

CHRISTIAN NATION

"**RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION.**"

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Thanksgiving and Its Significance.

GREAT HOME FESTIVAL HAD ITS ORIGIN IN NEW ENGLAND.

Thanksgiving Day this year will be observed on Thursday, November 26.

Thanksgiving Day was originally an American festival, but is now also a Canadian festival, where it was observed this year on Monday, November 9. This day has been observed for two hundred and eighty-seven years in the United States, having been instituted in the year 1621. In Mr. J. A. Goodwin's "The Pilgrim Republic" is contained a very interesting and concise account of the origin of the festival: "The Pilgrims at Plymouth, Mass., fond as they were of social enjoyment, had since landing known no day of rest except the sacred day of worship. Now (in 1621, the year after their landing from the Mayflower) that the autumn was past and the harvest ended, they determined to have a period of recreation, combined with thanksgiving for their many mercies. The Governor thereupon sent out four huntsmen, who in one day secured enough game to supply the colony for nearly a week. Hospitality was extended to Massaiot, who accepted and brought ninety people with him. The guests remained three days, during which time they captured five deer to add to the larder of their hosts. The motley company indulged in a round of amusements, and the Col-



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onists entertained their visitors with military tactics and evolutions. Without doubt, religious services opened each day; for the Pilgrims were austere Christians, who carried religion into all their affairs. Thus heartily and royally was inaugurated the great New England festival of Thanksgiving. For two centuries it continued to be a peculiarity of the Eastern States, but it has now become national, its annual return finding a welcome along the lake shore and the Gulf, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

It will thus be seen in the story of the origin of this continental festival that Thanksgiving Day as conceived by the sturdy New Englanders was eminently characterized by its religious spirit of restrained joyousness and its humane spirit of thankfulness, cheer and brotherliness. Its true spirit is best expressed in a line from a quaint poem:

"Let us be cheerful and thankful withal."

It is simply and purely a day for giving thanks for the many mercies bestowed upon the people—health, happiness and prosperity. Moreover, it is essentially a home day, a day on which the scattered members of the family may return to the parental roof and render thanks, not in any stereotyped or limited way, but in a multitude of ways, for all the good things which have come to them during the past year. Being a home day, it is important that the date fixed for observing this festival will make it easy for families to gather together.

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HOW READERS CAN HELP US.

The Editor of THE CHRISTIAN NATION will make good use of all clippings, statistics, information, or short and pointed contributions on any or all of the following subjects:

- 1st—Favoring repeal of Chinese Exclusion law.
- 2d—Favoring the recognition of God's law in civil government.
- 3rd—Favoring the exclusive use of the Bible Psalms and the exclusion of instrumental music in worship.
- 4th—Favoring Sabbath observance.
- 5th—Opposing the theatre, card playing and dancing.
- 6th—Opposing the use of alcohol as a beverage and of tobacco in any form.
- 7th—Favoring Peace and Arbitration.

Will you cut this out and paste it in your memorandum book or on the front of your desk or in some prominent place in your home or office.

Digest of the News of the Week.

According to the estimate of the Department of Agriculture, issued at Washington, corn, wheat, oats and eight other farm crops this year aggregated 2.4 per cent. more than the average for the last five years.

* * *

Three hundred and thirty-nine miners were killed and thirty-five injured in an explosion in the Radbod mine, near Hamm, Westphalia, Germany.

* * *

Ex-Senator Edward W. Carmack, of the Prohi-

bition party, was shot dead in Nashville, Tenn., by Robin Cooper, as the result of a bitter political feud.

* * *

Count Johann Heinrich von Bernstorff has been chosen by the Emperor of Germany to succeed the late Baron Speck von Sternburg as Ambassador to America.

* * *

President Roosevelt has selected Job E. Hedges to succeed Hamilton Fish as Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York city.

* * *

Dr. W. R. Gillette, formerly vice-president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, died in Roosevelt Hospital.

* * *

Tsi-An, Ruler of China, Dead.

PEKING, Nov. 15.—Tsi-An, the Dowager Empress of China, the autocratic head of the Government, which she had directed without successful interference since 1861, and without protest since 1881, died at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The announcement of the Dowager Empress's death was official, and followed closely upon the announcement that Kwang-Hsu, the Emperor, had died yesterday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

An edict issued at 8 o'clock this morning placed upon the throne Prince Pu-Yi, the three-year-old son of Prince Chun, the Regent of the Empire, in accordance with a promise given by the Dowager Empress soon after the marriage of Prince Chun, in 1903. An edict issued on Friday made Pu-Yi heir presumptive.

* * *

Mr. Morgan Finds the Bullet.

It Lodged in Waistcoat Pocket After Going Through Postmaster's Body.

Postmaster Morgan, of New York, has found the bullet that passed through his body and came so near ending his life when he was attacked by a lunatic on Monday morning. Mr. Morgan found it himself yesterday afternoon. He seemed pleased about it, as he did over his doctor's announcement that he was getting well rapidly and had nothing more to fear from his wound.

There has been a mystery about the bullet. It

had gone through the Postmaster's body all right enough, but there was no hole in his clothing to show where it came out. Yesterday Mr. Morgan himself was so far recovered that he, too, became interested in the mystery. He insisted on having his clothes brought to him. After a careful search he found the bullet in his right hand lower waistcoat pocket.

It looks like a good omen. Anyhow, the doctor says the Postmaster will be at his desk again in the Federal Building before December 1.

* * *

Senator Foelker Resigns.

Man Who Saved Anti-Racetrack Bills Will Begin Congress Duties Next Month.

Albany, Nov. 6.—Senator Otto G. Foelker, of Brooklyn, who risked his life in order that he might vote for the anti-racetrack gambling bills last winter, filed his resignation with the Secretary of State to-day, to take effect immediately.

Mr. Foelker was elected not only for the coming term as a member of Congress, but was also chosen to fill the unexpired term as Representative of the same district in the 60th Congress in the place made vacant by the death of Charles T. Dunwell.

* * *

Police to Help Ex-Convicts.

Jersey City Chief Tells of His Plan to Get Honest Work for Them.

Capt. James F. Larkins, chief of the Jersey City detective bureau, said yesterday that he proposes to establish an employment bureau for ex-convicts who are unable to get honest work.

He wants men and women who are discharged from prison to file applications with him for jobs and he will make an effort to find employment which will be most suited to them. He will stipulate that each convict whom he places will call at police headquarters once a week for the purpose of reporting how he is getting along. He also intends to keep in close touch with their employers.

Larkins hopes he will be able to find enough public spirited men to help him make the proposed ex-convicts' employment agency a success.

CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thirty-five words, (6 lines) 50c
 Additional lines, (6 words) 2c
 Smallest space accepted 6 Lines
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Public Life and Religion.

REV. J. C. MCFEETERS, D.D.

President Roosevelt's views, recently published, on "Religion and Politics," will arrest much attention. If his words be correctly quoted, he vigorously re-resents the thought that the people should inquire concerning the religion of the man who asks for their votes. He says: "In no case does the man's religious belief, in any way, influence the discharge of his duties, save as it makes him more eager to act justly and uprightly in his relations to all men." He points with evident pride to the fact that in his Cabinet "sit side by side, Catholic and Protestant, Christian and Jew." "The same principles that have obtained in appointing the members of my Cabinet are the principles upon which all good Americans should act in choosing, whether by election or appointment, the men to fill any office, from the highest to the lowest in the land." He predicts that there will be among our future presidents, Protestants, Catholics, and, "very probably at some time, Jews." He characterizes discrimination on religious grounds as "an outrage against liberty of conscience," and "narrow bigotry."

The President is politically consistent, standing, as he does, on the Constitution of the United States, a purely secular basis of government. The Constitution expressly specifies that "no religious test" shall be required of any candidate for office. He is consistent, Constitutional, and non-religious, in his political profession and practice. But President Roosevelt is well-known as a Christian of the Protestant faith. His life therefore rises higher than the sphere of politics. His faith claims relationship with Jesus Christ, as his Saviour, and "Commander." (Isaiah 55:4.) He accordingly takes instructions in duty from God first of all. This is implied. The higher claims are the claims of God. Then if, in the administration of government, he eliminate religion, and set aside God's instructions, will he not be grossly inconsistent in his highest and holiest relationship? But Protestants are supposed to study the Bible. The President with the open Bible in his hand, will surely be able to see a "more excellent way." The Book shows that true consistency in the Christian lifts up the whole life, both private and public, into harmony with the will of God. His intelligence will certainly not permit him to fall into the popular error, that God governs man in private life, and abandons him in official life. The President has two things offered for his choice: The exalting of his administration of government into the realm of religion where he can honor God and enjoy His favor; or the suspension of his relationship to God, and the degrading of personal integrity in public duties. Why will he not choose the former? Why will he not, with his strong personality, exalt our nation in righteousness, and clothe himself with everlasting honor?

The higher consistency is possible. The Constitution does not exclude religion from office. Then if religion be a qualification which God requires and the welfare of the country demands, the President has the constitutional power to choose for places of trust "men that fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness." (Ex. 18:21.) Therefore he can at the same time be consistent, con-

stitutional, and religious, in this important service to God, and his country. Why, then, does he not take the higher ground, and exalt his administration into the heavens of righteousness!

The President may hear himself solemnly addressed in the Word of God, the infallible guide for rulers: "This Book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein." (Joshua 1:8.) The Bible contains the foundation principles of law for nations, principles ever the same in essence, yet ever varying in application. No man entrusted with the responsibility of governing society, can hope to reach a knowledge of God's will in the discharge of official duty, except by diligent study of the Bible.

Now if the President has heeded this divine exhortation, he has read: "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." (2 Sam. 23:3.) "The fear of God," at least, implies that the candidate for office will recognize God, and worship Him in Jesus Christ. "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6.) The definition of "the fear of God" is by highest authority, "the beginning of wisdom." How can the President justify himself in choosing, as his counsellors, men whom God characterizes as being totally void of wisdom? This is the principle he announces as governing his choice of men for public places.

Again, doubtless the President has read: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matt. 28:19.) And again, "There is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." (Rom. 13:1.) Jesus holds all the powers of government in his hand. The people have the right to choose the ruler, but the Lord Jesus Christ, who is King of Kings, alone confers the power to rule. "By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth." (Prov. 8:16.) Is the President faithful in investing this sacred trust with persons who deny the Lord, and decline all accountability to Him?

Again, the President may read: "The Lord said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day I have begotten thee. Ask of me, and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance." (Ps. 2:7-8.) The nation belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ

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by the gift of the Father. Will a Christian people be innocent in choosing, will a Christian President be guiltless in appointing men who ignore Jesus to rule over His own realms? Is that fair dealing? Is that honest? Is not such public ethics rotten to the core?

The President may also read: "Now therefore, be wise, O ye kings: Be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry." (Ps. 2:10-12.) In the face of such an admonition coming from God, with all His tenderness, earnestness, and authority; with such a warning coming from the throne of the Most High, awful with glints of His anger, how can the President defend himself in appointing to places of power, men who publicly and positively deny that Jesus is the Son of God; men who have cold scorn instead of the loyal kiss for Christ the Saviour-King? How can he urge the people to follow in his footsteps in this high-handed rebellion against one of God's express commands to rulers? The President is a strong man, but well may he fear, when he measures up with the Almighty, and hurls a challenge at the eternal Law giver. Surely the hope may be cherished that with his open Bible he may be so filled with light from God, that he will see the relation of civil government to God, and by some heroic act, lift up his administration into harmony with God's will, to the glory of God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ.

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