

A. P. A. DEFENDED.

An Interesting Article From the Omaha Christian Advocate by Rev. Frank Crane, Editor.

Discussion runs rife in the current press concerning this organization. It is becoming more and more a factor in politics, especially in local politics. In the national house of representatives it has been proposed to investigate it. Dr. Washington Gladden in a recent article in a prominent magazine, harangued against it. Many writers are taking up with it on the one hand, and on the other it is being stigmatized as a traitorous and most dangerous movement. There is need for clear thinking.

The A. P. A. is a secret organization. As such it comes in for all the condemnation as falls to the lot of any secret society. As to whether secret societies are valuable at all, the Advocate says nothing here, as it is not germane to the issue. It is clear, however, that, unless such a society is treasonable or dangerous to the safety or peace of a community by its principles or methods, it has a right to exist. There is nothing in law nor common justice to prevent men from combining in organizations for any definite object, and maintaining their meetings, plans and deliberations in secret if they so choose.

It may also be added here that many of those who rail at the A. P. A. have had little or nothing to say about the Order of Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuits, the most infamous and crime-stained organization that this planet has ever seen, a society which exists today, unhampered by law, in these states, and yet has been driven out of almost every state in Europe and Spanish America. Besides this, lesser societies, such as the Clan-na-gael and the Independent Order of Hibernians, live and flourish among us. It must be borne in mind that the Roman church itself, in its methods of operation, especially in political matters, partakes largely of the nature of a secret society. As such it has controlled the political organization and machinery in every city and state where it is possible, whether in Europe, Asia or America. In America it gets as many of its members into office as it can force the people to elect. "In many cities," says the Chicago Tribune, "like Chicago, New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Albany, Troy, Buffalo, Detroit, Fort Wayne, Dubuque, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Omaha and Kansas City—in short, wherever it possesses the power, it grabs about all the offices, elective and appointive—especially those that have patronage, big salaries and emoluments." The Inter Ocean, of Chicago, recently published a tabulated statement of the number of Roman Catholics in the public offices and public schools of that city, showing that the non-Catholics were merely an insignificant fraction of the total. As far as the secret society argument goes, therefore, it would seem that those who fear such things had better first turn their attention to the ancient, successful and powerful society, known as the Roman Catholic church, before they pounce upon the young society known as the A. P. A. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

It is known that the A. P. A. exists largely because of the sentiment against Romanism. And there have not been wanting leading thinkers, editors, preachers and statesmen who have condemned as puerile and unnecessary all words of caution against the encroaching power of this church. They deprecate the frequent outbreaks that occur at anti-Catholic meetings. They characterize as religious bigotry all lectures and addresses claiming to expose the nefarious methods of this church.

There is no question but that many connected with the A. P. A. have done and said foolish things, that there are many lecturers in the field, including many a humbug ex-priest, who are fomenting religious intolerance, and stirring up strife that they may gain thereby. But the fact that injudicious words and deeds accompany this movement is no more argument against it than that many a fool and fanatic has taken it upon himself to advance the cause of Jesus Christ or of religious liberty. It still remains true that religious liberty, the religion of Jesus Christ, and the danger of Romanism are actual issues which no foolish friends can dissipate.

If the wise men of this land desire to see this movement of religious conflict come to an end, let them unite in calling upon the Roman Catholic church to give us substantial evidence that it has changed its policy. It has been in the past as the confessed enemy of liberty of conscience, free government, free speech, free schools, free thought and free men. It has yet to show in any ward, city, county or country where it has obtained predominance of power that it has changed its principles in any of these respects. It pleads for religious tolerance in America, but so did James the Second in England. "While a subject," says Lord Macaulay,



THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE CITY.—From Chicago American.

"he had been for many years a persecuted man, and persecution had produced its usual effect on him; while he was excluded from the court, from the admiralty, and from the council, and was in danger of being seized and excluded from the throne, only because he could not help believing in transubstantiation and the authority of the see at Rome, he made such rapid progress in the doctrines of toleration that he left Milton and Locke behind. He learned by rote those commonplaces which all sects repeat so fluently when they are enduring oppression and forget so easily when they are able to retaliate it. His professions imposed upon some charitable persons and perhaps imposed upon himself, but when fortune changed, when he was no longer afraid that others would persecute him, when he had it in his power to persecute others, his real propensities began to show themselves. He who expressed just indignation when the priests of his own faith were hanged and quartered, amused himself with hearing Covenanter shriek, and seeing them writhe when their knees were being beaten flat in the boots."

Our Roman Catholic fellow citizens, especially the laymen and such priests as Archbishop Ireland, are insistent in their declarations that their church is the friend of religious liberty. But we must remind them that while we have the greatest respect for their personal statements, they belong to an organization which has an unfortunate history, and it will require more than a mere assertion to convince the thinking people of America, that this church is on speaking terms with human freedom. Communication is too easy with the uttermost parts of the earth, and the general intelligence of the affairs of nations is too wide-spread by the newspapers of America, for us to accept their protesting assurance as against the facts of the case.

If the adherents of Rome would disarm our prejudices against them let the proper authorities of that church use their good offices under the direction of Pope Leo XIII. to secure for the Protestants of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia the same liberty of conscience that is enjoyed by Roman Catholic citizens of this country.

Let them publicly acknowledge, not by Jesuitical intimations here and there through persons in lesser office, but from the mouth of the pope himself, and then from his army of archbishops, that the church recedes from her former publicly acknowledged opposition to free government. Let the church of Rome come out in a many, plain, unequivocal declaration that they are disposed to fall in with the procession of human progress, and then back up that declaration by consistent legislation, and the thinking men of the world will begin to believe in her.

In the meantime, as long as certain members of society conspire, in the name of the church, to get control of politics, it is just as right for certain

other men, in the name of anti church, to conspire to keep them from it.

The Advocate thinks that secrecy is an unfortunate adjunct to any political movement but if other citizens of this free republic think differently, they have an inalienable right to do so, and form any secret society they please; and we must confess that if a secret organization is in place at all, it is in place against the connivance of that hoary secret political society which the Encyclopedia Britannica says is a sword whose hilt is at Rome and whose point is everywhere; that society which "during the eleven years preceding 1880, secured from the authorities of New York City real estate valued at \$3,500,000, and money to the amount of \$5,827,471 in exchange for Romish votes, and every cent of it was paid in violation of law," that society which, "driven out of Berlin, declared that it would plant itself in the western territories of America; expelled for their intrigues even from Catholic countries, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and other states, is free to colonize in the great west and is there gathering and plotting to Romanize and control our western empire;" that society "whose members are simply a band of ecclesiastical officeholders held together by the cohesive power of ambition, as compactly as an army of soldiers, and all governed by a commander-in-chief whose brow they would adorn forever with a kingly crown;" that society whose head has at various times "commended its members on their hostility to the laws and government of Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Brazil; in 1855 declared absolutely null and void all the acts of the government of Piedmont; in the same year attempted to abrogate the law of religious toleration in Spain; in 1862 declared the Austrian law which established freedom of opinion, of the press, of belief, of conscience, of education and of religious profession, to be abominable and totally void and without force whatever; which in similar phraseology attempted to annul the laws of Sardinia and the laws of Mexico; which in September, 1863, declared useless, unjust and impious the law of New Granada establishing freedom of worship. Macaulay says, "the policy of the church of Rome is the very masterpiece of human wisdom. . . . The experience of twelve hundred eventful years, the ingenuity and patient care of forty generations of statesmen have improved that policy to such perfection that, among the contrivances which have been devised for deceiving and controlling mankind, it occupies the highest place."

In the meantime let us have free speech. If any man, be he ex-priest or not, desires to discuss the church of Rome or any other church, it is the business of the police to protect him from mob violence. If what he says is the truth, let the people hear it. If what he says is base and slanderous lies, let them alone and they will kill themselves. "When the Jesuit assass-

sin," says Leroy M. Vernon, "stabbed Fra Paolo Sarpi of Venice, to end his too liberal and evangelical writing, and fled, leaving the weapon sticking in the wound, Sarpi himself plucked the barbed stiletto from his flesh, and holding it aloft, cried 'The pen of the papacy!'" Contrariwise the sword of Americanism is open, free discussion of all men and measures, in press, pulpit and platform.

CHICAGO'S ITALIAN QUARTER.

Italian Peasants Coming to Found a New Rome.

Twenty-two thousand five hundred Italians came to the United States in 1893. Sixty-five thousand of them were Roman Catholics, and fifteen thousand of these were minors; ten thousand of these slaves of poverty located in Chicago. Why does this immense number of the dusky children of Italy come to our country? They come over here because they have been so oppressed by Rome that they can no longer make a living in their own country. Their earnings were taken by the greedy band of Rome and they had to leave or starve. But these poor people have been kept so ignorant by their priests that they are not intelligent enough to realize that these same priests are responsible.

Rome had one experience with the Italians under Garibaldi, and she is now keeping her children so ignorant that they will never see the failings of their mother church. The priests have succeeded in their object and the poor deluded Italians never know that they have to leave their beloved country on account of the oppressiveness of Rome. On the contrary, these Italians come here and aid the priests in their diabolical project of making America, the home of the brave and the free, a Roman Catholic nation. These Italians never think that Rome aided by the ignorance of their children, is continually reaching out and grasping more and more territory, like a great devilish sea winds one of her arms around a country and then drags it in to her power. And after getting them in her power she crushes them into absolute submission to her tyrannical rule. Does she use her power for their good? Not much! Look at the great Catholic nations and tell me, are they on an equal with the other nations of this world. Look at Ireland. Has she prospered under Romanism? When Ireland was a heathen nation she was feared by the English, and her warlike chiefs were famous all over Europe. Are they feared now? No. Ireland is now known as a down-trodden race and the sole cause of this is Roman rule. Italy, the home of Catholicism is the most ignorant nation in all Europe. Ninety-nine per cent of them are good Roman Catholics.

Eighty-five per cent of them cannot read or write. Twenty-one per cent are born out of wedlock. What has made Italy such a hotbed of ignorance and lust? Rome. The priests are

called fathers by the members of their flock. May be this twenty-one per cent of illegitimate births has something to do with the name father. If the Italians realized that Rome was the cause of all their trouble they would never assist the pope in his latest scheme to Romanize America. But this is not our only complaint against the Italians. They have been so used to working for a mere pittance, in Italy, that they come here and work for starvation wages and replace American laborers. They start fruit stands on the corners and undersell American fruit dealers; they put their boys on the streets during the day selling papers and at night have them stealing whenever an opportunity is offered. Their girls dance and sing and play on the sympathies of the easily duped American public every day. At night they discard their tambourines and beg. By making all his family work the Italian makes money, but he never spends any of it here if he can possibly avoid it. On the contrary, he sends every bit of money he can scrape up back to Italy so that his relatives can pay the priest for the privilege of living. We do not want these people to come here unless they desire to become American citizens and renounce the all grasping Church of Rome.

Our constitution says all men are free and equal. To be an American you must endorse the principles of the constitution of the United States. Can you do this and believe implicitly in a religion that commands one man to bend the knee to another? Can you take an oath of fealty to the United States when your oath as a communicant obliges you to recognize the pope as the supreme legal power of the world? If you take both these oaths, which one will you break? You have to break one of them; will it be the one to the church, or the one to the country? If you, as a Catholic, break the one to your church, you will be excommunicated, but if, as a Catholic, you break your oath to the country, the priest will forgive you for the sake of Mother church.

Americans, if these Italians do not renounce Roman Catholicism, they can never become good citizens of the United States. Are you going to allow them to come over here, take a false oath of allegiance, and then usurp the privilege of the ballot and vote for whoever the priest may instruct them to support at the polls? If you are true Americans you will never submit to such infamy as this, and as true American citizens of the great republic your ancestors fought for, I beg you, for the sake of the good name of our grand country, and for the honor of the glorious stars and stripes, to remove this nuisance to our liberty and crush the Church of Rome.

DAISY G. MACK.

An Important Measure.

One of the important measures now awaiting action in congress is a bill designed to make better citizens of immigrants coming to this country, and to

lessen the number of undesirable additions to our population. This measure, known as house-roll 326, was introduced by Representative Wm. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, and has been favorably reported to the house by the Judiciary committee.

In addition to present requirements of law, the immigrant is compelled by this bill to secure from the consul or other representative of the United States, nearest the immigrant's last place of residence, a certificate showing that the representative has made an investigation concerning the immigrant and that the immigrant is not one excluded from this country under its present laws, or any law that may be adopted. The following, quoted from the report of the Judiciary committee, will give some of the reasons why every citizen should favor this measure:

"The purpose of this bill is to prevent the criminals and paupers of Europe from being sent here as immigrants. Statistics show that much too large a proportion of the immigrants now coming here are incapable of self-support. By the last census, the per cent of persons born in foreign countries is 14.77 per cent, and yet this census shows that 26 per cent of the white prisoners confined in jails and simple prisons are persons of foreign birth. The total number of white convicts in our penitentiaries, whose birthplace is known, is 28,440, composed of 13,715 native born and 14,725 foreign born, showing that more than one-half of all our white convicts are of foreign birth. Our benevolent institutions contain 69,962 inmates by the last census * * * of which the foreign born compose 24 per cent. The total number of the white inmates of our poor-houses * * * is 53,696, of which number 27,648, or a little over 51 per cent, were born in foreign countries. These statistics show that with a foreign population of 14.77 per cent, more than half of our white penitentiary convicts and more than half of the white inmates of our poor-houses, are foreigners, and prove that of the immigrants coming here during the past few years, too many of them are deficient in morals, and are incapable, physically, of self-support. * * * Foreign countries not only encourage immigration * * * of criminals and paupers, but use public money to pay their expenses here. This fact seems to be a sufficient reason why so large a percentage of immigrants so soon find themselves in our prisons and poor-houses. * * *

The means adopted * * * have been found wholly inadequate to keep out of the country those really included in the excluded list. The superintendent of immigration states that during the six months ending December 31, 1893, 183,028 immigrants arrived, and 1,258 of them were debarred as falling within the list excluded by the law; less than one per cent. The examination on the arrival of the immigrants must necessarily be wholly insufficient to determine whether the immigrant belongs to the excluded class or not, and in many instances where the immigrant has made the long journey to the place of examination, and perhaps has expended his all in the undertaking, sympathy overcomes the doubt as to his eligibility, and he is admitted. * * * Under the present system, the immigrant's word has to be taken for most of the inquiries and there is no means of refuting him if he answers untruthfully. * * * This change * * * strikes at no nationality, * * * but simply at that class of incapables of all nations who can be only a burden to us, and whose moral and social influence can do us much harm. * * *

Have Their Own Brewery.

The following is a dispatch from Washington, D. C., to the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette:

Charles F. McKenna, of Pittsburg, arrived here today, accompanied by the arch-abbot of St. Vincent's monastery at Latrobe. Beer is brewed at the monastery for domestic use. The law provides that in such cases the consumption must occur at the place of manufacture. As the monastery beer is brewed in one building and the monks live in another, the abbot's visit here is to have the internal revenue regulations amended so that they can consume this beer in their dwelling, and not in the brewery.

That is decidedly suggestive. Here we have an order of monks, men who have ostensibly retired from the world that they may give themselves to study, meditation and prayer, who have a brewery in which to make their own beer! Some people remain in the activities of the wicked world, and are able to get along without this vice; but these "holy brothers" find it necessary to seek a modification of the rules established by the government to protect itself from imposition, in order that they may have their beer in their own house, instead of being compelled to walk to the brewery for it. They need go a step further, and join the Catholic Total Abstinence society. That would be a real advance.

THE AMERICAN can be obtained of all wholesale newdealers. Ask your dealer to handle it.