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Tolerance

If there is one trait of national character that stands out prominently in the United States just now, it is that of intolerance. That is if one trusts to the public prints. About all that one reads there is attack upon somebody, some policy or something. Undoubtedly, there are many persons, perhaps a majority of the people, who are inclined to practice charity and to exhibit tolerance toward the views of the other fellow but, unfortunately, these do not appear upon the platform, they are not in the public eye, they do not send transcripts of their views to the editor for publication in the press.

Judging from the public prints, we are diverging backward to the Puritan and Roundhead type. Everything is wrong, everybody who dares to differ with our personal opinions is a hypocrite, a crook, a mountebank and a fakir. Public men must not exercise the American heritage of free thought or free speech, else they are put in the category of bores or bribed men. Charity is lauded to the skies as an abstract principle but is lost sight of in practice and in general everyday life.

There is no denial of the proposition that much of this apparent trend of public sentiment may be traced to the arrogance of a portion of society that has "run the pace amuck," as it may be phrased, but not all the carping critics are inspired by altruistic motives or by a desire to elevate or better society. Many of these critics are no better than those they criticize. Many are utter hypocrites, some of whom wish free advertising; others seek to cloak their own faults by vitriolic denunciation of their fellows.

No matter whether inspired by narrowness of vision, biliousness or by mistaken fanatical zeal, intolerance is to be condemned and tolerance is to be praised. Better a leaning toward the charity of the Divine Master than puritanical pharisaism.

The Standard

There is no disputing the proposition that no man has an inherent right to public office or position because he is a Catholic. Equally true is the proposition that no man has an inherent right to hold office because he is a Free Mason, a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Unitarian or a Jew. The converse of this proposition appears equally defensible, that no man should be proscribed from public office or position because he happens to be a Catholic, a Mason, a Jew or a Gentile.

It is no valid argument to solicit support for a candidate on the argument "he is one of our kind" solely and alone. If his opponent be not of "our kind" and is worthier, or better qualified for the place, we would be recreant to our duty as honest American citizens to stand by "our kind" to the end that the poorly equipped men, one who would do us no credit, if indeed he did not bring actual discredit upon us, should be chosen.

If we would win favor for the Catholic public man, we must put forward Catholic men who measure up to a high standard, men who are of spotless private character, unblemished professional reputation and men fully equipped for public duties. Many Catholics in New York state are now holding high public office because they are qualified to past muster in any competitive test with anybody in the land. Attorney-General Carmody; Supreme Court Justices Dowling, Hendrick, Stapleton and Philbin; State Prison Superintendent John B. Riley; State Labor Commissioner John Mitchell, Lieutenant-Governor, Martin H. Glynn, State Civil Service Commissioner Lavery, all are men of quality, intellect and integrity, fitted to stand comparison with any who have served in these places.

Catholic public officers of the caliber of those mentioned cannot fall to batter down the old Chinese wall of exclusion of Catholics from high public station.

Object Lesson

Popular sentiment that even-handed justice is not always meted out in this country, is likely to receive an added impetus by the farce enacted in court last week when an absconding bank officer in Philadelphia who two years ago stole \$1,430,000 in securities and \$30,000 in cash from the bank and fled to foreign lands handed over his plunder, with \$5,000 in interest, and in open court was placed on trial on an indictment charging embezzlement and the jury, at direction of the presiding judge, returned a verdict of "not guilty!"

This compounding of a felony is explained by the plea of the bank officers that they were forced to this course because if the stolen money were not returned the bank would have to be closed! This is a peculiar plea in view of the fact that the bank has been in operation for the two years since the embezzlement took place. If the thief had pleaded guilty and had been liberated under suspended sentence, leniency being shown because he had made restitution, the proceeding might have been excusable. But to have the records show that the thief is innocent for all time is a preposterous miscarriage of justice.

To add to the irony of the situation, it is given out that the thief speculated with the stolen funds and now is free to enjoy profits of a million or so, free from possible prosecution and free to hold his head high in society!

It has been said that Justice is sometimes blind. This would seem to be one of the instances.

If we keep our hearts full of good thoughts, no room would be found for evil ones.

Sarah Bernhardt, through the syndicate press, keeps on preaching what she never practised. Let us not forget that June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

Not all the money coined since the world began, not all the skill of all the scientists ever born, can avail to bring salvation to a single soul or to bring a soul in to the world.

Now that horse racing is taunted, at least race track gambling is supposed to be, baseball is the chosen vehicle of the betting of our kind" and alone. If sports his opponent be not of "our kind" and is worthier, or better qualified for the place, we would be recreant to our duty as honest American citizens to stand by "our kind" to the end that the poorly equipped men, one who would do us no credit, if indeed he did not bring actual discredit upon us, should be chosen.

The editor acknowledges receipt of an invitation to attend the sixty-ninth annual Commencement of the University of Notre Dame, also from the faculty of Niagara University to attend Commencement exercises on Tuesday morning, June 17th at St. Vincent's Hall.



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