

TRUE AMERICANISM.

A Comparison Drawn Between Sherman, the Soldier, and Sherman the Jesuit Priest.

The History and the Policy of the Roman Catholic Church Shown to be Entirely Incompatible With the True Spirit of Americanism.

The Chicago Democrat, under date of May 19, 1893, publishes at great length a lecture by a Catholic priest at Omaha, Nebraska.

The priest was "Father" Sherman, his subject, "True Americanism."

The reverend gentleman prides himself on being a son of the great general, W. T. Sherman, whose high military genius and splendid services in defence of the American Union throughout the war of the rebellion, has placed his name among the highest and the brightest on the scroll of fame.

Sherman, the soldier, went forward into the clouds of war and bore aloft, with a hero's hand, fair freedom's banner of the stars and stripes.

Sherman, the soldier, drew the sword against his country's enemies—against those who sought to weaken and make contemptible the fame and prestige of this great republic.

Sherman, the priest, calls loudly from the public rostrum: "Look at me! I am a true American. I am lecturing on the reason why everyone who is willing to revere and honor the pope of Rome should accept, blindly and without question, whatever I say against the aims and principles of the pope's enemies."

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full-fledged non-resident to reign over us. No, Sherman, the priest, keeps the attention of his deceitful listeners entirely away from the very thing they should be given to know.

So much for Sherman, the priest, in contrast with Sherman, the soldier. Can the former, while parading in the Roman uniform take on and wear the name of true American? What kind of Americanism is that which swears allegiance to the pontiff of the Vatican when there is plenty of positive proof that the "church" is the implacable enemy of "True Americanism"?

Let us see of what value to the cause of America the six column lecture of Brother Sherman amounts to. If there are any points in it, they are not sharp to stick into anybody.

Now, Brother Sherman, an old hand at "True Americanism" will address a few remarks to you. I want to ask you first if you really consider everyone a coward and liar who looks upon the Roman system with a different eye from yours?

You remarked in another place: "I am not explaining Catholic dogma, I am not defending it." No, I think you had better not try it.

I assume, friend Sherman, that you are American enough to wish that the principles and processes of the Catholic church were more honest and less regrettable than they are.

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are so rapidly organizing into a vast army under the name of the American Protective Association?

Can you tell me why the Catholic children are taught in sectarian schools when the very priests themselves know that our public school system is a far superior source of education?

Why is it that the "Church" will not allow the Bible in its families or schools?

Are not the gospels of the Bible the foundation upon which all Christianity is built?

What is the intention of the Catholic church in thus separating, by this secret Catholicism, her adherents from the greater public?

Why do all champions of the Roman cause harp on religious differences as the cause of all the fuss and avoid entirely any explanation of the church's policy?

Why is the church so afraid of the A. P. A.? Is your style of praying yourselves into heaven so irritating to everybody else that millions of men—the bulk of an intelligent people—have discovered in it a national danger?

What is the reason your priests are debarred from marrying, which is in direct opposition to the desire of nature and the command of God?

Are we to be governed by the tomfoolery of the Roman Vatican instead of by the sublime precepts of the Almighty?

Are the imprisoned women in your nunneries used for any other purpose than to give comfort, etc., to the priests, through the most delicious kind of amiability?

What do they do with all the children the Holy Ghost causes the conception of in your religious institutions?

Do you think it would be objectionable for other Christian churches to worship God with similar collections of entrapped women?

For what purpose has the ridiculous villainy you call purgatory been established by the Romish church other than to scare and rob of their hard earnings the poor and ignorant representatives of the wash tub and the hod?

Why do you discountenance and condemn as heathenish and blasphemous all forms of worship in which manufactured idols or images are set up and worshipped as the representatives of spiritual deities?

Did it ever strike you that the acronyms of the Catholic church are now and always have been running the most ghastly system of idolatrous worship on the face of the globe?

What do you say to the sickening spectacle of the life-size figure of a dying man nailed to a cross and streaming with blood and painted in a repulsively natural manner and stuck up in a church chancel for the deluded and ignorant to bow down to and worship?

For what purpose do you parade before your people that unnervingly distasteful and shocking symbol of a human heart stabbed full of knives and screwed or painted on a woman's breast?

Why do you maintain that ridiculously sanctimonious host of wooden or plaster-paris idols of the "saints" and advertise them in so conspicuous a manner inside and outside of your institutions if not to force a reverence for those they represent down the throats of your ignorant and timid Catholics?

Be honest now, and tell me if your Hindoo or Chinese worshipper swears allegiance to any more idols than your Nineteenth century Catholic does?

Do you, as an intelligent member of an enlightened community, intend to keep up this Hindoo business in the future and not use your intellect for the improvement of the Catholic mind?

Now, Brother Sherman, I might ask you more questions and some that would be harder to answer, but you will doubtless agree with me that they will do for the present. I shall feel grateful if you will enlighten me on these points with "reasons" but will overhaul a few of these peculiarities myself first.

The American Protective Association! What is it instituted to protect us from? There is no armed invader approaching our shores. The small pox or the cholera could be taken care of without political dissent or the organization of such a society. You will sincerely need, then, an explanation, Brother Sherman, of the reason why the spirit of "forewarned-forearmed" has begun, even at this eleventh hour, to infuse itself into a too-long trusting and unsuspecting people.

If you know the character of Romanism—which I will wager you do, about half as well as the impartial student of history does, you will be able to see without a telescope why the American people at large have felt the dangerous menace that underlies the stealthy encroachments of the Roman Catholic orders under the cover of religious observance.

Let me tell you sir, that the door of popery's chamber is being forced open and the insidious trickery that the "Church" has arrayed against progress and freedom will be dragged forth by the relentless hand of public opinion and the iron heel of a nation's censure will grind the villainous hypocrisy out of it.

Political prestige is the aim of the church in this country as it is and ever has been in every other. When that has been fully attained education dies

and ignorance holds the subjugated people in its deadening embrace. Prosperity and pride of country become unknown when the power of Rome has full swing. Popery will have it so. If you doubt this look at Italy, even now, when only 20 per cent. of its populous empire can read and write.

It was infinitely more ignorant than that when the pope had the sole government of the country and kept a military establishment at the Vatican. Italy and Rome, the pope's headquarters, furnish an example to the world of what Catholic policy is, and it is well known that Catholicism, if left to run its course unchecked, would utterly debase and prostitute the whole world in three generations.

Popery is the only foe that education ever had, and with an implacable, and unrelenting method of procedure it uses the velvet paw of deception to distract the public eye from the spider web it is weaving about the vitals of America.

Brother Sherman, it is to teach a much needed lesson that the A. P. A. has called a halt on the march of Romanism; and let me advance the idea that while you are serving the church of Rome in any other than a purely religious sense you cannot be a true American.

If you consider your glorious father's principles worth anything, and want to be a pillar of the nation, renounce allegiance to your foreign master, the Italian line-walker. Marry a loving woman as your father did—educate your free, American children in the public school, and you won't have to set yourself up as a target of paradox that asserts True Americanism on one side and antagonism to it on the other.

You know well enough that the Catholic parochial school is nothing more nor less than a church trick of breeding slaves to its will. Commercial ethics, history, the eternal precepts of the Bible and all the sciences that enlarge the mind are crippled and subverted to allow the ascendancy of the papal code through an abundant provision of Ave Marias—catechistical absurdities and that confusing and useless tangle of mind-weakening trash, the "Lives of the Saints."

You ought to be ashamed of the office that prescribes the teaching of such a dismal batch of ridiculous fable. There is a little truth in the general mass here and there perhaps, but what is the use of it to our children? They are not expected to serve as martyrs to be burned at the stake, are they, in emulation of some of these poor fellows?

The saint himself, Brother Sherman, is about worn out; the market is weakening and in a little while it will have to be stuffed and put in the museum.

Did you ever take the trouble to find out the real character of a majority of the countless gang that the church has canonized? Uncover the life record of the most prominent by reference to contemporaneous history and you have a lot of misguided fanatics, pious ignoramuses, scallwags and crime-saturated scoundrels to whom the title of devil would better be applied than that of saint.

To sum it all up, my dear Sherman, your church militant with its saint-building and Bible-defying doctrines, along with its general "cussedness" in the way of politics and blasphemous pretension, has long ago forfeited its claim to be called the church of Christ. The pure and Godlike teachings of the master spirit which we call the Savior, were human, grand and encouraging. He practiced no deception but the elaborate amalgamation of questionable pieties which makes so disgusting a parade of the corporeal sufferings of the "Son of Man" has a great deal to answer for in the day of wrath.

This is the church which excludes the teachings of the Master, as set down in the Bible, from its followers. The reason for it is apparent.

Our great General Grant said to the American people, "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of our liberties, write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future."

General Grant was a true American. He who serves a system that does not endorse those sentences is not a good conservator of the laws of liberty.

As to the matter of educating your Catholic children apart from those of non-Catholic people, I would say to you that the very idea proclaims that you are forming an isolated system, and the constant practice of it gives out the positive assertion that there is an un-American scheme of usurpation attached to it.

A scheme that observant people can see the bent of, and if you do not understand what this parochial school business is tending to I will tell you that its purpose is to make Catholicism so antagonistic to our institutions of freedom as to some day disrupt the republic.

Is a promoter of a scheme like this a true American? You call every opponent of this Jesuitical trick a traitor to his country. What are you? Can you claim to be loyal to our nation's principles and the rights of man while you are fastening with all your might the very element through which the church intends to break down and subjugate the liberties of the United States? You cannot but know all this, Brother Sherman, and you won't need to be reminded,

perhaps, that the American public will see the pope and call his bluff.

It is beginning to be widely known that the parochial school system is being exploited to create a Roman Catholic vote big enough to gradually undermine everything non-Catholic and to bring, at last, the entire government under the blighting hand of the Roman pontiff.

Who, then, are the traitors? The Catholic priesthood and its laity are working in the dark to accomplish this damnable design which I have outlined.

The A. P. A. is working with openly avowed hostility against them, and will checkmate the move by voting Catholics out of office whenever it can be done, not because they are Catholics, but because the power that impells them is the country's enemy.

The purpose of the A. P. A., therefore, is to preserve inviolate from the polluting influence of popery the liberties of America. It is easy to see in the light of this living truth who the traitors are.

It is not a source of wonder that Catholicism in America is afraid of the A. P. A. The determination to down the dangerous villainy that the church is practicing upon a peaceful people is as deep rooted as was the "spirit of '76" in the hearts of an outraged populace.

You are sowing the wind—you will reap the whirlwind. Remember the condition of Mexico under the rule of Catholic curse; remember the fate of the brave, but bigoted Maximilian, who perished while forcing his monarchial and ecclesiastical extremes upon the people. Do not forget the revolution of feeling that swept like a tidal wave over the unspeakably corrupt methods of salvation that the Holy Catholic church had brought upon the suffering country as Benito Juarez drove his sword to the hilt into the vitals of its villainous hypocrites.

He saw the pitiable wreck that the scoundrels of the church had made of the country and its people, and with an iron will and the spirit of a just retaliation he rebuked their high-handed deviltries and brought his fair Mexico out of the hell that the accursed (Continued on Page 6.)

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