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SENATOR SMOOT'S EVIDENCE.

Interest in the proceedings before the
Committee on Privileges and Elections of
the United States Senate, has lately
been centered on the testimony in his
own behalf of Senator Reed Smoot. To
meet this, the Deseret Evening News of
Saturday, Feb. 11 (tomorrow), will con-
tain the full text of that evidence, cross-
examination and all, so that our read-
ers may judge of the Senator's actual
statements and their bearing, which
could not be fairly understood from the
abbreviated accounts in the press dis-
patches. Saturday evening's Deseret
News will therefore contain THIRTY-
TWO PAGES. Orders should be sent in
at once.

AS TO "THE HIGHER LAW."

Some years ago there was much dis-
cussion in the United States over what
was called "The higher law doctrine." It
was entertained by a vast number of
the people of this country, including
some of the greater lights in the na-
tional firmament. It was advocated
strongly in opposition to the legisla-
tion that permitted and protected negro
slavery. It was briefly but pointedly
enunciated in 1850 in a speech on the
admission of California as a State of
the Union, by no less a personage than
William H. Seward, who afterwards
became one of President Abraham Lin-
coln's cabinet, and was Secretary of
State during the administration of
President Andrew Johnson. This is part
of what he said on the occasion men-
tioned:"There is a higher law than the Con-
stitution which regulates the author-
ity of Congress—the law of God and the
interests of humanity."Without offering any criticism or en-
dorsement of the sentiment expressed
by the celebrated statesman, we would
like to know what Judge Robert W.
Taylor, counselor for the protestants,
and a number of the Committee on Pri-
vileges and Elections in the case of
Senator Reed Smoot, have to say in
regard to that doctrine. They were so
anxious, apparently, to make it seem
that because the "Mormons" believe
in divine revelation they must of neces-
sity place it above and in hostility to
the laws of Congress. They did not
succeed in establishing that there is
anything in "Mormonism" antagonistic
to national law, but, as Mr. Taylor
enunciated as an axiom, they endeavor-
ed to hold out to the public the no-
tion that a man who believes in re-
velation from God must be "a traitor to
his country."Would any of these gentlemen, in-
cluding Judge Taylor, attempt to pre-
fer the charge against the late Secre-
tary Seward that he was a traitor to
his country? We think such a declara-
tion would raise a storm of dissent, not
only in the Republican party but
throughout the nation. We do not
here wish to set up any claim that the
"Mormon" Church or its authorities
consider themselves above the law of
the land. We have taken the ground
that there need be no conflict between
divine revelation and the Constitution of
our country, or laws made in pursuance
thereof, but we recognize the principle
that the pure word of God, which is
simple truth, is and must be para-
mount, and that conscience ought to
be the guide of every intelligent hu-
man being."Mormon" theology recognizes the
supremacy of the Almighty as the
maker of all things in heaven and on
earth. It regards "the powers that be"
as established or permitted by Him to
regulate civil affairs. It teaches obedi-
ence to the properly constituted rulers,
governors and officials of nations and
their subdivisions, within the bounds
of their legitimate authority. And it
requires recognition of both divine and
human law, each limited within its
proper sphere.There is no menace in "Mormonism"
to the nation or to any of its institu-
tions, but it seeks to promote harmony
between the duties of the servants of
God and those of loyal citizens to
earthly governments. Mr. Seward held
extreme opinions on the subject we
touched upon, but however they may
be viewed by persons who do not ac-
cept them, his belief in "the higher
law" does not justify anyone in brand-
ing him therefore as "a traitor to his
country."

BUTCHER'S HUMANITY.

We find the following rational and
Christian sentiments in reference to
the present outbreak against the "Mor-
mons," in the editorial columns of the
Butchers and Packers Gazette, pub-
lished at St. Louis, Mo.:"It would seem that a little Chris-
tian forbearance and toleration would
have a more beneficial influence than
drastic persecution. History shows that
persecution of any religious community
has never succeeded, but has caused
much bloodshed, sorrow and suffering,
and that, too, without attaining the
end sought. More will be accomplished
by the refining influence of education
and the mingling of Christian people
with the Mormons than ever will be
accomplished by law. It will be found
that the Mormons as with other de-
monstrations of religious belief, that
the tenets and faith of the Church will
not be so strong with the younger gen-
eration, and therefore matters will be
naturally adjudicated. This, with edu-
cational influences, will prove the only
safe and practical solution of the Mor-
mon question."It is rather surprising that a publi-
cation in the interest of an industry
which is popularly supposed to be rather
adverse to the tender and kindly
instincts of humanity, should be much
more favorable to toleration, fairness
and true religious sentiment, than
most of the so-called "Christian" re-
ligious journals, and the professed min-
isters of the Savior throughout modern
Christendom. The common desire of
the latter, as expressed in their public
utterances, is to "crush Mormonism,"
and by many of them to crush also its
faithful adherents. But the advocate
of the Butchers of the country per-
ceives the superior power of the re-
fining influence of education and of Chris-
tian forbearance, to the brutal force
which sectarian zealots and bigots
would bring to bear, if they had the
power, upon the adherents of a re-
ligion which does not harmonize
with their conflicting tenets and dis-
cordant notions.It is within easy recollection that a
Brooklyn, New York, pulpitier publicly
proclaimed his wish, that the artillery
at Fort Douglas could be turned loose
upon the "Mormon" Tabernacle in Salt
Lake City, after its leading adherents
were gathered beneath its shade. This
delightfully tolerant expression was re-
ceived with applause by his "Chris-
tian" congregation, and the echoes of
their approval resounded throughout
the churches. That is the spirit in
which the "Mormon" system has been
attacked from the beginning. Religious
leaders have urged on mobs and as-
saults with torch and rifle, followed by
chains and dungeons, to destroy that
which they could not overcome by reason,
and "crush" a people whom they
could not convert.We ask for no particular favors from
our foes, nor from any one who sincerely
believes that our doctrines and our
practices are inimical to society. We
only desire fair treatment, whether in
argument or in law. But it will be
found that the suggestions made in the
article which we have quoted above
will prove far more effectual, in the
settlement of any difficulties existing or
imagined between the "Mormon" sys-
tem and the country, than the meas-
ures that have been brought to bear in
the past and which will assuredly not
accomplish that which is desired in the
future.

NOT READY FOR PEACE.

The impression has prevailed that
Russia, in all probability would be pre-
pared, at this time, to listen to over-
tures for peace. The Emperor of Ger-
many—so recent dispatches have stated—
has actually exchanged views with
King Edward on the advisability of
offering mediation. And, as far as the
general public can see, the best in-
terests of the Russian empire, and es-
pecially of its government, would re-
quire a speedy termination of the war,
and attention to the internal affairs.The government may be able to sup-
press the riots and fester for an in-
stant the roaring waves of discontent,
but it cannot, by brute force, control
the mighty forces that cause the com-
motion. A number of more or less
secret organizations are now co-operat-
ing toward one goal. Among these are
the Liberal party; the Polish National
league, the Polish Socialistic party;
the Armenian Revolutionary Federal-
ists; and the Finnish Party of Active
Resistance. All these bodies, and
others, at a conference held not long
ago in Paris, passed a document de-
claring, in part, "That the present mo-
ment seems especially favorable for
the joint action of all these parties
against the autocratic government, dis-
credited and weakened by the terrible
consequences of a war provoked by its
adventurous politics."At the head of the Liberal
party stands one Peter Struve, who is
the editor of a proscribed Russian pa-
per. This journal, it is said, has a
great reading public in Russia. Struve
has connections in the highest circles
and often gets hold of copies of docu-
ments that are considered state secrets.
Struve's paper never asks for
material help, as do the other
illegal papers and magazines; they
are well supplied with funds
by persons well known in Russia.
The party is very strong. Its program
is agitation among the working classes,
and mullies, on a large scale, the dis-
semination of disaffection with the
government among the people, the dis-
tribution of seditious literature and the
defense of themselves against the
government by "revolutionary means."Another important association, in-
volved in the movement is the Polish
Socialist party. Some consider this or-
ganization the most powerful in Russia.
As far back as 1836, George Brandes
said that the Russian government fears
it just as much or even more than Cat-
holicism. At that time Poland did not
yet possess a well-organized party. It
only consisted of small groups. But in
1863 they united into the Polish Social-
ist party. It has at the head of its
program the demand for Polish inde-
pendence, and it considers this the
main aim of the Polish proletariat.
But although this is the main demand
of the party, it is far from being its
only one. It not only longs for the in-
dependence of Russian Poland, but also
for the liberation of the other parts, andthe union of them once more into the
glorious whole of the past.One would naturally conclude that
the Russian autocracy, surrounded by
so many powerful enemies at home,
whom it has in vain fought for years,
should welcome almost any arrange-
ment with Japan, whereby it would be
placed in a position to deal with the
internal disorders. But, if Count Cas-
sini is correctly informed, this is not the
view of the Russian government. Ac-
cording to him, the war in Asia has
only just begun, and it cannot end, un-
til Russia is victorious. The Russian
ambassador does not, perhaps, read
aright the signs of the times.

THE DIVORCE QUESTION.

The question whether a Catholic law-
yer can with a safe conscience take
part, in his professional capacity, in
divorce cases, and whether a Catholic
judge can conscientiously administer
a law contrary to the teachings of the
Catholic church was recently put to
Canon Moyes, "theologian" to the Cath-
olic archbishop of Westminster, Lon-
don." According to the Boston Trans-
cript, the reply to this interesting ques-
tion was, in the main, negative. Canon
Moyes, it appears, answered by saying
that there are authentic decisions in
which such action on the part of lawyer
and judge is forbidden implicitly or
indirectly. He said there are many
pronouncements by the Apostolic See,
declaring that Christian marriage is a
sacrament, and that the bond once
validly contracted becomes indissol-
uble, and that the civil power is there-
fore incompetent to dissolve it. Any
affirmation that the bond of marriage
is dissolved, or any authorization that
the parties may marry again, is, if re-
ferring to the bond itself or to remar-
riage itself, therefore sinful and im-
moral. It follows from the ordinary
principles of Catholic teaching that no
Catholic, whether judge or lawyer, can
help in procuring or effecting a divorce
thus understood. He also pointed out,
however, that there are special circum-
stances in which participation in the
work of the divorce court need not
imply co-operation in the evil of divorce
in the sense described.

ABOUT "REVIVALS."

As has been noted in these columns
previously, Wales has just been the
scene of a notable "revival," in the old-
fashioned style. A couple of Chicago
"evangelists" have commenced a work
of "revival" in London—a real swell
affair, it seems, the aim of which must
be to save those especially who are able
to pay for salvation. In New York
Miss Bertha Sanford, known as "the
little deaconess," is about to open a
"campaign," similar to that which she
has been conducting in Schenectady
the last few months. Such "revivals"
seem to come periodically, like sun-
spots. It is recollected that one swept
the American colonies in 1740, led by
Whitefield. Another came in 1797, last-
ing over ten years, and the next came
in 1858. In 1875 and 1878 Moody and
Sankey stirred this country, and later
invaded England, like the two Chicago
"evangelists" have done at this time.
Some of our contemporaries believe
that another religious upheaval is
about due, and they are looking for re-
sults of the so-called evangelistic ac-
tivity.Hoch couldn't possibly lose his iden-
tity with so many women to certify to
it.Too many investigations are not
worth the paper the report is written
on.Mrs. Chadwick's trial has been set
for March 6. It will be blue Monday
for her.Government control of freight rates
seems to have the right of way just
now.Mr. Niedringhaus does not feel that
complimentary votes to others are
complimentary to him.Representative Joseph is as conspicu-
ous as though he were always arrayed
in a coat of many colors.The art of going up and down stairs
is the art of taking hold of the bal-
ustrade and not stumbling.The "Little Father" finds that his
children are growing so big that he
has difficulty in managing them.To attempt to revive the Jefferson
Davis shackles incident is an attempt
to wave the bloody shirt. Out upon all
who try it.Quite naturally the man who is mak-
ing war on Senator T. C. Platt, want-
ing him expelled from the Senate, hails
from Battle Creek.Partisan boards means rank parti-
sanship, which usually means ineffi-
ciency, and very often corruption. Let
them not be infected upon Utah!Colombia would like the United States
to buy the islands of San Andres and
San Luis at a liberal price. Wants to
get up a sort of remnant sale, eh?If the interests of depositors require
the examination of state banks by state
examiners then the same interests re-
quire the examination of private
banks by state examiners.The St. Petersburg Bourse Gazette
says that while the Russian arms have
gained no victories in the present war
their luster is not dimmed. Certainly
not when they have been "polished off"
so beautifully.New York's seventy thousand go-to-
school-hungry children, with a compar-
atively few exceptions, failed to appear
at the free breakfast tables. It was a
clear case of the sympathy "racket" be-
ing sadly overworked."Have your tonsils amputated" is the
advice of the Chicago health depart-
ment, which says that the glands are
a serious menace to physical well-being.This is a greater discovery than that
of a new world by Columbus.It is said that Miss Helen Gould
is going to do all in her power to
stop tattooing in Uncle Sam's navy.
When this has been accomplished the
lady can direct her efforts to stopping
the evening tattoo at army posts.A big effort is to be made to induce
the Legislature to pass a law author-
izing cities of the State to issue scrip
for work and improvements of various
kinds. The effort should meet with de-
feat. No matter what its purpose the
result, if accomplished, would be to
give bucket shop brokers and specu-
lators something new in which to specu-
late. The old scrip scrip scandals
should be enough to kill this new scrip
business.

INTELLIGENT JURORS READ.

Richmond Times-Dispatch.
In this day of many newspapers the
particulars of a murder are always
published, and every intelligent man
reads the news of the day. When he
reads he must of necessity form some
sort of an opinion whether or not the
person accused is guilty, and to dis-
qualify him for jury service on that
ground would be to disqualify every
newspaper reader. If that rule should
be enforced it would be practically im-
possible to obtain a jury in any com-
munity to try a man accused of mur-
der. If a man should say on oath that
his opinion was so firmly fixed that it
could not be changed by the evidence,
of course he would not be a fit person
to serve. But if he should state to the
court that, while he had formed an
opinion, he was able to give the accused
a fair trial and to render a verdict in
accordance with the evidence, it would
be sheer nonsense to say that he was
not a competent juror.HELPING TOWARD A PROSPECTIVE
DEGENERATE.Los Angeles Express.
What shall be said of an alleged min-
ister of the gospel who conspires to de-
ceive prison authorities and by a hur-
ried mummery of a ceremony "marries"
a foolish girl to a convicted murderer
who is awaiting transportation, from
the county jail to the state penitentiary
to serve a life sentence? Undoubtedly
the "marriage" is illegal, but think of
the attempted crime against society.
Scientists all agree that the conditions
underlying degeneracy are chiefly
hereditary. With a negro murderer as
sire and a silly colored girl for mother,
the offspring of such a couple—in case
the sheriff at the county jail and his
deputies were still further bamboozled
—is fairly certain to result in a degen-
erate. Who can doubt that society has
a right to protect itself against such a
prospective menace? It should be a
statutory crime for a "minister of the
gospel" to authorize a convicted crim-
inal to attempt to propagate his kind.
A penitentiary sentence would be none
too severe.

TEA

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