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"AMERICA FOR AMERICANS."—We hold that all men are Americans who swear Allegiance to the United States without a mental reservation.

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DID TUKEY HYPNOTIZE IT?

Board of Education Stories Which May Contain More Truth Than Poetry.

That there is need for some radical changes in the laws governing the board of education in cities of the metropolitan class in Nebraska is apparent to everyone who will take the trouble to examine into the subject. The present school board of Omaha is composed of fifteen members who are elected at large from the freeholders of the city, each serve for a term of three years, five of whom are elected every year. Under the law this board is charged with the disbursement of almost a half million dollars annually of the public school fund. They also have within their control and supervision over \$1,500,000 worth of property which must be kept in repair and properly improved, and they are charged with the almost constant employment of over 100 persons who must be paid from the public school fund. In addition to this they must purchase all supplies such as books, stationery, coal and everything required for the maintenance of the schools of the city, all of which they must do without remuneration for their services. Yet every year the scramble for positions on the board in the various parties are such that an outsider would think there was a princely salary attached. These men are often compelled to neglect their business to attend the board meetings. We have known men to expend as much as \$50 and even \$100 to secure their election on this board, and we have heard members comment on the amount it cost them to be elected and declare that they are determined to get it back in some way. Under the law there is no legitimate way in which they can reimburse themselves, and if they are thus inclined it is but natural to infer that they must resort to illegitimate means.

During the past year or two there has been some fat contracts given out by the board of education of Omaha, among them being the purchase of text books, in which there is said to have been a "rake-off" of nearly \$5,000. To what purpose and to whom this amount was paid this paper has no positive knowledge, but the patrons of the public schools are inclined to be somewhat suspicious.

In the purchase of some 500 or 1,000 shade trees for the school grounds it will be remembered that the board paid 75 cents per tree, while the park purchased better trees and had them set out in the parks for less than 20 cents per tree. It will be hard to make people believe that there is nothing suspicious about this transaction.

Again, it has been going the rounds of public gossip that members of the board have offered to secure contracts for repairs of various kinds on the school buildings if the proposed contractor would pay a certain per cent upon the amount received for the work. Perhaps this percentage was to reimburse for campaign expenses.

It is also said that many of the teachers in the public schools have purchased their positions and hold them through the diplomatic use of money among members of the board and others who might have some influence in securing their election, and continuance upon the pay roll—and in some cases the same teachers are said to be utterly incompetent. If such things are going on the people should

know it. It may be that this is another way of recovering "campaign expenses" with interest.

In the purchase of real estate there are several deals which will no doubt bear investigation. One case in particular, is that of the purchase of a school site in the First ward. This property had been offered to a previous board for \$8,000 and the owner of the property had had it listed with real estate agents for sale at that figure. Yet this same property, through the manipulations of A. P. Tukey and others, was sold to the school district of Omaha for \$12,500. Omaha citizens are naturally inclined to ask: "Into whose pockets did the difference go?" It is possible that this \$4,500 helped to make up "campaign expenses." There has been filed in the district court of Douglas county a petition demanding the reconveyance of this property back to the original owner and the payment back of the original purchase money. No doubt this will bring to light some questionable transactions which the people ought to know about. The case is in charge of Attorney H. A. Meyers. Did Tukey hypnotize the board?

The total annual taxation derived from taxation of Omaha property—both city, county and state, aside from special taxes, is but little over \$800,000 and the expenditure of this money is delegated to the state, county and municipal departments of the government, who are paid salaries by the people for looking after their interests. This paper believes that a laborer is worthy of his hire and that any person employed by the people to transact their business should receive proper remuneration for their services. The board of education of Omaha ought to be amenable to practically the same laws and receive just compensation alike with other departments of the city government.

The members of the city council are under bonds for the faithful performance of their duties. They employ less help during the year and have far less responsibility. The board of county supervisors and the city council together have far less responsibility than the board of education. Therefore the result has been that a useless lot of men have been elected on the board from time to time because men of good business abilities could not afford to take the place to the neglect of their own private business; and so long as the law remains as it now is we can expect nothing better. The patrons of the schools have practically no redress for any wrongs that may be committed. Our legislators ought to see to it that the law is so changed that the people's rights shall be fully protected and any wrong doing punished.

DECEIT.

When Rev. John Huss was summoned to attend the council at Constance, he got a written statement from the Emperor that he would give him a safe-conduct. The conduct was given but it was not safe. The emperor was told by the leading papists, when he wished to have Huss protected, that it is not necessary to keep faith with heretics, and then the emperor fell into line and helped to prosecute the reformer. The pope may be whispering now to the Spanish sol-

diers that it is not necessary to keep faith with heretics, and to kill them off as fast as their rifles can do the work. Probably the men who have been sent home to their mamma, the queen, may be able to tell the pope how to fight heretics, and how to do it in short order and be able to come home soon. The emperor, because of not keeping his word but obeyed the wish of the pope's followers, will always be looked at as a knave or a fool.

W. R. I.

MICROGRAPHS.

Protestants are making advances in Paris, and that people may yet get out of the darkness of Romanism.

So many of the Italians are sought after by the Protestants, the Roman Catholic church is now attempting to reach them.

If the business men of Manila want the R. C. orders sent off the island, are they sharper than the business men of the United States?

The Romanists are placing every line they possibly can in newspapers to advertise and aid their corporation. Let the anti-papal press follow the same plan.

The Irish may not fancy this, and many of the Italians have no respect whatever for the pope's church. They think he gets too much and keeps too much of it.

The Roman Catholics would be glad if they could manipulate the Methodist Book Concern printing plant. Will the laymen and ministers of that denomination let them do it?

If the plan of killing the soldiers off may cause McKinley to do the Henry IV. act, after the next election, many papists will smile, although they have a John Ireland working for privileges.

In Andrews, principal of the Chicago schools, boss or la he bossed. Now we will see the composition of the principal. Yet he may have his friends to pursue another course to get even with the papal gang in the windy city, the Dublin of America.

Has any one listened to hear any of the Roman Catholics tell of Spain's ruin on account of the dying of many A. P. As, who were in the war, and who have, since that time, been nursed by the devoted Sisters of Charity, the servants of the pope, who laments the thrashing his beloved daughter, Spain, has been getting?

Emperor W. am may do a good thing for the world yet. If he interferes in the election of a new pope he may continue the good work that many from Germany have done. If he will see that a pope is placed there, who will disband the Jesuit society, he will benefit all nations, and if the Jesuits oppose and fight, let all the nations give them all the opposition they want. Religion is one thing, politics is another, and Jesuitism is another.

We have more testimony that the Bible is the book that is causing the priests to leave the Roman Catholic church. It might be a good idea if the papal church would use it a little more, so that this may not be the case. What we must do in the United States is to keep the Bible in every public school, and have state laws so that if the majority of the people in a given district want a chapter of the Bible read, without note or comment, no one will be able to stop it. If this must continue to be a land of liberty, this should be the course taken. A.

A BIG CROWD.

When Rev. John Huss was tried for preaching orthodox Christianity, he was summoned before a council at Constance. There were 300 prelates, 200 princes, nobles, royal ambassadors and delegates of cities. Among the dignitaries 1,500 priests, 2,400 knights, and the total number of strangers in the city sometimes exceeded 50,000. And the big crowd with so many Romanists condemned the man because he did not leave the Bible and preach popery. There has been a big crowd of pope lovers in the Manila bay and about Santiago, and the hand of justice seems to have been laid very heavily upon them. The decision at this time was an injustice to Huss, to Europe, to lovers of free speech, and to the true students of Scripture, and the big crowd is now getting it in the neck. As long as the same spirit is continued by this Roman Catholic church, she will be meted out the same kind of medicine to take.

W. R. J.

MASONS KILLED BY ROMANISTS

The Grand Lodge in Cuba Murdered, and Their Wives and Children Hunted with Bloodhounds.

A recent issue of the New York Journal gives the following account of the wholesale slaughter of the members of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, at Santiago, twenty-nine years ago:

"Onelda, N. Y., July 29.—Captain W. Hector Gale, of this place, is a member of Onelda Lodge, No. 270, A. P. and A. M., and one of its past masters. Yesterday he said:

"Now that the day of retribution has come to Santiago de Cuba, every Free Mason in the country will rejoice, because of the massacre, thirty years ago, of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Santiago and the subsequent treatment of the widows and orphans of the members.

"In 1869 the Grand Lodge met at Santiago, as had been its custom. It had never been disturbed by the government, but on the night before the meeting was given out that arrests would be made, and if resistance were offered the building and everyone in it would be burned by the troops.

"In view of this threat the meeting was held with open doors, yet the fraternal men were arrested—and three hours after sunrise the next morning they were all taken outside the city and shot.

"Next, the families of these murdered Masons were placed on trial for the alleged acts of their husbands, fathers and brothers. The result was that their property was confiscated, they were declared paupers, and the populace was forbidden, on pain of imprisonment, to give any of them assistance. These families, deprived

of home, food, shelter and the means of obtaining them, and forbidden to leave the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba, sought shelter in the woods.

"The inhumanities and barbarities which these women and children were subjected to passes belief. They were charged with all sorts of robberies in order to have them chased with bloodhounds. These chases were followed by a mob, and when a victim was caught she was tortured until she confessed or died. Their bodies, after these fiendish tortures, were left on the ground in horrible mutilation.

"An attempt was made at the time to induce our government to intercede for these helpless sufferers, but it came to nothing. In 1869 there were 300 of them, and in 1870 thirty or forty still survived. The others died from starvation or were killed by bloodhounds.

"In 1874 when the crew of the *Virginus* was captured and murdered, the crew of the Spanish vessel, the *Tornado*, made a great celebration. About midnight, when they had all been drinking freely of wine, a party was formed to hunt with bloodhounds the remainder of these survivors of the Grand Lodge massacre. The hunt was described as too horrible to relate. After it was over an American consul belonging to the fraternity went into the woods and arranged for the burial of nine who had been murdered, and found seven others not yet dead, but suffering and mutilated. There are more murders than those of the Maine to be avenged in this war."—Kansas Freeman.

EDUCATION IN HAWAII.

Between Hawaii and the lately conquered Spanish islands, writes A. Tolman Smith in the Independent, there is a striking contrast of educational conditions.

The mixture of population in Hawaii is greater than in Cuba, and greater as regards diversity than in the Philippines. Americans form but little more than 3 per cent of the total; and if the English and German residents be added, there is still only a nucleus of 10 per cent having similar antecedents. Such, however, is American prestige in the island that a system of schools modeled on our own is in full operation, and every child in the island, of whatever nationality, learns to read and speak English. That the language has not been forced upon the people is evident from the fact that the public schools for the natives, in which the Hawaiian language was used, have become extinct by the preference of the natives for the English schools.

The Honolulu public high school occupies a fine building in the midst of ample grounds adorned with rare plants and beautiful flower beds. The school has classical and scientific courses and aspires to affiliation with the University of California. Besides the government schools there are many private academies and seminaries, much resembling those of the United States.

The Spanish islands, also, have school systems, that of Cuba making quite an effect on paper. Although the schools in this island are classed as public and private, they are virtually all church schools—church and state being one in Spanish territory. Oral instruction prevails so generally in Catholic schools that attendance upon them and good instruction of its kind

are perfectly compatible with a high degree of illiteracy.

Prolonged war has interfered with the routine of civil administration, and no late reports of education have been circulated. In 1889 there were 38,000 children reported in public schools, and 23,146 in private schools, or 4 per cent of the population as against ratios of 10 to 16 per cent in educating countries. In all the large cities public schools were maintained for the blacks. For the year named the government contributed \$119,000 for the public schools, a large proportion of which went to the salaried officers. That is, from first to last, the bane of the public service. Its end and aim has been to provide an income for government dependents.

But it must be remembered that 65 per cent of the population belong to the white race and possess undying traditions that link them to the glory and culture of the past. Private societies, especially the economic society (*Sociedad Economica*) of Havana and Santiago, have been active in promoting education. There are classical schools preparing students for Havana university, which has no mean reputation. In 1895 it reported 671 matriculated students and 555 non-matriculated. A large proportion of the professors are native Cubans. The severest arraignment of Spanish rule that has recently appeared is from the alumnus of the university, Dr. Antonio Gonzalez Perez, who, in the August number of the *Nineteenth Century* gives a vivid idea of the nature of the Spanish repression. The inhabitants of Cuba, he says, have been kept in ignorance. Quite recently the rector of Havana university and the directors of the superior colleges of the island, were ordered to send to Madrid annually a list of all text-books adopted

in public schools to make sure that nothing contained in them was opposed to the Christian religion or to Spanish authority. Until the last war, 1868, school books were carefully examined and all allusions to modern ideas, liberty, independence, etc., were struck out.

In respect to education Porto Rico is an inferior copy of Cuba. Young men of the wealthy families are usually sent to Paris or to Catholic colleges in the United States for a portion of their training; but the poorer classes learn little more than the catechism and the creed. It will not be easy to infuse English ideas into these people, back of whom are centuries of Latin precedents, who love authority, if it be mild, and whose passion for liberty is at present little more than the spirit of resistance to a hated system.

The Philippine islands present conditions of population somewhat analogous to those of Hawaii. Besides the small resident Spanish population, consisting of the army and navy, civil officers, ecclesiastics and a few merchants, there are 100,000 Chinese, who monopolize the chief industries. The bulk of the inhabitants are Malays and negroes. Nominally 6,000,000 of the natives, or 50 per cent, are Catholics. Education is in the hands of the monastic orders, and in spite of the recent uprising against them, it is a matter of record that they have given many zealous teachers and preachers to the work of improving and civilizing the natives. It is not to be supposed, however, that there is any such deep and vital attachment to the Catholic church in these islands as is the case in Cuba and Porto Rico, which have a long history of culture and of pious reverence inseparably associated with that church.

The question of future educational effort in these several islands is already being pressed upon our government; but at present no course can be defined. The statement that English schools are to be opened in Santiago, at once, does not imply any effort toward a government system. The islands are not yet under our control, and when they are it will be a wise policy to consult their own preferences in a matter so intensely personal as that of the education of children.

Protestant missions will, undoubtedly, enter with ardor into these fields, and the Catholic church will redouble its work there. Meanwhile, the influence of a new civil order and the demands of commercial intercourse will be powerful incentives toward a new order of education.

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING AS AN ISSUE.

I had purposed to continue without divergency. The citation of Scriptures directly and unquestionably bearing on the time of Christ's second advent, of which there are an abundance not yet brought forward. But I am strongly impressed with the conviction that I should interject an article dealing with some of the arguments or claims deduced from the Scriptures by our Advent brethren, in support of the future and very near coming of our Lord. If I shall be permitted to further have space in the American I will resume my former method of dealing with the subject. I have perhaps already abused the kind indulgence of the good editor of our truly and genuinely American paper. I have heard it said, and have seen it in print to the effect that we cannot consistently watch, or have interest in looking for an event that is so uncertain as not to be known whether it shall transpire today or a thousand years hence.

With the early disciples, nothing better or different could be the case with them as expectants of our Lord's return, especially provided, if Christ's second coming is to take place. If uncertainty of the time of an event, divests it of interest, as to the time of the occurrence, then up till now, according to the philosophy of some of our leading Advent brethren, watching

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