

HISTORY OF ROMANISM

Proves It to Be the Greatest Curse That Ever Blighted Humanity.

A gentleman recently sent the following note and correspondence to the Sunday Democrat, but for some unaccountable reason the editor neglected to publish the communication:

PRIVATE NOTE.

"Editor Democrat—Dear Sir: I send you the enclosed communication in answer to articles published in your Sunday Democrat. You advocate an open discussion, it would seem, from assertions printed in your columns, and therefore you are given an opportunity to present your readers with a little light from the non-sectarian position. I write you as an American only, not as a Protestant nor an A. P. A., for I am neither. I suppose you have the moral courage to publish this article in full. You are doubtless high-minded enough to do it, but should you lack the sand, personally, or be prevented by Romish control, I shall know that your thunder is artificial, and being second-handed must merit the eventual failure of every half-hearted cause.

"This article will appear in THE CHICAGO AMERICAN in case your heroism is not equal to the occasion, but I shall not presume that you are at all behind your brother American who edits the latter paper in anything we call patriotism. Your circulation is in need of an increase. Keep up the good work. Yours respectfully,

FORTY-FOUR."

"Dear Sir: Some few days ago, hearing THE CHICAGO AMERICAN cried out by the newsboys on the street, I bought a copy out of curiosity and read it. A few days afterward, hearing the Sunday Democrat proclaimed as an antagonist of the former, I got one and read it pretty generally through. I suppose you intend winning the majority to your side of the case and to destroy the main inspiration of the A. P. A. From the general tone of your articles it would appear so, as the scourge is applied to the enemy with no light hand. I notice also that the denunciations against you and your style of Americanism is no less vehement from the enemy's batteries.

"If you will kindly allow me, I will call your attention to what I consider is the cause of almost all the noise. Fifty years of association with the institution of American freedom, which is now under fire, and a just appreciation of the lessons in patriotism and human independence handed down from sire to son since the day my ancestors in America set foot on Plymouth Rock has filled me with as much concern for the prosperity of the nation, the perpetuation of our free educational system, and the general advancement of the republic as you or any other citizen can ever feel.

"From the neutral ground between your differences I wish to call your attention to the true cause of this uprising of the people, this rapidly growing power which you ought to have foresight enough to see will be abated only when the end for which it was instituted shall have been accomplished.

"In the matter of religion, which you seem to make the bone of contention, I am unbiased and am entirely uninfused by any allegiance to any order, secret policy, church, oligarchy or ism; for the religious opinions of all, therefore, I can feel a respectful regard. I will say further, that I am not a member of the A. P. A., and shall offer my remarks without fear or favor.

"Perhaps you are more familiar, or entirely conversant with the history of what is known throughout the world as Romanism. You should be, having evidently entered the lists and thrown down the gauntlet as its champion. If you have girded on the sword in that cause, your battling will not avail—you will fall. It is indefensible and the most God-like heroism would be wasted if put forth to uphold the pernicious fabric.

"The history of the Roman Catholic church has proven it to be the greatest curse that ever blighted humanity. That church is a treacherous political power. It always was, and the primal boast of its manipulators is that it never changes. Nor did it ever change its course of devilry except by compulsion from those its detestable workings had enraged beyond endurance. A repetition of the high-handed power wielded by this villainous system in the middle ages is eagerly sought by the pope and his officers in this country, and through the good-natured apathy of the American masses the sneaking serpent has been able to get a few coils about some of freedom's most cherished idols. You who are using so much thunder to distract the attention of our people from the python in the grass are not deceiving anyone. The snake is in full view now. You are only calling the reptile's enemies to arms. Knowing these things, you cannot profess ignorance of what the incentive is that prompts the awakening of eventual millions of men in this country for a redress of grievances, the organization of the American Protective Association or like societies. The movement is not new. It had its origin far back in the past, when it was felt by the priest-ridden people that the Romish church was the enemy of freedom. Her implements of conversion—the sword, the faggot and the gun, and the eloquent tortures of the

inquisition—kept a pervasive influence for a time, and held down the adverse sentiment of the outraged from being openly proclaimed. Then came Martin Luther, that giant of the reformation, who struck like a thunderbolt against the church's battlements blows of such terrific power that the inflexible hypocrite of Rome quaked within his etched Luther, the hero of free conscience, fought long and well, and brought the church militant to its first halt. It was then that strong arms and stout hearts were compelled, in self-protection, to cast off the octopus that held body and soul in its clutch, to the prostitution and debasement of the one and the enslavement and damnation of the other.

"On this solid rock of emancipation from this hell on earth was laid the foundation of the American republic. "You will be inclined to say, doubtless, that this is putting the case too strongly, but in the fierce light of incontrovertible history the atrocious villainies of the 'church' are so fearfully in evidence and so shockingly repulsive that no mortal can command language of sufficient expressive power to picture forth the colossal crimes and the vile, underhanded schemes of which the church is guilty. And what is this church of Rome? It is that infernal, vast intrigue built and maintained upon the superstitions of ignorance and masquerading under the name of religion, having for its motive the servility of man and the subjugation of his intellect. It has long ago been convicted before the world. It only remains now for the intelligence of enlightened nations to pass final sentence and wipe forever from the earth this culmination of barbaric iniquity.

"Look back at the unspeakable horrible inquisition of Spain. That slaughter house of the Romish church in which the infamous Torquemada visited with torture and death the thousands of his fellow men, who had the heroism to claim part ownership of their souls, or who denied that the church was greater than Almighty God.

"The heart sickens over the pages of verified history, and the sensitive brain reels in the presence of these awful revelations. Was that establishment a fair sample of what the Romish church is trying to arrive at in this country? Is that the kind of religion you are defending? Turn around and look at what the church has done in this line, and remember that "history repeats itself when it can." By their work ye shall know them." The character of Romanism has been proclaimed, and it behooves us to heed the words of the immortal Garibaldi, "In the midst of Italy, at its very heart, there is a cancer called popery, an imposture in which we have a most formidable enemy, most formidable because it exists among the ignorant classes, because it rules by falsehood and sacrilegiously covers its deceptions with the cloak of religion. Its smile is the smile of Satan. This enemy is the popish priests." Popery in America is in good condition to be characterized in the same words.

"When Victor Emmanuel undertook the reformation of Italy's thralldom, he suppressed 2,382 convents. Eight hundred and seventy-six of these were female nunneries. There were 18,200 nuns and 7,671 lay-sisters. Well, there is no comment needed; the facts are eloquent enough to show that there was no need of marriage among the Italian priests. The same thing exists here, under the 'cloak' of course, and your parish priest makes it his business, through the confessional, to keep up the supply—and it is kept up. It will not do to assert that these nunneries are established to save the souls of women; the world knows what they are for. They must go, and your priests be allowed to marry.

"You have said in your paper that the A. P. A. wages war on Catholics, because they are not Protestants. You know better than that. Religion is not the question at all. As for myself I have no word of denunciation for my brother man because he prefers to seek a life eternal by the Catholic route instead of by any of the other trails that are supposed to terminate in heaven, but I ery anathema against the secret and underhanded game that the subtle and fine-working Jesuit is playing to get the upperhand in the government of this country. The emissaries of the pope have had smooth sailing for a good while now, with the wind in their favor, but there are breakers ahead, and they must tack ship or go to pieces. You will doubtless conclude at this point that your subscriber is no better than others whom you style bigoted persecutors or, perhaps, heretics, as the old inquisitors put it. If so, let me refer you to another kind of critic, no less a personage than M. T. Elder, a Roman Catholic of New Orleans, who sent a paper, which was read at the religious congress during the world's fair. Possibly you did not hear it; if not, I will tell you some of the things it contained. If you did hear it, you may find something to reflect upon. It struck the true note when it denounced the Catholic parochial school as being a "factory for retrogressive education and a producer of that order of intellect that you will find among the Catholics who compose the great majority of our

citizens. It said further that "the great inventors, scientists, literateurs, professors of learning, jurists and statesmen of the world are not Catholics," and that the "Romanists, by a vast majority, were further back in intellectual attainments than any other sect of christian people on the globe." There are exceptions to this sweeping assertion, I am sure, but their name is not legion. The truths that this high authority of the church thundered forth at a congregation of priests and laymen were not of a quality that can be questioned, they are too palpable, and the priests all know it.

"Perhaps that good Romanist was an A. P. A. No member of that order ever said any more than that. Such men would make the church religious and not political, and would send the Catholic children to the public school and not teach them catechism. That is the kind of Catholic I can take by the hand, for he is not a snake in the grass. A man like that might be respectful to the pope on grounds of courtesy, but could never be servile. This is the kind of spiritual minister that would modify the debasing system of Romanism and all that it implies, and would strip off the cloak of sanctity from the theatrical mummery in what the church misnames 'divine service.' You will notice, perhaps, that the chief business of the priesthood is to hold the women, soul and body, in their clutches through the confessional. The children, both their own, on the side, and other men's, will then be in their power to recruit the church with by educating them backwards, by the catechism method, and equip them with ability to walk in the rear ranks of progress and take the dust of their superiors who march in the vanguard with the band.

"This confessional business is one of the abuses which needs correcting, and it must be done through the public schools of the country. Educate your children as your Protestant brother does his, and there will be no A. P. A. As it is now the greatest efforts of the Catholic clergy are put forward to blast the American school system. Education is Rome's most potent enemy, and Jesuitism writhes with fear lest the light of intelligence may open the eyes of the multitude to its trickery. In my opinion this condition of things will obtain sooner or later, it is inevitable, the world moves on.

"I have intimated that Catholicism, as it has always been practiced, was degrading, and would debase the morals of the people and prostitute the intention of the Almighty wherever it could get a chance. The proof is overwhelming. Look at the condition of the lower classes of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Bohemia and the South American countries. Intelligence is the exception, ignorance the rule. We see plenty of it in the emigrants to this country. The contrast between those from Roman Catholic countries and the people from Protestant communities is so great that Rome should blush for shame. As to the character of your priests I know some who are inclined personally to be good, pure, honorable men, and who would, if they could, be loyal to the American idea. Some, again, are scoundrels, just as they would be were they ordinary citizens. The same may be said of Protestant ministers, but personal character has nothing to do with the theology or methods of either system.

"In the Protestant method there is no menace to home and liberty. Political supremacy and abject surrender of conscience is what the 'mother church' requires, and she gets it if she can. Rome will never be able to get the iron grip on this country that she has so long striven for, but the establishment of the parochial school in defiance of good sense and in place of a far superior system, the endowment of nunneries and the maintenance of the confessional, all of which combine to hold the priesthood together for an unholy purpose, shews what would eventually happen to us if we did not wake up and put a stop to it. I know there are many Catholics good and true men, good husbands and fathers, to whom the idea of the confessional, priestly celibacy and the nunnery are abhorrent. They are the kind of Catholics who, in times of danger, stand forward in the nation's defense. They are the kind that can be relied upon to resist any attempt at the prostitution of our liberties. Against them and their religious convictions no true American of any sect will ever raise his voice, but against the ultimate aims and aspirations of the machine run by the pope of Rome the patriotism of America will rise in its might. It will be of no use to make the blatant assertion that the A. P. A. is composed of traitors. You will not be able to blind sixty million of people much longer; there will have to be a change for the better. The Catholic church in this country will one day be presided over by a married priesthood, and the female-ruining confessional and the back-acting school will be abandoned—the A. P. A. will then include everybody, and differences in forms of worship will have no effect on politics. In one of your articles you speak of the burning of the Ursuline convent at Somerville, Mass., or as you say, Charlestown. You need a little coaching as to the facts. Your coloring of

the incident is a little off from the truth. Of course you have painted the occurrence in Roman Catholic tints and the picture is therefore misleading and unreliable. In writing up a sensational article you should keep to the truth in the historical mention—comment, of course, you may use at liberty. You say a Miss Harrison from Philadelphia ran away from the convent because she was insane, and that the buildings were set upon by a mob and destroyed on account of this trivial circumstance. Now, I think you should have posted yourself on your subject before writing it up, for you see there may be some of your readers who have given the case attention before you did. It was Miss Rebecca T. Reed, of Boston, who fled from the benedictine hell, and not Miss Harrison. She was not mentally deranged, as you have stated, but was pretty near it. It wouldn't have taken much longer to have driven her into insanity. She was kept a prisoner, debased, insulted and tortured in an institution established by foreigners, built with foreign money, rigidly Catholic, un-American, managed by an Italian priest and masquerading under the guise of a school for the education of Protestant girls, closed against inspection and conducted in a strange and mysterious manner. The revelations of Miss Reed aroused the resentment of the populace; it was decided to abolish the "seminary" because it was pernicious and altogether undesirable in a country where there were plenty of moral free schools and colleges, and it was abolished in a style that gave an idea of what American indignation is like when it offers to rebuke a national insult.

"I could give you a more minute review of the 'affair,' but consider it unessential. I have stood on those ruins and had the whole story then and there from my father, and others who were eye-witnesses of the occurrence. The records of history are open to the investigator; look the matter up. When you speak of the burning of the Mount Benedict convent you cite the matter as being the "most fiendish and diabolical outrage in all the bloodiest records of history." Your knowledge of what history has recorded is about on a level with the sincerity of the patriotism displayed by the reverend fathers and other champions of the Roman church in this country—simply 'out of sight.' Nobody was killed or injured at the reduction of the Ursuline fraud, but how about the massacre of St. Bartholomew in Paris, and, in fact, all over France? Did you ever hear about that? The 'records' you refer to say that upwards of 25,000 men, women and children were murdered in cold blood during some six weeks while the pope-sanctioned harlot, Catherine de Medici and her imbecile, son Charles IX., held their infernal revel in the capital. This was a sample of what Roman Catholic treachery is capable of when it gets a good chance. Get the history of the conquest of Mexico. If your hair does not stand up at the recitals of the numberless atrocities and wholesale murders done by the Catholic Spaniards in the name of Christ, you are less than human. Look over the 'Lives of the Popes' if you would like to know what kind of holiness has been prevalent at Rome. You will find the earth has never produced their equal for licentiousness, treachery, debauchery, libertinism and every vile crime that abundant opportunity and immeasurable knavery can conceive of.

"In every community of poor people throughout the christian world there is more or less suffering and privation, especially among the Catholics; yet they must pay their tithes to the church or be 'read from the altar.' The pope must get his 'Peter's pence' every year, too, on account of his poverty. This amounts to something like half a million dollars a year. Plus IX, managed to make his dupes believe that he had no money, yet he had English government bonds worth \$55,000,000 and real estate and other securities of over \$60,000,000 more. Oh, yes; he was quite a pauper! The angel who now swings the 'bull' pen at Rome and manages to eke out his miserable existence has only the squalid income of sixteen hundred thousand dollars a year, and they say he is a bachelor, too, and hasn't a family of sons and daughters and four wives, as his great cardinal, Antonelli, had—owing to the 'cardinal virtues' of the priesthood, I suppose.

"I have often wondered why some of you editors who are clamoring for fame don't take up the description of the running machinery of the Catholic church, and let the people know what the real business of the nunnery is, and why there should be any secrecy attached to it—why it is not open for public inspection? Why there is a lot of healthy women kept there, and why they are never let out, but are continually visited by unmarried healthy men—not eunuchs either, by any means? Why the numerous children born there are strangled and consumed in lime pits, and a hundred other well proven but not generally known practices. These institutions, we are told, are soul-saving joints.

"To sum up the whole matter, these polluting European relics of the dark ages must be uprooted and swept from our country. Are such damnable works necessary in the worship of God? We know they are not! Why, then, should they be tolerated? Let the Catholics in America swear off allegiance to Rome and be true Americans for liberty, happiness and home, and his spiritual minister will have a wife and legitimate children of his own. The nunnery will have no custom and the pollution of young women and the manufacture of Catholic prostitutes will come to an end. Here is a chance for you to immortalize yourself. Go at it and never let up until you have put a stop to priestly celibacy. Let the A. P. A. alone; you are only helping them on; your position is untenable—you cannot hold the works—retreat in good order while your rear is open. If you don't the enemy will flank you, and with his superior artillery will cut you all to pieces. "He that fights and runs away," etc. I have the honor to be yours respectfully,

published by the adjutant-general in 1876, under a resolve of the general court. The Ninth Massachusetts regiment of three years' service, with a total of 1,922 men, shows 241 desertions, and all the names are Irish except six. The Twenty-fifth Massachusetts' regiment, a distinctively American regiment, shows a total of 17 desertions out of 1,999 men. I cite this only as a typical instance. Military authorities state that the great mass of Irish desertions were from the New York regiments, the New England Irish being a better type. These figures are sufficiently near the truth to vindicate as "so" the figures published in the Sun.

MADISON C. PETERS.

New York, May 19.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN EUROPE

Losing Ground When Compared With the Progress of Protestantism.

Luthardt's Evangelische Lutherische Kirchenzeitung, of Leipzig, the most influential positive church periodical in Germany, in a recent issue, gave from authoritative sources some interesting data, showing that for a number of years the Roman Catholic church has lost ground when compared with the progress of Protestantism. From official German sources we learn that between the years 1875 and 1888 in the nine old provinces of Prussia, i. e., exclusive of the three acquired in 1886, the number of converts from Roman Catholicism to Protestantism was 22,764, while the Roman Catholic church secured from the Protestant only 2,441. The number of converts from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant is steadily increasing—a fact as notable as the proportional number of changes. From 1875 to 1880 the figures were 7,762; from 1880 to 1885 it was 7,327; while in the three years, 1885 to 1888, it was 5,232; in 1890 alone it was 2,032, and in 1893 it was 2,274. The only German state in which the Catholic church gains more from the Protestant than the latter does from the former, is Bavaria, the bulwark of the church of Rome in the land of Luther; yet even here Protestantism is gaining numerically at the expense of Catholicism. From 1885 to 1890 the percentage of Roman Catholics in the total population fell from 65 to 62.8, while that of the Protestants increased from 32.9 to 35.2. In Alsace-Lorraine from 1886 to 1891, the Protestant contingent increased from 245,000 to 337,476, while the Roman Catholic decreased from 1,304,000 to 1,227,189. In England the Roman clergy, indeed, increased in 1871-1891 from 1,629 to 2,573, but the Roman Catholic population of the kingdom has decreased by about two millions in the last forty years, while the Protestants have increased nearly ten millions. In 1841 Great Britain reported 19,563,333 Protestants, and in 1881, 29,296,807; while in 1841 the Roman Catholics numbered 7,214,771, and in 1881, 5,451,881. While the losses to Rome through Old Catholicism have not been as great as was hoped and feared, recent events show that the movement is still a strong force. Recently a whole Roman Catholic congregation in Leitmeritz, in Bohemia, joined the Let Catholics. In Italy the entire village of Montorfano did the same, and in Szabalya, in Hungary, 650 German Roman Catholics lately became Protestants.

"How much larger was the purely American element among the earlier troops needs not to be recalled to any one then in the country. A small portion of the men who forsook their colors were Americans. It is a notorious circumstance that the great mass of the professional bounty-jumpers were Europeans. In general the manufacturing states, as for instance, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey, rank high in the column of desertions; and this result is to be attributed not only to the fact that such states are dotted with towns and cities, but to the secondary fact that these towns and cities are crowded with foreigners. The respectable and industrious part of this population did indeed produce a mass of faithful troops; but with these were mixed a vast number of adventurers unworthy of any country, who had no affection for any republic, and only enlisted for money."

In a table of nationalities of foreign-born United States volunteers Mr. Gould makes the following classification in the states which, he says, "rank high in the column of desertions."

All Irish, Germ., Eng., Brit., Am. O'Fls. New York... 51,399 46,690 14,624 19,985 12,290 Mass... 10,097 1,876 2,396 2,917 8,834 R. I. & Conn... 7,657 2,919 2,234 1,957 3,239 New Jersey... 8,880 2,537 2,491 3,622 2,494 Total... 77,559 48,812 21,053 37,291 36,731

Mr. Baumgarten, in his book on "German Soldiers in the Civil War," estimates the foreign quota as follows:

Germans, with a population of 1,118,402, sent to the war 187,859 soldiers; Irish (with a much larger population to draw from) 144,221; English, 38,250; British-Americans, 53,582, with a comparatively small number to draw from.

I have before me a publication of the records of the Massachusetts volunteers,

HAZLETON, Pa., May 27.—St. Casimir's Polish Catholic church at Free land was today the scene of a riot in which two men were fatally shot, two others seriously shot, and a score of other people cut and bruised by clubs and other missiles.

The riot today was the outcome of an effort to dethrone Rev. Father Mrozotus, the pastor. The congregation is made up of Poles. This morning they broke open the church and took possession of it. They threw the priest out. The police were called, and when they arrived were fired upon. The two factions then became engaged in a battle, which raged furiously for half an hour. The police were powerless to control the mob, and but four arrests were made. Another outbreak is feared.

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