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Those who would deprive children of the pleasure and mystery of Santa Claus and the youths and maids of the romance of Valentine's day may as well save their time and trouble. They may worship at the tomb of Mahomet or at the shrine of Confucius if they will. But—
Healthy-bodied, clean minded young Americans will go on reveling in anticipation of Santa Claus and watching the postman on Valentine's day. Well were it for the hazy-minded, half-hazard would-be philosophers who are prematurely aged in their anxiety to mind the business of the world if they possessed the capacity for keen enjoyment that these youngsters have.

Confusing

It were well for the community at large if there could be a return to the good old days so far as the "personally edited paper" edited by specialists in their departments are concerned. To-day we have papers either controlled by the counting room or edited in an impersonal sort of way by chaps who use their employers paper to pay off personal grudges, to exploit all sorts of isms and if criticism be made disclaim all personal responsibility and shift the blame upon the "papers policy, you know, I would change things around but I am held down."
For instance: all over the state the papers are shouting that to repeal the Percy-Gray law under which pool-selling is permitted on race tracks would abolish betting and all sorts of gambling. Naturally those citizens who are opposed to gambling cry out "Pass these bills or we will pass you out of public life."
Now it is exceedingly doubtful if the repeal of the Percy-Gray law would even stop betting at the race tracks. And that was not the prime object of the agitation to pass the bills now before the legislature.
What Governor Hughes contends is that the law-makers of New York have no right to make bookmaking inside the race track inclosures a commendable action and a felony outside the race track fence. The constitution forbids gambling and directs the Legislature to make appropriate laws to enforce this prohibition. Governor Hughes holds that the Percy-Gray law is not an appropriate law and that the statute books were better rid of it.
Nobody who knows anything about the situation has a shadow of suspicion that the repeal of the Percy-Gray law will stop gambling. Mankind ever has been prone to take a chance and it will continue to do this until the end of time.
But repeal of the Percy-Gray law will place the better outside the track on an even footing with the better inside the track. Possibly it may result in an amicable agreement between race track proprietors and the outside "pool-rooms" and a discontinuance of the fiend-long existing between the two.
Probably Governor Hughes is not working toward such a consummation. Neither would he relax his efforts for repeal if he thought it would work out that way. What he argues for is that all men shall be equal before the law.
So it can be seen that a local contemporary is in error in the following paragraph:
"Gambling should either be made a felony on those race tracks, as it is now elsewhere, or the laws against it should be repealed and the state be thrown wide open to every kind of gambling that the ingenuity of men who indulge in the practice can devise."
Alumni banquets remind us that there are graduates from the Catholic parochial schools just as from the public schools.

Unjudicial.

Whether or not judges on the bench should take part in public or political gatherings is a mooted question. There are many persons who hold that when a man ascends the bench he should not be thereby debarred from all public or political activity.
But there is absolutely no doubt that no judge has any right to make such a statement as this, in public speech, off the bench, as was made by Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court. "Our spirit of intolerance still pursues the poor Chinese. It makes the blood boil in the descendants of those who settled these colonies and laid the foundations of our national greatness on the eternal principles of justice, liberty and eternal rights, to hear Dennis Kearney and men like him, who have just been welcomed to our shores and who have not yet washed the brouge off their lips, stand on the street corners and cry out: 'America for Americans, the Chinese must go'."
"Descendants of those who settled these colonies" forsooth! Were there none of Irish blood among those who fought in the War of the Revolution, in the War of 1817, in the Civil War? What about Commodore Jack Barry, about Generals Sheridan, Sherman and all the other generals.
No man worthy of a place in the United States Supreme court should so far demean himself as to mention Mongolians in the same breath with the Celtic race, that race which has given its sons in every movement for freedom the world over, that race which has done as much as any other that has figured in the development of this country, that race which comes to America to stay and grow up with the country.
We trust that Justice Brewer was not inspired by any dislike of the religion of the Irish or would prefer heathen Chinese to the Christian Catholic. If that be the case then mention of his name for the Presidency is out of place.
No Apatist is wanted in the United States Supreme Court or in the White House.
Lent begins next Wednesday, March 4th.
Comptroller Glynn is a willing gentleman. He would let all the red hats allotted to America go to Rochester, but when it comes to the governorship that must go to Albany—and to a man whose name begins with G.
William Randolph Hearst, conservative! What game is the New York American up to now?
"Governor Whalen" does not sound so bad does it now?
Says the "Catholic Union and Times": "When a man is driven to do right it is well enough to watch him. There is considerable reform spirit in the air just now and many people in questionable business are 'playing good'. An especially notable example is that of the moving-picture tribe. They want to keep open on Sunday, hence are willing to cut out everything 'immoral, immoral or suggestive.' Had these people the slightest regard for decency they never would have permitted such representations in their machines. So far as Sunday opening of the arcades is concerned there is no demand for it save that brought about by the greed of the owners. It is another case of 'when the devil was sick'."
The Catholic Standard and Times" says: "The body of Zola, the high priest of literary filth, is to be removed to the Pantheon in Paris on the 2nd of April next, it is officially announced. A day earlier would have better suited the character of the people who have decided on placing such a panderer among the great dead of France."

Five Minute Sermon

Jesus Gives Sight to the Blind Man.
According to St. Gregory the blind man was a figure of two things. In general, he represented the whole human race; in particular he was a figure of those Christians who, blinded by the things of this world, do not see the value of heavenly things.
The blind man saw neither the magnificence of his country, nor the road that leads to it, nor the face of any one from whom he could ask assistance. It is the same with Christians who are blinded by the things of this world. They find themselves in the bosom of the church, but see not its beauties; they are on the road to heaven, but cannot advance one step; they wish for happiness, but know not the vanity, the impotence, the nothingness of riches, honors, and power, from which they hope for it in vain.
We should learn from this blind man never to let a favorable opportunity pass nor delay a single moment to implore the healing of our souls whenever God passes with His grace; we should learn to make ourselves heard by prayer, internal aspirations, and by the voice of the priest.
Weekly Church Calendar
Sunday March 1—Gospel, St. Luke, xviii, 13-43—St. David, archbishop.
Monday 2—St. Simplicius, confessor.
Tuesday 3—St. Cunegundis, empress and virgin.
Wednesday 4—Ash Wednesday. Fast.
Thursday 5—St. John Joseph of the Cross, confessor.
Friday 6—The Passion of Our Lord.
Saturday 7—St. Thomas Aquinas, confessor and doctor.
Cook Opera House.
A famous dramatic actor is to be the headliner in the bill of vaudeville to be presented at the Cook Opera House next week. This will be Wm. H. Thompson, who will be supported by Thomas H. Ince and company. He will present "For Love's Sweet Sake" which will be remembered as an emotional little drama, in which there is no woman character. A man named Wainst will exhibit a troupe of trained seals and sea lions. Harry Gilfoil will present his famous comedy impersonation of "The Baron Sands, the gayest old sport in New York." The Six American Dancers are on the programme to give one of the most elaborate dancing turns ever given in this country. Miss Louise Henry will present her famous character, "the Sal Skinner Girl." French singers, forming an organization called "The Basque Quartette" will present selections from grand operas. Leo Carillo, the cartoonist-comedian, will offer a turn in which he will introduce his drawing in a novel fashion. The Keeley Brothers promise a comedy act called "The Science of Physical Culture." New pictures will be shown by the kinetograph.
Baker Theatre.
"The Three of Us" a delightful comedy-drama in homespun and brown, will be presented for the first time in Rochester by the Bellows-Spencer Stock Company all during the week beginning Monday evening, March 2. The play is brought to the Baker by the endorsement of the New York critics, it having played 227 nights at the Madison Square Theatre, and with the enthusiastic approval of the theater-goers of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Boston and the West. Last summer the play ran the entire season at Hooley's theatre in Chicago, and only within the last week was it released for stock. The play tells about a group of Americans, Eastern residents in a Nevada mining camp. It is a strong emotional story of real life, described by one New York critic as "the truth unadorned, but the truth seen with an eye for subtle humor and beauty." Through it all beats a heart of the tenderest human sympathy.
Knew Murdered Priest.
Postoffice Inspector Hugh McQuillan was well acquainted with Father Leo, the Franciscan who was killed by an anarchist in St. Elizabeth's Church, Denver, last Sunday. Mr. McQuillan made his acquaintance while Father Leo was rector of St. Bonaventure's in Patterson, N. J., a position he occupied for three years. Mr. McQuillan's home is in Patterson.
Knights of Columbus.
On Monday evening, March 2d, the Union Club will give a Leap Year reception and dance at the club rooms. It is hoped all the members will attend.

Here is another genuine "Prince bargain."
We have the exclusive sale of this beautiful China cabinet for Rochester and vicinity. It was built on our own specifications by a well-known and thoroughly reliable house.
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During the closing days of our Stock-Reducing Sale, old prices remain on the old tags in plain figures. They are already so low that we cannot promise extravagant reduction.
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