by throwing it off its balance and caus-  
ing violent physical demonstrations or  
grotesque actions, but by enlighten-  
ment and reason, edifying, uplifting  
and leading to real faith in God and  
right individual conduct. The extrava-  
gant exhibitions attending what are  
called "revival meetings" are not ex-  
pressions of religion, and are not as-  
sociated with the Gospel of Jesus  
Christ.There may be occasionally a person  
lifted from immorality and unbelief to  
a higher plane, and thus prepared to  
receive true religious impressions, but  
the history of these emotional move-  
ments proves that they are not of per-  
manent good, but are often of a pos-  
itively evil character. Whether in En-  
gland or America, incited by one de-  
nomination or another, they are not to  
be commended or encouraged, but on  
the contrary should be condemned or  
avoided by every society and minister  
that is imbued with the spirit of real  
Christianity.

## THE CZAR AND THE PEOPLE.

The latest news from St. Petersburg,  
of importance, is to the effect that the  
Czar has signed a constitution, and  
that a representative assembly is to be  
convoked. The story is that the min-  
ister of agriculture recently informed the  
Emperor that the present system of  
government had outlived its usefulness.  
The Czar, it is said, first reprimanded  
the minister, but shortly afterwards  
commanded him to outline his ideas  
in a ukase. He did so, and the docu-  
ment was promptly signed.At the same time Grand Duke Vlad-  
imir is reported to have stated, in an  
interview, that Russia is not ripe for  
a constitution. Go out, he said, "among  
the peasants, who comprise the vast  
bulk of the empire's population, and try  
to explain to them government by suff-  
rage. The peasant knows nothing of  
government; he does not even know  
what the word means. He knows his  
emperor. For him the emperor is every-  
thing. Give the peasant a vote, and all  
would be anarchy."If these are the views of the govern-  
ment, of which the Czar is the head,  
it is difficult to see how he can have  
signed a "constitution." He may have  
signed a call for the convocation of an  
assembly, and even that would surely  
have a good effect at the present time.  
The Russians would welcome any move  
in the direction of liberty. The first  
step would lead to others. Hitherto the  
common people have not dared to dis-  
cuss politics, or religion. With the  
adoption of representative government,  
politics would have to be discussed, and  
all would learn something about public  
affairs. Russia may not yet be pre-  
pared for the adoption of a constitu-  
tion patterned after that of the  
United States, but it is well  
prepared for the beginning of re-  
forms that may ultimately lead to per-  
fect freedom. The educated classes are  
as intelligent as any in the world, and  
they are fearless too. If they are per-  
mitted to speak, there will be nothing  
uncertain about their utterances. Andthe autocracy will be compelled to heed  
these utterances and yield to the reas-  
onable demands of the nation.Some of the internal troubles of Rus-  
sia have been centered in Warsaw, the  
ancient capital of Poland, and the in-  
ference is, that it is fomented by Polish  
agitators. Whether a representative  
government would satisfy the Poles is  
doubtful. These are aiming at the re-  
construction of Poland as an indepen-  
dent state. Their sentiment was ex-  
pressed by a Polish deputy in the  
German Reichstag, M. Koscielski, when,  
speaking at a Nationalist banquet at  
Lemberg in Austrian Poland, he said  
that fancy lines on a geographical map  
did not destroy the unity of people.The Poles, however, ought to lead in  
the liberation of the Russian people.  
For if they should ever be given a real  
constitution, and the various parts of  
the empire should be a sovereign state in  
the union, and thus obtain the autonomy  
that otherwise seems beyond reach.  
For, under present conditions, neither  
the Emperor Francis Joseph nor the  
Emperor William could afford to coun-  
teract a revolt of the Russian Poles,  
having for its object the establishment  
of an independent Poland; rather would  
they be compelled, in order to preserve  
the integrity of their own dominions,  
to help in the suppression of a Polish  
rising in Russia. Whatever expecta-  
tion the Poles may have of recovering  
their lost independence must, there-  
fore, wait on events which may even  
now be working in favor of the libera-  
tion of all nationalities under Slavonic  
domination.

## BRYAN ON CRIMES.

Mr. Bryan a few days ago addressed  
the New York Alumni association of  
Syracuse university, and he took oc-  
casion to score the indifference to law  
that is generally manifested in this  
country. "While our educated people  
avoid murder and assault," said the  
speaker, "they are guilty of crimes—  
for instance, the adulteration of foods.  
This is a crime against the common  
people. In Chicago out of a hundred  
prescriptions filled in a test, only one-  
third were filled honestly."Mr. Bryan addressed an association  
of students and scholars, and, very  
properly, held up to view some of the  
crimes of the educated classes. But this  
lawlessness is, by no means, confined to  
them. It is a matter of general knowl-  
edge that humbug and fraud exist in all  
trades and callings, and that a great  
many financial schemes are based on  
swindle.An orator with spirit enough to shake  
up the dry bones is needed in our age  
and generation. If ever, honesty in  
business was one of the topics discus-  
ed by the Forerunner of the Son of  
Man, by the river of Jordan. It is a  
theme that should be taken up again  
by every one concerned about the af-  
fairs of the country.It is not an ill wind that blows snow  
good.Every time the Russian authorities  
smash the strike it spreads.The Legislature is doing a great deal  
of billing if not cooing.The smoke nuisance will never be  
abolished so long as men smoke bad  
cigars.Oregon has the biggest indictment  
mill in the country and it is running  
full time.The only objection to the present  
splendid weather is that it is a little  
bit previous.What a shock the murder of the pro-  
curator-general of Finland must have  
given the Czar.The Legislators had a good time in  
Logan. Now will they be good to the  
Agricultural College?It looks as though the opposing armies  
in the Far East were preparing for  
their spring opening.The Russians propose to use rapid  
fire guns mounted on automobiles.  
They will have a kick coming.Believing that obedience is better  
than sacrifice, the Beef trust has not  
sacrificed the price of beef a little bit.The Argentine malcontents are trying  
very hard to get up a revolution. If  
at first they don't succeed they should  
try again.If Lord Lansdowne does not promp-  
tly disavow responsibility for Civil Lord  
of the Admiralty Lee's foolish talk,  
Great Britain will receive a complaint,  
"made in Germany."Some of the San Francisco police ap-  
pear to have been corrupted by taking  
money from Chinese gamblers. Of  
course such men would never have  
thought of going wrong had it not been  
for these wicked heathen Chinese.The New York assembly has in-  
dorsed the President's policy regard-  
ing the control of railroad rates and re-  
quested the state's representatives in  
Congress to favor legislation that will  
carry it out. The policy grows in favor  
every day.Civil Lord of the Admiralty Lee says  
that his remarks at Eastleigh on the  
redistribution of the British navy,  
which gave great offense to Germany,  
were decidedly incorrectly reported.  
That explanation is an old, old story  
and should be told to the marines for  
the sailors and the world won't believe it.

## A QUEER DISCOVERY.

Mexican Herald.  
A very curious spring has been dis-  
covered near Epitlan del Cerro, Colima.  
The spring is about 50 feet deep, but  
the water is so clear that the stones in  
the bottom can be easily counted. The  
discovery was made by American ex-  
plorers, who have already reported  
their finding to scientists in Mexico  
City and the United States. It is be-  
lieved the water contains radium or  
that there is a deposit of the rare metal  
in the neighborhood, and to this is as-  
cribed the transparency of the water.Furthermore, it has been observed that  
by night the well seems to be illumined  
by St. Elmo's fire.

## OUR SENATE, A LA RUSSE.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
Walter Wellman tells us that for this  
season at least there is no hope that  
the senate will ratify the arbitration  
treaties which our government has ne-  
gotiated with European powers. It  
seems incredible that any organ or  
agency of government in twentieth  
century United States can be so sod-  
den with benighted bigotry as to take  
this position which this statement im-  
plies. The proposed treaties are of the  
same character as those that are now  
in force between most of the nations  
of Europe—Russia excepted. They  
would not bind us to submit in vital  
matters against our will. They only  
give assurance that minor misun-  
derstandings will not lead to serious in-  
ternational difficulties before arbitration  
has supplemented ordinary diplomatic  
negotiations.

## KNOWS WHEN TO RETIRE.

Chicago Chronicle.  
The rumor that has been going about  
that Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt contem-  
plates retirement seems to be well and  
truly founded. For some time the ac-  
tress has been in the habit of con-  
fiding in private conversation with  
her friends, the folly of the player, male  
or female, but especially female, who  
clings to the stage with quivering and  
enfeebled hands and can not see that a  
new generation of playgoers want  
something more for their money than a  
great name and a great reputation  
chiefly made when they were in their  
cradles. It is a continually haunting  
fear with Mrs. Bernhardt that she  
might one day hear herself spoken of as  
"a woman who really used to be a  
great actress," and not long ago she  
told an old friend that she seriously  
thought of retiring from the stage in  
something like a year's time.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The frontispiece of the Improvement  
Era consists of a striking picture of a  
"natural bridge," a peculiar mountain  
formation in southern Utah. A brief  
description of Utah's Natural Bridges  
accompanies the picture. A. Ram-  
seyer has a paper on "Hammurabi's  
Code of Laws." "In the Third Watch  
of the Night" is a short story by Ho-  
mer M. Price, reproduced from The In-  
dependent. "A Lay Sermon" is  
preached by James K. Allen. An in-  
teresting feature of this issue is "A  
Mother's Letter to her Missionary  
Son," by Susa Young Gates. "Prob-  
lems for Parents" are considered by  
Dr. George Brimhall, and Joseph H.  
Ward writes about "Manliness." On  
"The Editor's Table" is found a  
thoughtful paper under the caption,  
"The Truth Remains," by President  
Joseph F. Smith; also one on "Religion  
Classes and School Buildings," signed  
by the First Presidency, and a brief ar-  
ticle on the revolution in Russia. There  
are several poems, and the usual  
departments, such as "Notes," "In Light-  
er Mood," and "Events of the Month."  
It is in every respect a good publica-  
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