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THE NATION A MORAL PERSON AND CHRIST THE KING.

A movement is making progress in the United States among Christian men in the different churches called National Reform. The object is to have the constitution, government, laws and institutions of the nation bear the impress of the Christian religion, and to hasten the time when the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of Him who is King of Kings and Governor among the nations. Ingersoll and many others from whom better might be expected speak as if there should be a complete divorce between religion and politics—as if such an idea could be consistently carried out—as if such a thing were desirable, even if practicable. Whatever claims God has upon an individual, He has upon a community which is an *individual* in His sight. The nation, as such, is a subject of the kingdom of Prince Messiah and there is no difference between the allegiance which it owes to Him, and that of any other subject of His kingdom. And inasmuch as nations are placed in a state of moral subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of the kings of the earth, they are under obligation to acknowledge His mediatorial authority, and submit to His sceptre; framing their laws, appointing their rulers, and regulating their obedience, in agreeableness to the moral principles of the Gospel, and in subserviency to the interests of the kingdom of Christ. Religion, therefore, should be the grand aim, object, and governing principle of all men in all the relations of life which they are called to sustain. To entitle a realm to the character of a religious nation—a “righteous nation that keepeth the truth”—the fundamental principles of its constitution must be based upon the revealed will of God, and its enactments regulated by the same unerring standard. Could we suppose it possible that all or the greater number of the members of a family, were religious persons, and yet the family, as such, never engage in domestic exercises of religion, would we not be compelled to characterise it as a “family that called not upon God’s name?” The organ of the movement referred to, an excellent weekly, is the *Christian Statesman*, published in Philadelphia. From a recent number we take the following extracts:—

“Civil society is a divine institution. The State has its origin in the will and arrangement of God, and its powers and functions are determined by Him.

Nations are moral persons, and subjects, therefore of the moral government of God. In suitable ways, every nation should acknowledge its dependence on Almighty God and the supreme authority of His Law.

The Lord Jesus Christ has been appointed by the Father to be Governor among the nations. To Him their allegiance and service are due. Through Him, national homage is to be paid to God, and national blessings, and the forgiveness of national sins, are to be sought for His sake.