

THE AMERICAN.

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NUMBER 51

VISITING CARDS

Don't You Want Some
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VISITING CARDS?
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January 1, 1895
AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY,
OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

PRIESTLY outrages are not always committed in the adjoining counties.

Occasionally they occur almost at the very doors of our homes.

This is especially true of Omaha, and particularly just at the present time.

It has been equally true in the days that are gone, yet these outrages have seldom been printed.

Just why this is and has been so we leave a gullied and gullible public to solve to its own satisfaction.

While it is doing that we shall relate the experience of a prominent German citizen, as told to us by himself.

To get at the story as it should be told we will have to take up the thread of life in the old country some thirty years ago.

At that time Herman was a young man, a soldier in the regular army under a three year enlistment; while Gretchen was a comely maiden in his native town.

They met, by chance; perhaps 'twas willed by fate they should so meet and be enchained one with the other.

At all events they courted; wed; the girl renouncing Romanism to get the soldier boy.

More, she pledged the children born in wedlock should be raised in his religious faith.

A year or two they spent in peace, then war was in the air; the draft was mentioned in the village where Herman and Gretchen lived.

They held a long and earnest consultation; planned a flight to the new world; and a few days later Herman kissed his frow goodby and took passage for America.

In time he reached this city, where he worked and planned and saved in order to bring his family here to share the blessings of this great new world.

In the meantime, he received a letter from his folks from which he learned that Gretchen had had their baby baptized into the Roman church.

He wrote condemning her; she then confessed; her folks had been to blame.

She made anew her anti-nuptial vow; begged to be freed from their base influence; and plead for life in America.

He sent for her.

She came and brought the children of their youth.

And for a time they lived as happy as mortal man and women ever lived.

Then, in an evil hour, he listened to a daughter's pleadings and sent her to a Roman Catholic school to finish her musical education.

Prior to allowing her to attend, however, he called on the mother superior who agreed that his daughter would be free from religious instruction; that they never interfered in the religious beliefs of the pupils.

He left the school satisfied.

Poor fellow, he little dreamed of the dissembling of these agents of old Rome.

So he sent his daughter to their school; they praised her; the Nashes, the McShanes and the Gallaghers petted her, and incidentally she became aware that there was no religion worth having unless its head was in old Rome.

She left the school; a "finished" education.

For a time her father took her to the German Lutheran church.

She offered no complaint, and one Sunday [when he was indisposed] he went to church alone.

On her return he said, "Annie, who did you see at church this morning?" and she answered promptly, "Mr. Bolln, Mr. Heimrod," and several other prom-

inent men whom she knew would be there.

For several weeks the same questions were asked and like answers returned, until her father became suspicious.

As a consequence the following Sunday morning found him dressed in his best suit—to go out in Walnut Hill and look after a lot he thought of buying.

He went out Cuming street and came back on California, getting in sight of his house just as his daughter started for church.

It required no tact to shadow the unsuspecting girl, so he soon saw her enter St. John's Roman Catholic church.

Then he returned and waited.

In the course of an hour or two Annie came home, and he asked her who she saw at church. Instantly came the answer, "Mr. Bolln, Mr. Heimrod."

But before she could get any farther the indignant father was on his feet, livid with rage, and crying, "Why do you lie to your father—why don't you tell the truth? You were at the Catholic church! You are a Roman Catholic!"

It was a stormy scene!

Finally he told her she would have to make her own living, that not one dollar of his should a daughter of his have who would join the Roman Catholic church against his will, and without his knowledge.

The mother, the daughter and their priest held a consultation.

Then the father and husband was subjected to the most outrageous persecution in order to drive him from the home and afford the wife an excuse for suing him for a divorce and alimony.

His victuals were poisoned, bedclothes torn into shreds; towels, sheets, pillow-cases and soap were carried from the room as soon as he left the house, and as often as he purchased a new supply they were removed.

But he remained at the house, when not working for the city as an inspector.

One day he was at home, and a bald-faced gentleman stopped at a neighbor's house on the corner and asked where Mr. — lived, and upon being informed, went across the street, up the walk and into the house.

Herman was in the yard watering the lawn; he saw the priest enter; waited for his exit, which did not take place as soon as he thought proper, so he went in the back door, noiselessly passed to the front part of the house, where he found the priest and the daughter in an embarrassing position.

Indignant at what he saw, he asked, "Who are you, sir, that you come and see my daughter, and treat her as a young man does his sweetheart?" The other replied, "I am her father confessor; I am confessing her sins." "And do you have to have a lounge when you hear women confess their sins to you? You get out of my house, and if you ever come back here I'll give you the worst whipping you ever had. Get out, before I kick you out."

Since that day his wife has sued him; and the daughter has been employed in the Morse Dry Goods Company store.

We do not know what the outcome will be in the stand taken by Ireland and the pope regarding secret societies. Last week Ireland said Romanists could join any order but that of the Masons. This week the pope says all secret societies not under the control of the church are under the ban. Of course Ireland's opinion as a free American citizen does not count for much when placed in the balance with that of the prisoner of the Vatican, and our opinion is that Ireland will have to back water. Nice church that, where a man has to think just as the fellow above him thinks.

THE CORBETT-BONACUM controversy will not down. The latest move is an appeal by Martin Corbett from the decision of the district court of Otoe county, in the case in which Rev. Thomas Bonacum secured an injunction restraining Corbett from practicing his clerical duties, was filed today in the supreme court. The history of this case covers some four years, but the matter did not culminate legally until May 7, 1894, when the petition of Bishop Bonacum was filed: The case now comes up on a motion of Defendant Corbett for an extension of the time of filing transcript of the evidence adduced on the trial of the action in the court below and for an order upon the official stenographer of the court to prepare

and furnish to the defendant such transcript with all convenient speed. In his complaint Bishop Bonacum alleges that the defendant was removed as priest from missions and prohibited from further officiating as priest in any church of the diocese for refusing to follow his instructions. In his answer, Corbett declared that the matter was purely ecclesiastical and not civil, and that on an appeal to Monsignore Satolli he was reinstated and the sentence of suspension of Bonacum set aside.

THIS world is made up, principally, of strange things, not the least curious among the number being the choosing of Eugene Kelly by the pope to act as his chamberlain. A dispatch from New York says: "Eugene Kelly, the veteran banker, is lying at the point of death at his home. At midnight Dr. McCreary issued a bulletin that his patient had shown slight signs of improvement since 10 o'clock tonight. He gave it as his opinion, however, that the question of Mr. Kelly's death was but a matter of hours." If we have not confused the names and the dates, it was about one year ago that Kelly was selected chamberlain to the pope. At that time Kelly was credited with being a rich banker of New York city and a liberal contributor to Peter's Pence. But the strange part is that the pope, being infallible, would appoint a man as near death's door as Kelly is; yet, when we consider the question, we discern the reason, although it requires an admission of Leo's infallibility. The pope knew Kelly was in the last year of his life. He knew Kelly was rich, that the church of Peter was poor, and that if Kelly accepted the call to act as chamberlain, left New York, entered the Vatican, and associated with the Jesuits there assembled, when death marked him as its own, he would leave his millions to the church for a single-trip pass through purgatory into the kingdom of heaven itself. Kelly would be no worse off than if he had not received the pass, the church would be richer and the world would—NOT—be wiser because of this manipulation.

A DISPATCH from Topeka, Kansas, says: "Rev. E. Kinsell proposes to make the burdens of life lighter by teaching the people to avoid debt and pay cash for everything they buy. His idea has taken form in the organization of a cash purchase association with headquarters at Holton, although it is intended to be of national character. It has been in successful operation for several months. The objects of the association are fully expressed in its charter as well as its motto, 'Owe no man anything.' In detail, however, they are financial: educational, and benevolent. The financial benefits which its members are to enjoy are derived from the discounts which they will receive from tradesmen by reason of their paying cash on everything they buy. To an ordinary family Father Kinsell's estimates that this saving will amount to about \$60 per year. In Holton all of the merchants who do a cash business have entered into the scheme heartily and give members of the association a liberal discount on all purchases. They can afford to do this, as it relieves them of the labor and expense of making collections, and they have no bad bills among the members of the 'Cash Purchase Association.' The merchants of this country will hail this departure as a rift in the unbroken financial clouds of Roman patronage. For years it has been known to merchants that Roman Catholics were the most conscienceless dead beats the world possessed, and now that a few Romanists have decided to pay cash, they will hope the "malady" will spread to other sections.

R. W. Breckenridge, Esq. won a great legal fight in the recent decision of the circuit court of appeals at St. Louis, Mo. in the case of the Flournoy Live Stock & Real Estate Co. vs Captain William H. Beck, the agent of the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes of Indians, whose reservations are situated in Thurston county, Nebraska. There was involved in the case decided about 37,000 acres of land, and depending upon that decision are four other cases still undetermined in the United States circuit court for the district of Nebraska involving about as much more land. As is the case on the borders of nearly every Indian reservation in the country, particularly in the west, there seems to be large numbers of white men in Thurston county who have very little respect for the law, and the authority of the government; and numbers of persons so disposed have been for several years engaged in the unauthorized and illegal business of leasing Indian lands direct from the Indians, in violation of an express statute of the United States which requires leases of Indian lands to be made by and through the

agent in charge, under certain rules prescribed by the secretary of the Interior, in every case; the object of such statutory regulations and rules being to protect the Indians against improvident contracts concerning their lands. The lands in the Omaha and Winnebago reservations are among the very finest in the state and the Flournoy Live Stock & Real Estate company, whose president, a man by the name of Lemmon, is the husband of a Winnebago squaw, had leased something like 37,000 acres of land from individual Winnebagos at a price greatly less than their value; under instructions from the department of the Interior, Captain Beck proceeded to take the initial steps to eject the Flournoy company and its sublessees from the lands held by them, when he was enjoined from further proceedings in the matter. The case was heard last July, before Judge Dundy, who granted a perpetual injunction against the agent, and Mr. Breckenridge, who was appointed special counsel for the United States, in these cases, appealed to the United States circuit court of appeals and secured a very sweeping victory. The court of appeals composed of Judges Caldwell and Thayer rendered a decision reversing the decree of Judge Dundy, directing his decree to be vacated and the suit dismissed at the cost of the Flournoy company. This ought to teach the Indian land speculators in Thurston county, that if they want to deal in Indian lands, they should do so regularly and legally and not in defiance of law and in contempt of the law officers of the government. The Indians themselves will be very greatly benefited by this decision, for the lands now held under these various illegal leases can be rented to desirable persons at approximately their value for both agricultural and grazing purposes.

ONE of the greatest evils our country will encounter in the future unless immigration is practically suspended will be found in the numerous "colonies" that dot the north and northwestern states, and which just at present are beginning to turn southward. A recent news item sent from New York to a daily paper in this city states that "over 10,000 German immigrants are to arrive here shortly, and will locate near Brunswick, Ga., where Colonel T. P. Stovall of Atlanta, representing a German syndicate, has closed a deal for a tract of land, embracing about 10,000 acres, some twenty miles from Brunswick. The syndicate has completed arrangements for colonizing the property with German farmers. They will be taken from Castle Garden by steamer, special rates having been already secured for the purpose. This is but the first step in a gigantic immigration scheme which Colonel Stovall has on foot. Within the next year he expects to have 10,000 ruddy checked, thrifty Germans in Georgia. The syndicate that is backing Colonel Stovall is said to number its capital by the millions, and now has a number of agents in Germany working up immigration to Georgia. Reports from their agents say that they find no difficulty in getting the Germans interested, and just as soon as the syndicate gets possession of the land well-to-do German farmers are ready to come and settle. Of course, it will take the syndicate several months to get in shape for the coming of the immigration, as it has yet to purchase the greater portion of the land and get the titles perfected, but just as soon as this is done the immigrants will come and settle." The government should pass strict laws for the government of these colonies. People who come here should become American. We have room enough for every loyal man, but not room enough for one who desires to bring his foreign ideas and customs here and set them up as his rule and guide.

METEORS falling from the heavens are not an uncommon thing, and it is but natural, probably, that different people should see the same one in a different light. That they do see things in a different light we are able to attest. As we were going from lodge Tuesday night, Nov. 27, 1894, the earth was illuminated by the most brilliant "falling star" or meteor, the eye of man ever beheld. We had just reached a point in front of our house and were preparing to step from the street upon the sidewalk and from there ascend the steps leading into the yard. The night was starlit and the trees cast a shadow into the street and across the walk and steps. Situated at the farther end of the block was a large electric light, but if it threw any light athwart our path it was unnoticed, and extremely dim, for we remarked to ourselves as we trudged up the five or six steps that "that was a good old electric light to come out so bright just when we needed it most." Ere the thought had vanished a new

one took form, "why do the shadows from the branches of the trees move so rapidly?" and we looked over our right shoulder to see why the light was away-shoulder, and as we did so we beheld a most magnificent sight—a star, trailed by a sheet of fire, indelibly bright and mellow, shooting from the south centre heaven toward the western hemisphere. It was visible but an instant, and while we stood looking at it, and while yet high in the heavens, above any building that could obstruct the view, it disappeared from sight. We stood for a moment then hurried into the house and told our wife about the beautiful sight. Then it occurred to us to look at our watch and note the time and watch the papers to see who else had seen the phenomenon. But, after three weeks, we have seen but two references to it. One was in a Harlan, Iowa, paper, which declared the star had struck the earth near Pacific Junction, Iowa, a town lying fifteen or twenty miles east of our house, while the other was in the Columbus Journal and said "Tuesday night of last week what is described as looking like a big ball of fire burst over Omaha, with a noise as loud as thunder." To our certain knowledge the star we saw Tuesday night, Nov. 27 at 11:18 o'clock did not strike the earth near Pacific Junction, Iowa; neither did it burst with a noise as loud as thunder. And our humble opinion is that it will be several thousand years before it reaches this planet. This is one of the things that makes man realize how little he knows about God and His plans, His illimitable resources and His matchless wisdom.

THE Record says, in a dispatch from Sioux City, Ia., that "The Gotthengberg liquor system is to be tried, for the first time in Iowa at Ida Grove. Last winter Representative M. D. Nicol, of Ida county, tried to get the legislature to adopt the system, but failed. He has succeeded better at home, and his own country will try the plan. An association has been formed by leading citizens of Ida Grove, and has secured from the town council the exclusive right to sell liquor in the town. The association will open a saloon at once, having overcome the many obstacles that have been thrown in its way by those who oppose this plan. The association agrees to give all of its profits, above an agreed per cent of interest, to the town and the Young Men's Christian Association. All its appointments of officers are to be approved by the town council. The association has filed a bond which the council has approved, and the only serious difficulty is the opposition of one property owner within the legal limit of distance, who refuses to give his consent, and is being encouraged by the anti saloonists in his opposition. The organization has fixed the salary of the treasurer and manager at \$1,000 a year, and elected to the place Patrick Scanlon. An assistant at a salary of \$480 will be employed. The men who are back of the scheme have been violently assailed by their opponents, and but for their high standing in the town would not have been able to carry the scheme into effect. They declare that their interest in it is rather scientific than financial, and that they will at least prove that the saloon business can be conducted by the community rather than by the individual, and that under this arrangement it will reduce the consumption of liquors and minimize the evils of the traffic. If they succeed they expect to bring the matter once more before the legislature for consideration, and urge the plan for adoption by the state." We may be wrong in our opinion, but it seems to us that the Y. M. C. A. has strayed a long way from the path of usefulness when it enters into partnership with any number of men to conduct a saloon. We do not think all men engaged in the saloon business are bad, any more than we believe all men engaged in the ministry or priesthood are paragons of virtue, yet we believe it the duty of every man, for the sake of mankind, to retard instead of fostering the liquor traffic. It is not the saloon run by criminals, in violation of every law upon the statute book, that is to be feared by mothers and fathers of respectability. It is the gilded palaces—the respectable saloons—into which no man is ashamed to enter. In them their sons see judges, law-makers, the family physician, deacons in the churches, and editors—men who stand next to the parents in the estimation of the children—who believe if such men visit those places, there can be no harm in their stepping inside. We have nothing against a saloon-keeper. We never had one of them pull us into a saloon to get a drink—and we have drunk a good deal in our time—but we think the Y. M. C. A. saloon would do ten thousand times more harm in a year than the reputable saloon would do in a life-time. We hope the Y. M. C. A. saloon has not come to stay. We

would rather our boy would take his chances without the Y. M. C. A. saloon in the contest for the prize.

THE Chicago Times, in speaking of Belgium says: "Belgium has, since its creation as an independent kingdom, been a most suggestive political experiment. Students of political, social, and economic problems could nowhere else find so fruitful a commentary on what has come to be known as the British system. Constitutionally, the little monarchy is a most consistent type of parliamentary government. Here, if anywhere, the famous maxim is true—the king reigns, but does not govern. Had the design to bring together clashing contrasts guided the councils of the powers that made the Belgian people a political nationality, they could not have succeeded better. Religiously, this small but most densely populated country is divided into two sharply defined and bitterly hostile camps. A Belgian is either a most devout Catholic or he is a dogmatic free-thinker. This antagonism has up to the last decade dominated also the political controversies. From the free-thinkers was recruited the liberal party; the church furnished the contingent for the liberals' political opponents. Parliamentary majorities and hence also the king's ministers alternated between these two, the liberals being periodically in the ascendancy, to yield again to their Catholic rivals. This see-saw game has of late been disturbed by the appearance of a third political factor. If the line of cleavage between the two old contestants was fundamentally religious, the young aspirant for political recognition traces his credentials to the social conditions of the people. Belgium has been thoroughly bourgeois or capitalistic. Political franchise depended upon property qualifications. The liberals were doctrinaires of the Adam Smith and Manchester school, while the Catholics, in the pursuit of their own interests, held also to the doctrine that the amelioration of the social condition of the working classes should be left to the church rather than be attempted through the law. As might be expected, the state of affairs in the industrial centers beg description. The exploitation of the masses has nowhere been carried further than in this pattern state of British political theories. The myth of European pauper labor is only truth in the Belgian mines and glass-blowing establishments. Social Democracy found thus in King Leopold's domain a fruitful soil. The leaders of the working classes were not slow to recognize that the prime condition of necessary influence over legislation was a change in the existing regulations affecting the franchise. Universal suffrage became the incessant war cry, and in order to give it effect they inaugurated a few years ago a huge strike, not for the purpose of readjusting the scale of wages, but of coercing the chamber into acquiescence in their demands. Before such an argument even the inveterate bourgeois, who had been the beneficiary of the property clause, deemed discretion the better part of valor and yielded. Universal suffrage was conceded in principle. In practice, however, certain modifications were insisted on. Every Belgian is entitled to vote, but in order to offset this concession those that possess certain educational qualifications, such as a university degree, are by law given the right to two votes, while others whose rate tax is above a certain minimum have even three votes. The first elections under this new arrangement have been held a few weeks ago. The result is extremely significant. The last senate consisted of forty-six Catholics and thirty liberals, the lower house of ninety-three Catholics and fifty-nine liberals. According to the returns, the new senate will have seventy-six Catholics and thirty liberals, the lower house 104 Catholics, thirty-three socialists, and fifteen liberals. These figures show that the liberals have had to pay the cost of the new departure. The thirty-three socialists combined received 350,000 votes, and as these are undoubtedly individual, not cumulative votes, they are a symptom of how widespread is the dissatisfaction with the existing order of things. The Belgian liberals deserve no better fate. Doctrinaires, they were most content to enjoy the freedom to rob and exploit others. Laissez faire was their creed and for the misery and wretchedness which the worship of their moloch entailed they had even no tear. The Catholics, too, are beginning to lay to heart this significant uprising. The government will now make haste to introduce bills for the amelioration of the wage-earner's condition. The finance baron's hay days are happily over in Belgium, the land of orthodox economies par excellence. Have we nothing to learn from Belgium?"

Read Whitney's add. He deserves American patronage.