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A Respite

The Lenten season should come as a welcome respite, to speak of it in a purely worldly and physical sense, to those devotees of amusement and diversion as practised in almost every circle nowadays.

If properly observed, Lent offers a period of rest, a time for introspection and self-examination. It permits the nervous system a time for recuperation and rejuvenation.

To the society woman, wearied from the endless round of calls, bridge parties, the theater and musicals, the forty days prescribed for the Lenten season, provides a time for relaxation, a time when she can change activities and substitute purely mental activity for that of nerves and body. The man, who burns the candle at both ends and follows business by day and mad excitement by night, finds that the Lenten relaxation is a welcome relief.

And so it is evident that Lent is a special dispensation that acts almost as a life saver looking at it from a purely material point of view. But to Catholics it has, or should have a far deeper significance. It is a divinely appointed institution for the salvation of our souls. It affords a time when we can turn our eyes and thoughts heavenward and contemplate our approaching translation to another world, to reflect on whither we are drifting and if we be drifting in a wrong direction to change our course and steer toward a haven of eternal rest after this life's fitful dream, for that is all it is or can be.

Let us then improve the present Lenten season and clean house, as it were, for we know not whether we will be spared to see another season of its kin.

Let Us Pause

We take it that no one possessed of an atom of common sense is opposed to real progress. Every one of us wishes earnestly to better his or her condition unless he be the veriest clodhopper. Each father of a family yearns to give to his children the advantages of which he was deprived in youth. Everybody wishes that the condition of the poor be improved. There is no one except the seasoned philosopher, who has not wished that pain, sickness and poverty might not be abolished from the world.

Nevertheless, there is a Divine law which cannot be overridden. Truth should and always will prevail while Error will be exposed in the end. Hence we should weigh and ponder over each new "ism" the advocates of which proudly proclaim that its universal adoption would cure all the ills of the body politic. There is but one standard from which to judge the future and that is by the past. Therefore, we should examine historical precedent before accepting proposed reforms at their face value. In short, we should be right before we go ahead.

To the Point

That President Wilson selected a Catholic, Joseph Patrick Tumulty, as his secretary, has evidently gotten on the nerves of some estimable non-Catholic gentlemen who recently complained to the President that Secretary Tumulty had suppressed letters in which Mr. Wilson was criticized for favoritism toward Catholics. The letter elicited from President Wilson the following characteristic response:—

"My dear Sir—Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Jan. 15th and to thank you for your candor in writing me.

"I beg leave to assure you that the impression that any part of my correspondence is withheld from me in any circumstances by my secretary on account of religious predilections on his part is absurdly and utterly false. I venture to say that no President ever had more frank and satisfactory relations with his secretary than I have with mine. The whole of my correspondence is constantly open to me. Mr. Tumulty is more prompt, perhaps, to call my attention to matters in which his prejudice is supposed to be engaged than to the other matters of relative indifference."

"Of course, I need hardly add I am not speaking from an impression, but from knowledge of just how my correspondence is handled.

"Sincerely yours,
"Woodrow Wilson."

Matter of Regret

It is a matter of regret that Representatives Dunn and Danforth, representing Rochester districts in the Federal Congress should have voted for the Burnett-Dillingham bill now before the Federal Congress, and which applies an educational test upon immigrants yet which makes no prohibition against ignorant native Americans being permitted to exercise franchise in the United States.

We are impelled to the conclusion either that these gentlemen do not fully comprehend the purport of the bill or we do not.

There are some nasty bigots up in Buffalo who have been slandering a Catholic priest. He has taken the matter into the criminal courts and now they wish they had held their peace.

Rochester News Writers are a venturesome lot, to be sure.

Rochester Knights of Columbus have proven that a clean play, well acted, will draw a capacity house.

Governor Glynn is in a peculiarly trying position but we have faith he will come through with flying colors.

Why should nurses seek to monopolize the English language? Why do they not be fair about the legislation they are seeking?

Why is it that we smile when the laundrymen talk about "velvet edges?"

Catholic societies appear to be as lively as their non-Catholic competitors.

To the Legislature: Put on the soft pedal, speed up and adjourn soon and the people will rise up and call you blessed!

What is the matter with the men? Do they take no interest in the paper that defends their Church, that spreads the faith, that makes converts, and that vindicates their civic rights? They will march in processions they will join Catholic societies, they will pass resolutions by the yard, but many of them will not spend five cents a week for a Catholic paper.—Catholic Columbian.

It's better to uphold a good thing than to hold it up.

More of us would make good if our neighbors would quit shoving. Deceit never got anybody anything except a free pass to loneliness.

There is nothing to be gained by trying to discuss "safety first" with a barber.

Unfortunately the sweetness of victory never lasts as long as the bitterness of defeat.

The new king of Albania is said to be a famous athlete. Has he signed up with the Feds?

When a man marries he fully intends to be No. 1 in the family, but in many cases the period drops out.

A Boston man says mustaches ought to be prohibited by law. What would that fellow do to sideburns?

The attorney general's office never finds occasion for complaint of a lack of business in its particular line.

The government printing office wants 3,000,000 pounds of paper. Somebody must have been given leave to print.

The Pankhurst sisters are now said to be at outs. In the interests of standers they really should bury the hatchet.

If, as is stated, Boston has 414 different kinds of religion, the Hub of the universe must also be the hubbub of religion.

"A girl in a Milwaukee school of music strikes a perfect high G." Still almost any girl can do that when a mouse is in sight.

No pleasing those English militants. Their latest grievance against King George is that the poor man is tied to his wife's apron strings.

It would be just like some ignorant skipper to run his ship through the canal while the experts are proving conclusively that it can't be done.

Congress is in receipt of certain information furnished by a "competent expert." This is a desirable variety of expert. Let us have more of him.

The moving pictures and the phonograph will enable old timers of the future to talk about the great actors of their day to prove their assertions.

Genius, says Edison, is 2 per cent inspiration and 98 per cent perspiration, from which one gathers that it depends a good deal on the season.

A million dollars is a large sum for a fight around the world. Men have tried it for less and been caught by detectives before they got half around.

The prophet who specializes on what will happen a century or so hence does not run much risk of being personally contradicted by the course of events.

An Ohio man complains that his wife has left him thirteen times. No details as to the trouble are given, but we suspect that he plays the accordion.

Spring is on its way unless the wild ducks have made a mistake, which, however, is an instance where the "quacks" are to be regarded as authorities.

Women are now to be admitted to the Moslem university. Coeducation in "Turkey" when they finally become militant, consider the man with seven wives!

An estimate is printed that \$175,000,000 is invested in Swiss hotels. American tourists can easily figure from this what interest they are supposed to pay.

Germany has hitherto been content to go about armed to the teeth. Now the armament line is carried higher by an order prohibiting the close clipped or English mustache.

An Englishman has invented a machine to identify a criminal by his gait. We had always supposed there was a certain uniformity about the gait of men with the police after them.

An English court decision in a case involving liability in connection with the Titanic disaster indicates that much of the printing on transportation tickets is literature and not law.

If hens demanded that they be kept in the same style that the price of their eggs would warrant many of us would have to redecorate the drawing room and turn it over to them.

Of course he can do as he pleases about it, but if we were in General Felix Diaz's place we wouldn't hurry to Mexico in order to ask General Villa what became of Francisco Guzman.

There is probably no one else so glad to be thought twice before acting as the man or woman who made all preparations to commit suicide and finally decided to give this old life another chance.

Chicago claims to have the longest street car ride in the world for a nickel, but this refers to electric cars. New York is still able to make the proud boast of the longest ride on a horse car in a city of the first class for a nickel or any number of nickels.



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