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Presumption

If there be one tendency more marked than another in this intensely materialistic age it is the tendency toward exalting man to the pedestal of Deity and of attributing to man the attributes and prerogatives of Almighty God.

Scientists and surgeons lay claim to power to override and set at defiance Divine laws. They profess ability to change a man's nature without regard to Divine intervention or aid. These would mould mankind upon a common model and breed the human race along the lines of the brute animals. To them the body is all there is, the soul either does not exist or, if it does, only as a negligible quantity. By "scientific breeding" they claim to be able to eliminate all defective beings and to banish disease from the world.

Whether intending to defy God the incorporation of a national institute to lengthen life smacks of the impious. Our Heavenly Father, in substance, tells us that a man may not add to his stature or length of days. When the Divine summons comes, not all the insurance policies, not all the research of all the institutes to lengthen life can keep us in this world one solitary second.

Would that one-half as much research were made into ways and means to spread knowledge of faith and religion—as to combat Divine revelation and commands!

The Legislature

The Assembly of 1914 is republican in its political complexion; the senate is democratic and the governor is a democrat. Hence it is apparent that no purely partisan legislation can be enacted in 1914 and that whatever new laws are enacted must be in the nature of compromises and the assembly and senate must give and take.

Possibly, this is not an unmix-ed evil for the state. Partisan legislatures have a tendency to go to extremes because there is no check upon their activities. Occasionally a bi-partisan legislature is more obnoxious than a partisan body because of this divided responsibility but we do not think this will be true of 1914.

Thaddeus C. Sweet, of Oswego, has been chosen Speaker of the Assembly of 1914. While a republican he is ranked as a safe and sane man and as a conscientious legislator. His election was in the shape of a compromise hence offensive partisanship on his part is not looked for.

Our compliments to the new Legislature and may it achieve a creditable record.

Catholic young people should shun the "dancing schools" which ostentatiously advertise "tango and all other modern dances."

By much laughter you may distinguish a fool.

Probably a Faker

We must believe the report that Governor and Mrs. Glynn are to give "tango parties" in the Executive mansion in Albany as a fake, pure and simple, unless absolute proof to the contrary is forthcoming.

Bishop Burke, of Albany, has interdicted the tango and all other modern dances. To be sure, this only governs dances conducted under the auspices of purely Catholic societies but the bishop's edict enjoins all Catholics from practising the objectionable steps wherever danced. Governor Glynn is too good a Catholic to lead a revolt against an express command of the bishop of the diocese where he lives and who is ranked as his personal friend as well as spiritual adviser.

No Catholic will refuse to bow in submission to episcopal authority in a matter so nearly affecting faith and morals as objectionable dances. Moreover, the self-respecting Catholic should not wait for episcopal intervention before shunning these animal dances. They are neither graceful nor elevating in tone. They are suggestive and provocative of evil thoughts. Good manners, as well as good morals, are shattered in these new gyrations.

Sensible President

If there is one innovation more than another to be credited to President Wilson it is that he eschews banquets and social activities of a semi-public character and attends strictly to the public business to perform which the people elected him. His immediate predecessors, Roosevelt and Taft, spent as much time in traveling here and there and in attendance upon social functions as they did in the White House attending to presidential duties.

President Wilson is not of conventional habits, his physique is not superlative, his health is not over-rugged. He feels it his duty to conserve physique and health in order to be in condition to trans-act the public business. In this he exhibits rare and good common sense.

It is no part of the President's duties to pose as a drawing card for banquets, exhibitions, circuses and the like. neither is it incumbent upon him to be upon public exhibition in order to gratify the desires of the curious.

Woodrow Wilson is a fine example of a self-contained man.

Mayors Fitzgerald, of Boston, and Stevens, of Albany are of the right sort. The first named would not permit "Salome" to be shown in Boston, the latter threatened to revoke the license of a theater whose manager declared he would disobey the orders of the mayor not to exhibit moving pictures of objectionable type.

It does seem as if the state should forbid absolutely all private banks except those that comply strictly with all the requirements imposed upon stock companies, trust and banking companies. This is well corroborated by the Siegel-private bank conducted as an adjunct to a series of department stores.

The Mann "White Slave Act" may turn out one of the greatest forces for good morals Congress has put in motion in a century. There is no reason why the well-thought and high-toned violator of moral laws should not be made to feel the rigors of the law as well as the low-browed chap who follows the trade as a purely commercial venture.

Mayor John Purroy Mitchell does not appear to be in favor among the sportsmen politicians. More power to him.

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