

CLUBLIST.

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McCormick Carries a Sword.

It makes much difference to the people of this country what kind of clothes their representative wears at the court of Russia, and for this reason:

Since the beginning of the United States of America until very lately it has been consistently and everywhere an influence in behalf of modern sanity and against all kinds of mediaeval tom-foolery and nonsense.

That was our first mission abroad—to spread respect for republicanism as the sane, modern, businesslike institution.

We have mostly forgotten these things now, but there was a time when we went much further than this. We used to assist republics fighting against monarchies and give our moral countenance to people that were trying to throw off the absurd institution of kings. For instance, the active sympathy of our people helped the South Americans to banish the ridiculous authority of Spain, and American help was of great value when Greece established her independence.

In other words, if the American republic has stood for anything in this world it has stood for the idea that in this age of science and progress there is no place for the laughable tinsel and caste of feudalism.

In accordance with this idea American ambassadors and ministers in Europe have always heretofore dressed as became intelligent men representing a nation of intelligent, sane and self-governing people.

The ambassadors and ministers of nations that still maintain comic-opera royalty dress state functions

in the comic opera style. In an age when there are railroads, telephones and the science of biology they appear in knee breeches, velvet coats, ruffs, ribbons, gorgeous colors and wear swords.

Heretofore our representatives abroad have been proud of the fact that they have had no share in this farcical pageant, but a few years ago we turned up one that was ashamed of this honorable distinction and asked permission to make a show of himself like other solemn owls.

The president of the United States at that time was William McKinley, clear-headed, democratic, business-like. He scented at once the huge incongruity of the idea and promptly smothered it.

Things have changed since then. The man that at that time wanted to make a guy of himself in a ruff and a red coat is now the secretary of state, in charge of all the ambassadors and ministers.

Mr. Hay believes in knee breeches. His soul is elevated by gold lace and a ruff appeals strongly to his esthetic sense.

Therefore, when Mr. McCormick, our ambassador to Russia, decided that it was necessary to his peace of mind that he should have a make-up and a sword dangling at his side the suggestion received a glad welcome from Mr. Hay. Mr. McCormick quickly got his permission to exhibit dress goods on his person, and now it is announced that all our ambassadors and ministers to monarchical countries are to be togged up in the same way.

The strangest part of all this is that Mr. Hay has secured the con-

sent of the strenuous hero of San Juan Hill. In fact, Mr. Roosevelt is said to approve heartily of the innovation.

If he does he is different from the rest of the people. This is supposed to be a business nation, and most of its ambassadors and ministers are business or professional men. What have they to do with the ludicrous trappings of courtiers? This is supposed to be a republic wherein all men are equal before the law and there is no such thing as rank. What have our public servants to do with the dress and musty old flummery of rank and title? This is supposed to be a country of peace and sanity. What have its representatives to do dressed like monkeys and running about with swords?

If the president will not stop this childishness, congress ought to. It is as far removed from the common sense of the country as hereditary titles would be.—Chicago American.

If you will not listen to gossip you will not hear it.

FITS

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