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INCONGRUOUS.

A FRIEND has sent us a clipping from the Waterbury (Conn.) *American*. The article refers to indifference shown toward the Young Men's Christian Association in Charleston. It was represented as afflicted with rapid consumption from unadulterated lack of interest. The fact was greatly deplored by those who desired to see it flourish, and various plans were presented for the purpose of infusing new life into it. One of these was a Baptist minister, who advocated the introduction of card-playing and kindred amusements so as to attract a greater number of the young. The proposal was impetuously shouted down by those who held views more in keeping with stricter orthodoxy.

The *American* not only coincides with the Baptist innovator, but goes further. It sees no objection to the introduction into those associations of card-playing, billiards, and other amusements, indulgence in which is generally the initiatory step to out and out gambling. In other words, in order to meet the requirements and tastes of the youth of the age, Young Men's Christian Associations should be transformed into "Christian clubs."

The wisdom of the position of the *American* is open to more than doubt—it is decidedly objectionable. Yet people, even in a community like this, are to be found whose views, while not so extreme, are kindred to those of that paper. We refer to a disposition to favor the mixing of religion with elements that are foreign to the letter and spirit of Christianity. The *American's* theory reminds one of the rhyme:

"The noble duke of York;
He had ten thousand men;
He marched them up the hill,
And he marched them down again;
When they were up, they were up;
When they were down they were down;
When they were half way up,
They were neither up nor down."

So there are some people who, to accommodate the spirit of the times,

desire to bring the religion established by Jesus Christ half way down to the level of the world. The leading idea associated with this operation is that while there are many who would be indifferent to religion while it occupies the high plane to which it legitimately belongs, they would take it when presented in a mixed shape. This experiment has been tried—so history informs us—on many occasions in the past. The same source conveys the lesson that it has failed as often as it has been attempted. The logical inference is that the same fate is in store for every present or future endeavor in the same direction. It was the descent from its exalted position to accommodate the genius and predilections of the world that caused the apostasy of the ancient church, until not even the skeleton of its former self remained, but merely a few fragments of bones, with here and there a decayed tooth attached to an empty skull.

Look at the theory of the *American*! In order to bring up to a half-way point a larger number of the youth, it would have certain innovations that are not at all religious, and have been proved to be mischievous in their tendency introduced into a professedly Christian organization. It would thus place the stamp of Christianity upon that which is foreign to its spirit. But besides placing a brand foreign to their nature and tendency upon certain amusements, observe the illogical character of the proposal in another aspect; while the object is to bring the more loose among the youth up, by placing these attractions before them, no account is taken of those who are above such practices, and the tendency that would exist to drag them down. How far the descent of many of them would reach cannot well be estimated. So while such innovations might, within the range of possibility, entice some out of the saloons and gambling houses, by means of opportunities of engaging in cards and billiards under the sacred stamp of Christianity, it would be within the probable that others who would never have thought of engaging in such indulgences would be led to the saloon and gambling houses by getting their first taste of such questionable exercises under religious auspices.

There are private families who profess better things, that engage in pastimes similar to those named in the foregoing. The excuse offered

by their heads is that the object is to provide innocent entertainment around the fireside, and thus prevent the boys from going to questionable places to engage in the vicious phases of the same amusements. The question arises as to whether the appetites for such pursuits have not been often created and whetted for forbidden fruit by such home facilities. It is the duty of every parent to seek to make home attractive to the young, that they may be induced to spend most of their time there. But there are many amusements which are perfectly innocent, and have no smack of the saloon or gambling house, that ought to appeal to the home tastes of the youth. They certainly will unless their inclinations have been badly perverted.

Among the importations of recent introduction to meet "the spirit of the times" are what are called "card parties," an innovation in the Christian household liable to lead to demoralizing results. They present the temptation before the young to attend card parties in places upon which the police occasionally make raids. Into the homes where such parties are introduced at the door the spirit of the Gospel is likely to depart through the window.

MANIFEST INJUSTICE.

THE decision rendered Jan. 17 in the Supreme Court of the Territory in the Hendrickson *habeas corpus* case carried what we regard in the light of a judicial outrage a step further. It continued for the time being the imprisonment of an innocent woman whose character is above the breath of suspicion, in flat contravention of the law, which speaks for itself.

The reason for the insertion of the clause in the Edmunds-Tucker law, exempting legal wives under certain circumstances from being compelled to testify in specific cases against their husbands, is not far to seek. In the beginning of the legal raid instituted against polygamists in 1884 legal wives were exempt from compulsion, but as one step after another was taken in departing from sound law in these prosecutions, various illegal devices were resorted to. Among them was the segregation system under which a large number of convicted persons suffered false imprisonment. When the Supreme Court of the United States decided that the method was invalid, a jail delivery of the victims was the result.