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## A SINGULAR SORT OF "REVERENCE."

MR. Caleb W. West, formerly Governor of Utah, has not been heard from much of late. But on Saturday evening he appeared before the public, as chairman of a "Liberal" rally, in front of the Clift House. He then made use of some singular expressions. We shall not allude to those of his remarks which are common to all "Liberal" stump orations, for they have been exploded so completely that their shattered fragments alone remain, as evidences of the falsehood that prompted their utterance. But the ex-Governor is reported as saying:

"I am a reverent man, but in America the flag waves over a government established by freemen and not by God."

"I do not see how any people can be governed by God when there is neither telephonic nor telegraphic connection with the throne of the Almighty."

For a "reverent man" these expressions are, to say the least, peculiar. What are Mr. West's ideas of irreverence? And how does he know that the government of the United States was not established by God? He will reply, "because it was established by freemen." But is that any answer to the question? Does God never work by means of freemen? Are all his operations among mankind confined to the medium of slaves? "The powers that be are ordained of God," says the Christian Apostle. If this be true, no "reverent man" will deny that this government was among the "powers" that have been "ordained of God."

The very rights to establish and maintain which this government was set up, are declared in the Declaration of Independence to be held by men, because they were so "endowed by the Creator." And it was because its framers had "firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE," that they had the courage to pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors, in support of those God-given rights.

And they sought the Divine guidance in all that they attempted. Divine wisdom is manifest in the Constitution which is at the foundation of our government. Divine aid was implored and given in the struggle against tyranny and the achievement of liberty. This has been recognized by all reverent men, and some irreverent men, to the present day and official recognition is given to it in the prayers of the chaplains appointed to act in the two Houses of Congress and in all the States of the Union.

We do not think Mr. West is able to prove his negative. On the other hand we have positive evidence that God did establish this government through the free men who in His Providence were called to the front, for He has so revealed and it is placed on record. Mr. West may not believe this; if so, that is his misfortune. But his disbelief does not alter the fact nor authorize him to declare something that he cannot possibly know.

And his idea of divine communication appears to be that it is limited to telephonic or telegraphic communication. That is to say, unless there is a telephone or telegraph wire reaching from the earth to the throne of the Almighty, the Great God of Nature has no means by which He can communicate His will to man, or govern any people on earth. Any child of ordinary intelligence ought to have broader ideas than that of the powers of Omnipotence.

It is but a few years since the time when neither of these modern conveniences were known on this planet. Were there no means then of carrying on human government, to say nothing of divine government? Do earthly governments or mortal men never communicate their will and wishes by other means than an electric wire? Was Mr. West in his senses when he talked the rubbish contained in the two sentences we have quoted, or was his not ponderous brain disturbed by "Liberal" fire, or turned upside down by "Liberal" fire-water?

By claiming to be "a reverent man," Mr. West tacitly confesses belief in the Supreme Being, and with that belief is necessarily associated the idea of Supreme Power. This includes the means of communication with all His creatures in all His creations, and methods far beyond anything that man has discovered, even in the nineteenth century. How does Mr. West know that God cannot and does not utilize

the subtle force which men call electricity, in its very essence as a means of communication, without the imperfect appliances of human art and the crude regulations of a science yet in its infancy?

Has Mr. West never heard of a spirit promised by the Redeemer to His disciples in place of His presence among them, which was to manifest the mind of the Father and the Son, and show them things to come? Nor of the fact that this spirit is a reality, materializing sometimes as a dove at others in cloven tongues of fire? Nor of the great truth, that this is the spirit of revelation by which the word and will of Almighty God has been and may be made known.

The ex-Governor with his wire and batteries as a means of reaching the throne of God is a spectacle of puerility and folly, and contemptuous but weak irreverence, that is quite uncommon among sober and intelligent men.

We feel profound pity for the soul that is unsusceptible of the influences that flow direct from the Fountain of Light and Life to the awakened and active inner consciousness. To be spiritually blind is at least as great a misfortune as to be without natural eyesight. And as well may the blind from birth dogmatically declare that no one can understand colors, because he cannot hear or feel them, as for Mr. West to pompously and ignorantly affirm that no one can receive any communication from God, because he does not know of any telephone or telegraph wire to the Eternal Throne.

There is a day coming when every scoffer and mocker of reverence will be compelled to admit that there is a Divine Ruler who is Supreme; that all beings owe Him allegiance; that He is the God of nations as well as of individuals; that the kingdoms of this world are His; that all peoples must serve and obey Him; and, becoming truly reverent, every knee will bow and every tongue confess His sovereign sway.

Mr. West evidently thought he would be irreverently funny at the expense of the "Mormons" who might be listening to his harangue. But he only showed his lack of common good sense and ordinary good taste, and invited attention to his equally unsuccessful attempt to become, himself, the One Man Power of Utah. By personal visits to the seat of government he sought to become sovereign ruler