

advertising is the last thing he ought to expect or deserve; similarly, a man having stamina enough to resist dictation of so offensive and improper a character would hardly be disappointed at any failure to exhibit him as a hero for merely doing what common sense and a fair conception of the rights of humanity prompt him to do. The NEWS has therefore refrained from magnifying or dwelling upon the affair, for the reason (1) that the Y. M. C. A. did only what they ought to have done and what any body of fair minded freemen would do, and (2) that Rev. Mr. McNiece and his meddlesome colleagues were guilty of an act too contemptible to notice.

Nevertheless, we are glad Mr. Bease discovered material for a sermon in the action last referred to, and banter the subject well. It more presciently would discuss current topics, and especially address themselves to the elucidation of broad, real Christianity, there would not be so many bigots or fanatics in the world. The gentleman's remarks were timely and patriotic; and we congratulate him upon them. Of course we also congratulate the gentlemen of the Y. M. C. A. upon the manly stand they assumed and declare themselves ready to maintain. There has seemed to the NEWS no necessity—and the view is now more plain than ever—to make any fuss about the affair, for if the rest of the local Christian community could stand it, the "Mormons" could. As to the bigots who made the complaint in the first instance, we have felt and still feel that souls so small that they could rattle around in a goat's head like a small bullet in a big bucket, were too infinitesimal a game to waste any ammunition on.

PRINCE BISMARCK.

The silly notion—entertained principally as a joke—that an individual entering this world on the first day of April necessarily belongs to the class of people easily duped, is most emphatically contradicted in the remarkable career of Prince Otto von Bismarck, who was born April 1st, 1814.

His life history must be nearing the end of the last chapter and any one reviewing it must admit that among European statesmen he is the foremost of the century. It was Bismarck that conceived the idea of consolidating Germany, and it is evident that the plan was laid with admirable skill from the beginning and carried out with equally admirable persistency. He made Prussia the central power in the international federation. To this state the others were made to gravitate until the unification had been accomplished. But to secure its existence he planned the wars that humiliated and weakened the only neighboring powers from which danger was threatened. Thus he turned his attention to internal affairs. His idea was to crush all influences in the state that assumed a position of independence of the imperial power. His Kulturkampf was but one incident on this program. Whether he was allowed to complete the plans in every detail is a question. The probability is that had it not been for the jealousy of the young emperor, the united Germany at present would have been less disturbed than it is by the rivalries of opposing parties with

which a less mighty spirit than Bismarck's is grappling in vain.

But the valiant leader's political work is done. May his evening be peaceful and his rest sweet!

FESTINA LENTE.

It is generally during the closing days and hours of legislative assemblies and congresses that the most injurious and unwise legislation is enacted. Sometimes the advocates of such legislation—men who have a selfish interest to subvert or who want to make trouble for somebody else—purposely delay their efforts until the lawmakers are tired and anxious to get home, or are so overwhelmed with business that no enactment can possibly receive the scrutiny and consideration which all deserve. More frequently, of course, the haste with which bills are passed at the end of the session is because the members themselves have been guilty of idleness or procrastination in the earlier days, and think to make some atonement by working overtime at the close. Whatever the cause or motive for the flux of law during the last week of the session, the fact remains that bad enactments then have a better chance than at any other time; and then, if ever, most of the improper statutes get into the books.

It is opportune, therefore, to repeat now the warning which has been so many times uttered during the now nearly closed session of Utah's first State Legislature. Nearly ninety days have elapsed since the members assembled in this city for the performance of the duties constitutionally laid upon them. If during that time any conceivable subject of domestic or foreign policy has not been brought forward in one house or the other as requiring the attention of our solons, we do not happen to recall it. On the other hand, a large number of bills have been framed, discussed, amended and passed—some of them necessary and wholesome, some mischievous and inopportune, and some really injurious if not vicious. Many of the legislators have acted as though they overexpected the State to have another assembly, or if it did, that its members would be quite incapable of doing anything. Considering that in the election of the present body nearly if not quite half the legal voters of the State had no voice, we are constrained to say the members have, perhaps unwittingly, shown great vanity and not any too much regard for the important circumstance just alluded to. It is true that no one of them can be accused, so far as we know, of deliberately attempting to force any legislation which he did not believe to be salutary. But many of them have already found, or will find, that they were mistaken on frequent occasions, while all of them will agree, we think, that much more has been attempted and done than was actually necessary at this time.

Inviting their attention to the fact that another Legislature will convene in less than ten months, we make this last call upon the members to win session to guard well the State's new statute book. Better let a dozen good bills fall than one poor one creep

in. Better wait anyway, except under a showing of the most positive necessity, than to try to fill the book with experimental laws. The old statutes have been tried and tested and ruled upon by the courts, and have become familiar to the people. It is unwise and unwise to tamper with them, at least to the extent of making radical changes. A tendency that cannot but be fraught with disaster is to try right in the outset to overturn and do away with the very things that have proved a safeguard in the past. In law-making, more than in almost any other line, safety lies in making haste slowly.

We know that this warning and these suggestions are late at this time, but they are still early enough to do good if heeded; moreover, they have been given before, and repeatedly. Just at the close of the session, however, a recognition of the policy suggested is particularly appropriate; for from now on until the sabbath of the President and the Speaker shall declare the respective houses adjourned sine die, every true citizen and patriot in the Legislature should stand, like a sentinel upon the picket line, ready to resist encroachment from any source that does not offer unmistakable proof of bringing needed succor, increased security and prosperous stability to the State and all its people.

A REVENUE SUGGESTION.

The government's need of money is a patent and unhappy fact; and of the making of remedies to cure the need there is no end. But one very palpable and seemingly desirable method of accomplishing this end receives perhaps less notice than almost any other that is seriously proposed. We refer to the levying of taxes upon the stuff that men swallow to their own injury, and which religionists and humanitarians almost universally—to say nothing of the law of God—declare to be not good for man. Here are a few startling figures on the subject:

There are about 250,000 liquor dealers in the United States. An addition of \$5 to the internal revenue license of each would yield \$1,250,000 a year of additional revenue.

There are 21,283,124 gallons of wine and spirits consumed annually in the country. An addition of 10 cents a gallon to the tax would yield a revenue of \$2,128,312.40.

There are 1,036,819,222 gallons of beer drunk in the United States every year. An extra tax of five cents a gallon, which would not add at all to the retail price, would yield a revenue of \$51,840,961 a year.

The government needs the money. Every cent paid in such taxes would go into the treasury, which is not true of any tariff levy. Such taxes would not lay any burden whatever upon consumption, though if they did, the plan would be none the less desirable. They would not add one cent to any man's expenditures for the necessities of life, even if these things could be called necessities, which they are not. They would make good the revenue deficiency and provide amply for the fortification and arming of our coasts.

Why not try something in this line, instead of so many interest-bearing bonds?