

THE GERMAN PLATFORM

We, Catholic Germans from all parts of the United States, assembled in the Fifth Catholic congress in Buffalo, have

1. To offer our most devoted affection to the supreme head of our holy church, express our gratitude for the holy father's blessing and promise anew and for all time, in our name and in the name of congregations and societies represented by us, our filial devotion and unflinching fealty.

2. With delight the German American congress embrace also, in this year, the opportunity of pointing out publicly and distinctly its position on the so-called Roman question—namely, the temporal power of pope. Besides the extreme religious importance of the question itself, we, as faithful children of the church, deem it our sacred duty to make this public declaration of the reason that the holy father, himself the most competent and, indeed the only competent judge in the matter, has never ceased both to proclaim solemnly and forcibly his inviolable rights to the territorial independence of the holy see and to encourage the Catholics to fearlessly defend the rights. As free American citizens we will not tolerate any interference with the free expression of our views on this extremely important church matter. This objection, or false supposition, that it is indeed inopportune to discuss openly the Roman question in our country; can only be explained by tracing it to a pitiable deception or to the want of courage in showing fearlessly our true Catholic convictions. No national or international principle in law, no sovereignty of a people can ever endorse, or sanction a usurpation conflicting with the freedom and independence guaranteed to the head of the church by the Divine Founder and injuring several and emphatically the sacred interests of the 200,000,000 Catholics. The entire free exercise of the highest apostolic power, according to God's ordinance, is intimately connected, as well with the welfare of the entire church as with the territorial independence of the holy see, willed by divine providence. It is necessary in our present political and social situation to secure and accord that freedom in its full meaning the word. The natural seat of papacy is the center of the church, and as the metropolis of the Catholic world belongs to the pope (letter of Leo XIII. to Cardinal Rampallo), who have, moreover, used the rights of sovereignty acquired in justice and sealed by solemn contract, over the welfare of Italy and Europe, and the whole world, as true benefactors of mankind. Recent events, especially the selection of our glorious reigning pontiff, Leo XIII, to settle by arbitration any international controversy, and the pope's excellent encyclical on the most important and burning topics, especially on the condition of labor, have proved sufficiently that the entire freedom of the holy see would be of the greatest importance to society, suffering already the many ailments of the present century. With confidence we leave it to divine providence by what means the restoration of papal independence will be brought about. In the meantime we will never cease to courageously sustain the holy

father and to strive with all legal and legitimate means to regain the freedom due to the successor of St. Peter. In this respect we agree, with the utmost pleasure, the idea suggested at the recent Catholic congress held in Germany to call an international Catholic congress for the purpose of urging the restoration of the temporal power of pope as an independent sovereign. For the reason that political circumstances have prevented the adoption of said resolution in Europe, we believe that our beloved country, the land of the free, is the proper place for holding such a congress, since we are not bound by political prejudice and imperial intrigues. As Catholics of the United States, we consider it our honored duty to adopt the resolution of our brethren in Europe. We believe the time has come when an international congress can convene for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of the pope's temporal power. We believe that no country in the world is better adapted for holding such a congress than the United States, and that no time more opportune than the occasion of the world's fair at Chicago, in 1893. This our cherished wish, we respectfully submit for the consideration and approval of all our brethren in the Catholic faith, to the good will and approval of our efficient bishop, especially of his eminence, our beloved cardinal, James Gibbons, of Baltimore, and lastly, with filial reverence and love, to the decision of our sovereign pontiff Leo XII.

3. We offer the Holy Father our most respectful and sincerest thanks for the excellent encyclical on the labor questions. As faithful children of the Catholic church we deem it superfluous to expressly state that we shall use all our efforts to execute practically the principles laid down in said encyclical and to bring them to the recognition of the public at large, inasmuch as we believe that only by maintaining those principles the solution of this most important question of the day can be found.

4. The liberty, on natural rights and guaranteed by the constitution, of educating our youth, is a boon which we demand, hence we most emphatically protest against every attempt at interfering with that liberty by unjust legislation. Guided by the principle so frequently quoted by our holy father, we declare that education without a religious basis can be but productive of evil results. We protest, therefore, against every interference; we condemn the so-called Poughkeepsie plan, in which religion had been made a side-show, and hence, can have little or no religious influence in education.

5. We demand the full right and liberty to retain, without interference from any one, our German mother tongue, together with the language of this country. At the same time we protest most emphatically that for this reason the cry of foreignism is raised against us, and that an attempt is made at denying us equal rights with other American citizens.

6. Hereby we state again that our hopes for the future are based in the central union of German young men's societies so successfully and happily brought about in Pittsburg and of our congress attaining a permanent char-

acter. Although the congress will not in the beginning be productive of great and astonishing results, yet we are pleased with whatever good it has done. We appeal to all our friends and those of our youth to co-operate with us harmoniously to secure greater results.

7. We gladly seize the opportunity presented by this congress to renew our former declaration of fidelity and confidence in and attachment to our reverend bishop of the United States. We look upon them, honor them as our rightful superiors, placed over us by Almighty God.

8. We protest all attempts to encroach upon the rights of Indians in the selection and practice of their religion. We protest in the name of liberty and justice against the attempts that are being made to withdraw from the Catholic Indian school the support of the government, under the hypocritical plea of supporting the public school, and opposition against Christian education, especially against the Catholic church.

The concluding section express regret at the death of the illustrious Dr. Windthorst of Germany.

At the meeting of the society of German Catholic Young Men the following officers were elected:

Rev. B. Hahl of Pittsburg, national president; Phillip Schindle of New York, vice president; Charles Oeo of Pittsburg, recording secretary; Joseph Reiman of Pittsburg, corresponding secretary; Joseph Matti of Buffalo, N. Y. financial secretary; Henry Hess of St. Louis, treasurer; Directory; H. Vanderveldt, Cleveland; Henry C. Kraemer, Fort Wayne; Wm. Nolte, Wheeling, W. Va.; A. H. Rogeman, Chicago; Louis Schell, Chicago.

Archbishop Katzer of Milwaukee was chosen protector of the central band of German Catholic Young Men of the United States.

WHAT BISHOP O'CONNOR SAID.

At the Baltimore lay convention in 1889, the "late lamented" Bishop O'Connor, whom John Rush welcomed to Omaha a few years ago, said:

"Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Roman Catholic church."

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.

Are you an American? Then let us do your job work.

HAVE YOU READ

Fifty Years in the Church of Rome

—BY—

REV. CHARLES CHINIQUY,

an Ex-Roman Priest.

It is a Book of the Times;
It Unmasks the Roman church;
Lays Bare Her Deepest Schemes
Exposes Her Base Designs Against Our
Free Institutions, and
Shows How to Checkmate and
Counteract Her Nefarious
Conspiracies.

Every Protestant Should Read

CHINIQUY'S

FIFTY YEARS

IN THE

Church of Rome

Particularly Those Who Send Their
Boys and Girls to Roman Pa-
rochial Schools.

Chiniquy is the Nemesis of Romanists.

Made Such by the Most Outrageous
Treatment,
The Most Unmerrited Persecution and
the
Darkest of All Conspiracies Against His
Character, His Liberty and His
Life.

AMERICANS

Who are now in Bondage to the Church
of Rome Should Read It.
Those Who Have Shaken Off the Yoke
Would Find It Interesting.
It Would Do the Romans Good, if They
Would Read It.

A BOOK FOR TRUE, LOYAL AMERICANS

The Author of Which is Endorsed By
the Leading Ministers of the East.

Rome Cannot Disprove It.

You Order through this Office and Save
One Fifth. We Have Made the

PRICE \$2.