

## MODERN VS. GOTHIC

Stating that it is as ridiculous to say that any certain building shall be built according to some given style as to rule that women shall all dress in the same style, Henry Hornbostel, a New York architect, in his talk before the Architectural Society at the Union last evening, urged upon his audience that to become successful architectural designers "they must avoid all foolish masquerade and foolish rules and science and strive for charm and beauty."

He said, "If a building is beautiful and pleasing we will forgive it all its faults, just as we men forgive a woman anything if she is beautiful."

Mr. Hornbostel announced his subject as "Gothic Architecture," saying that in self-defence he would talk from the standpoint of a critic and not as an architect. Gothic architecture, however, was used only as the example from which the speaker drew his points as to the foolishness of trying nowadays to build a building in exactly the same spirit and style that a similar building was erected centuries ago.

Modern America demands a modern architecture, and to build a church in this unreligious age in the Gothic style, Mr. Hornbostel branded as ridiculous. When Gothic cathedrals were erected, the French nation was seized with religious fanaticism. Each little town gave up all ordinary pursuits and turned church-builder. Agriculture and industry came to a standstill, and when the church was finished the town was dead.

To design a modern church as exactly Gothic as it can be made, the speaker declared was an irrational step in this rational age. If, however, the architect designs a modern church and gave it a little of the feeling and expression which the old cathedrals possess, then he is doing the correct thing.

## COMMUNICATION

Editor of The Tech:

Dear Sir,

Friday is not the easiest night in the week for all Institute students and therefore not the most convenient dinner night for all. Assuredly, this is not the most convenient for those whose religion forbids the eating of flesh-meat on Friday. But, after all, a man's attendance at a dinner does not depend wholly on the amount of work he has for that particular evening, but rather on his own willingness to work ahead in order to make that evening convenient.

That another evening may easily be substituted for Friday is shown by the dates selected for the dinner of the class of 1913 and of the Pennsylvania Club.

Merely because a thing has become more or less of a custom is no reason to continue it when there is sufficient cause for a change; and opposition to a change which will work no hardship on one's self and which at the same time will be of decided advantage to another, seems foreign to the make-up of a broad-minded man.

The question as to whether or not the eating of meat on Friday is detrimental to the welfare of the community or the individual does not enter into this discussion at all and the remark of this nature in a recent communication was not apropos, to say the least.

Let dinner committees honestly consider other nights as possible dinner nights, and if they then still consider Friday as most suitable, at least let them make some provision for those who simply live up to their religion in abstaining from flesh-meat on that day.

This communication is directed at no dinner committee in particular, but is simply a Catholic student's view of Friday as a dinner night.

Arthur T. Bennis, 1912

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