

Piedmont and the Papacy.

Bycott F. Hershey, Ph. D. The struggle for civil and religious liberty under the charter of the New Testament teachings began in the early centuries. The pagan empire of Rome persecuted the Christians up to the down-fall of imperial paganism; and the papal persecutions began in the very first century of the attempted supremacy of the bishopric of Rome.

This persecution early reaches the little garden valleys of the Italian Alps, whose soil for thirteen centuries was to be saturated with the blood of those who loved the Lord. In the course of the church at Rome towards these believers in the Piedmont valleys, we shall see how, at its very dawn, Romanism adopted a policy which, by natural sequence, made it the unchangeable foe of civil and religious liberty.

In the fourth century, the bishop of Milan presided over these churches. He denied any succession from Peter; held to justification by faith; practiced two sacraments instead of seven; knew nothing of the mass, or extreme unction, while he declared that to adore images was pure paganism.

The persecutions of pagan Rome had driven many of the Christians to these mountain fastnesses, and papal Rome pursued them into their exile, and visited upon them more hateful persecutions.

The twelfth and thirteenth centuries form the great divide between the dark ages and the modern Protestant centuries. The light is beginning to show signs of breaking over Europe. The popes prohibited the Bible in Italy and conducted a crusade against the Piedmont Christians. During this period lived Dominic, the founder of the Dominican Order of Monks. Through him the pope organized the tribunal of the inquisition to oppose heresy, and made him the first inquisitor-general.

Wasted in numbers by the destructive persecutions, they appealed to Francis I., of France, for simple toleration. He replied that as he was busy burning heretics in Paris, he was not likely to spare them in the Alps. The darkest hour of the night has now come. Pope Innocent VIII. undertook to utterly exterminate them.

Terrific and sudden came the edict for their exile in mid-winter. This was done to make their suffering as intense as possible. They crossed the Alps, leaving their course strewn with their dead. Weak and exhausted they found a welcome on the shores of the blue lake of Geneva.

In four years a remnant of eight hundred started to return to their native land. It took them weeks to cross the Alps, but at last they stood within the Piedmont valleys. They entered solemnly into a covenant, involving the principles of brotherly attachment,

Christian equality, justice and forbearance to enemies in war and personal responsibility to the right.

But the end was not yet. It has been but one short century ago that it was determined by the popery to destroy the Protestants of the Piedmont. All the able-bodied men were on the frontier defending this country against France. The old and the young were alone with the women. The friendly message came to them that they were to be massacred that evening as the convent bells rang. Hurrily the doors and windows were barred, and a messenger was sent to the nearest post for their husbands and fathers.

How is this? Chiniquy's "Fifty Years in the Church of Rome," \$2.00; THE AMERICAN one year, \$2.00; Both for \$2.25.

Turned Out in Force.

LIBERTY, Mo., Nov. 26.—Fully sixty members of Clay Council No. 29, Jr. O. U. A. M., marched to the Presbyterian church Sunday evening, November 25, to hear the patriotic lecture by Dr. Bishop, given in their behalf. The church was crowded to its capacity. The subject was, "In America, American Ideas Must Prevail," and was in substance as follows: "The time when the American people must awake to the realization of foreign encroachments is at hand. The Bible is being crowded from our public schools at the hands of skeptics and foreign ecclesiastics and our schools are fast becoming Godless.

To you young men of the Junior Order who honor me with your presence tonight, I say, go on! You are right in banding yourselves together to perpetuate our grand American institutions. A check must be placed upon foreign pauper immigration. Church and state must be kept separate and distinct. Flags should float from the school houses all over this great land, and patriotism instilled into the hearts of your young. In America, then, American ideas must prevail. You want the Bible read in the public schools. Is it read in your homes?"

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When the Rabbi Would Eat Pork.

A Presbyterian minister in a small Ohio town was about to be married to a charming young lady of his congregation, and decided to invite all the ministers regardless of creed to attend the wedding ceremony and partake of a sumptuous wedding feast. He accordingly invited all the clergymen of the town, including Rabbi H———, and Father McM———, of the Roman Catholic church. All accepted the invitation and after the ceremony of uniting the two into one, the company sat down to a meal, the likes of which is seldom met with in small cities.

"Rabbi H———," said he, "I perceive you have not taken any of this dish," pointing to the pork.

"No, Father McM———, it is forbidden by my religion, and I dare not partake of it."

"Oh, yes, Father, there is one occasion when I would eat pork."

"And pray when is that?"

"At the marriage of your reverence."

The Secret of "Roman" Power of Hebetation.

Romanism is unfortunate in having so unfavorable examples of her influence, for Protestantism points to; for instance: Mexico under her rule, Spain under her rule in modern times, and Britain under Roman rule in ancient times. I heard a missionary just returned from Mexico say of a leading priest there, whom a physician attached to a Protestant mission had cured of his illness, who asked him: "If you had your life to live over again, what would you do?" Answer: "I would be a Catholic priest, for then I could have all the money, wine and wen I could want."

N. A. LIST.

Causes Which Led to the Uprising.

These were, in the order of their importance:

The Roman Catholic attack on our public school system.

The attempted foreignizing, by force of whole communities, in language and religion, by Romish priests.

The complete control of our great cities by Romanism.

The fact that our army and navy is almost wholly Romanized.

The remarkable increase of untaxed church property.

The frequent desecration of the American flag by priests.

The Jesuit control of the heads of the government at Washington.

The well-known public declaration of the pope that the United States is his one bright hope for the future.

The universal brag and bluster of Romish orators and newspapers, that Americans are cowards and that all the good which has ever come to this nation has come from Romanists.—Etc.

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HE PLAYED WITH THE FIRE.

O'Connor's Crooked Ways Cost Him Several Thousand Dollars.

The decision of the supreme court in the case in which the minor children of Winton H. Goble figured as the victims of the speculative proclivities of an Omaha attorney gives a strange ending to an old affair. J. J. O'Connor, the attorney in question, bought certain property belonging to the children at a forced sale, and the accusation was made that he had used unfair tactics to achieve the end.

The case was taken through the district court to the supreme court, and the decision was in favor of the children, restoring to them their property entirely clear of indebtedness. Mr. O'Connor had expended something like \$7,000 on the property, and had cleared it of all incumbrance. But on the showing that he had secured the title he had to it by illegitimate methods his rights were annulled and the property comes back with Mr. O'Connor out the amount expended.

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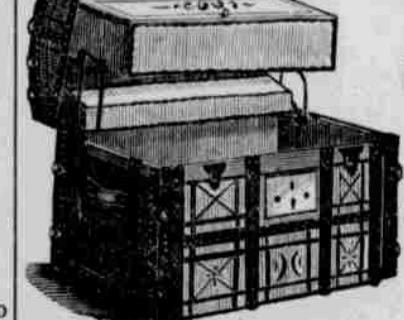
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