

UNKNOWN IN THE ROMAN CHURCH.

OMAHA, Neb. April 21, 1891.

Editor THE AMERICAN. Dear Sir:—The Roman Organ, Sept. 19, devotes three and a half columns to a tirade of the members of the A. P. A., for daring to belong to an organization opposed to the Roman Catholic church, and gives the names of about 50 of its supposed members, who, it claims, belong to this "dastardly conspiracy against religious liberty."

Religious liberty is something unknown in the Roman Catholic church except when THEY are in the minority.

Whoever heard of the Roman church tolerating religious liberty when in power? I challenge any member of that church to cite a single instance. History tells us the contrary was the rule.

What would be the fate of any Protestant who dared to try and effect an entrance to one of their secret meetings? He certainly would fare little better than Cronin, whom they only suspected, and whom his friends claim refused to sanction the treachery of the officers of the Clan-na-gael. What would the editor of the Roman mouth-piece say if the entrance of the meeting places of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the Catholic Knights, or the Young Men's Institute, the Clan-na-gael or any other of the 25 or 30 secret orders of the Roman church, were blocked up by from 20 to a 100 of the most unscrupulous men in the city, and headed by city and county officials who hold their positions through the influence of Protestant? His voice would be raised loud enough for all to hear, against this intimidation of men on account of their religion.

Suppose a hundred A. P. A. men were standing on the East side of Fourteenth street on Sunday afternoon when all the good Romans assemble in the room opposite to hear the paid spies of the Roman church read off the names of other good citizens who had joined the A. P. A. since the preceding Sunday, and earned the proud distinction of becoming, by that act, men whom the most vile and obscene names, would do honor; I say suppose that number of Protestants were there, and went across in a body, and blockaded the stairs, what would he say? No language would be too severe; no names too vicious, for him to launch at their offensive heads. And he would be justified so long as he remained within the bounds of decency. No man, no set of men have the right to attempt to disturb a private meeting without becoming amenable to the law. I presume the editor of that paper attributes the large percentage of Roman Catholics in our city, county and state prison, also in the houses of prostitutions to religious persecution. The Roman Catholics are INDEED a persecuted people, more so than ALL the men, women and children who have died at the stake because they insisted in differing with them on religious matters.

Is it religious freedom for the Roman church to forbid, FROM THE PULPIT, UNDER PAIN OF EXCOMMUNICATION ANY OF ITS MEMBERS TO TRADE WITH OR EVEN TREAT WITH COMMON COURTESY a Protestant who has dared to belong to the A. P. A.? Is it religious, or any

other kind of freedom, which forbids people to send their children to the public schools, where the parent is employed as janitor, and excommunicates the whole family on account of it? Is it religious freedom for any other class to have a secret organization while they (the Roman Catholics) keep a standing army of over 700,000 armed men in this country?—organized and drilled in secret organizations.

These same men are allowed, in this country, to PULL DOWN the stars and stripes and RUN UP the green, (only for practice) at reunions, they say. But to my mind the dearest wish of their heart is, that they were able to do it in earnest.

What other country would allow it (only for fun) knowing the history of the Roman church?

Here is a copy of an application for membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the motto of which is Friendship, Unity, True Christian Charity, but how little they practice Christian Charity, God only knows, as you cannot tell by the questions asked by the committee when applicants appear for examination. The questions are:

Do you solemnly pledge your sacred word of honor, that you will answer truthfully all questions it shall be the duty of the committee to ask you, touching your qualifications for membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

What is your name and occupation. Where do you reside.

What is your age. Are you Irish or Irish descent.

Are you a Roman Catholic.

Have you complied with your religious duty within twelve months.

Do you belong to any societies that the Catholic church is opposed to.

Then follows other questions as to whether the applicant was ever before member and rejected, and for what reason. The last clause is a good one, at reads thus:

Any person joining this order under an assumed name or age, or having any bodily ailments, which he conceals, shall be expelled, and can never be readmitted. Then follows the report of the committee.

These questions are those asked the applicant and not garbled like the Roman organ's oath of the A. P. A.

Does any other religious body have side secret organizations which NONE BUT ABLE BODIED MEN CAN get into.

If this organization is, as they claim, for Irishmen, why exclude those not Roman Catholics? If the church believes in religious liberty, why not practice a little.

The A. P. A. allows every one their religious liberty, but is opposed to the society of Jesus or any other Roman church organization running the politics of this city, county, state or country, delivering the votes of its members to scheming politicians in consideration of so much money in hand, or some appointive office, or other favors promised.

Who ever doubts that the Roman church is in politics, read this, taken from the world Herald of this city Sept. 19, which undoubtedly got there by mistake.

LONDON, Sept. 19, Special cablegram. Reports are circulated in Berlin that an agreement has been had between Chancellor Von Caprivi, and the papal

nuncio, in that city, whereby the clerical party in Germany will support the government measures in a body, in return for certain important concessions to the papacy.

That is just what those political back numbers and traitors, as your Roman contemporary is pleased to term the men who met in Garfield hall, propose to prevent the pope from doing in this country.

The name of Garfield should awaken memories of the past in the mind of every Roman, for it is generally understood, and never contradicted, that a president of this country and of that name was assassinated by a Roman Catholic; also another president of this country, named Lincoln, died at the hands of a Roman Catholic.

The Roman Catholics of this city say all they want is to be left alone! If I am not mistaken, Jeff Davis said the same thing. If these words had been heeded then, what would have been the condition of the Protestants in this country to day? God only can answer that question! It is beyond and above the conception of the editor of any Roman paper.

A CITIZEN.

(Without mental reservation.)

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

The Honorable John Rush says he has read every number of THE AMERICAN. In that he has shown his good sense. He also says the only truth we ever published was when we said he delivered a speech in which he claimed he was a "Catholic first and a citizen afterward." In order to convince the public that everything appearing in these columns is believed to be absolutely true, we extend to Mr. Rush an invitation to state to the public, in these columns, what misstatements he may have noticed. We do not want any one to think, for a moment, that we would intentionally publish a thing that was not the absolute truth. If we have been imposed upon, and in return have imposed upon the credulity of the citizens of Omaha, Mr. Rush owes it to the citizens to set them right. Where, when and in what instance have we misstated facts or historical points, Mr. Rush? You are welcome to a page each week, Mr. Rush, to clear up all errors—because errors they are if anything has been wrong—as we will not intentionally misstate or misconstrue anything you or your church has done or said. We believe we are right, but should we not be, we can be convinced otherwise.

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THE ROMANS ARE IN IT.

They are being smothered with charges of malfeasance in office. One day it is the county commissioners, the next the city council and the following some attache of some county or city crib that is held up to the public gaze as a boodler and all around dishonest and disreputable official. From all appearances the county is full of boodlers while the air is filled with wild rumors of boodlers. If one one half of what is heard upon the streets is true, and where is the man who can prove it is not, the taxpayers of this beautiful city and populous county are indeed in a pitiable plight. From the report brought in by the Real Estate Owners association last week, there is a good sized Irish Romanist in that Thirteenth street contract. He is so large that the difference on some 53,201 yards of earth removed by Ryan & Walsh at 35c per cubic yard, and what C. A. Jensen would have removed it for (12½c per cubic yard) will not be large enough to keep him hid from view. No difference what action the courts take people will retain their own opinions, which will be not at all flattering to certain county officials. That report may even make it impossible for a gentleman seeking a vindication, and whose initials are Richard O'Keeffe, at the hands of the people, to secure the same. It may even have a tendency to clean the Augean stables in the same expeditious manner that Hercules did on a similar notable occasion, and when they were certainly in no more deplorable condition.

If that report has that effect upon that branch of our local government, what do you suppose will be the termination of the investigation of the Roman members of the city council? How do you suppose Morearty will fare? What will happen to old man Donnelly, and Pete Elsasser, and the rest of them if Councilman Christian Specht succeeds in making his charges stick, and what will become of Chris if that joke takes a serious turn?

The Democratic judicial convention nominated some good men last Tuesday. Let the county convention do as well.

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