

ROOSEVELT DROPPED 'IN GOD WE TRUST'

President Says Such a Motto on
Coin Is Irreverence, Close
to Sacrilege.

NO LAW COMMANDS ITS USE

He Trusts Congress Will Not Direct
Him to Replace the Exalted Phrase
That Invited Constant Levity.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—In answer to one of the numerous protests which have been received at the White House against the new gold coin which have been coined without the words "In God We Trust," President Roosevelt has written a letter, which he to-day made public. The letter follows:

"When the question of the new coinage came up we looked into the law and found there was no warrant therein for putting 'In God We Trust' on the coins. As the custom, although without legal warrant, had grown up, however, I might have felt at liberty to keep the inscription had I approved of its being on the coinage. But as I did not approve of it I did not direct that it should again be put on. Of course the matter of the law is absolutely in the hands of Congress, and any direction of Congress in the matter will be immediately obeyed. At present, as I have said, there is no warrant in law for the inscription.

"My own feeling in the matter is due to my very firm conviction that to put such a motto on coins, or to use it in any kindred manner, not only does no good, but does positive harm, and is in effect irreverence, which comes dangerously close to sacrilege. A beautiful and solemn sentence such as the one in question should be treated and uttered only with that fine reverence which necessarily implies a certain exaltation of spirit.

"Any use which tends to cheapen it, and, above all, any use which tends to secure its being treated in a spirit of levity, is from every standpoint profoundly to be regretted. It is a motto which it is, indeed, well to have inscribed on our great National monuments, in our temples of justice, in our legislative halls, and in buildings such as those at West Point and Annapolis—in short, wherever it will tend to arouse and inspire a lofty emotion in those who look thereon.

"But it seems to me eminently unwise to cheapen such a motto by use on coins, just as it would be to cheapen it by use on postage stamps or in advertisements. As regards its use on the coinage, we have actual experience by which to go. In all my life I have never heard any human being speak reverently of this motto on the coins or show any signs of its having appealed to any high emotion in him, but I have literally, hundreds of times, heard it used as an occasion of and incentive to the sneering ridicule which it is, above all things, undesirable that so beautiful and exalted a phrase should excite.

"For example, throughout the long contest extending over several decades on the free coinage question, the existence of this motto on the coins was a constant source of jest and ridicule, and this was unavoidable. Every one must remember the innumerable cartoons and articles based on phrases like 'In God we trust for the 8 cents,' 'In God we trust for the short weight,' 'In God we trust for the 37 cents we do not pay,' and so forth and so forth.

"Surely, I am well within bounds when I say that a use of the phrase which invites constant levity of this type is most undesirable. If Congress alters the law and directs me to replace on the coins the sentence in question, the direction will be immediately put into effect, but I very earnestly trust that the religious sentiment of the country, the spirit of reverence in the country, will prevent any such action being taken.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

DENOUNCE COIN MOTTO ORDER.

Episcopal Convention Votes, 131 to 81, to Retain "In God We Trust."

After a red-hot debate the Episcopal Diocesan Convention, meeting in the Synod House of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, on Morningside Heights, yesterday, by a vote of 131 to 81, passed resolutions protesting against the elimination of the motto, "In God We Trust," from the new ten-dollar gold pieces. The debate on the question lasted an hour and a half, and for a part of that time the convention was in some disorder.

The motto question came up directly after a motion by John Brooks Leavitt, calling for the printing of certain Biblical selections to be used in church pews, had been tabled. The Rev. W. M. Grosvenor of the Church of the Incarnation offered the following:

Whereas, It has been announced that in the coining of certain pieces of the money of the United States there has been omitted the words used from the foundation of the Republic, "In God We Trust"; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this convention protests against such change, and declares that the highest interest of our country demands the preservation of all those customs that have stood for the recognition of God in the life of the people.

John Brooks Leavitt Shouted Down.

There was an instant's silence and then half a dozen men jumped up to second the motion. Mr. Leavitt also arose and when he could make himself heard said:

"I wish to move that this resolution be laid on the table, inasmuch as this convention has seen fit to lay on the table a resolution restoring the Bible to the pews. Which is the more important?"

This motion was simply shouted down, and then the Rev. J. W. Buckmaster of Mount Vernon declared that the motto had been on the coins only since the civil war and not since the founding of the Republic. Dr. Grosvenor accepted the amendment, but Dr. Loring W. Batten and others tried to sidetrack the issue by calling for the "order of the day," which was Bishop Greer's speech.

"I don't want this thing cut off in the middle," cried Dr. Grosvenor. "I want it to come up now and not go over until I don't know when."

Dr. Grosvenor said the proposal to take the motto from the coins aroused his deep indignation, and Dr. Gustav Carstensen of Riverdale, opposing the motion, said: "I think this effort is a mistake and misleading in the inference that we go as a nation back into apostasy. Our godliness is not shown in this, but in the way we keep our treaties. Let us avoid stultification."

Dr. Batten admitted that the spirit of the resolution was good.

"But there are other things that are more timely for discussion and argu-

ment," he went on, "in our National, State, and municipal life. They are moral wrongs, and they should come first. It looks to me, too, as if this motto were upon the coins against the express command: "You cannot worship God and Mammon."

The Rev. Leighton Parks declared that the passing of the resolutions would look like a rebuke to the Government.

Rebuke to the Government Meant.

"It is!" shouted half a dozen of the delegates. "That's how we mean it."

Dr. Parks urged postponement, and Everett P. Wheeler offered an amendment to the effect that the Secretary of the Treasury be asked to have the words put back if they had been taken off.

The Rev. J. L. Parks of Calvary declared that the Church was losing force by not exercising enough caution before plunging into matters not within its province. It was frittering away its time and not minding its own business.

Following this the motion was made to postpone indefinitely, and there was a chorus of "noes" that was deafening. Dr. Grosvenor, red in the face, wanted to know whether there was anything more sacred than the name of God. Finally, pointing to the reporters' table, he said:

"If we don't vote on this thing to-day we have the newspapers to reckon with."

The motion to postpone was then put and lost, and the resolutions were carried by a vote of 131 to 81.

J. P. Morgan Re-elected a Trustee.

Bishop Potter delivered his customary charge to the convention, and Secretary Harris reported that the diocesan fund amounted to \$800,481, with a gross income of \$30,406. J. P. Morgan was re-elected a Trustee, and George A. Crocker was elected to take the place of George R. Schiefelin, and for the most part the old officers of the various funds were re-elected.

J. P. Morgan was not present at the convention, though he had been at every one for many years. Last night Bishop and Mrs. Potter and Bishop and Mrs. Greer received the delegates at Sherry's. The convention will meet at 10 o'clock this morning.