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Grinnell Iowa Aug 5/95
Editor of the Basis.
Dear Sir,

I have read the Basis from the first number till the last number date of Aug 3 with the exception of the last number in July which by some mistake did not reach me, and I must say that I most fully endorse your position that good citizenship lies at the foundation of good government and that in order to have the best government we must have good citizenship. Neither do I despair of the ultimate success

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of the effort to secure good citizenship in the way you propose. That is a citizenship that is based on the golden rule of Christ. "As you would that men should do to you do you even so to them." Politicians like the reviewer one whose communication appeared in the last number of the basis may despair of our ever realizing such a citizenship, and think that we cannot hope for any thing better than a government under the direction of party leaders. but I have too much confidence in the ultimate triumph of the gospel, as indicated by the promises of the word of God, to give up the

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hope, that the spirit of the gospel which is the Christ spirit, will not in due time dominate and pervade the citizenship and the government. And I will go farther and say that I should utterly despair of ever attaining good citizenship or the best government in any other way, than by a citizenship that is governed by the great law of love. And as Evolution is true that citizenship will sooner or later be realized.

Allow me to add one thing more. Your intimation in the last Basis that the great effort of ministers in their preaching is to prepare men for heaven

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without reference to their lives in this world. I hope is not entirely in accordance with fact.

My own knowledge of what mon gelish and preachers impress upon their hearers is, that they must be regenerated, renounce their sins and be saved from their sins ~~in this life and actively~~ serve God here, if they would be prepared for the better world. And the law of christ ~~requires the same~~ "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself" requires that men should love and serve God as well as their neighbor. Without being truly born again men will not be good citizens,

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will not rightly perform their duties as citizens, and will not earnestly set themselves to establish good government.
Please do not misunderstand me. You do not lay too much stress on the duties of men to each other as citizens, but we must not ignore the importance of men's personal salvation. For Christ's "name was called Jesus, because he shall save his people from their sins." He came also "to seek and save that which was lost". When therefore men are saved, then they will be prepared to love their neighbors as themselves. It is true too little emphasis has been laid upon the duties of Christians as citizens heretofore. We hope for better things

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in the future. It is no doubt in the power of christians moved by the spirit of their master to make government better, yes in every respect what it ought to be. And we hope and pray that the day may speedily come.

Respectfully.

yours &c

A. Lyman.

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