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Home

If argument were needed to prove the evil of divorce it is found in the menace constituted to the home.

What is home? It is not just where we eat and sleep. It is not just a combination of stone and wood, and iron welded into a building which houses our furniture and clothing. This description applies to a hotel, to an apartment house, to a castle but none of these needs be a home.

When we speak of "home," the thought involuntarily pictures up a place of rest, a place beckoning one toward it, a place where love reigns supreme, a place when father and mother and children are united as one and where the interests of one are the interests of all.

How can there be a home with husband or wife, although living, separate and apart? How can there be a home where the children, if there be any, unable to figure just who are their parents? Divorce is breaking upon home life more than any other cause. Ill-temper, drunkenness are both mighty forces in making homes unhappy but they cannot compare to Divorce. May the day soon dawn when Divorce will not be spoken of as a peculiarly American national institution.

The New Trend

While the national Congress is enacting a new tariff law and a new currency law, New York legislators are proceeding along other lines. Beginning with 1914, we are to operate under a new election law and a new primary law. We are also to proceed under a new factory code and employers must make provision for compensation to their injured workmen. Our local Chamber of Commerce is leading a crusade for accident prevention, both for carelessness on the part of employees and for installation of safety devices on the part of employers. Factory buildings must be made safer and more sanitary.

Meanwhile it cannot be denied that our literature is deteriorating. The slang and vernacular of the underworld permeate our magazines and periodicals. The drama smacks more of the underworld than of home life. We crave more for feverish amusement than for intellectual advancement. Even the dance smacks of the festival.

Probably this is but a passing craze and that sanity and mental balance will return shortly. Let us hope so.

Let Us Lead

It may be news to many uninformed persons but it is a fact that nearly all the features of what is known to-day under the all-enveloping, if at times a trifle hazy term of "social service" were developed years ago in purely Catholic countries. The trades unions, about which so much is heard nowadays, are the descendants of the ancient New Year's eve would not be "guilds" which were developed among the monks and fostered and

protected by the Church. Our great fraternal orders were of similar origin and Knight Templars of the Masonic fraternity were the Crusaders of song and story.

"Social settlement work" is but an adaption of the activities which have gone on for years in connection with every Catholic parish. Scarcely a Catholic priest could be found today in any large city who does not know more accurately the social condition of his parishioners than the most highly certified sociological expert in service.

Hence it is highly fitting that the Catholic Church in this and other communities should specialize in these branches as applied to our people. We can attain greater proficiency and efficiency at far less cost than the outside organizations to which reference is made. Moreover, there will be no danger of spiritual injury to those interested in or reached by the service.

In the Right Place

Every person who knows the shameless rapacity of the "loan sharks" will agree with the New York "Sun" when it says:—

After months of effort the prosecuting officers landed D. H. Tolman, a notorious loan shark, in jail for six months. All the subterfuge and tricks of his unsavory trade failed to save him.

Having a human desire to get out of the penitentiary, Tolman has now offered to burn up usurious notes of a nominal value of \$500,000 if the Government will release him. The destruction of these notes would leave him free to collect what is legally due on the accounts they represent. It is apparent that his offer is therefore to forego possible illegal profits for the sake of immediate liberty.

It is possible that more impudent proposals have been made in attempts to influence the pardoning power, but the public has heard of none. It almost seems as if Tolman's long career in one of the meanest businesses there is had utterly closed his mind to an understanding of even the elements of decency.

Incidentally, even the entire remission of these debts would not justify the release of Tolman one day before the expiration of his sentence.

New Legislature

A new Legislature goes into office next week. While the Senate membership continues for two years, and so remains unchanged during 1914, a new Assembly elected last November assumes control. Instead of Governor William Sulzer, Governor Martin H. Glynn will pen the annual gubernatorial message. The Governor and Senate are democratic in political sense, while the republicans and progressives have a majority in the assembly.

This political difference is likely to create a legislative deadlock so the legislative record of 1914 is likely to be of negative rather than affirmative or constructive character. The democratic Senate can block legislation enacted by the republican assembly and vice versa.

Possibly, conditions of affairs will work good to the taxpayers at large. There is no doubt that too many laws are enacted by our national and state legislatures. Even the lawmakers themselves are unfamiliar with the actual effect of the laws they help to place upon the statute books.

Understanding and enforcement of our present laws are more necessary than more and unenforceable laws.

"Temperance in all things" is a fine resolution for 1914.

More prayer and less revelry during the New Year's eve would not be amiss in Rochester and elsewhere if current reports are correct.

The married man who hesitates is crossed.

The trouble is that more people have cancer than have radium.

Most of the fun in going away is talking about your trip after you get back.

How fitting those Mexican names of towns are—Wares and Chlwarwar, for instance.

Remember that the parents of next year's mosquito crop are probably wintering in your cellar!

English suffragettes are going on a sleep strike. They've already murdered sleep for English officials.

It must be humiliating to France to know that the birth rate in Mexico continues to exceed the death rate.

Eggs cannot be adulterated in the shell, but they may be kept until the infirmities of age overtake them.

When a girl is miffed at a young man she sits on the piano stool where there isn't room enough for two.

Norway now threatens to go dry. And it might as well if it has tried early closing for a six months' night.

A French ministerial crisis does not last very long. It cannot, because it would be time for the next one if it did.

If political windjammers could be utilized as air pumps for inflating tires, what a great labor saving device it would be.

The United States government sternly refuses to get discouraged in its task of suppressing smuggling as a social diversion.

The president of Switzerland is paid only \$2,500 a year, but as his term lasts only a year he doesn't have time to get very poor.

Motion pictures are to be introduced on ocean liners. These and a few more lifeboats ought to make travel very safe and pleasant.

Dye mind the good old days when mother sent you to the neighbors to borrow a dozen eggs because the hens weren't laying yet?

If a girl doesn't begin to take piano lessons until after she puts on long skirts about the first thing she tackles is a wedding march.

The Japanese author who recently completed a hundred volume novel introduces the "yellow peril" as a horrifying literary influence.

Count Witte gravely remarks that there is danger of war in Europe. Really, count? Then Europe must be feeling quite as usual.

Mona Lisa having been found, the world will once more bask in her equivocal smile, which now she might justifiably broaden into a grin.

W. T. Stead's ghost, which a London medium says appears at his seances, makes a lot more mistakes in its grammar than Mr. Stead ever did.

A golfing statistician has estimated that the caddies of England earn \$12,500,000 every year, yet some youths prefer to be lawyers or doctors.

"Moderately hard work does not cause fatigue," says a physician. A good deal of fatigue is caused by efforts to avoid work of any kind.

The man who is smart enough to recognize good advice when he hears it is generally smart enough to make up his own advice in the first place.

As 1914 is not leap year, bachelors feel safe until 1916. But with three Fridays on the 13th in 1914 the superstitious are looking forward to unlucky days.

Orders have been received by the Fifth New Jersey volunteers that all its members must be vaccinated. Well, it's the duty of soldiers to bare arms, isn't it?

A Philadelphia schoolteacher declares that two words are enough for any spelling lesson. When we get child suffrage that woman will be president of the United States.

The French cabinet withdrew the \$200,000,000 war loan that caused the downfall of the Barthou ministry. This may help Europe regain its sanity, so long menaced by the military craze.

1914

Well, here we are,
at the beginning of
another year!
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for us all!

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