

# THE AMERICAN.

VOLUME I.

OMAHA, NEB., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1891.

NUMBER 20

## CATHOLICS FIRST.

The Hon. John Rush will have his hands full killing off the American Protective Association and explaining why he said "we are Catholics first and citizens afterwards," and with the church at Rome at his back will he finally accomplish the task? You remember probably when John made use of that choice sentiment. It was when they were laying the corner stone of St. John's church, on the 27th day of June, 1887, before a large audience. It was published in the Omaha Bee of even date, from which we take the following speech:

Right Reverend Bishop O'Connor:—May it please your lordship, as this is the first opportunity in a lifetime in which so large and general a number of Catholics of this city and diocese have gathered together, I have been deputed to express to you our heartfelt pleasure and that satisfaction we feel in meeting you to-day on so auspicious an occasion—a prince of the church of God surrounded by his loyal, spiritual subjects.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without publicly expressing our fealty to you and to the church of which you are the visible head in this diocese.

Although there may be defections in the ranks in other places, and although pride may gain the ascendancy over some, thus making them teachers of false and dangerous theories condemned by authority and blindly persisting in their evil course, even to the extremity of incurring excommunication. Yet we wish to assure you that our loyalty and devotion to Mother Church and to you, her visible head in this diocese, remain unshaken, true and sincere. We would fain have your lordship realize that, in spite of our frailties, the worry and anxiety of life the other too numerous hindrances which are the stumbling block in the Christian's pathway, we are in heart and in practice CATHOLICS FIRST and citizens afterwards.

Now, as you have, at personal inconvenience, kindly come publicly among your spiritual children on an occasion whose importance induces so many of them to gather together, rest assured that it is our earnest prayer that the Almighty Father, the giver of all good things, will grant you long life, health and happiness, and when the time shall have come for you to meet your Heavenly Father, at the close of a life devoted to the good of others, we trust that we, your faithful and devoted children present, will have caused you no anxiety, but rather have been a consolation and a joy to you. This is the humble prayer of the Catholics of the diocese of Omaha.

The reporter who wrote the blowout up says: "John Rush on behalf of the laity present read the above address before his lordship had time to leave his carriage."

This then is patriotism! This is the priceless boon for which the gentleman who edits the South Omaha Tribune is fighting—the right to be a Catholic first and a citizen afterward. We thank Almighty God that the A. P. A. does not use such a standard of loyalty. We are proud that we are American citizens first, and whatever circumstances, and our consciences makes us afterward. If to be a Catholic first and a citizen afterward is loyalty to our country, then we are rebels; then is the billingsgate, the hogwash, which the editor of the Tribune is vomiting upon decent, respectable citizens deserved; if it is not, then the sooner the gentleman subsides the better off will the Roman corporation be. There will not long be room in this country for a class of people who boast of superior allegiance to something other than the government under which they live and exercise the elective franchise, if men who claim everything is subservient to

their allegiance to the country are met at the ballot box by those who owe allegiance to the church first and the country afterward.

Those who believe that way will have to convert the members of the A. P. A. and all other Protestants or they will have to set aside that false idea of fealty to something other than the government under which they live, and become full brothers in this crusade against the Roman machine which teaches the youth that they owe allegiance to the church first and the government afterward. The South Omaha Tribune brands all that THE AMERICAN says a pack of lies, and states that the editor produces nothing to substantiate his assertions. The Tribune man is mistaken. We have and can prove every word we have said. By the words which proceeded out of John Rush's mouth, we have convicted the Roman Catholic laity of the diocese of Omaha of owing allegiance first to the church, and of giving to the country the second place in their hearts. Next.

## A GOOD ADVERTISEMENT.

Ex-Gov. Robt W. Furnas, of Brownville, secretary of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society, has kindly furnished us a complimentary ticket to the Nebraska State Fair which is held in Lincoln, Sept. 4th to 11th, inclusive. Nebraska's annual exhibit of agricultural and horticultural products has done much to advertise her great fertility and resources.

## THE WATERWORKS.

An ex-employee of the waterworks company says it does not discriminate against Americans or Protestants. He was one of the men laid off.

## FORM YOUR OWN OPINION.

Constitutions guard the rights of personal security, personal liberty, private property and of religious profession and worship."—Kent's Commentaries, Vol. 1, Page 407.

I do further declare the doctrine of the church of England, of the Calvinists, Huguenots and other Protestants, to be damnable. \* \* I will help, assist and advise all or any of his holiness' agents, in any place wherever I shall be and to do my utmost to extirpate the heretical Protestant doctrine, \*destroy\* their \*power, regal or otherwise.—Jesuit oath.

I will use my best endeavors to promote civil and religious liberty.—From the Oath Furnished American societies by Roman Sympathizers.

## GO TO

322

North Sixteenth Street,  
SARGENT'S  
For Fine Boots and Shoes.

Have your friend add his name to our subscription list.

Sargent, 322 North Sixteenth street.

Subscribe for THE AMERICAN.

## JOHN RUSH IN A NEW ROLE.

Monday afternoon two gentlemen were standing upon the corner of Fifteenth and Farnam streets, talking politics and business, when along came John Rush, city treasurer of Omaha, who, being acquainted with the men, passed the time of day and, after a few preliminary remarks, invited them in to take a cigar. Few men ever refuse to accept an invitation to take "something," and these gentlemen were of the great majority. One was a democrat and the other an independent, so, when they had the fragrant weed between their teeth, the independent inquired:

"Well, Mr. Rush, what will you be up for this fall?"

"I am looking for nothing," that worthy replied "I have some very important work to look after, and it will require ALL my time!"

"Is that so; what is the nature of your work?"

"I've got to break up that d—d gang—the A. P. A. outfit—and it will take me all fall to do it. But I'm going to break it; I'm the only man in Omaha that can do it, and I propose to see that it is done."

"But," spoke up the democrat, "don't you fear a fight on the A. P. A. would result in driving many men into the order, who would go in to fight for their friends and the principles they advocate. If I were you, John, I would let it alone. It will gradually die out if you keep still, but if you stir up a fuss it will be sure to grow."

"No it won't. I can stop it, BUT IT WILL TAKE ME ALL FALL, and that is why I won't be a candidate for any office this time."

We agree with John Rush, it will take him all fall—and even then he may not get through. He may have to call in his friends, the Jesuits, and even they may find it enough of a job to keep them busy all fall. It may even be necessary to Crononize a few of the leaders of the A. P. A., for which purpose he can call in the Roman mafia; yet it may be that even this will not stop the growth of the order that is a thorn in the side of all traitors to the constitution of the United States and its form of government. In that case a display of bayonets by the Hibernian rifles may accomplish the result, that this man Rush—this man who in the presence of a vast multitude, declared, on behalf of the Roman Catholic laity of the diocese of Omaha that, "WE ARE CATHOLICS FIRST, and citizens afterward"—so much desires. If it does not, God only knows what will. Surely no one at all acquainted with the A. P. A. and its plan of campaign, will envy John Rush his situation. In Omaha the A. P. A. is—in one respect—like its enemy, it is like a sword with one mighty handle and thousands of blades scattered throughout the city, and no man knows when he sees or talks to one. If John Rush can cope successfully with the A. P. A. then will we call him great; and if he does not, the

church of Rome has failed, for she is backing him.

And how does the church of Rome fight? Slander, vituperation, abuse, bulldozing, intimidation, perjury are her weapons; all these, or any of these, she will furnish her loyal son, if he but says they are necessary for the defeat of the A. P. A. He may not need any of them; he may not allow her to choose his weapons, but we shall see. John Rush has declared that he can and will break up the American Protective Association. To him then will henceforth be attributed all that may be said detrimental to the loyal men who have the courage to openly and secretly wage a war against this most iniquitous, pernicious and disloyal religio-political monstrosity known as the Roman Catholic church. To him will all credit be due if Omaha allows her public schools to drop to the standard of the Roman parochial schools; to him will be due the credit, if the order comes from Rome, for Romanists to refuse to pay their school tax and send a bullet through the heart of the tax collector, of having instigated the outrage. But this will not happen. John Rush will find that he is a small potato. There is no use for the Romans to kick against the pricks. They have made their bed and must lie in it. No man can utter the sentiment which John Rush did June 27, 1887, and claim part or parcel in the government of his country. There is no such thing provided for by the constitution or the laws as John Rush declares all Romanists in the diocese of Omaha to be, that is "Catholics first and citizens afterward." That is the claim of every Romanist, so again will we agree with Mr. Rush. This is what we have preached from the first issue of THE AMERICAN, and John Rush has furnished the evidence to prove our assertion to be true. Now, fellow citizens of Omaha, what do you think of the A. P. A? Is it not time true Protestants were organizing, when a public official will stand up before a large crowd and openly, publicly declare "we are Catholics first and citizens afterward?" You surely will need nothing further to convince you the movement is necessary.

Boots and Shoes, the best makes, at Sargent's, 322 North Sixteenth street.

## COMMITTEEMEN

You can save both time and money by getting your Invitations and Programs printed at this office. All our job type direct from the type foundry and of the very latest styles. Telephone No. 1271.

## THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The charge has been repeatedly made that Mr. Fitzpatrick, superintendent of schools, is a Romanist. In order to forever settle this question we request an answer to this question: "Are you a Roman Catholic, Mr. Fitzpatrick?"

322 North Sixteenth.

Tourists, travel via B. & M.