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THE DUDLEY BILL

Nearly every paper in the state is urging Governor Black to veto the so-called "Dudley Graduated Inheritance Bill" passed by the legislature of 1897. The bill was sanctioned if not drafted by State Comptroller Roberts, who recommended such legislation. It provides for a graduated tax on inheritances, so arranged that the larger the estate the larger the tax.

While THE JOURNAL is not one of those papers that believe or affect to believe that wealth is a crime, still it does believe that the Dudley bill should be signed. There is no more persistent cheats of government, no more systematic set of tax-evaders, generally speaking, than the wealthy class. They are only too willing that the poor man shall be taxed on his little home, while they commit perjury by "swearing off" their taxes, which they are the better able to do because their property is invested in bonds and securities, intangible and difficult—well-nigh impossible—for the tax-gatherer to locate.

Comptroller Roberts has recognized the base love of their riches on the part of the rich even to cheating the government out of its dues, and proposes to remedy this by assessing the ultimate inheritance to make up for these defalcations.

In the April "Forum" Comptroller Roberts presents an elaborate and unanswerable argument in favor of his bill. In the course of his argument he recalls that "there has hardly been a report of a state financial or assessing officer in the United States in the past twenty-five years that has not discussed in a tone almost of despair the wholesale escapes of personal property from taxation." This has been in spite of the most stringent attempts to avoid evasion; everything, in fact, short of a graduated inheritance tax. In New York state the evil has been greater than elsewhere, for the reason that the concentration of personal property wealth is so enormous here, especially in New York city, the great financial centre of the country. In statistics drawn from the reports of the comptroller's office he proves in detail that the total amount of personal property in 107 estates, which after death summed up \$215,182,167, was assessed during the lifetime of the owners at \$3,819,412, only 1.77 per cent. of actual value. Of these, 34, ranging from \$54,559 to \$3,819,500, had been assessed at nothing. "Why not," he goes on to say, "levy an inheritance tax, which shall be approximately a payment of back taxes, evaded or not imposed during life?" Mr. Roberts, who seems to have deduced his figures with great care, estimates, after every just allowance is made, that there is in the state \$5,281,660,940 of personal property which rightfully should be taxed, and yet totally escapes the tax collector.

If this calculation is even approximately true, it sweeps away every argument against the imposition of a graduated inheritance tax as a cold, heartless business.

SERVED HIM RIGHT.

Senator John J. Ingalls used to be one of the most noted men in the United States. He was not among those held in highest esteem because he was thought to be erratic, radical and inconsistent at times. Still he was respected for his ability and had the prospect of a brilliant public career. The capture of Kansas by the Populists retired Ingalls to private life and his defeat seems either to have changed the man entirely or else has developed latent traits in his character hitherto concealed.

The ex-senator has been falling in public esteem for some years, but he taboed himself when he consented for paltry pelf to go to Carson City and report the Corbett-Fitzsimmons prize fight for the New York "Journal." People could not believe their eyes when they read in the dispatches that an ex-United States senator who made pretensions to high-minded ideals had lowered himself to such an extent. The news was too true and—sad to say, Ingalls' account of the mill was not half so good a piece of newspaper work as was the report of ex-Bruiser John L. Sullivan for the New York "World." In going to Carson City Ingalls not only smirched his reputation for decency but lowered his reputation as a writer and reporter.

He is now reaping the fruits of his foolishness. He had been selected to deliver the commencement oration next month at the Central College of Missouri. Because of Ingalls' participation in the prize fight the curators and faculty have voted to cancel Ingalls' engagement. As good character, refined taste and habits, and decent associations are essential elements in a commencement orator, the authorities of Central College have performed a plain and imperative duty. By accepting Ingalls they would lower themselves and their institution to the level of the prize ring and its abhorrent forces.

THE DIFFERENCE

A secular metropolitan journal in the course of an editorial a few days ago on "The Laboring Classes," said: "Among the great church movements it is interesting to note that two parallel forces are specially active, intellectual unrest in theology and genuine beneficence in the treatment of practical questions. The turmoil of the higher criticism as a battle ground of disputants and charges and counter-charges of heresy and schism fill the air with smoke, but underneath it all can be discerned a great deal of clear-minded sympathy with and hold on the fundamental principles of Christian practice."

If the journal in question had been well-informed or inclined to be absolutely fair it might have said that "intellectual unrest in theology"—a somewhat meaningless phrase to be sure but well meant in its connection, was apparent among all the professing Christians, save those affiliated with the Catholic church. There is no unrest in the minds of those who follow the one true church. They are not racked with doubts or misgivings. They know that the Catholic church, presided over by Christ's viceregent, is God's visible representative in this world, and when she has spoken it is the voice of God, and all obey.

Neither does the "turmoil of higher criticism" disturb the Catholic, however much it may unsettle the faith of the non-Catholic in the faith in which he was reared. This is not to be wondered at, as all non-Catholic creeds are unstable as the sand. They had their birth in rebellion, how can it be expected or hoped there will not be rebellion from them?

The much vaunted principle of "private judgment," the cardinal essence of Protestantism, will yet prove its dismemberment and utter collapse.

A debate in a series between the University of New York Law School and Georgetown Law School ended in a victory for the latter. The subject for debate was: "Resolved, That the United States recognize Cuban belligerency." The affirmative was given to New York, Georgetown taking the negative side. The judges were Justice White of the United States Supreme court, Justice Cole of the District Supreme court, and Senator Galinger.

COMING OUR WAY

Our non-Catholic brethren are coming to realize that the great secret of the strides which the Catholic church has made in the United States lies in the fact that in it there is no distinction between rich and poor, high or low, educated or ignorant. Each approaches the tribunal of penance and side by side they receive the same Lord. The Catholic church has been, is and always will be the church of the masses.

The non-Catholics are beginning to see this and are turning their attention to the poorer classes. At a recent meeting of an Episcopalian society Bishop Potter of New York said:

"The working man wants to be put on a higher plane. He does not want to be considered as a piece of machinery. He has rights as well as those who do not win their bread by the sweat of their brow, and his rights must be respected."

Has not the Catholic church ever acted on this principle?

TO C M B A READERS

Rochester branches of the C. M. B. A. are debating the wisdom of instructing their delegates to the New York State Grand Council to support an amendment to the constitution so that in the future the association, either the grand council or the several branches, pay the medical examiners' fee. There are many arguments for and against the plan. THE JOURNAL has received one communication in favor of the plan which it publishes this week in its Catholic society column. We would like to hear from members of the C. M. B. A. in regard to the plan, and will cheerfully give space to communications for and against. The discussion cannot fail to be of benefit and interest to the entire order.

The New York "Journal's" opinion of the rejected arbitration treaty was:

"England will always bear watching, and it is fortunate for the Republic that the senate has had the sense to keep this in mind and the firmness to resist sentimental clamor from gentlemen and ladies who represent few besides themselves—certainly not the masses of the American people, who possess memories and have no love for what was once the mother country, and has never been friendly when we stood in want of friends."

We cannot see why there should be such a howl about the rejection of the arbitration treaty by the United States senate. Those who voted against it probably voted as their constituents wished, and that is what they were sent to congress for.

It is high time the Grand Army veterans should stop their mudslinging. It does not tend to elevate the organization in popular opinion. "Let us have peace."

The innate narrowness of the author of the Raines rum law is shown in his declaration that half a dozen men cannot purchase a cask of liquor and distribute it among themselves unless the liquor tax is paid, without violating the Raines law!

THE JOURNAL extends congratulations to the Rochester Press club on the magnificent music festival it gave to the Flower City this week.

It is to be hoped that the report that Justin McCarthy has been stricken with a fatal illness will prove incorrect.

The curio hunter is a queer animal. His latest hobby is bricks—just plain, ordinary, everyday red bricks—from General Grant's old tomb.

In addition to driving out the "bucket shops" and their abettors the New York Stock Exchange should reform itself. It conducts one of the greatest of bunco games in the country.

The sympathies of all true Americans go out to the victims of the Paris holocaust.

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THE GOSPELS.

GOSPEL: Luke v. 1-11 And it came to pass that, when the multitude pressed upon Him, to hear the word of God, He stood by the lake of Genezareth, and he saw two ships standing by the lake; but the fishermen were gone out to them, and were washing their nets. And going up into one of the ships that was Simon's, He desired him to trust out a little from the land. And, sitting down, He taught the multitude out of the ship. Now when He had ceased to speak, He said to Simon: Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets, for a draught. And Simon answering, said to Him: Master, we have labored all the night and have taken nothing; but at Thy word I will let down the net. And when they had done this they enclosed a very great multitude of fishes, and the net was breaking. And they beckoned to their partners that were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both ships, so that they were almost sinking. Which, when Simon Peter saw, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying: Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was wholly astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. And Jesus saith to Simon: Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt be taking men.

Weekly Church Calendar.
Sunday, May 16—Fourth Sunday after Easter. Epist. Rom. viii. 18-23. Gosp. Luke v. 1-11.

Monday, 17—St. Paschal Baylon Confessor.

Tuesday, 18—St. Venantius, Martyr.

Wednesday, 19—St. Peter Celestine, Pope and Confessor. St. Pudentiana, Virgin.

Thursday, 20—St. Bernardine of Siena, Confessor.

Friday, 21—Feria.

Saturday, 22—St. John Nepomucene, Martyr.

Rochester, N. Y., April 13, 1897.
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