

MR SATOLLI'S DECREE

A Review of His Position Concerning Saloon Keepers. The following communication was recently published in St. Joseph daily Herald:

Our country has scarcely recovered from the effects of the late railroad strike with its "boycott" and interference with the rights of the citizen who wished to labor, before we behold Catholic circles stirred to their very depths by Mgr. Satolli's late decision, which is practically a church boycott against all American citizens, "who are engaged either as principal or agent in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors."

President E. V. Debs of the A. R. U., and his officers were promptly arrested and incarcerated for contempt of the United States court, which had issued an order restraining them from interfering either by threat or persuasion, with the vocation of any man.

The liquor traffic is as much a legalized business as is railroading in this country, and Mgr. Satolli, the pope's agent, is a greater law-breaker than Eugene V. Debs, for daring to intimidate any citizen engaged in the liquor traffic, for the following reasons:

First. Eugene V. Debs, in intimidating the railroad employe, was interfering with the United States mail and interstate commerce; Mgr. Satolli in intimidating "the principal or agent in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors," is interfering with the United States custom receipts and the rights of the country at large—to drink intoxicating beverages.

Second. E. V. Debs and his followers could only intimidate the American workman by threats of bodily harm and the unpleasant appellation of "scab" to follow him through life; Mgr. Satolli and his followers seek to drive American citizens from their legalized vocation by threats of branding them as heretics during this life and consigning them to an "eternal hell" in the life to come, for excommunication according to the dogmas of the Catholic church, means a denial of an entrance into heaven. No potentate ever wielded such power over a subject as Mgr. Satolli and the Catholic clergy exert over the ignorant Catholic by their threats of denying him the "eu-charist," "the extreme unction," the privilege of lying in holy(?) ground and the prayer of all the saints in earth and heaven for his release from purgatory.

Is there a nation on earth that would permit a foreigner, such as Mgr. Satolli, to come to its shores and attempt to drive its citizens from their legitimate pursuits, interfere with the revenue of the nation, and the privileges of all the people? Why should Eugene V. Debs be indicted and Mgr. Satolli go free? Is there no law in this land to present a barrier to the pope of Rome, in this his first overt act toward the destruction of the liberties of the American people?

Is the manufacturer or retailer of intoxicating liquors worse than the drinker? Who demands the saloon and its liquors? The churches, the laity, the priest and preacher are the liquor man's best customers. A wholesale liquor dealer was heard to say recently that his best customers were the church people because they demanded the finest wines and drinks. The quickest way and most effectual way for the church to destroy the liquor traffic, would be to convert themselves into sober men and women, and not attempt to exonerate themselves by making a scape-goat of the saloon man. So long as we see priest and people tossing off the sparkling wine, foaming beer and other liquors, just so long will the traffic continue and the saloon man's traducers pose as hypocrites. The saloon man is not responsible for the appetites and sins of other men. He only meets a crying demand. It does not give him pleasure to see men drinking to intoxication. The responsibility is upon the man who drinks.

As the observing student realizes the inconsistency between the teachings and practices of the church, he appreciates the fable of the fox barking at the front door while his comrade robs the hen roosts.

While attempting to promulgate the doctrines of the gentle Jesus, coercion and anathemas have been the true spirit of the church, marking her pathway with blood for hundreds of years. Not content to deal alone in spiritual matters, she has ever sought to grasp temporal power and sit as a queen with the whole world at her feet. She has not hesitated to use deceit, lying, intrigue, theft and even murder to accomplish that end—for which she still longs today. Ignorance and superstition are her strongest allies, whilst she has ever recognized free thought and free institutions as her most bitter foe.

I heard Bishop M. F. Burke deliver an address to the graduates of the Christian Brothers college at Columbia hall, June 28, 1894. His remarks were tinged with bitterness towards Protestant America and especially towards our free public school system, because, as he claimed, the system was so ungodly. There was an entire absence of

charity or brotherly love in his voice and words as he spoke of the Protestant past of our country. Bitter invectives marked his speech as he warmed up against the heretics. He dwelt especially upon the public school system of our land as injurious to the morals of the children and its failure to teach them religion, etc. He said that Catholics were taxed to sustain the public schools. He said the ignorance of the American people was surprising and was generally remarked upon by other nations whom he claimed were superior. He stated the Italians were superior to the Americans in point of education. Though Bishop Burke's audience was a Catholic one, yet there was no enthusiasm manifested at this uncalculated speech to an American audience.

After sowing such seed as would prejudice his hearers against Americans and American institutions, Bishop Burke sat upon the platform and each young man as he received his diploma from him, knelt before the bishop and kissed a ring upon his hand. There arose within my heart a protest that these young men should be called upon to humiliate themselves to such a servile and superstitious act—a burlesque on the bishop's remarks regarding the superiority of Catholic education. I felt as I witnessed this act so destructive to American manhood, that it is the churches which are keeping the people in error, darkness and ignorance or required to sacrifice the God-given right of independence to gratify the pride of hierarchy or king. A man's heel once placed upon the neck of a child, man, beast or system will never be lifted while there is power behind him.

My observation is that the Catholic school system works a great hardship upon the children of the poor Catholics who are unable to pay for tuition in their schools, and are denied the privilege of sending their children to our free schools. What good is there in a religious system that refuses to educate a poor child unless it poses as a pauper? I know of a Catholic family in our city whose six or eight children are sorely in need of education, because the parents are too poor to pay tuition, and too proud to have their children classed as paupers. While the fear of the priests' frown prevents them sending their children to the public schools. I recently learned the following history of a young Catholic girl in our city. Her parents were too poor to educate her in a Catholic school, so she, being of an independent, wilful disposition attended our public schools until she graduated. She subsequently secured a remunerative position as book-keeper in a mercantile house. The Catholic priests then came to induce her to join the Catholic church, but she tossed her head and said: "No, indeed, you would not educate me when I needed it, and now that I am making money you want me in the church. I don't want such a religion."

When the Catholic church lays aside her insatiable greed and is willing to teach the children of her members without money and without price, then, and not until then, can Bishop Burke or any of his associates criticize with any degree of modesty, the only system in our land which takes the out-cast child of the gutter and elevates him to the intellectual plane of the child of fortune.

Bishop Burke condemns the public school system because of its failure to "teach religion." Religion is not God and there is a distinction between religion and christianity. A religion is outward form without power. Christianity is power without outward form. All sects are religionists and devoid of a personal knowledge of God—the true God. Catechise them regarding practical knowledge of God, and you will find few, if any, have direct answers to prayer. How ridiculous to attempt to teach children of God, when those who teach are bringing reproach upon the name of God daily. The one fact of coercion on the part of Catholics and Protestants is proof conclusive that they have no knowledge of God as taught by the gentle Jesus. It is injustice to a nation to have any system or organization of men instruct its children of God, when they, the instructors, know not God.

I recently met a young woman on her way to Japan as a missionary, who admitted to me that she had no personal knowledge of God or direct answers to her prayers, yet she was going to teach the heathen. I said to her, "My dear young woman, you are not prepared to teach the heathen of God when you do not know Him." So you see America sends her heathen to teach the Asiatic heathen of God. And Europe sends her heathen to dictate to and teach the American heathen of God.

Few teachers of religion have any practical knowledge of God, while the majority cling to the deeply noted dogmas and superstitions of their forefathers. The superstitions handed down by the Catholic church have become so universal that some are practiced by many who do not know of them. To illustrate:

A well-bred man puts his hand over his mouth when he yawns, but not one well-bred man in ten thousand knows why. The reason is this: Four or five hundred years ago there was a super-

stition common in Europe that the devil was always lying in wait to enter a man's body and take possession of him. Satan generally went in by the mouth; but when he had waited a reasonable time and the man did not open his mouth the devil made him yawn, and while his mouth was open jumped down his throat. So many cases of this kind occurred that the people learned to make the sign of the cross over their mouths whenever they yawned, in order to scare away the devil. The peasantry in Italy and Spain still adhere to this custom, though most other people have dispensed with the cross sign and keep out the devil by simply placing the hand before the lips. It is a most remarkable survival of a practice after the significance has perished.

It is owing to the fact of the Italians clinging to the cross sign, as in this case to keep the devil from jumping down their throats, that Bishop Burke deems them more intelligent than Protestant Americans.

It has been said: "Reason is the only torch of the brain. Honesty is the best human guide to lead us in the light of this torch. Everything put before the people today for them to believe or act upon is subject to impartial investigation." Hence the majority of thinking men and women are cutting loose from the church with its dogmas and superstitions, while the "old lady" (Rev. 17-17) is left to make her statistical boasts over the numbers of unthinking women and children she scares or persuades into her fold. I predict that Mgr. Satolli will be unable to coerce the liquor men of America, and the church will content herself by selling them indulgences (to sin) as was her custom in the dark ages when her power was almost universal.

The world is still looking for that ideal priest described by Geoffrey Chaucer, the first English poet laureate, viz:

"A good man there was of religion, That was a poor parson of a town; But rich he was in holy thought and work, He was also a learned man, a clerk. That Christ's gospel truly would preach, His parishioners devoutly would teach, Heigh he was and wondrous diligent, And in adversity full patient; And such he was proved often times, Full both were he to curser for his times, But rather would he give, out of doubt, Unto his poor parishioners about, Of his offering, and eke of his substance; He could in little things have sufficience. Wide was his parish, and houses far asunder, But he never felt nor thought of rain or thunder, In sickness and in mischief to visit The farthest in his parish, much and oft, Upon his feet, and in his hand a staff. This noble example to his sheep he gave; That first he wrought and then he taught: Out of the Gospel he the words caught, And this figure he added yet thereto: That if gold rust, what should iron do? And if a priest be foul, on whom we trust, No wonder if a common man do rust; Well ought a priest example for to give, By his cleanliness, how his sheep should live. He set not his benefits to hire, Or left his sheep bewildered in the mire, And ran to London, unto Saint Paul's, To seek him a chanter for souls, Or with a brotherhood to be without; But that dwell at home, and kept well his fold, So that the wolf he made it not miscarry, He was a shepherd and no mercenary; And though he holy were and virtuous, He was to sinful men not dispiteous, Nor of his speech dangerous nor high, But in his talking discreet and benign, To draw his folk to heaven, with fairness, By good example, was his business; But if were any person obstinate, Whether he were of high or low estate, Him would he reprove sharply for the same, A better priest, I trow, that nowhere is, He waited after neither pomp nor reverence, Nor naked him no spiced conscience, But Christ's love and His apostles twelve He taught, but first he followed it himself."

CLARA D. ARMSTRONG.

Pat's Soliloquy.

Why should these Yankees organize In such a secret way, And plan for us a sad surprise Upon election day?

Have we, the only christian church, Revealed our plan too soon? Must we come down from off our perch, Like Davy Crockett's coon? Sure we must try another game; Our holy fathers feel That we can fool them all the same, With patriotic zeal. We'll tell them when the flag was rent, We saved this Yankee nation; And how we loved the president—"With a mental reservation." Of course it will not be the truth, Our priest will settle that, And we must never mention Booth, Or the dear old saint Surratt. Now we must play the winning card To quiet all this fuss, And show for them a warm regard—But never mention Huss. Our priests who scorn the aid of pelf, Though spurned by Yankee frauds, Are more to us than God himself—They manufacture gods. We'll tell these Yankee heretics We love the public school—You see the conscience never pricks Where lying is the rule. But the Yankees now are waking up, And I begin to feel That we must drink a bitter cup, If we should miss the deal. Last night I had a horrid dream Which did my bosom thrill, So real did my fancy seem, The vision haunts me still. 'Twas midnight when I heard a call

That filled me with dismay; I woke, and lo, upon the wall Was written "A. P. A.," Once more I gazed, when mighty dread Had pierced me through and through. The souls of all the martyred dead Came passing in review. It seemed the power of speech had fled; E'en now my spirit faints; I saw the papal church was red With the blood of martyred saints.

We know those heretics were bad, And the victims of a scheme, But truly I was more than glad My vision was a dream.

Of course our holy church is white; And I now understand We have the only patent right To occupy this land.

For years in office we have thrived With undisputed sway; And are we now to be deprived By the horrid A. P. A.?

Must we retire in sore disgrace And see these Yankees fed, While we—the noble Celtic race—Must toil to get our bread?

Sure we are in a horrid fix; Help us, ye saints in glory, And send the Yankee heretics To an endless purgatory.

SPAKESHURE.—in The Citizen.

"Every Catholic should rigidly adhere to the teachings of the Roman pontiff, especially in the matter of modern liberty, which, already under the semblance of honesty of purpose, leads to destruction. We exhort all Catholics to devote careful attention to public matters, and take part in all municipal affairs and elections, and public services, meetings and gatherings. All Catholics must make themselves felt as elements in daily political life in countries where they live. All Catholics should extend their power to cause the constitutions of States to be modeled on the principles of the true church." —Leo XIII, November 7th, 1890.

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Rev. J. Hogan, of St. Joseph, Mo., says: "That the sacraments are to be refused to Catholics unworthy of the name, who in the education of their children patronize the public schools." —Judges of Faith, page 103.

Change of Time.

On and after Sunday, April 29th, the Missouri Pacific trains for Kansas City, St. Louis, etc., will leave depot at 15th and Webster streets at 9:00 a. m. and 9:30 p. m. Trains will arrive at 6:00 a. m. and 6:55 p. m. Nebraska Local leaves daily, except Sunday, at 5:10 p. m.; arrives 9:20 a. m.

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