

....Mr. James Bowen Everhart has won us forever by his speech in the Pennsylvania Senate against the immemorial right of boys to go a-nutting, which speech we find published in a little collection, so far as we can see, of all he has, at any time made. The anti-nut prohibition speech is the model and exemplar of the rest—a *multum in parvo*, tho not always well reported. We have not been able to discover the very best authority for our friend's Latin, but we do glory in his good sense and his English when he goes on to say:

"This is a bill [the anti-nut bill] which makes penal scientific inquiry, rural exercise, and juvenile recreation. It is the first attempt in our juridical history, to legislate against the maxim, *de minimis[sic] non curat lex*. It aims to hedge about with pains and guards those wild fruits which have been celebrated as common property in the canticles of Solomon and the dithyrambs of the classics. Such a law as this would have imprisoned the disciples and the Saviour.

"To-day it is a question of nuts; to-morrow it may be a question of daisies. To-day you may not touch; to-morrow you may not smell. To-day you make it a misdemeanor to pluck an acorn; to-morrow it will be a felony to drink out of a stream.

"Do not inaugurate a new criminal policy against traditional tastes and habits. Legislate, if you please, against the elements; against disease and famine; against statutory inconsistencies; against injurious appetites and belligerent passions; against cruelty to animals;

against 'the invisible spirits of wine'; against the kindly supervision of angelic women in jails. But do not impose infamous penalties upon the immemorial privilege of childhood and the proscriptive innocence of a hundred generations."

This is a model of an half-hour address, and an example of the fifty odd speeches collected in this little volume. With all the author's humor he does not degenerate into buffoonery, nor show himself at all deficient in broad political or economic conceptions. Expansion is, however, not his forte. He attempts no processes of reasoning, and might utterly fail in leading an unwilling audience along a reasoned line to his own conclusion. But the function of the thirty minutes orator was never more forcibly, more humorously nor more effectively discharged than in this volume of *Speeches, etc., by James Bowen Everhart*. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.)