

deed an anomalous position for the court to declare a certain status to be immoral or infamous and then compel a witness to testify to his own position in that regard.

We are unable to understand what warrant the court has for compelling a witness to testify to his own injury. If there is authority in civilized jurisprudence for the position, we are not familiar with it. Besides its incompatibility with the common law, it seems to be contrary to common sense.

The raking over of the dead embers of the past, in the form of expressions made by prominent men under circumstances entirely different to those of today, and seeking to fasten the responsibility for them upon the people of the present, is also unjustifiable on its face. The statements thus resurrected were made under extraordinary conditions, which caused excitement to prevail to a large extent. But even such expressions as have been fished out of the tomb of the past that have been used as a handle to suit the political purpose of the opposition are buried under the accumulated weight of utterances as patriotic, pacific, humane and philanthropic as ever dropped from human lips. They have been spoken and written too by the same men as are quoted to the contrary. In fact nothing has been produced that has been incompatible with the genius of patriotism. It is unfair, however, to judge a people or community upon any other basis than the present exhibits.

The attempt made by leading active politicians of the "Liberal" Party to use the court to compel the members of a religious organization to divulge secret rites and ceremonies that are deemed sacred, is an inexcusable invasion of the rights of the citizen. It is an outrage to make such an unprecedented and preposterous demand. It is enough for all legal purposes for witnesses to state that the ceremonies have nothing in them, in form or genius, antagonistic to the government. Beyond that point the State cannot step without invading a sacred right.

If the position taken by the "Liberal" representatives should carry, and the Court demand of a witness not only a statement as to whether the rites and ceremonies in question are or are not in conflict with the government, but that he divulge the whole formula, the Masonic fraternity

and every other secret society would be jeopardized. The State has no right to information as to the secret formula further than that which relates to its friendly character to the government. Any other position is unqualified tyranny.

PERPETUAL COMPLICATIONS.

A HUNDRED and fifty years ago Peter and Catherine formulated a policy looking to Russia's supremacy on the European continent, which their imperial successors have ever since adhered to with an unswerving pertinacity truly wonderful. The objective point of that policy is the possession of the Bosphorus, and for a century and a half Russian ambition, effort and diplomacy have been aimed at it. It is this determined purpose on the part of Russia which does more than any other one cause to render insecure the peace of Europe. That Power watches every opportunity to make a move or gain an inch of ground, in the direction of the coveted point, and forthwith the other Powers concerned feel it incumbent upon them to make a counter move. Thus year after year the "Eastern Question" is made a source of uneasiness and anxiety in the diplomatic circles of Europe.

Just now Russia is hargaining with Austria, proposing to support the latter's claims to Bosnia and Herzegovina in return for the aid of Austria in maintaining Russian control in Bulgaria. Italy, through Crispi, intimates that she will favor this arrangement if Austria will surrender to her the Alpine province of Trentino. Austria has so far declined to do this, and should she decide to close the bargain with Russia without Italy's consent, the effect would be a severe strain upon, if not a rupture of, the great triple alliance between Austria, Italy and Germany; for the latter, in a determined policy, always opposes Russia's encroachments in the direction of the Bosphorus.

Russia's efforts to win Austria probably impelled Emperor William to visit the Sultan a fortnight ago, and gave zest to the cordiality with which they greeted each other. The aid of Germany in resisting the encroachments of Russia, is one of the main reliances of Turkey. Indeed without it, Bulgaria, and even the Bosphorus itself, would, in all probability, quickly fall into the hands of Russia.

Thus this game of chess, with Eu-

rope for the chess-board, progresses. The last few moves that have been made indicate a probably that the triple alliance will shortly be broken; and when this is done a combination will be dissolved which, for ten years, has exercised a strong influence in controlling, in the interests of peace, the various forces that have tended to produce war. The end of the alliance between Italy, Austria and Germany would place all the European Powers at cross purposes, and produce an extremely precarious condition all over the continent.

The developments now taking place in European politics are of an intensely interesting nature to observe and study, and tend strongly to produce collisions and upheavals of the most gigantic character.

VOLUME XXIII.

THE issue of November 21 was the first of the twenty-third volume of the DESERET EVENING NEWS. For twenty-two years this paper has preserved a record of events that have transpired in this part of the globe, as well as a condensed account of the general news of the world. It has been the endeavor to make this record and account as complete and reliable as circumstances would permit, and at the same time to avoid those offensive features of modern journalism which pander to a taste for sensation, rather than to an enlightened desire to learn of the events of contemporaneous history.

In exercising an influence upon public opinion, the EVENING NEWS has tried to be governed by the principles which are suggested by its motto, "Truth and Liberty;" and its readers will hardly require to be assured that no change in its policy in this regard is contemplated.

To much of the history preserved in the columns of this paper, especially such as relates to local affairs, and the work in which the Latter-day Saints are engaged, age will add both value and interest. The class of events and developments here referred to will yet be looked back upon as among the most important that have occurred among mankind; and if present indications shall be realized, the columns of our volume which begins today will be replete with accounts of events of the greatest interest and importance to the people.

One would think that a jailer would be in pain all the time with so many felons on his hands.