

EDITORS  
S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD  
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Proclamation for Thanksgiving Day.

By the President of the United States of America—A proclamation: It has long been the pious custom of our people, with the closing of the year, to look back upon the blessings brought to them in the changing course of the seasons, and to return solemn thanks to the All Giving Source from whom they flow. And although at this period when the falling leaf admonishes us that the time of our sacred duty is at hand, our nation still lies in the shadow of a great bereavement, and the mourning which has filled our hearts, still finds its sorrowful expression toward the God before whom we but lately bowed in grief and supplication. Yet the countless benefits which have showered upon us during the past twelve months call for our fervent gratitude, and make it fitting that we should rejoice with thankfulness that the Lord in His infinite mercy has most signally favored our country and our people. Peace without and prosperity within have been vouchsafed to us. No pestilence has visited our shores. The abundant privileges of freedom, which our fathers left us in their wisdom, are still our increasing heritage. And if, in parts of our vast domain, some affliction has visited our brethren in their forest homes, yet even this calamity has been tempered and in a manner sanctified by the generous compassion for the sufferers which has been called forth throughout our land. For all these things it is meet that the voice of the nation should go up to God in devout homage. Wherefore I, Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States, do recommend that all the people observe Thursday, the 24th day of November, inst., as a day of national thanksgiving and prayer, by ceasing so far as may be, from their secular labors and meeting in their several places of worship, there to join in ascribing honor and praise to Almighty God, whose goodness has been so manifold in our history and in our lives, and offering earnest prayers that His bounties may continue to us and to our children.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed  
Done at the city of Washington, this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord 1881, and of the Independence of the United States, 106.  
[Signed] CHESTER A. ARTHUR.  
By the President.  
JAMES G. BLAINE,  
Secretary of State.

The city of Chicago presents some phases of growth and prosperity unprecedented in the annals of any other city in the United States. It is withal a beautiful city, full of egotism and self conceit. For example, when speaking of New York, it is dubbed the "Chicago of the East," and Milwaukee, 85 miles away, is called in their suburbs. This spirit of self-importance seems to pervade the minds of, not only the business and newspaper men of that city, but some of the clergy have drunk it in, as was the case of Prof. Swing, a Presbyterian minister, who a few years ago in his own conceit outgrew the standards and doctrines of that church and began to preach a foreign gospel, one not at all in keeping with their confession of faith. He was tried by a church tribunal, during which he fought hard to maintain his standing intact in the organization, but at last he was compelled to retire and have his illustrious name taken off the church roll. Now a Methodist minister, a Dr. Thomas is sailing before the public in a similar boat. He too having grown so wise and so expanded in Biblical knowledge and truth that the Methodist coat no longer fits, but rather chafes his symmetrical form and is too galling to be longer worn. Hence he has been serving his hearers a new gospel diet, savoring of broad liberalism and not at all consistent with the belief and doctrine of the saintly Wesley. Having denied the inspiration of a portion of the Scriptures and having preached a doctrine at point-blank variance with the Book of Scripture, he was charged with heresy and recently tried and convicted; he fighting all the time for a membership intact with the society.

Now so far as the right of Mr. Thomas or any other body to embrace new views and travel hidden aisles in search of

truth and light, we have nothing to say. We would circumscribe no one in search of knowledge nor hamper any mind penetrating the recesses of truth. That of which we complain is that men—Swing, Thomas or any other joining a sect or organization, religious or otherwise, accepting in good faith its belief, doctrine, constitution and all and afterwards changing their views, differing with their former profession and belief, have not the honor, stamina and manhood to step down and out and not attempt to hold a membership, throwing fire brands, creating dissensions and working mischief and ruin to all concerned. Politicians who are branded as having little honor, never do this sort of thing and members of a secret organization who object to the discipline or routine of duty of the order rarely care to remain in membership, but rather choose to get out and breathe an atmosphere suited to their constitution and congenial to their taste. This is the prerogative of any person joined to a society or organization and we think it shows much better sense to exercise it rather than cut the splurge of these divines.

The world is wide and the torch of religious liberty now burns in nearly every clime. Hence if these wise men have struck a gospel bonanza, why keep it within the pale of a church away from the masses who need truth and light. Rather let him retire from the society, bringing away his stock of newly invented gospel panacea, spreading it broadcast and not attempt to run a free trade or liberal ship under sectarian orthodox colors and making an inglorious fight in the attempt to fly them. The church organization can not be censured for attempting to discharge such doubtful freight, when to keep it aboard is damaging to the society and tends to its disparagement and ruin.

Mr. Thomas has known for some time that he is not a proper candidate for the M. E. church, nor is he wanted in it. He is aware that his belief and preaching are in opposition to its tenets and had he quietly packed up his goods and left, it would have been far more manly and honorable on his part than it was to inaugurate the late strife in which he has been badly defeated.

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Oct. 11, 1881.

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R. LUTHER.  
Luther's Mill, Oct. 12, '81.

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