

REV. FAWCETT ON ROMANISM.

Rev. Dr. Fawcett, in a speech to a class of deaconesses who had just been consecrated in the First M. E. church in Chicago, said:

Sisters in the work of our dear Lord, it gives me pleasure to be permitted to present you with these diplomas, that you are to retain as official notice to all peoples from the church of which you are members of the estimate that church places upon your qualifications, spiritual, mental, and moral, for the work upon which you are about to enter. Your first qualification for successful work, among the poor, the lowly, the sick and the dying, to whom your church sends you, is found in your personal deep-seated christian experience, and in your thorough conviction that you have been called to this work which is to you something far more than the work of the church. Yea, to you it is the work of Jesus for the comfort and rest of suffering humanity. It has been hinted that the Methodist church, in thus setting you apart for this special work, is following on in the footsteps in the church of Rome. Well, whatever may be the likeness between the work upon which you are now about to enter and some traits of the work of the sisters of the church of Rome (a very worthy class) the only likeness that can be found, will be found in the character of the work. The institution in which for two or more years you have been trained and from which you are now graduating, bears no semblance, no, not in the least degree to either a convent or a nunnery. The institution from which you graduate, with that honored lady of Methodism at its head, Mrs. Lucy Rider Meyer, is open for the inspection of the public both night and day. From its kitchen to its garret there is not a department that is closed from the eye of the public. Your lecture room and the lectures you have listened to during the years of your matriculation have been open and free to the public, and whosoever desired came and saw and heard.

Is there a convent or nunnery under all the church of Rome of this character? Entering your work you are not called upon to close the door of society and its privileges against yourselves; you are not called upon to walk the public streets with bowed head and downcast eyes; you are not called upon to spend your time in fasting and readings of prayers. Your only vow is that, for Jesus' sake, you will without earthly compensation spend your time and life for the comfort of the poor and sick and suffering, and at any hour without question from the church which now sends you forth you are at perfect liberty to sever your connections from this work and enter upon any work you may see proper. Does the sisterhood of Rome know any such freedom as this? The church that now sends you forth does not equip you with crosses and beads, with crucifixes and pictures of the holy virgin, nor with prayerbook and holy water. Your only equipment, all that is found necessary for you, is an earnest heart-love for Jesus, the heart full of sympathy for humanity, the holy Scriptures, and your intellectual quali-

fications as expressed in these diplomas. The crucifixes, the pictures, the beads and crosses, the prayerbook and the holy water are equipments provided by the church of Rome, and it would appear from very recent developments that that church is far more anxious about the preservation of these things and her relation to them than she is for the education and comfort of humanity.

It appears that a few days ago the Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, a leading citizen of this country and a prominent official of the Columbian Exposition, stood before the "Standard Club" and gave utterance to the following words, speaking of beautiful sunny Italy, that he had recently visited, her past, her present, and her future: "Italy is a land thirsting for knowledge, and if I were the autocrat of Italy I would sell 10,000 pictures of the Madonna and 10,000 pictures of the crucifixion, and with the proceeds I would erect schools upon her hill-tops and provide teachers for the education of her people." This much an American citizen dared to say, and because of this saying we learn that the church of Rome is "angry," that she is very "much offended." It is said that by these words Mr. Butterworth has "compromised the interests of the World's Fair," that he has "deliberately offended 500,000 Romans in the city of Chicago and 500,000,000 of Romans distributed over the face of the whole earth." Archbishop Feehan is reported as saying, "It was an injudicious thing for Mr. Butterworth to say it was an insult to the Catholic religion and must be resented. He has attacked the religion of many nations and millions of people, whose assistance is absolutely necessary to the success of the World's Fair. He has insulted half a million of Chicago's population and should resign the place he occupies."

Now, in the face of all these declarations, permit me to say that I do not think there is a man under the stars and stripes who stands free from political or religious fear of the bludgeon of the church of Rome, but I will say Mr. Butterworth uttered just the right words for a true American to utter, and they might with propriety be uttered again and again. Let me ask Bishop Feehan how and in what way Mr. Butterworth insulted the church of Rome? He said not a word about that church or any other church or religion. He simply said that if he had the power he would dispose of those thousand of Madonnas and pictures of the crucifixion that are of no benefit to either church or state and that are really today under the protection of the government of Italy, and with the proceeds he would build school houses and educate the people who are so longing for an education. Let me ask Bishop Feehan if in his thought these pictures and crucifixes are of more importance to the church of Rome than the intellectual up-building of the people of Italy? And do these pictures of the Virgin Mary and of the crucifixion indeed really represent the religion of the Roman church? thought the church of Rome professed to be a representative to the world of New Testament christianity. Did Jesus say to his Disciples "Go ye into the world and take a picture of my mother

and of my crucifixion and I will be with you always?" Is there anything in all the history of the New Testament church that so much as hints that pictures and crucifixes are to be the emblems of christian faith? On that last night before his crucifixion our Blessed Lord instituted the last supper and said to his disciples: "As often as ye shall do this, do it in remembrance of me," but he never said anything about beads, crosses or Madonnas. Ah! these things may be necessary emblems of the church of Rome, but New Testament christianity knows no need for them. If they do indeed in any way represent christianity, they are as much and far more the property of the Protestant faith of the world, than they are of the church of Rome, and Mr. Butterworth's words from this standpoint should be resented by the Protestantism of the world. It may be possible that Mr. Butterworth is quite incompetent for the responsible position he holds as an officer of the World's Fair and because of his incompetency, he should perhaps resign, but this incompetency is not in any way discovered or discoverable by his speech before the Standard club, and the American people should require vastly more than the demand of the Church of Rome before his resignation be accepted. Mr. Butterworth has compromised the interests of the World's Fair," has he? The American people may well ask: "On what Roman nation and what part of the church of Rome, does the success of the great Columbian Exposition depend?" In just so far as its success depends upon any Roman nation, or any part of the church of Rome, in just so far is its success doubtful. And if its success did in any measure depend upon the church of Rome, would Mr. Butterworth's words regarding Italy be sufficient reason why he should resign his position? I have a picture in my mind drawn from history, which I consider appropriate in answering this question. It was in the year 1213, Philip was on the throne of France, King John was on the throne of England and Pope Innocent sat in power at Rome. King John had offended the pope by refusing to admit to the office of Archbishop of Canterbury, Steven Langton whom the pope had recommended. Innocent, infallible though he was, grew angry, and actually gave away all the dominions of John to Philip of France. To regain his possession John prostrated himself before the pope and took the following oath: "I, John by the Grace of God, King of England and Lord of Ireland, in order to expiate my sins, do of my own free will and by the advice of my barons give to the church of Rome, to Pope Innocent and his successors, the Kingdom of England, and all other prerogatives of my crown. I will hereafter hold them as the pope's vassal. I will be faithful to God, to the church of Rome, to the pope, my master, and to his successors legitimately elected. I promise to pay him a tribute of 1,000 marks yearly, to wit: 700 for the kingdom of England, and 300 for the kingdom of Ireland." This oath thus given and Langton installed.

Pope Innocent broke his contract with Philip of France, and John sat

safe on his throne. But the pusillanimous conduct of King John disgusted the people of England, and the outcome was the conference at Runnymede and the signing of the famous deed of Magna Charta, by which at last the power of the church of Rome was completely destroyed under the British flag. Now, let Mr. Butterworth, for no other reason than because of his speech before the Standard club, resign his position in answer to the demands of Bishop Feehan, who is the representative of the pope of Rome in the state of Illinois; or let Mr. Butterworth go like King John and bow down at the feet of the great bishop, and let him vow never in the future to speak of madonnas or crucifixes but in the most reverential way, and let him thus obtain forgiveness at the hands of Rome for his past sins, for his dreadful insult, and let him gain promise of the Roman power that he may retain his office until the fair shall end. Yes, let Mr. Butterworth do either of these things, do them, either for the satisfaction of politicians or for the comfort of the church of Rome, and in my thinking it will be discovered that there is Protestantism enough under the stars and stripes to teach the pope and his emissaries that they do not rule this country. In my thinking, every true christian, every wise man, every true American, yes, and every lover of Italy, may with the greatest propriety say amen to Mr. Butterworth's speech.

THE WAY TO GO

To Chicago, Peoria, St. Louis, Burlington, Lincoln, Kansas City, Atchison, St. Joseph, Quincy, Deadwood, Denver and Cheyenne, and all points east, south and west, is by the Burlington Route.

Its trains are composed of magnificent Pullman sleepers, elegant reclining chair cars (seats free) comfortable day coaches, and famous Burlington Route dining cars, and present unsurpassed facilities for reaching any or all of the above mentioned cities.

Three trains daily for Chicago, two for St. Joseph, Kansas City and St. Louis; two for Denver; one for Cheyenne; one for Deadwood, leave the Union Depot.

The "Vestibule Flyer," which leaves Omaha at 4:30 P. M., daily, for Chicago, is the favorite train for the "Windy City." Its convenient hours of departure and arrival, superb equipment and close connections with all express trains for eastern cities, make it by far the most desirable means of travel between Omaha and the east.

City Ticket Office, 1223 Farnam st.

W. F. VAILL, Agent.

Says the Protestant American: "Miss Janette Cochrane, of Boston, daughter of a Protestant millionaire, was sent to a Catholic school. The result is, she came out a Catholic and she now takes the veil and her millions go into the church. Her father besought her with tears to give up this foolish notion, but she would not. The serpent had its coils about her and she was charmed by it. It was what he ought to have expected."

THE AMERICAN, of Omaha has headed a list with a subscription of five dollars for the benefit of Miss Connor, the Indiana school teacher who kept the old flag flying over her school house in spite of the threats of disloyal "copper heads."—Peru Gazette.