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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
this establishment a great deal of an-
noyance if they will take time to notice
these numbers:For the Chief Editor's office No. 74,
3 rings.For Deseret News Book Store, 74,
3 rings.For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 2
rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

For Business Office, 359, 2 rings.

A PALPABLE ERROR.

We notice in the local papers repeat-
ed references to the raising of a certain
sum of money, to take an appeal in a
murder case to the Supreme Court of
the United States. It is stated in such
a manner as to create the impression
among people who are not posted, that
the question of the right to such appeal
turns on the cost, and that if the sum
of eighteen hundred dollars is forth-
coming the appeal can be taken.This is clearly an error. Ordinarily
there is no appeal from the decision of
the highest court of a State in which
the laws of that State have been vio-
lated. If a convict charged with mur-
der, who has exhausted all the appellate
jurisdiction of the State in which he
has been condemned, could appeal to
the Supreme Court of the nation, that
body would have sufficient work on its
hands to employ its entire time and
energies. It must be evident that only
when some constitutional question is
involved, under the "Supreme law of
the land," can an appeal be had to the
national "court of last resort."When such an appeal will lie, there is
no fixed sum on which that appeal is
dependent. Of course there are ex-
penses to be met in the conduct of the
case including court fees, etc., but the
notion that if the sum mentioned can
be obtained the appeal can be had, is
entirely wrong and misleading.In the particular case under consid-
eration it would seem that the move-
ment would be simply a matter of fur-
ther delay. That however would turn
on the determination of the highest
court to hear it at all. On that point of
course we hazard no opinion, as we do
not wish to throw any discouragement
upon the effort to give the full protection
provided by the law, we merely desire
to correct a very evident but prevalent
mistake.

NEW RELIGIOUS METHODS.

The failure in many of the sectarian
churches to attract a congregation, has
prompted some of the preachers and
pastors to adopt peculiar methods to
arouse public interest and draw audi-
ences. Newfangled doctrines, the in-
corporation of rationalistic, socialistic
and transcendental notions into religious
ethics and philosophy, falling in some
of the pulpits where they have been
tried, materialistic plans and practices
have been advanced with more or less
temporary success. The more novel of
the latter class of church experiments
is thus described in an exchange:"The Tonawanda minister who gave
away green trading stamps to every
person attending his Sunday evening
service, has been fairly eclipsed in the
matter of drawing attractions by the
Rev. John Boyd, pastor of the First
Presbyterian church of Evanston, Ill.
Mr. Boyd has tried various experiments,
such as sensational topics, fine singing,
etc., in vain. Consequently a new plan
was tried and this was the program at
his church last evening, according to a
press dispatch: 'Hot roast beef sand-
wiches; hymn No. 338, four stanzas; hot
coffee, chocolate, tea; brief talk by
elder; lobster salad; potato salad;
straw salad; patriotic hymns; chafin
dish indigestibles, prepared by beau-
tiful girls; olives, pickles, radishes,
young onions; doxology.' It is not a bad
bill, but if the reverend gentleman ex-
pects men to furnish their own cigars,
he will find the male attendance at his
hot and cold religious soirees falling off
again, lamentably. It is hard to credit
this story but it is reported with names
and dates as a true bill, and after all
it is not so revolting as some of the
'drawing cards' invented by some re-
ligious promoters in these days."The Boyd plan is suggested to
Bishop Fowler of the M. E. church as
an aid to the "24 preachers," whom he
says are sent to Utah and who fail to
convert the "Mormons" and to make a
success, anyhow. Perhaps a brass band
and a comic song or two might be add-
ed, just before the inevitable "collec-
tion." Of course an extra appropriation
from the general fund, would be needed
for expenses, and that is what the re-
verend bishop appears to be after.

OBSERVE THE LAW!

The Provo Enquirer complains of il-
legal voting at the recent election in
that city, and says:"The law provides for the election of
two councilmen from each municipal
ward. It also provides that the people
of each ward shall choose their own
councilman representatives. The law
does not contemplate that people out-
side of the ward shall have anything
to do with the choosing of members of
the city council other than those put
up from their own ward. Persons,
therefore, who may otherwise be qual-
ified voters, who go outside of their own
ward and vote for councilmen of an-
other ward, commit an unlawful act,
and their ballots should not be per-
mitted to affect the result of an elec-
tion for such candidates."That is how we understand the intent
of the law and also its letter. If the
statutes are not sufficiently clear on
this important question, amendments
should be made by the Legislature at
its next session to set all disputes con-
cerning it at rest. Neither by design
nor through ignorance should ballots
be cast, or counted if cast, that are
not lawful in every sense of the term,
no matter which party or candidate is
affected thereby. The election laws
should be observed and also enforced.

DEAD DID NOT HEAR.

A peculiar story comes from Eureka,
Cal. It seems that there are, in that
place, some religious people whose zeal
is more conspicuous than their knowl-
edge. They are said to belong to the
Pneum Mission. One of the members of
that mission, so the story runs, died a
few days ago. The funeral was held
in due time, but when the casket had
been lowered into its last resting place
four women stepped to the edge of the
grave and ordered the box lifted out
again. When this was done, the un-
derstander was asked to raise the lid,
and then the women knelt down and
commanded the dead to rise. Three
times they called: "Alice, arise." When
there was no response, one of the women
called upon the Lord to raise the
dead, saying that His honor and
character were at stake, as He had
promised that the dead woman should
be brought to life. Fanatic but inef-
fectual attempts were then made to
have the coffin lid taken entirely off,
so that the dead might arise, but the
box was finally closed again and lower-
ed into the grave.The conduct of these, no doubt, excel-
lent women, at the grave of their friend
is but an illustration of the strange
ignorance that regards prayer as a kind
of "abracadabra," by which natural
laws can be reversed, and the very gov-
ernment of God overruled. But there
is no such mystic force in prayer. Even
in the days of Elijah and Jesus, when
some were raised from the dead, people
became sick and died. Prayer did not
abolish the general law, to which all
nature is subject. Though "miracles"
abound on every hand, the events that
are generally so termed are few. They
are always performed for some good
and sufficient purpose; never to satisfy
curiosity, or for any selfish purposes.
It was Tyndal who thought that the
efficacy of prayer might be tested in the
hospitals, and those patients were
found to prosper no better than the pa-
tients in other hospitals not thus spec-
ially prayed for, the result would dem-
onstrate the inefficacy of prayer. But
it would not, because the blessings of
the Almighty are showered over all, as
the rain and the sunshine. But for all
that, those who pray know the power
of prayer. They need no argument for,
and are affected by none against. The
old sage had a correct conception on
this subject, when he said: "Pray to
God at the beginning of all thy works,
that thou mayest bring them to a
good ending." Luther had experienced
that a good prayer was the best
preparation for work. Lincoln, when
overwhelmed by a sense of his own
weakness prayed, because he felt he
could do nothing better, and one lady
is quoted as having said: "I have lived
to thank God that all my prayers have
not been answered." These are correct
conceptions of prayer. No one prays
without becoming better thereby, and,
consequently, more able to do good
within the sphere of his or her mission.
And that is the great object of prayer.

TWO PRETENDERS.

The grotesque "mission" to New York
by the Dowie hosts is finished and it
is but natural that the question as to
results is asked. According to an item
in the New York World, at the final
meeting fifty-six persons came forward
to be baptized. Of these twenty-six
were women, twenty-five men and five
children. There were six colored people
in the crowd. The large majority of
women, it is claimed, were "Zionites"
who had come to New York with the
"host," and at least three of the chil-
dren were from Dowie's "Zion." The
writer in the World thinks that there
were not a dozen New York recruits.That is a poor showing for the
amount of energy expended upon the
crusade. If ever there was an in-
stance of the mountain laboring to
bring forth a mouse, this was one. And
yet, the strange part of this episode is,
that the Chicago claimant should find
as much as one sane person willing to
accept his claims.
Dowie is a remarkable illustration of
the fact that a majority of people prefer
to submit to somebody's authority. They
prefer to have someone to do their
thinking and their planning. They are
children in this respect, no matter how
much they clamor for independence and
freedom. It is natural for the chil-
dren of men to follow somebody's lead.
And so true is this, that if they dis-
card truth, they will invariably follow
error; if they rebel against the divine
authority, they will submit to the au-
thority of the father of deceit.
Many of those who rejected the
true Messiah and caused Him to be
nailed to the cross, blindly followed
the pretenders that led them to death.
Such is human nature. The desire for
following somebody's leadership is good
in itself. It is given to enable man to
obey God and gain eternal exaltation,
through obedience. It is a gift which,
when exercised in the light of the
Spirit of God will make men good, andhappy, and free; but when exercised
in the dark, blindly and without dis-
crimination, will lead to the deepest
abysses of error.The remarkable thing is that at pre-
sent time there are so many pretenders
to divine honors. We have previously
in these columns referred to an Indian,
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who has chal-
lenged Dowie and who claims to be the
Messiah. The gentleman in far-away
India must have heard of the Chicago
pretender's New York crusade, for in a
recently issued pamphlet, he repeats his
challenge. He says:"In short, when Almighty God saw
that the earth was defiled with im-
purities and impure doctrines and false
claims, He raised me in the land of
the Punjab, for His works are wonder-
ful. I am the true Messiah who was to
come in the last ages; thus has Al-
mighty God spoken to me. I do not
claim to be the Promised Messiah sim-
ply by my own assertions, but Al-
mighty God, who made the earth and
heavens, has borne witness to the truth
of my claim. The evidence of God has
been manifested in hundreds of
heavenly signs shown in my support."He then goes on to say, that Dowie
has not accepted his first challenge, but
that he will give him a few more months
to do so. If he does not accept, disaster
will nevertheless overtake him. The In-
dian says:"If Dr. Dowie cannot even now gather
courage to appear in the contest against
me, let both continents bear wit-
ness that I shall be entitled to claim
the same victory as in the case of his
challenge. The propositions of Dr.
Dowie will thus be falsified and proved
to be an imposture. Though he may
try as hard as he can to fly from the
death which awaits him, yet his flight
from such a mighty contest will be
nothing less than death to him, and
calamity will soon overtake his Zion."The proposition of the gentleman
from India was something to the effect
that both should pray for the destruc-
tion of the other. The one that sur-
vived was to be accepted as a true
prophet.But the modern Elijah is not inclined
to take part in a sort of Mt. Carmel
scene, which may end by the bodies of
the vanquished being thrown, figura-
tively speaking, into the brook Kishon.

CONVICTS FOR EXPERIMENTS.

A physician, the other day, address-
ing the American Public Health associa-
tion at Washington, suggested that
criminals condemned to death be turned
over to the scientists, to be experimen-
ted upon, for the benefit of mankind. He
thought they could be inoculated with
germs and thus be made to serve a
useful purpose. He said such experi-
ments could be made of great value
to science and urged that a man con-
demned to death probably would be
willing to take his chances of con-
tracting disease as against other modes
of death.The idea is not new. Experiments
upon condemned criminals have been
made, if reports are true, in various
countries, at different times. But gen-
eral sentiment does not approve of
taking human life that way. People ap-
prove of hanging, shooting and burning
to death by electricity, but not of kill-
ing by the inoculation of a disease
germ. They know that animals are ex-
perimented upon; that experimenters
are rooting around in their bodies with
their knives and causing them indescrib-
able tortures, but they do not permit
them to treat condemned criminals that
way.There is this much to be said,
though, that experiments with germs
—for it is not proposed to submit crim-
inals to vivisection—in order to furnish
data on which to base absolutely safe
conclusions, must be made on human
beings, rather than on animals; for
the simple reason that it cannot be
shown that they act in precisely the
same way in a human body as in an
animal organism.It is a question that comes up from
time to time, and it can do no harm
to consider both sides of it. There are
strong arguments both for and against it.

RACE ACROSS THE OCEAN.

A transatlantic yacht race was, as
previously noted in these columns, sug-
gested by Sir Thomas Lipton, who
desired a trophy to compete for. His
idea was to make this trophy a perpet-
ual prize for international deep sea
racing and to name the Atlantic Yacht
Club of New York as its custodian.Sir Lipton's thought, it now appears,
occurred simultaneously to the Ger-
man emperor, and he has made a sim-
ilar suggestion to the New York Yacht
club, without knowing it, it is asserted,
of Lipton's offer. The latter has cour-
teously withdrawn, and the trophy to
be sailed for will be that of the Kaiser.
Once before it has happened that Em-
peror William has conceived plans
simultaneously with the conception of
the same plans by others. That was in
the beginning of his reign, when the
president of the Swiss republic invited
Europe to a labor congress. The Ger-
man emperor also sent out invitations,
and the congress was held in Berlin
instead of Berne, the Swiss invitation
having been withdrawn. These are at
least peculiar coincidences.But that does not matter. The ocean
race suggested is sure to awaken a
great deal of interest on both sides
of the water, and for practical pur-
poses it will be of more value than
the races sailed lately for the Ameri-
ca's cup.
An ocean race was sailed in 1866.
Three American yachts participated,
namely, the schooners Henrietta, Fleet-
wing and Vesta. The Vesta sprang a
leak in her centerboard casing in mid-
ocean and nearly foundered. The three
started from Sandy Hook December 11.
The Henrietta passed the Needles
winner on December 25 at 5:45 p. m.
The Fleetwing passed next day at 2
a. m., and the Vesta brought up the rear
of the procession one and one-half
hours later."Graft" is probably the most non-
partisan thing in the world.The battleship Maine has been order-
ed to Colon. "Remember the Maine."There are two sides to this isthmian
revolution—the Atlantic and the Pa-
cific.The snowstorm would have been more
opportune last Tuesday than yester-
day.All men are created equal but the
great inequality in their fortunes often
hides this fact.Now Panama's government is recog-
nized as de facto. It will not be long
before it is recognized as de jure.The extraordinary and regular session
of Congress will be devoted chiefly to
the making of issues for the campaign
of 1904.The Kaiser's physicians say that it
is a "good natured polypus." This
gives assurance that it is not an angry
growth.Uncle Joe Cannon has been chosen
speaker of the lower house of Congress.
He will be heard from before the ses-
sion is over.Those African natives who massacred
a German garrison will learn that the
Emperor has a long arm and a heavily
manned fleet.The Sultan is making wry faces
over the latest ultimatum from Austria
and Russia. But it seems natural for
the Sultan to go awry.The asphalt paving on Main street is
being repaired. It has long needed it
and the present work shows that it is
never too late to mend.John D. Rockefeller, Jr., continues to
explain the Bible. If he would ex-
plain some of his father's stock deals
the world would like it better.When Representative McClellan ap-
peared among his colleagues on the
floor of the house they gave him three
cheers and a (Tammany) tiger.Colombia has sent a protest to Uncle
Sam against his action in recognizing
the Republic of Panama. The lady
doth protest too late if not too much.The next municipal administration
should select for the appointive offices
the very best citizens that can be
found. That is what the people expect.Governor Peabody is getting ready
to heap coals of fire on the Colorado
coal miners' heads if they do not con-
duct their strike in an orderly manner."I am not an actress and never ex-
pect to be," says Carrie Nation. Yet
of late years she has given a good
many performances on the world's
stage.Secretary Hay's paper on the Panama
revolution and the President's course
in regard to the same really looks like
a "scoop," written up before the event
happened."We have not heard of a single
church in which the congregation was
exhorting to support Tammany yester-
day," says the New York Evening Sun.
No exhortation was needed as events
proved.It will probably never be known
whether Helms sold out to the Amal-
gamated company, until the whole trou-
ble is settled. All stories regarding a
settlement and no settlement of the
Butte trouble should be taken with salt.

THEODOR MOMMSEN.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Prof. Theodor Mommson, whose death
is reported from Berlin, was the great-
est historian of his time and much be-
sides. His learning was most profound,
his critical insight of the keenest, his
style most lucid, his literary output
enormous, but from the beginning to
the end of his long career he never
ceased to take an active interest and to
play a strenuous part in his country's
politics. He was a liberal of such radi-
cal tendencies that he did not hesitate
to say, just before the recent general
election, that the Socialist party con-
stituted all that was respectable or pa-
triotic in German politics.New York Mail and Express.
Mommson leaves behind him no one
like himself—and that is a misfortune
for German politics as well as for
German literature. It is a good thing
for any nation to have a man with an
eye either to see into the heart of
the sun or to look into the heart of
the sun of power in the eye without
blinking. Indeed, it is a good thing
for the whole world to possess such a
man. Mommson's death is a universal
loss.New York Evening Post.
Of the late Professor Mommson ev-
erybody will feel that the man was too
large to be contained in the Gleicheit.
Only scholars can fully appreciate the
grinding toll that underlies the "His-
tory of Rome," and only a minority
can among scholars can rightly value
that gigantic task of deciphering and
publishing all extant Latin inscriptions.
It was owing to these labors that the
fire which raged in the Corridor of In-
scriptions of the Vatican, as Mommson
has dying, could have destroyed no his-
torical evidence of value. All that was
permanently useful in the inscriptions
that line the walls was safely em-
bedded in Mommson's "Corpus," or in
the kindred publications to which it had
given birth.Springfield Republican.
Americans will have no grudge
against the venerable historian because
he yielded to the general feeling of hos-
tility to the United States which per-
vaded Germany at the time of our war
with Spain, and wrote a scathing in-
vective against this country for rob-
bing Spain of her ancient possessions.
These criticisms he recalled at the in-
stance of our ambassador, Andrew D.
White, before they appeared in print,
and he afterwards showed a much more
sympathetic spirit toward America.NEW CATALOGUE OF
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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS.

