

THE AMERICAN.

VOLUME 1

OMAHA, NEB., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1891.

NUMBER 25

TOLERATION,

As Understood and Practiced by Roman Catholic Laymen.

Their Idea of it is so Different to What Protestants Believe It To Be That We Cite the Case of

MR. J. T. LYONS,

An Anti-Roman Catholic Lecturer Whom Romans Mobbed in

St. Joe, Mo., Because He Undertook to Expose the Roman Machine Upon

THE PUBLIC STREET, BUT SOME

Of the Faithful Disciples of the Old Man on the Tiber Stone Him.

The Bloodthirsty Mob Chases Him Through the Streets Shouting "Hang Him," But He Manages to Escape.

ROME'S MODE OF ARGUMENT.

Some Americans in Omaha have had a slight taste of Roman Catholic toleration, but what they have experienced has been like a loving mother's caress when compared with what J. T. Lyons, of Janesville, Wisconsin, was compelled to undergo in St. Joe, Mo., last Monday evening. It seems that Lyons had been delivering some lectures against the Roman church—or wanted to deliver some—but was unable to secure a hall for some reason or other. The report telegraphed over the country does not state why he was refused access to all the halls, but it is presumed that it was but a repetition of the unlawful deal given Rev. Charles Chiniquy at Escanaba, Mich., a short time ago. One thing is certain, when Mr. Lyons could not get a hall, he believed he had a right, and did have that right until such time as a minion of the law exercised his authority and ordered him to move on, to address the crowd which had congregated upon

the sidewalk. He was exercising that right of free speech, when some Roman threw a rock which struck him and knocked him down. As he scrambled to his feet he drew a revolver, threatening to shoot the next man who threw a stone. Instantly there was a perfect shower of rocks. Missourians always take a dare, which Mr. Lyons, probably, was not aware of when he gave it, or he would have kept his head shut on the shooting question, and allowed actions to speak plainer than words. But he got frustrated, and forgot what to do, so instead of doing the right thing, he did the very worst, which he realized almost as soon as the mistake was made, and when he realized it, he endeavored to escape the consequences by running, and probably a fleet pair of legs prevented him from stretching hemp.

There is nothing in this further than this one idea. What Protestant would throw a stone and strike a speaker, were he heaping all the abuse known to the most debased mind, upon all Protestants. Protestants practice toleration. Roman Catholics practice intolerance.

THE POLITICAL ASPECT.

During the last few weeks quite a large number of office seekers have turned themselves loose upon this community. Many of these men have received, on former occasions, the support of their party and their friends for the position they sought. Some of them were successful at the polls, while others were not so fortunate. Those who went down in defeat seem even more tenacious—even more anxious to receive a nomination—than those who fed a term at the public crib, and are button-holing all men with whom they are acquainted, and asking their support in the coming contest. In one way of looking at it this is all right, in another, it is all wrong. No man should wish to twice jeopardize the success of his party for the same position. He should see the necessity of retiring from the race, leaving the field clear for new men, who will probably not have the same obstacles to surmount. Beside these is another class of office seekers who should get in out of the wet. We refer to those gentlemen who are up for something every election. You know who they are. They are the fellows who manage to get their names connected with every elective and appointive office in which a vacancy occurs; who would accept a position as janitor in a public building or a nomination for the office of governor with equal inward exaltation, and outward sangfroid. They are the pest of every convention, the nightmare of every delegate. They are the men whom the public should save from themselves. To elevate one of them to a position of trust and honor would be doing him an injustice, for there are certain temptations which assail public officials that every man is not strong enough to resist, and these men would lack the strength.

Then there is another class of men out for office to whom a word may not

be said amiss. They are the gentlemen who have allowed their friends to mention their names to other friends in lodge room and council hall. This is alright if not carried too far, but no man should expect to pull the vote of any order to himself, if thereby he works an injury to the association. Associations, generally, are not for the building up of any one man or any set of men; neither can they be used for an opposite purpose. We find, not unfrequently, good men who stand outside the pale of every church, and what is true of the churches is equally true of all secret societies. Therefore, it behooves us to look with jealous eyes upon all attempts to foist candidates upon any ticket, and upon all attempts to have them foisted upon particular tickets. No good citizen will allow his candidacy for a certain position to become so exciting as to forget that the people are the "last, supreme and final judge as to" who shall hold the reigns of government. He will listen to the voice of his friends. He will not jeopardize the interests of the city for his own aggrandizement. The present condition of affairs in this city and county is due to the fact that the men sought the offices instead of the offices seeking the men. Let us bear that in mind. Let us be Americans, firm in the belief that a "public office is a public trust," not forgetting the sovereignty of the people. And when this is remembered, many men who are chasing the delusive shadow of a public office, under the mistaken belief that a public office is a private snap, will give up the chase and thereby make room for a more available man. No true American will stand in the way of the success of his party. No American will contribute to the success of the enemy.

Were Americans like Romanists there would not be a half dozen of them pulling for some small office. You will notice the Romans never have more than one candidate for each office. They see that each name they present gets on the ticket. Of course they are sandwiched in on several tickets, but when the votes are counted they have all been elected, regardless of the sandwiching. Is it not a fact that whenever two Romans come up for office the Jesuits look the field over and decide who shall make the race? That has been done in the present campaign! One month ago there were two Roman candidates for county clerk, today there is but one. Why? We leave you to answer the question, and after deciding that just think if some American had the power to say who should be a candidate for a certain office, what a roar those free Romans would emit. But you should remember, the only freedom known in the Roman Catholic church, is the freedom to OBEY. To do different to "the priests say" would get them "by, so they vote as one man."

While we are on this subject of candidates we desire to reprint an editorial from Tuesday evening's Bee, which meets our approval and reads as follows:

The taxpaying citizens of Omaha and Douglas county must get together regardless of party for mutual protection in the impending campaign to oust the hoodlers and tax-eaters from power. They cannot afford any longer to remain indifferent to the fact that this city and county have been in the clutches of franchised corporations and contractors on public works. It may be difficult to track and convict dishonest councilmen and corrupt officials, but every intelligent citizen knows that our local government is rotten to the core. It is an open secret that men have gone into the council without a dollar have managed to accumulate handsome fortunes in a few years on \$600 a year. It is a matter of common notoriety that almost every proposition that goes before the council is met with the question, "How much is their in it for us?" Streets are graded and improvements are made not where the work is most needed but where it will improve the property of speculators who are willing to divy. Enormous sums have been filched from the pockets of taxpayers and voted away into the coffers of the various corporations. Offices have been created for barnacles and political strikers and salaries have been raised out of all proportion to the service rendered. We are now running a city government with costly machinery fitted for a city of 300,000 population. Taxation has become almost unbearable and investors have been kept away.

The supreme duty of the hour is to rescue Omaha from the hands of the ringsters and hoodlers. This can only be done by a concerted effort on the part of taxpaying citizens and workmen who desire to restore confidence and have public improvement funds expended for honest labor. Honesty is not confined to party or creed. We must root out the hoodlers, incompetents and barnacles and select from among the candidates of all parties the men whose records and reputations are the best guaranty of good government. No man can honestly serve two masters. No man can be safely trusted with the management and control of city or county affairs who has a corporation string tied to him.

In the local campaign The Bee will support no candidate whose skirts are not clean, and no man who is known to be a tool of corporations or catspaw of contractors.

To get the best results and rescue our city from the clutches of hoodlers and incompetents the best citizens of all parties must come to the front and accept nominations for positions that require business capacity and fidelity. We cannot hope to have good government unless our most prominent trustworthy citizens are willing to sacrifice their private interests to the public good. We want men of first class ability in the council, in the Board of County Commissioners and in every municipal and county office.

If the Real Estate Owner's association will take the initiative toward massing the taxpaying voters upon candidates that enjoy public confidence they will do more toward reviving the demand for real estate and the investment of capital in Omaha enterprises than any other project that has yet received their support.