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

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SECEDE FROM ROME.

Fifty Thousand Poles Tired of Being Slaves, Revolt From the Church of Rome.

Father A. F. Kolaszewski, Their Leader, Explains Their Reasons for So Doing—Says the Movement Was Begun Twelve Years Ago.

Rev. Fr. A. F. Kolaszewski, the leader of the seceding Catholic Poles in the United States, and who, with three other priests, has signed testimonials accepting the Worcester priest, Rev. Dr. E. R. Knowles, as their bishop-designate, arrived here from Cleveland at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and was met at the Union station by Dr. Knowles, going to the latter's residence, after a drive about the city. Fr. Kolaszewski, who will undoubtedly, if this secession movement progresses, become the first Polish bishop for the Poles in America, is a portly, active and determined-looking priest of middle age; clear and intelligent in his statements. He claims for himself and the Polish clergy, who, like himself, have become Old Catholics and left Roman rule, an aggregation altogether of about 50,000 followers, chiefly in the following cities and towns, named according to the importance of their Polish independent Catholic representation: Buffalo, Cleveland, Baltimore, Naticoke, Pa., Freeland and Plymouth, Pa., Bremond, Tex., Meriden, Ct., Omaha, Neb., Winona, Minn., and South Chicago.

Fr. Kolaszewski said to a *Telegram* reporter:

"By a few clear facts I will endeavor to explain to the American people the cause of our so-called revolt against the Roman Catholic church authorities, as well as its importance. It is generally understood that we have about two millions of Poles in this country. They are mostly a hard-working people who came to this country in the hopes of finding some better means of living than they could procure in the old world. Our European governments, especially those by which Poland is divided, do not provide for the education of the people. I will say more, they do not care to have the working people become intelligent, and when they can, they suppress every spark of intelligence among that class which is generally known in Europe under the name of peasants. So the fact is that the bulk of our Polish immigration constitutes the ignorant people who can scarcely read and write. The only thing which they bring to this country, and which is common to all of them, no matter if they are poor, rich, educated or ignorant, is the love every Pole feels for his dear oppressed fatherland. This love is intensified with generations, and I think that some day it will reach such a strength that no force or army will be able to keep it down, and beating away all obstacles it will at least succeed in freeing our country.

"But to the point. The poor, ignorant Polish immigrant coming to this country, when he finds work and settles down, has no moral or intellectual necessities to satisfy. He feels only one higher craving, which he must satisfy, namely, homesickness. He loves his far-off country more than he did before, and feels that he must do something to satisfy this patriotic craving. So he builds the church; the same church which he attended every Sunday in his native village. He finds a priest, a Polish priest, who will celebrate masses, preach sermons, and perform all the religious ceremonies in the same way exactly as in the old country. It is not only the religious feeling which prompts the Pole to contribute so heavily for the benefit of the church. He is very religious and even fanatical, but he cannot pray as well in German or in Irish Catholic churches. The Polish church and the Polish priest are for him the embodiment not only of God on earth but as well of his beloved country. It is my opinion that the latter, the patriotic feeling, is even stronger than the former. And so we see that poor and hard working as the Poles in this country are, their churches are among the finest and most costly in America. A Polish laborer who makes \$9 a week and who is trying almost every device to save money, is always willing and ready to contribute as much as \$1,000 for the building of the church. They are self-sacrificing and devoted—they think, as well as feel, by heart. They are impulsive and prompted by the love for their country, for which they would give all they have in the world and gladly shed their life blood. I am sure that with the help of this religious and patriotic enthusiasm, many things tending to the moral and intellectual

elevation of the people could be accomplished.

"I must explain who are the leaders of the Poles in America. They are, as every one versed in Polish affairs knows, the Polish priests. The Polish priests are not only spiritual, but moral and intellectual as well, and business managers of the Poles in this country. Their word is law.

"Their power, founded upon the two above specified foundations, patriotism and religion, is as strong as the power of any other absolute government. A Polish priest has simply to say a word against some newspaper and all the members of his flock will cease to read it. He has but to recommend a political party or candidate, and they vote accordingly. He has but to condemn some business house and the people shun it. The priests use the devotion of our people and the power they have to accomplish their own ungenerous ends. They want first to fill their pockets, which they very easily do, and then rule the parishes in the name of God as despotically as does the czar, Alexander III.

"In Chicago, which contains the largest Polish settlement in this country, there is one priest who is worth about \$3,000,000. He was credited by a Polish paper ten years ago, with a yearly income of \$180,000, and he is called an uncrowned Polish king. He does nothing to promote the intelligence of the people, and in politics he is everything. Once he even distributed tickets in his church. In a city east of Cleveland is a priest worth \$1,000,000, and with an income of over \$100,000 per year. He publishes a paper for the support of which the democrats pay \$5,000 per year. In Buffalo we have about as many Poles as Germans. The Germans occupy prominent social and political positions, but the Poles have none at all. They are treated with contempt as in Cleveland and elsewhere.

"It is due to the priest that, although living for about a quarter of a century in this free and glorious country, we don't understand its institutions, its laws, its necessities, and the spirit of liberalism and progress which animates all that is truly American. They are to blame, I say, that while living amid culture and education, we remain just as ignorant amid freedom of conscience and yet we are even more fanatical than when we came. While the priests are growing enormously rich, the people are becoming destitute of all individual feelings. They cease to have thoughts or aims except what the priest dictates and are thus centuries behind our civilization. The blame

should fall, not upon the Polish priests alone, but to an even greater extent upon the American bishops. In the Roman Catholic church of this country the contributions of the Poles are the largest and their churches the finest. Yet no power on earth is so absolute, none more repressive or unrestrained, than that which is exercised on the Poles by these bishops. Their tears and petitions are alike treated with contempt. The bishop holds the title to the church property. Priests who really do good for the people like Rev. Mr. Kolasinski, of Detroit, and myself have been expelled from the church. This so-called independent movement was begun twelve years ago and now, for the first time, we are gaining the ascendancy. We are not changing our faith, but we want the right to control our worldly affairs. We want to elect our priests, own our church property, and control our schools.

"The American people are, as a rule, generous and free minded. At the same time it is surprising to see how little interest the same Americans who took so much interest in the famine stricken Russian peasants, and who send missionaries to other lands, take in their own fellow citizens. This is the more surprising because Americans are always considered very practical and sensible even in the display of their generosity.

"Ten years ago there was dissension in the Polish Roman Catholic church at Naticoke, Pa. The priest induced employees to discharge the leaders, and the others became frightened and surrendered. Not long ago we had a similar case in Cleveland. The treasurer of the new church was a city employe, and was discharged by Director Farley. No good reason was given for his dismissal. The democratic party has always sided with the priests and against the people. It has supported with its funds the papers published and edited by the priests.

"Our movement has in view the broad and liberal education of our future generation by giving the control of our parochial schools to the community. This is the only way in which to bring our countrymen up to the standard of American citizenship. Set them thinking for themselves and teach them how to appreciate American institutions and how to exercise the right of suffrage. Every true and noble-minded American citizen ought to take part in this movement. We need encouragement, we need help, moral as well as material. All the Roman Catholic church in this country, with Satoll at the head, is arrayed against us. All the Polish priests in America, with the

exception of a few, are against us. We have twenty-three Polish papers. They are directly published or edited by the priests or else influenced by them so they all condemn our movement. Only one advocates this movement. It was excommunicated by all the Polish clergy. The forces are terribly unequal. We want to elevate the Polish people, to set them thinking, to bring them up to the standard of true Americanism.—*Worcester Daily Telegram*.

WICKLIFF AND THE BIBLE.

His Translation of It the Cause of Rome's Enmity.

Among the many things which Wickliff taught and did which exposed him to papal hatred was his translation of the Bible into English. This raised the enmity and rage of his popish opponents to a very high pitch. A work in which God would bless him and pious hearts thank him, filled the papists with rage. How like anti-Christ! What a contrast between the spirit of popery and that of the truly pious! The Bible, the word of salvation, so precious to believers in all ages, is wrested from the people by the "mother of harlots," and driven from the family as if a dangerous wild beast. The Bible is one of God's greatest gifts to men, and was given to be read. Hence, Jesus says:

Search the scriptures: for in them ye shall have eternal life.—*John 5:39*.
For whatsoever things were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.—*Rom. 15:4*.
Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep these things which are written therein.—*Rev. 1:3*.

Yet Rome pronounces her anathema on the man who teaches these things in the Scriptures quoted and who would put the Bible into the hands of all men without exception.

What does Peter say, whom Rome claims was the first Pope, how would he agree with Leo XIII and his predecessors for a thousand years? Peter says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawns." If Peter were back here now Rome would try him for heresy, and he would be in danger of the inquisition. Better not go to Rome, Peter, your epistles would have to go through the "index expurgatorius."

Why keep from the people a book so precious?
Says the psalmist: "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste. Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." "I have more understanding than all my teachers; for Thy testimonies are my meditation."
The Bible is a damaging book to

Rome, because it is like a light shining in a dark place, and Rome cannot bear the light. She takes the Bible from the people and offers in its place a cup "full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication."—*Rev. 17:4*.

I loaned the Douay Bible, the Romish version, to a lady raised a papist, and was 40 years old, but had never seen a copy of the Douay Bible.

Well, Wickliff was a good man and has been called the "Morning Star of the Reformation," and no doubt an open Bible did much in bringing the dawn of a better day.

But, notwithstanding the malice of the pope and priests against Wickliff for opening the Bible to common people, in which they might learn for themselves the corruption and idolatry of the Romish church, the gracious care of a covenant, God protected him against the machinations of Rome, and he was permitted to die a peaceful death on December 31, 1384.

The popish clergy in England were so enraged at the increasing circulation of the English Bible that in 1380, a few years after Wickliff's death, the prelates presented a bill in the house of lords for suppressing Wickliff's translations, but the bill was thrown out. If these popish haters of the Bible could have looked forward to the nineteenth century and seen our Bible societies issuing millions of Bibles annually, and selling a whole Bible for two shillings and a New Testament for a nickel, they would have had a spasm. Popish spasm.

After Wickliff was dead popish hatred was not willing to let his ashes rest, but the council of Constance sit in judgment over his dust, condemn all his published works, and as the council decided that he died an "obstinate heretic" they "condemn his memory and order his bones to be dug up * * * and cast upon a dung hill." This savage sentence was not enforced till the year 1428, at the command of Pope Martin V, but then the popish executioners of the dead reformer's bones, in their willing zeal, transcended the sentence of the council. They dug up his remains from the grave where they had peacefully reposed for over forty years, burnt them to ashes, and then cast them into a neighboring brook, called the Swift. They burned his bones but could not burn the truth he preached, it lives and he lives in precious memory. Fuller, in speaking of this, says, "The brook Swift did convey his ashes into Avon, the Avon into Severn, the Severn into the narrow seas, they into the main ocean. And thus the ashes of Wickliff are the



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emblem of his doctrine, which is now dispersed all the world over."

May many Wickliffs arise to publish the truth. The Bible is the charter of our liberties. Jesus says, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Let the A. P. A. stand by this truth as far as it is connected with her mission. Religious liberty, but no popery; free schools, free press, free Bible, free discussion. CALVIN.

AS IT SHOULD BE.

The A. P. A. Causes a Roman Catholic Officer Holder to Resign.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 16.—The influence of the American Protective Association in the administration of the affairs of this city was clearly demonstrated today when Dr. Geiss, superintendent of the city dispensary, tendered his resignation and Dr. Lambert was appointed his successor. Ever since the appointment of Geiss, Mayor Denny has been besieged by the A. P. A. to remove him on account of his religion and today it was finally accomplished by his resignation. The excuse is made that Geiss belonged to a medical college that already had too many appointments under the city and that the reason of the change was to place a doctor in charge of the dispensary who represented another college. It is known, however, that a bitter fight was being made against him because he is a Catholic.

"BAT" SHEA ON TRIAL.

Two Weeks Consumed in Securing a Jury in the Troy Murder Case.

TROY, N. Y., June 15.—The twelfth juror in the "Bat" Shea murder case was found today. His name is Matthew Book and he is the only Roman Catholic on the jury. This fact is significant in view of the fact that, according to the claim of the defense, the religious question will enter largely into the trial. It took just two weeks to secure the jury. Assistant District Attorney Fagan opened the case for the people this afternoon. In his address he scored the defense for seeking to wrap about the murderer the mantle of the Roman Catholic church. Ernest Perry, inspector of elections at the election district where Ross was shot, swore that three repeaters had voted in his district under the protection of "Bat" Shea and his confederates, "Jerry" Cleary and John McGough.

"Old Glory" Again Insulted.

A lot of striking miners at Trinidad recently paraded the streets carrying the American flag upside down with a foreign flag floating above it. This shows the sentiment, the animus, the backing of the revolt in this state. Demagogues in office in Colorado have found willing instruments in the ignorant Romanist foreigners who ostensibly delve in the mines when they can crowd out honest American labor, but who in reality plot anarchy, treason and rebellion. Only a coward or an anarchist at the head of affairs would have permitted such a demonstration to go unrebuked.—*Denver American*.

"That is the Enemy."

A writer in the *Catholic Review* has this to say: "In a letter written very recently, on his return from Rome, Mons. Valleau, bishop of Quimper, gave an account of his interview with his holiness, Pope Leo XIII., and in a passage of that communication he thus explains his conclusions: 'The most important question that now engages the attention of the sovereign pontiff is Freemasonry. Frequently he repeated to me in the strongest and most emphatic tone—That is the enemy.'"

P. O. S. of A. Union Meeting.

Friday evening last, June 15, National President Kilton, of Denver, Colo., and National Secretary Stees, of Philadelphia, met with the Council Bluffs and Omaha lodges Patriotic Order Sons of America at the hall of the order in Council Bluffs. After the exercises of the evening an adjournment was had to the social given by the Patriotic Daughters of America at the residence of G. H. Brown, Mynster street, where a most enjoyable time was spent.

An Unpatriotic Weed.

The finest specimen of a patriotic plant we have seen in these latter days of degeneracy is Governor Flower, of New York. His rebuke to the men who want to haul down all but the American flag was timely and refreshing. It showed that the heart of a scholar and patriot beats beneath the breast of the empire state's chief executive.—*Connecticut Catholic*.

Omaha Gets It.

The next National Convention of the Junior Order United American Mechanics will be held in Omaha the third Tuesday in June, 1895.