

ROME INSIDE OUT.

BY REV. F. E. TOWEL, PASTOR OF THE PEARL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, PROVIDENCE.

(Extracts from a lecture delivered April 21st, in Music Hall, E. I.)

(Continued From Last Week)

Fanaticism indeed! I once called on a lady who had some popish neighbors, and she declared that she must move away, for she could not endure the sights and sounds that were forced upon her eyes and ears on Sunday. Said she: "They go to church in the forenoon and get drunk in the afternoon." This is the fruit of a religion which undertakes to save you by forms and ceremonies and the manipulations of the priests. The Salvationists, on the contrary, aim directly at a radical change of purpose and life for the better. Which method looks most like fanaticism?

I once heard a converted Catholic tell this story: Bridget had been to confession, and was on her way home. Mary, an antipathy of hers, spied her, and hurled at her some taunting remark. Bridget retorted: "Arrah, now, be aisy, will ye, for I am in a state of grace today, but I'll black ye eye for ye tomorrow!" There you have the papist style of religion!

Fanaticism, I say again! Let us look back a little and see how Rome used to proceed in her efforts to save those whom she thought to be in error. The theory was that the error must be driven out in order to save the soul. And some of the methods resorted to in difficult cases were certainly original. They did it by machinery, so to speak. A recent writer says: "One method was the squeezing or crushing of the limbs by means of machinery designed for that purpose"—continuing the process, of course, till the victim recanted, thus squeezing the heresy out of him, very much as the modern clothes-wringer squeezes the water out of a wet sheet. "Another method was the injection into the body of water, oil or vinegar"—peculiarly papal antidotes for the poison of error. "Hot pitch was sometimes applied to particularly sensitive portions of the body"—presumably with the animated intention of enabling the patient to stick fast to the creed of the mother church. "A simple, yet telling, device was to bind candles to the fingers (the patient being first bound in an immovable position) and then light them. As they burned gradually away, the flesh of the fingers was consumed." This was the popish method of enlightening those who were supposed to be in the darkness of error.

Then there was the "Spanish donkey"—an upright plank with a sharpened edge, on which the victim was compelled to sit astride, with weights attached to his feet to make the application more forcible, until the tortured one was fain to acknowledge that there is a sharp distinction between heresy and orthodoxy!

"Again you are tied in a chair, which is then gradually brought into proximity to a blazing furnace; and as the broiling flesh crisps on your bones, the voice of the inquisitor is in your ear, exhorting you to confess, to repent, to speak"—thus actually expecting to "try" heresy out of you, as a skillful housewife "tries" fat out of a beef's caul! Again we are told: "If roasting proved unsuitable to your case, you were furnished with a roomy pair of boots, into which boiling water was poured; and often when the boots were removed nothing but bare bones were left behind." Surely, if heresy couldn't be boiled out of a man, how could you get it out? Again, you might be seated in an iron chair with a grove of sharp spikes for a cushion, enabling you to reflect with due feeling on the fine points of the papistical doctrine! Or you might be stretched on a row of sharp-edged boards, and heavy wheels rolled over you till every joint in your body, as well as in your heretical theology, was dislocated at the same time. Or, more effectual still, you might be submitted to the vigorous embrace of the "Iron Maiden," which was, in effect, an iron cloak with sharp spikes on the inside; in this you would be screwed up tight, until you acknowledged yourself that you had better return to the loving embrace of mother church, or until your flesh rotted and dropped into the moat!

We are told that "in the early part of the seventeenth century a man by the name of Zachary Druseman was suspended by the arms in a torture chamber, while screws were applied to his feet in such a manner as to crush the bones. After watching him for awhile, the judges went out to supper, leaving him in charge of the executioner. Druseman sought the latter 'by the wounds of Christ' to let him down if but for a single moment, but the officer refused to do so except at the judges' command. After an hour the judges returned, all of them the worse for liquor. Druseman was dead. Little imagination is needed to make one shudder at this story; Satan himself might hesitate to fill up the gaps of the narrative."

Such was Rome's method of converting heretics, under the theory that the soul might be saved by a recantation secured by these means. Protestantism relies solely on argument, proof, persuasion, addressed to the reason and the

conscience. Which looks most like fanaticism? Let us not flatter ourselves that such means have been renounced. Rome uses them still at times, though more secretly. "Semper eadem" (always the same) is her boast. And when Bishop O'Connor writes, "Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect," he forewarns us that all this is liable to return if Rome gets the power. The fact is, Romanism is only heathenism thinly veiled. We notice in both the same lust for power, the same greed of gain, and the same spirit of fraud and deception.

The hierarchy itself, with its many grades of officials, is patterned after Roman paganism, whose head was called pontiff, as the pope is today. And now, over in Thibet, the degraded heathenism of Central Asia is characterized by a similar hierarchy, having at its head the Grand Lama, so called, who is only an Asiatic pope.

The pagan priests know how to make use of their position to extort money from the multitude. But Rome can give them points on this line. The priests would impose heavy penances for trifling offences, such as fasting several days in succession, walking barefoot in the most inclement weather, laying aside all comfortable garments and wearing sackcloth, leaving their homes and going on long pilgrimages to distant shrines, or renouncing society altogether and entering a monastery, and then fix their own price for remitting the penance, which the victim must pay (or do the penance) under pain of perdition—and money came in streams.

The pope looked on with envious eyes to see his priests reaping such a golden harvest, and soon found means of entering the field himself. Perhaps he thought a little competition would help to regulate prices; at any rate, prices finally got down to what must certainly be called a very reasonable figure. For the way the pope took to get ahead of the priests was to sell an indulgence to sin beforehand; and so afterwards there was no need of buying off a penance from the priest. And the price got so low at one time that infanticide cost but eighty cent; parricide or fratricide an even dollar; witchcraft was two dollars, and polygamy only six—which was cheaper than emigrating to Utah!

The theory on which this dogma was based is certainly ingenious. Many of the saints, it was said, had merits far beyond their own individual obligations; they had merit enough to be saved, and a good bit to spare. This surplus merit, or, as they put it, this "supererogatory" merit, together with the superabundant merit of the Redeemer, constituted an inexhaustible fund of merit, all under charge of the pope, who could distribute it around at will in quantities just sufficient to make up the deficiencies of his erring flock—provided they could furnish the needful.

So the pope had something to sell, after all. The merits of the saints were the commodity put up for bids, in what the historian well calls this inconceivable barter. And by sending out agents in different directions to sell on commission, a vast territory was laid under tribute to enrich the papal court at Rome. Do you say that this is long past? But how is it now? Look at the vast properties under the form of churches, cathedrals, parsonages, school-houses, convents, and what not, belonging to the hierarchy—all built by money somehow wrung from the ignorant, duped multitude.

And what makes the priests look so plump and rubicund, while their flocks look so ragged and careworn? Why, there's a fee for about everything a priest does. His masses are paid for, his prayers are paid for, his offices in the various rites necessary to a "good Catholic," from baby christening to extreme unction, are fee—and the fee comes before the office.

Recently a body was brought for burial to a Catholic church by out-of-town parties; the priest demanded, in advance, his fee of twenty dollars. The friends were not able to raise the money on the spot, but promised to make it good, and begged him to go on with the service. But he refused to do so till the money was paid, and retired to his house, leaving the corpse lying unshrouded before the altar.

And since the sun crossed the vernal equinox, a priest's card has been seen, left at the houses of his flock, on which he states that for twenty-five cents per week he will say ten masses per day, and for fifty cents per week he will say twenty-five masses per day—making a very creditable reduction in the wholesale rates! Perhaps you call this christianity, but it strikes me as being a good deal more like heathenism.

Their depreciation of marriage and

implied contempt for woman is heathenism. Their silly legends about the saints and the Virgin are heathenish. Their empty rites and ceremonies and repetitious prayers counted off on their beads are aped from the pagans, who had their rosaries before popes were born, and whose prayers consisted often in saying over and over, hour after hour, the name of some imaginary deity; till at last, in Thibet, this idea of efficacy through repetition led to the invention of the prayer wheel—which was a wheel on which a prayer was written, and every time it revolved, bringing the words on the upper side, counted as a separate prayer. Sometimes they turned it by hand, but sometimes they hitched it to a small mill-wheel, and thus actually prayed by water!

It is a wonder that some of the smarter papists have not ere this contrived a machine for praying by steam, or an electric motor. They would, I opine, had not popery added their brains as well as darkened their spiritual perceptions. If it had not done both, how could they have failed to understand and heed the Saviour's injunction: "And ye, when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking."

But this same mouthpiece of the hierarchy, already referred to, compares Protestantism to a decaying tree. But inasmuch as it has grown with such vigor and steadiness since Luther as to gain, in four hundred years, the leadership in every line of progress, while Romanism has fallen everywhere in the rear, it looks as if the latter were the dying tree and Protestantism the young and vigorous sapling just entering upon its period of strength and fruitfulness.

There are three elements of strength in a nation: Wealth, intelligence and morality. How do the two systems compare as to these three elements? The wealthiest nation (in valuation) in the world is the United States—Protestant. The next wealthiest is Great Britain—Protestant. The third is Germany—Protestant. The fourth is France—semi-Protestant, as it has been since the revolution. While all the Catholic nations are poverty-stricken, and in Italy, the land of the pope, the masses are in rags, and about every third man is a beggar. Can a system which somehow impoverishes its adherents permanently stand against one which endows them with thrift and wealth?

In the matter of intelligence the contrast is even more striking. In the eight chief Protestant nations the proportion of illiterates is four per cent; while in the eight chief Catholic nations the proportion is sixty per cent, or fifteen times as many! Romanism is dying at the top. Her motto is: "Ignorance is the mother of devotion," by which she presumably means, "devotion" to Romanism, and thus pays herself a rather left-handed compliment. She makes no secret of her intent to keep the masses in ignorance (in order to rule over them), and it is evident that she is succeeding.

And this is the pretender that wants to break up our school system, and substitute one of her own! The kind of work she would make of it is evident from a few cases that have occurred. In a town in Wisconsin they succeeded in electing two out of three on the school board, and they turned out all the Protestant teachers but one, and threatened her. Then they ordered the Bible, and it was put out. Then they ordered in the Roman Catholic catechism, and it had to go in. And finally, to cap the climax, one morning they ordered all the teachers to march their scholars over to the Catholic church, where the priest sprinkled some water over the crowd, and thus, as he said, baptized them into the Catholic faith, Protestants and all!

The parochial schools which they set up are everywhere inferior. The teachers are incompetent, and so much time is wasted in mumbling the catechism and learning prayers to the Virgin that no thorough instruction can be given in the sciences. The result of their course is to make ignorant bigots instead of intelligent scholars.

Congressman Linton says: "For more than a century the mission Indians have been under Jesuit control, education and influence, and today are as incapable of self-support, as citizens of our country, as babes." Such is the result of the Romish handling of the intellect. While in Protestant Germany, England and America the systems of education existing are the very best in the world. Which, then, shows most signs of intellectual decay, Romanism or Protestantism?

But it is when we compare the moral standards of the two peoples that the most stunning facts come to the surface. Protestantism has always been noted for its strict moral requirements; even its enemies confess this. So evident and striking has this feature been, from Luther and Calvin to the Puritans and on till today, that even Romanists have been compelled to acknowledge it; and skeptics generally, instead of endeavoring to deny it have rather made it a subject of ridicule, as constituting an unnecessary restriction of the natural inclinations.

No charge of this kind is in danger

of being made against the rank and file of Romanists, even as they appear in this country, with all their Protestant surroundings. Witness their drunkenness, their profanity, their obscenity, their low tastes and degrading amusements. And as for the rest, our jails are full of them. They furnish three-quarters or more of the vagrants and criminals. A chaplain of the Massachusetts state prison says that of 560 convicts 400 were Catholics, chiefly Irish, five times their due proportion. Of 250 women convicts at Sherburne, seven-tenths were Catholics. At Deer Island seventy-five per cent. are papists.

And the rank and file only imitate their superiors. The lying and deception and false swearing of the Jesuits are well known. They openly declare that they are under no obligation to keep faith with us heretics. They do not hesitate to commit the bloodiest deeds to rid themselves of those who stand in the way of their nefarious schemes; and, in general, avow and act upon the Machiavelian maxim that "the end justifies the means." They have become a by-word throughout the world. Everywhere the word "Jesuitical" is understood to mean untrustworthy, deceitful, treacherous.

Some of the vilest of men have been popes. No less than sixty-four of them died by violence—poison and the dagger. Twenty-six were deposed or expelled. Twenty-five have been accused of murder or other heinous crimes. And of the entire list of 263, no less than 135, or more than half, proved unworthy of their positions. And as for the common run of priests, if decency allowed the truth to be told, if the veil could be lifted from the foul immoralities with which they offset their humbug celibacy, if actual shame did not forbid us to describe the infamous "B. C." society of Catholic women (of regular standing in the church!) authorized by "his holiness," the infallible Pope Pius IX. in 1860, as a concession to the "human weakness" of his obedient libertines, miscalled priests—if the real facts on this line could be known I verily believe that an indignant people would rise en masse and bundle off the whole gang to—to Mormonism, of course!

And such is the dilapidated, apostate, beer-soaked, vice-stained hierarchy that dares to open its defiled lips and proclaim, *ex cathedra*, that Protestantism is a dying tree, is no religion, but the negation of religion, and runs into fanaticism and infidelity! Shades of Babelzebub and all his imps! Could the father of lies do better than that? For the deluded, degraded, floored multitude of the rank and file of Catholics, I have only pity and compassion. But for this brazen-browed, open-mouthed, arrogant hierarchy, this fading image and diluted imitation of an outward fraud and despotism, born in the ages of ignorance, brutality and darkness, I can feel little else than scorn and contempt.

Doubtless some of the priests are well-meaning men, good in spite of their training; but even these are dangerous because of their medieval superstition and fanaticism. But it is past belief that the major part of them can be anything but adventurers, using their sham sanctity as a cover for a life of lazy self-indulgence. That such a class should be abroad, defaming the most heroic and benevolent of the race, traducing the one religious system that has ever permanently uplifted men, assailing our school system, which is the very fountain of light and liberty and hope for the nation's future, and fendingly plotting the destruction of the very government which has protected and fostered them, is simply intolerable.

It is hard to see what use there is for them, anyway, in this age and land. The best of them are a hideous anachronism, and the worst of them are the very spawn of the bottomless pit.

An Ounce of Prevention is cheaper than any quantity of cure. Don't give children narcotics or sedatives. They are unnecessary when the infant is properly nourished, as it will be if brought up on the Gail Borden Eagle Brand Condensed Milk.

At last! there is a publication devoted to the principles of the A. P. A. which is put up in such a form that it may be preserved and bound for future reference. This is called *The A. P. A. Magazine*, and is one of the largest and handsomest publications in America. No man interested in this great battle can afford to miss such a publication, and he who sees the first number will not be willing to allow the latter numbers to escape him. See the publisher's announcement elsewhere in this paper, and ask your newsdealer to order a copy for you from his news company or the publisher, and if he will not supply you write to the publisher direct.

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The resolution introduced in the house of the Missouri legislature by Mr. Jones, of Hickory county, regarding the ill-treatment of girls in the House of the Good Shepherd, and asking that the governor send by special messenger a request that a bill be introduced to provide for the inspection of these so-called charitable institutions was a step in the right direction. Some of the partizans who fought this resolution, as well as the bill introduced by Mr. Hinde, of Kansas City, will be wondering where their "majorities" have gone if they appear again for an office of public trust. Representative Moran, of St. Joseph, a Roman Catholic, was one of the most bitter enemies to the measure, and Mr. Davis, of Taney county, was assistant in the fight.

The dedication of a monument in Chicago over the graves of 6,000 Confederate soldiers was a most fitting thing to do. It will commemorate the death of a lost cause and the birth of a new and stronger republic, and should be viewed by every patriot with a feeling rife with the hope that the bitterness and the animosities engendered through the efforts to free and to keep in bondage 4,000,000 of human beings, are surely and steadily giving place to generosity and love; and we, as the son of one of those gallant heroes who risked their lives and eventually filled premature graves, rejoice that the chasm which has so long divided the north and the south has at last been spanned, and that we are indeed a reunited people. "Let us have peace."

DR. GORDON and his estimable wife entertained the members of St. Andrews Society at their magnificent home in Council Bluffs, Thursday evening. While we are not a member of the Scottish Clans, the good doctor arranged it so the secretary of St. Andrews honored us with an invitation to be present Thursday evening. We managed to get there, although, on account of other engagements, not until quite late, yet early enough to spend a very pleasant evening, as did every other person present.

ROME must think Protestantism is perilously active these days. She is being pushed into a very small corner by the Methodist Episcopal ministers who are asking her to assist in establishing complete religious liberty in the South American republics now dominated by her, and by the Christian Endeavorers who demand the unbroking of Priest Phelan for his intemperate utterances.

THE C. A. C. Medical Company is meeting with a success seldom met with by a proprietary medicine company. Its preparations work wonders, as can be attested by readers of this paper. Read their advertisement, and, if ailing, give their medicine a trial.

A LARGE number of the teachers in the Omaha public schools are taking advantage of the new law, giving them the right to hold their school warrants and receive 7 per cent. interest on them. There is no better investment for surplus funds.

TO SECURE the empire of the law over the people is the chief concept of enlightened statesmanship. To establish the universal empire of mediocrity is the cardinal conceit, the dominating desire, of the papacy.

DON'T miss the June *Nation*. It is on sale at all first-class news-stands. Price, 10 cents.

DID G. W. Lining, vice president of the *Ree*, tell a falsehood when he



8 Boils at Once
Afflicted me—in fact I think no one ever suffered more from impure blood. Every pimple or scratch would spread, sometimes making sores as large as a dollar. Four bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla have thoroughly purified my blood and my skin is smooth as an infant's. I never felt better. L. O. TINKHAM, Newhall, California.

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avid, time and again, that the A. P. A. had done a great deal of good for Omaha? Is the report true that he now talks differently?

EVEN Jefferson City, the capital of Missouri, has manifested a desire to have the A. P. A. represented, and, if we mistake not our sense of observation, one of the halls in the Capital City could, if able to speak, tell tales.

ANY Roman Catholic public official convicted of corruption will put on a bold front, screw his courage to the sticking point, and declare, as did Macbeth on a certain occasion: "Thou canst not say I did it!"

A LARGE list has been secured for an A. P. A. council at Platt City, Mo. We are informed that the citizens are manifesting much interest in the work and that the council will soon be ready for degrees.

TIMES are surely advancing in Kansas City. The Jr. O. U. A. M., although called by many the "Junior A. P. A.'s," were allowed to parade in peace on Memorial Day.

THE work of the mighty A. P. A. will not be finished until all the public schools of the United States shall have been placed under the absolute control of true Protestants.

GIBBONS, the cardinal archbishop of Baltimore, has been received with distinguished honors at Rome. A prophet is not without honor save in his own country.

COUNCILS of the A. P. A. were organized last week at Bolton, Jasper and Glenville, Mo. Each council is composed of the best citizens, and has a large membership.

WHY must we have a Roman Catholic censorship over our press dispatches? Oh, for true freedom of the press!

Three Infallible Churches.
The organ of the Greek church in Russia recently replied to the invitation of the pope for a union of the Greek and Roman churches that such a project was impossible, and warned the pope that if it were seriously attempted it would only add to the membership of the former. Since this invitation was sent out the pope has tendered a similar one to the Anglican church. The organs of that church, however, reply that such a union cannot take place. The Roman church must come back to the Anglican fold, which it left centuries ago, and renounce its errors. This of course Rome will not do, and there you are. So the outlook is favorable for the continuance of three infallible churches.—*Editorial in Chicago Tribune, May 24.*

Orangemen.
The regular meetings of American Lodge No. 221, L. O. I., will be held every Saturday night at Redmen's hall, 15th and Douglas street. All members are requested to be present.

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Do you subscribe and pay for THE AMERICAN? Yes or no will decide how much you are interested in the advancement of Americanism.

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A. P. A. Growing in Missouri.
S. A. Secretary E. H. Allen states that many inquiries are coming in from all parts of Missouri concerning the manner of organizing the A. P. A. and that four new councils were instituted last week. Others are under headway in the smaller towns. Mr. Allen is confident that the growth of the order will surpass its record of any time in the past.

A Chance to Make Money.
I have berries, grapes and peaches a year old, fresh as when picked. I use the California Cold Process; do not heat or seal the fruit—just put it up cold; keeps perfectly fresh and costs almost nothing; can put up a bushel in ten minutes. Last week I sold directions to over 120 families. Anyone will pay a dollar for directions, when they see the beautiful samples of fruit. As there are many people poor, like myself, I consider it my duty to give my experience to such, and feel confident anyone can make one or two hundred dollars around home in a few days. I will mail sample of fruit and complete directions to any of your readers for eighteen two-cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the samples, postage, etc., to me. FRANCIS CASEY, St. Louis, Mo.

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