

OREGON EMERALD

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Saturday, January 20, 1912.

Pious But Not Wise.

The prejudice against dancing, properly conducted, is not entirely antiquated in some localities, even in this advanced day. Pacific University has been stirred lately by the efforts of a majority of students to introduce this form of amusement into the school and the matter was closed for a time at least, by the president of the University, who decided that sentiment was not strong enough in favor of dancing to justify its being recognized at Pacific.

We venture to say that the opposition at Pacific came from a class of students who have never danced and perhaps have never attended a dancing party in their lives, at least, it is the class that has always raised the objection in other communities: A type of moralists who feel it their duty to prevent their neighbors from committing those acts they regard as dangerous or sinful. This is the type Mayor Simon, of Portland, styled as "more pious than wise," a type who thought they could stamp vice out of Portland by abolishing the restricted district and succeeded in spreading it over a large part of the city, where it plies its trade as freely as before and much more viciously.

We recall a time when this element in Monmouth decided dancing ought not to be indulged in at the State Normal School. It even went to the daily newspapers to score the Registrar, who gave a private dancing party in his own home "behind closed doors," so they said. They succeeded in keeping it out of the school alright, but did not, by any means, prevent the students from dancing, in fact, they did not seem to care much where the students danced or at what kind of a place they danced, so long as the school was purged of this "instrument of iniquity." The students danced at private parties and at public dances in Monmouth, Independence, Dallas, and other neighboring towns.

To us at Oregon, who see no harm in it as we conduct it, dancing is a most refined and most attractive form of social entertainment, where our men and women mingle freely, chaperoned by persons of character, and where everyone carries himself or herself as becomes a person of culture and refinement; in fact, we who are dancing regularly, forget that there can be any harm come from dancing, until self styled moralists pop up and relate the awful things that might happen to us, not to them, if conditions were different from what they are.

Pacific University can conduct dancing within the walls of its own buildings so that it will mean only an evening of pleasant and harmless amusement to the students who dance, just as other colleges and universities conduct it, and we, who are familiar with the amusement, cannot think otherwise than that the opposition to dancing at Pacific will injure the status of morality more by its opposition than by its approval.

A Question of Lights.

The Emerald made a mistake last

issue in saying that the janitor of the Boy's Gymnasium turned off the lights at the Student Body party. That man, who by the way, is one of the hardest worked and yet one of the most accommodating workmen on the campus, was much worried for fear student censure would strike him.

No, Mr. Janitor, no student holds you responsible. The blame is laid at the door of the head of your department and along with it the question, "Why must the lights go off before the guests have left the building?" The dances should close by eleven twenty-five alright, and the dancers should be out of the gymnasium by eleven thirty, but it is a crude way to accomplish it by turning off the lights. Several times in the past absolute confusion has resulted as the three hundred dancers attempted to find their wraps and partners in the dark—certainly not a very good impression to leave with the out of town guests, as to the way we do things at Oregon.

In the future let's arrange with the manager of the party to close festivities at a certain hour and hold him responsible for doing so, nothing ever prolongs the dance but the request for extras by over enthusiastic individuals, and also please fix it so that the poor lights will be relieved of any responsibility in bringing about an early dissemble.

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