So begins the record of each day’s Congressional performances. The Senate opens with Prayer. The House opens with Prayer. We trust that the Chaplains enjoy it, and that the Legislators are not bored beyond endurance. Thus far, there has been only one attempt by argument, and none at all by force, to interrupt the custom. It may be regarded as one of the proudest boasts of our nation that its history can show no instance of assault and battery upon a Congressional Chaplain in the discharge of his duty.

But this sort of thing can hardly be expected to last. Some of the People’s acute Representatives, who are as logical and considered as duty to their constituents will allow must very soon discover that logic and consistency alike oppose the notion of Religious Forms where they and their associates are concerned. They must see that the Minister of God’s Word has no fit place among them. They will begin to understand that the transition from invocation of Heavenly Love to North Carolina Tar and Michigan Feathers is too abrupt to be decent; and that Religion and Revolvers have no affinity except that of alliteration. Their eyes will be opened to the uselessness of Preliminary Piety when the voice of the Divine is likely to be drowned at any moment by fierce eructations of Illinois wrath, or the sharp snaps of South Carolina Derringers. It will become clear to them that the Christian precepts of the morning have no effect in repressing Mr. Kellogg’s tendency to muscular overthrow of his foes in the afternoon, or Mr. Keitt’s anxiety to bring forth his compact little death-dealer from his coat pocket in the evening. And, taking note of all these things, it will not be strange if they also take steps to regulate them. As no person now supposes that Congress will experience decorum, and relapse into good behavior, we can only expect that the other horn of the dilemma shall be seized, and that, logically and consistently, the abolition of the Religious Element in Congress be advocated.

Some will say that the greater the grossness of Legislative conduct, the greater the need of the Chaplain’s counteracting influence. But there are extremes which should never meet. Mildness and madness cannot go hand in hand. No more can blessings and blasphemies. We should not look for a Biblical inscription at the entrance of a brothel, and no one ever knew a Prize Fight to be opened with the singing of a Psalm. If Congress really needs some species of formality to mark its daily assembling. There are many things more in keeping with its present spirit than Prayer. Mr. John Morrisey might advantageously elucidate the principles of the Prize Ring, with practical illustrations. Or Mr. Van Amburg might appropriately introduce a few hyenas and jackals from his valuable menagerie, with remarks descriptive of their characters and habits. Or Mr. J.G. Bennett might read some articles from his Herald, touching the Whole Duty of Politicians. Or, Mr. Dan Rice might be called upon to deliver one of his affecting orations, and to develop the accomplishments of his talented mules. This last, indeed, would perhaps be of greater benefit than all the rest, as showing to what extraordinary docility and decency such animals may be brought by careful education and rigorous training.