

THE AMERICAN.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

"AMERICAN" AMERICANS.—We hold that all men are Americans who swear allegiance to the United States without a mental reservation in favor of the Pope.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

VOLUME III.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1893.

NUMBER 15

WHAT IS AMERICAN?

Prof. Sims Gives the Explanation in Masonic Temple.

Saginaw, Mich., the Battle Ground of Romanism Against Americanism.

A large audience assembled at the Masonic Temple last evening to listen to the lecture by Professor Walter Sims, of West Bay City, on the attitude of the Catholic church to the government and institutions of America. The professor was armed with copies of letters and documents published by papal authorities, from which he read and upon which he commented in their relations to American institutions.

He referred to the blind faith of Catholics in the doctrines of the church, which he said they would adhere to in preference of anything else.

He then called attention to some of the beliefs of the Roman church, as promulgated by the pope. Among them being that the pope has power to annul laws, constitutions, etc., and oaths, either before or after they are made.

He read from apostolic letters, and the syllabus of errors, among the extracts taken being one that it was an error, hence a heresy for a man to adopt any religion which his reason dictated. The speaker said the Catholic church kept the people in European countries in ignorance, because the moment they began to think they became enemies of the Catholic church.

Protestants do not interfere with the teachings of the church or object to them, but did object to the political power which Rome was acquiring in this country, a power which would in time, if not checked, place the institutions under the power of the pope. But it is impossible, said some, for the Roman Catholic church to gain control of this country. Is it impossible to get a man in sympathy with the Catholic church in the presidential chair? Is it impossible for congress to come under the rule of the Roman Catholic church, or the senate or the judiciary? Look at New York; that city has not been ruled by Americans in the past 75 years; it has been ruled by the Irish. There are two classes of Irish; one class is composed of clever fellows, the other class the dupes of the pope.

He called attention to a clipping from the Detroit Free Press, in which it was stated that the St. Beiface cadets had received 10 additional muskets; that the company was now 50 strong and growing rapidly. What an uproar there would have been in Saginaw had it been announced that the Methodist cadets had been receiving muskets. There would be danger of bloodshed, as Mr. Tarsney would say, because the Methodists had received muskets.

Continuing the reading from the syllabus of errors, it was found that it was an error to believe that the Roman Catholic church had not the right to resort to force to accomplish her ends.

The Roman Catholic church believes the pope is Jesus Christ, and that to reject him is to reject Christ. This he likened to the old heathen, and idolatrous methods. He said the Roman Catholic church is two-thirds heathen, one-half of the other third is Jew, and the other half Christian, and this is all that Christianity there is in its composition.

Number 42 of the syllabus of errors, declares it an error to suppose that in a conflict between the laws of the two powers the civil law should prevail. So if the Catholic church said church property should not be taxed it ought not to be, because, according to the teachings of the church, its laws were paramount to the civil law. The speaker did not care to discuss the question of the taxation of church property, but he thought all church property, beyond a certain amount, should be taxed, irrespective of denomination. This would have a serious effect upon the Catholics, as they maintained palaces for their bishops and much property in the name of charity. He wanted churches taxed because then we could say to the Catholics, when their Italian king said they should not be taxed without his consent, they were compelled to do some things as Uncle Sam did.

It was an error to believe that the pope was in harmony with American progress, or in favor of liberalism, but here were those going abroad telling

the Protestants, because they wanted the Protestant votes, that the pope was in sympathy with American progress and liberal institutions. Here was evidently a lie, and who was telling it? The voice which was going abroad in the land and declaring that the pope was in sympathy with these institutions, or the pope who declares himself that he is not?

The speaker read from an article by Cardinal Manning, an authority in the church, who said that members of the church in any difficulty that shall arise between the civil government and the church, they must be Catholics first and citizens afterwards.

Every good Catholic must take an oath of allegiance to the pontiff of Rome, said the speaker, reading from a Catholic book, and asked if that is not direct opposition to the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States, where the person taking such oath forswears allegiance to every foreign prince and potentate. The pope of Rome claims to be a temporal power, a prince, as well as the head of the church. The canons of the church said the pope had power to absolve one of his subjects from an oath, either before or after it had been taken, and if this

over the greatest and most liberal

of the Chicago Mail, printed on green paper in honor of St. Patrick's day, and read the organizations which formed the procession on that day. Among the organizations were the Hibernian Rifles and the Emmet Rifles, and the speaker asked if these organizations were American. They did not belong to the militia of the state, and yet they marched with arms in the streets of Chicago. The Patriotic Sons of St. Mathew were also in the parade. "The Patriotic Sons of America un-American and the Patriotic Sons of St. Mathew American," remarked the speaker sarcastically. The Clan-na-Gael was also represented in the procession. The speaker said this organization was American, according to those who denounced the organizations "opposed to Catholicity, but the history of the Clan-na-Gael showed it to be anything but an American organization.

The people would win a victory, but a bloodless one; there will be no bloodshed, but it will be won by the ballot. He urged his hearers to cast their ballots for the protection of American institutions and to the end that the starchy banner might continue to float

A. P. A.'s IN WISCONSIN.

A Branch Organized in Milwaukee and Other Towns.

Saginaw, Mich., and Omaha, Neb., Hot-Beds of A. P. Aism—Reports From Other States.

The Catholic Citizen, of Milwaukee, Wis., devotes nearly the whole of its first page, about half of its second, probably a column and a half on the fourth, and two-thirds of a column on its eighth page to a report of and a suggestion as to the treatment that should be accorded the A. P. A., from which we call the following:

The A. P. A. is reaching out for membership in Wisconsin. Bigots have always resided here, but they have played upon a minor key. The Bennett law gave them an opportunity to come out in public. The result, however, was a disappointment to them; they concluded that the dark lantern method was much the safer. The Citizen has collected information which shows that A. P. A. lodges exist at Milwaukee

ticket this spring are members of the A. P. A.

Every alderman nominated on the republican ticket is a reputed member of the A. P. A. The old line republicans are so wrought up over their nominations that it looks now as if we were going to have an entire democratic municipal government.—[P. M. SCANLAN.]

[The republican candidate for mayor was elected on Tuesday by 43 majority, but the democrats elected most of the aldermen. Janesville is always republican in national elections.]

LA CROSSE.—In reply to your letter of inquiry would say that the first heard of the A. P. A. in this city was in the spring of 1890, when it was said they were organized in Janesville and other towns in that direction. It was organized here by steamboat pilots and masters and includes as a rule republicans. Everything here indicates that it has its motive in republican politics. Most of the postoffice and other federal employes are members. It is my candid opinion that it was organized mainly to keep Catholics out of office. They are estimated to be from one to three hundred strong here. La Crosse and Elroy are the only cities where I have

Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, in having made attempts to secure recruits from that society for the A. P. A. Several Catholic merchants report that their business interests have been seriously affected through the work of the A. P. A.

OREGON.—A branch of the A. P. A. exists in Oregon, a town of about 600 inhabitants. The Catholic population however, is considerably in the majority, and no ill-effects, of whatever kind, are feared from the plottings of the dark lantern patriots.

STEVENS POINT.—While there is scarcely any doubt about the existence of an A. P. A. in Stevens Point, its membership is so small and its permanent existence so doubtful, that nothing is known other as regards the names of its members or the time or the place of meeting.

OTHER STATES.

As elsewhere mentioned, A. P. Aism thrives mostly in southeastern Michigan, Ohio, and in the "A. P. A. belt" extending from Illinois to eastern Kansas and Nebraska.

ILLINOIS.—Editor Catholic Citizen: A. P. Aism is an anti-Catholic organization. Its spirit is that of the Orange lodges, and it seems to have been introduced into the west from

Canada. In this diocese it shows a certain vigor—here in Peoria, in Rock Island, Bloomington, Danville, Streator, Ottawa and possibly in other of the larger towns. In Peoria we know the names of the A. P. Aists, and the oaths they take have been published in a newspaper issued on St. Patrick's day, called the Irish-American. The A. P. Aists are mostly republicans, only eight per cent. of them being democrats here in Peoria. As the whig party when ruin threatened, sought to save itself by making an alliance with the National American party, so the republicans, here in Illinois at least, seem to have some sort of understanding with the A. P. Aists. Certain railroads, the Rock Island, for instance, seem to give them encouragement; and they do this, it is said, not from hatred of the church, to which being soulless they are indifferent, but from a desire to weaken and cripple the labor unions. From one of the most respectable A. P. Aists, I hear their great grievance is the presence of the delegate. J. D. SPALDING, Bishop of Peoria.

Bishop Spalding publishes the following in the Peoria Journal: "This morning a most respectable Protestant gentleman of the city called on me to inquire about a rumor which he says is believed to be true even by intelligent persons in Peoria, and is being circulated abroad as far east as Cleveland and as far west as Omaha. The rumor is that I have made an arsenal of the cathedral, having stored its basement with Winchester rifles. Now, Mr. editor, I invite you, and I invite all the Protestant clergymen of Peoria, to come to the cathedral and thoroughly investigate this matter. Furthermore, I will accompany you and the other gentlemen whom I have invited, and they may bring their friends if they choose to any Catholic church or institution in the city, that they may see what war-like preparations we are making."

MR. ONAHAN THINKS IT OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE.

Referring to the issue of religious bigotry which the A. P. A. is raising, Hon. W. J. Onahan says: "Frankly I do not fear it; nor do I attach as much importance to it as some are disposed to do. I think its strength and influence are unduly magnified. Secret oath-bound political organizations are always terrifyingly strong when estimated by the exaggerated declaration of their leaders and magnified by the fears of those they would proscribe. A secret society derives the chief part of its farcical strength from the very fact that it is secret. Do not fear them. The American people, I am persuaded, will not permit a part or an organization founded on bigotry and religious bias to attain sway in this country. Here and there in localities and under sporadic and spasmodic influences the party of passion and intolerance may gain a temporary ascendancy. It will not long endure. When the issues are fairly presented, whenever a manly and spirited appeal is made to the American people, to their sense of justice and fair play, I am confident bigotry and intolerance must go down.

IOWA.
[Correspondence of the Citizen.]
Branches of the A. P. A. exist at
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was true, and the canons declared the pope was a higher power than the civil government, then no Roman Catholic could conscientiously take the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States. The speaker asked his hearers if they thought, in the light of what he had read to them, that a man could be a faithful, consistent Roman Catholic and an honest American citizen.

He read an account of an election in Ireland, where the priests led their flocks to the polls and compelled them to vote as they wished. That was what Ireland would be under home rule. In a measure these methods exist in this country. The rulers of the church did that where two men were running for an office, one a Catholic, the other a Protestant, to down the Protestant and elect the Catholic.

Rome has held 85 per cent. of the offices of this country, and now because a few American citizens who are not Catholics desire, to hold office, the Roman Catholic church begins to talk about the un-American disturbing element. We need more of this disturbance.

The claim was made that the pope was a very liberal man and was willing his subjects should vote as they wished. Of course he was, because he knew they would vote as he desired them to do. He read from a letter by Pope Leo XIII, in 1885, in which he urged that Catholics take part in municipal affairs and elections, and that they should, as far as possible, in politics, carry out the doctrines of the Roman church. We know how well his people had carried out those instructions, and now we want to have something to say about municipal affairs ourselves. When an organization was formed to protect our institutions it was denounced as un-American.

It then showed his audience a copy

nation of the world. We are determined, he said, that the Catholic, when he declares his intention of becoming an American citizen, shall do to the Roman pontiff just what an Englishman does to the queen of England.

It was announced that Sunday evening next Professor Sims will deliver a free lecture at the same place, in answer to Hon. T. E. Tarsney and James H. Davitt.—Courier-Herald.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE.

Before Adjourning it Adopts Resolutions on the School Question.

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., April 15.—Yesterday was the closing day of the session of the New York Methodist conference and before adjournment it paid its respects to the Catholic church and its relation to our public schools. Dr. J. M. King introduced a lengthy preamble and resolution upon the action of the Roman Catholic church in urging, under the direction of Mgr. Satolli, the fusion of parochial with public schools in localities where the Catholic churches are not strong enough to keep their parochial schools on an equal footing with the public schools. He was interrupted with outbursts of applause and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That any person or power that threatens the existence of the public schools is an enemy of the republic.

Resolved, That we will jealously watch and loyally guard these nurseries of our citizenship, and whenever they are assaulted we will defend them without malice, without bigotry; without fear, but without compromise.

Resolved, That we will exhort our people to exert themselves as citizens to defend the national, state, county and municipal treasuries against all attempts or pretenses for the division of the sacred funds which they hold for the support of the public schools.

American Bakery, 1818 St. Mary's Avenue, Wagon Delivery.

keo, Janesville, Portage, La Crosse, Kaukauna, Oregon, Stevens Point, Elroy and probably in three or four other localities.

MILWAUKEE.—As far as is known only one branch of the A. P. A. exists in Milwaukee. It is located in the Seventeenth ward, has 132 members and meets on Monday evenings at the I. O. O. F. hall, corner of Kinnickinnic and Potter avenues. It is said to be composed, for the greater part, of the foreign element. An apostate Catholic it is alleged, is the chief officer of the society. Its members are making efforts to win over all the non-Catholic employes of the rolling mills, but as yet have met with indifferent success. The names of a majority of those connected with the organization have been secured and considerable interesting information will probably be forthcoming before long. The existence of a small anti-Catholic society is suspected in the Sixteenth ward, but its identity with the A. P. A. is not ascertained.

JANESVILLE.—The first A. P. A. organized in the state of Wisconsin was formed in Janesville about five years ago. I, among others of my Irish friends, have been watching their movements, and we have already secured the names of the most prominent members of the society. In relation to the number of A. P. A. members in Janesville, would state that they are variously estimated from 300 to 700. My opinion is that they number 380 members. The republican candidate for mayor is also a member of the A. P. A., and he is making a hard fight for election. The members of the A. P. A. captured the several republican caucuses and none but a sworn member of that society could go as a delegate to our city convention. The result is that nearly all the officers on the republican

heard they had branches established. It has some membership among railway men here. About two-thirds of the A. P. A. members are Scandinavians.—[REV. W. WHITE.]

PORTAGE.—An A. P. A. organization is located here. The Portage Democrat says that in the recent primaries for the municipal offices this organization completely captured the republican delegation and made strenuous efforts to capture the democratic.

As a result of A. P. A. activity we find men who have always dwelt together in harmony distrusting each other, boycotting each other, and a feeling of religious hate and suspicion growing, says the Democrat.

The A. P. A. membership in Portage is estimated at 200, including some prominent business men.

[In Tuesday's election Portage was carried, as usual, by the democrats.]

KAUKAUNA.—Despite the fact that the A. P. A. Aists lent their support to the republicans, the democratic ticket, representing the Catholics and their sympathizers, gained the ascendancy in Kaukauna, Tuesday. Although it is well known that there is a branch of the A. P. A. in Kaukauna nothing has been ascertained definitely as to its numerical strength. Its membership has been variously estimated at from forty to two hundred. Several persons have admitted their connection with the society, while others who have been accused have strenuously denied it. There is reason, though, to suspect many, it being argued that one who would subscribe to an A. P. A. oath would not hesitate to make denial, however great be the moral offence. It is said that the Kaukauna A. P. A. organization numbers many employes of the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western railroad shops and also includes several trainmen. One of the latter, a fireman, has been expelled from the