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Advent

Once again has the swiftly-recurring milestones of Time pointed another new ecclesiastical year. Advent is upon us, the pre-Christmas penitential season, to prepare us for the joyous feast of the Nativity.

Let us observe the season fittingly. Let us lay aside worldly cares for a few days and engage in penance and prayer that we may be able to enjoy Christmas in the true Christian spirit.

Abstinence from purely worldly enjoyment for a few days will not hurt us physically, as spiritually. Indeed the arrangements of Holy Mother Church, if we only would look at the matter in the proper light, are along hygienic lines as well as for our spiritual benefit.

Frank Avowal

Why is it that when Socialists want to wheedle Catholics and other professing Christians into their fold, they protest vociferously that their cult interferes in no way with any religious belief and that Socialists are the best friends of the Republic and the United States? They know full well that they are deliberately falsifying facts.

James Leatham, in one of his pamphlets, makes this frank avowal:—

"Personally I feel called upon to attack Christianity as I would any other harmful delusion. I do not believe in the theology of Jesus any more than I do in His religion. We use the term 'uplift-sociology.' It is no use pretending that socialism will not profoundly revolutionize religion. The change in the economic basis of society is the more important thing to strive for; but if the triumph of the socialist ideal does not crush supernatural religion, then we shall still have a gigantic fabric of falsity and convention upon which to wage war. Happily—Christianity becomes less of a power every day. The bible has been used to aid and justify so many horribly wicked and so many absurdly foolish things that when the Christian socialist tries to recommend his socialism out of the pages of Isaiah or Amos, the Sermon on the Mount or the Epistle of James, men only laugh. So far, indeed, from Christianity being able to support socialism, it goes hard with Christianity to stand by itself."

Out in Washington, one J. E. Sinclair, actually had the nerve to make application for a school principalship after he had, in his capacity as secretary of the Socialist state educational bureau, sent out to the boys and girls of the state this treasonable circular:—

"The funniest of all the laws that they have made—down there by the Olympic oyster beds was this: Once every month, when you go back to school next September, you will have to go out in the yard or stand up in the room and salute the capitalistic flag and tell the following lie to it out loud: 'I pledge allegiance

to my flag and to the republic for which it stands: 'Our nation indivisible, with liberty and justice to all.'"

"If you will not salute the flag and say this stuff to its face, you will be punished by your capitalistic teachers or be expelled. Now, boys and girls, what do you think of these laws?"

Whither Tending?

There may be those who think our Catholic bishops and priests are too severe in their condemnation of modern dress and dances. But they do not study into the trend of the times or reflect closely enough on what is going on around us.

No objection is raised to the dance when it portrays innocent amusement. But these latter-day gyrations, reproducing as nearly as may be, the movements of the beasts who know no better, combined with the too often immodest dress of the day, constitute a positive invitation to evil thoughts. Certainly they do not conduce to elevated thoughts or toward refinement.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Union and Times, describes another later-day abomination in severe but fitting terms when it says:—

"Another abomination that taints the air of the hour is woman's dress. Some raiment is so grossly suggestive that it makes her look like a chicken ready for the pot—called 'dressed' when most undressed. No lady submits to the styles of the demi-monde of Paris. No lady will wear an advertisement for vice. No lady will 'half conceal' and half reveal herself, for such a course does herself greatest dishonor. Yet some thoughtless good women who would indignantly resent a verbal insult, insult themselves as no words of another could by parading themselves in a guise which is a direct interpretation of immorality. For shame, that the merely thoughtless should help this infernal impostor to undo the kingdom of Christ in the gentle hearts of the fair sex!"

Our Own Work

It is perfectly evident that, for a while at least, the so-called "uplifters," are to continue their much-advertised "social service." We use the term "uplifters" with no sinister motive. We know there are many earnest souls enlisted in this crusade and for these we have the profoundest respect. However, we fancy many of these are gulled by the pretentious term of "social service." Too often, to those on the inside it means—nothing more or less than proselytizing for Protestantism among our Catholic immigrants. Perhaps, it is well that we Catholics should mingle in this work in order that we may be fully informed as to its scope and import. But those who do so should be of mature judgment and well-grounded in their faith. As has been well said of certain home mission Sunday schools among a certain class of foreigners that as soon as the young and pretty girl teachers were replaced by women who knew the world a bit, the enthusiasm of the adult foreigners in the Sunday school diminished appreciably.

Nevertheless, as this social service plan is borrowed from the Catholic parochial center activity, there is no reason why the Catholic laity should not organize its own social service work. Here in Rochester Bishop Hickey has launched the Catholic Charity Guild which is doing such splendid work. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus are to maintain a free dental dispensary at the orphan asylums. There are in the other lines already in operation, whose scope could be broadened and financed to a greater degree of efficiency.

Your umbrella will last longer if you don't roll it or lend it.

There is a lot of speculation about grand opera in New York.

Talking across the Atlantic seems more practical than flying across it.

"Of what use is slang?" asks a Boston newspaper. In Boston none whatever.

A man who is fearful that he may do more than his exact duty usually does less.

Surgery as a cure for crime may cause some prompt repentances before it can be put into practice.

Though not ranking with the chrysanthemum, the red-headed cabbage has undoubted charms of its own.

England's little part with Japan illustrates once more that it is easier to find an affinity than to lose one.

Residences of presidents in some Latin-American countries need to be equipped with secret trap doors.

Perhaps if those obstreperous Mexicans should try football it might do something to relieve their feelings.

The difference between pride and vanity depends upon whether we have it or it is possessed by some one else.

We'd like to have a great deal more direct evidence that the government is making a good job of innuendering paper money.

Eggs, it is said, are going to 7 cents apiece—Perhaps there was some truth in the old legend about golden eggs after all.

A German city has prohibited Isadora Duncan from dancing there. The old-fashioned countries are hard to convince.

A Chicago court has decreed that ladies without escorts must not loiter in saloons. Have Chicago "ladies" being doing it?

In time the man who is looking for easy money will ascertain that wire-tapping is no more to be relied on than green goods.

Thomas Edison complains that when he stops work he gets sick. How would you like to have an Edison or two working for you?

Women are not admitted to the American academy of immortals. Immortals do not require any buttons sewed on or socks darned.

The thoroughly unscientific man is betrayed by his confessed inability to see anything of practical importance about radium except the price.

It is all right for Ipez Milholland Boisserin to say that the housekeeping can be done in ten minutes per day, now that she has a husband.

A letter left by Charlotte Corday for her father has brought \$75, but it's a safe bet Citizen Marat would have doubled the bid to have got it first.

In all the troubles and tragedies that afflict the land there isn't steady and persistent proof that the wireless is saving life and property on the water.

Vardon and Hay, the English golfers, complain of the inaccuracy of American journalism. At least they can't complain of the inaccuracy of American golf.

A gift of \$4,350,000 received by Cornell may not be quite the same thing as a goal scored against a major team, but it is looking at it one way a touchdown.

Now that he owns a newspaper, Kaiser Wilhelm may expect to be called out of bed some night by an irate subscriber who wants something kept out of print.

As there are more than ninety million people in this country, somebody was sure to be slighted when the invitations to the White House wedding were sent out.

According to a Washington correspondent, not one man in 10,000 understands the currency problem. But one seldom meets a man who does not know all about it.

Prominent and charming suffragette asserts that she disposes of her housekeeping work in ten minutes a day. Probably calls her own and says, "Shan't be home to dinner tonight."

Scientists have unearthed at Nippur clay textbooks showing that the "kids" of the ancients studied the three R's, but that they were sadly lacking in instruction in music, painting and bead-work.

Women applying for positions on the Chicago police force must be not less than thirty nor more than forty years of age. That age was long ago recognized as the one at which women are most dangerous, and doubtless the perk applies to law-breakers as well as others.

G. K. Chesterton derides all the talk about "good old times." He says there never were any. Nevertheless it seems to be established that the Greeks also danced the tango and that the turkey trot was not outlawed in Corinth until the reformers got control of the city council.

Two may live on what one may spend foolishly.

Occasionally we meet people who are almost as smart as we are.

The average man may have music in his soul, but his voice spoils it.

Marconi's word carries 2,000 miles. More than that, it carries conviction.

A few more exiled kings in Europe and The Hague can be used as a royal asylum.

In popular bird lore the hen is assuming more importance than the dove of peace.

The telephone is a great boon. It enables many a small man to talk mighty big.

Any dove of peace that saw Huerta's picture would know that Mexico is no place to build a nest.

The only trouble about collecting the income tax at its source is that it is the source of the trouble.

Prices of hogs are down, but the connection between hogs and pork seems to have been lost.

Highbrow discussions of children at play are easily reducible to a very short sentence. "Let 'em play."

It is fortunate that Sir Thomas Lipton derives more pleasure from building boats than from racing them.

Kaiser Wilhelm has bought a newspaper for \$2,500,000. What is German for "now is the time to subscribe?"

Berlin's ambition to surpass Paris as a center of gaiety is nipped in the bud by the Kaiser's edict against the tango.

It is sincerely hoped that the Balkan nations will bury their hatchet instead of continuing to bury one another.

A New York funeral procession has been halted for traveling too fast; speeding the departed guest, so to speak.

Perhaps one reason why the English sparrow chirps his tail so saucily is because it isn't long enough for an albatross.

Chicago physicians declare that there is altogether too much surgery. An argument for homeopathic surgeons, as it were.

With the suffragists the handwriting on the sidewalk seems to have taken the place of the handwriting on the wall.

Mr. Brown is to be succeeded in the presidency of the New York Central by Mr. Smith. Mr. Jones will have to wait his turn.

One reason why a fat is bad for family life is that the man can find nothing to do about the place except wipe the dishes for the missus.

When in the course of your casual reading, unsuspecting of coming trouble, you bump into that word "thru," doesn't it give you a jolt?

A Londoner who visited this country says he found money plentiful over here. It would be interesting to know where he did his visiting.

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