

BONACUM'S HOLY WAR

Satelli and the Bishop of the Lincoln, Neb., Diocese Speak.

They Are Answered By the Faithful Under Priest Murphy at Tecumseh.

The long-drawn-out controversy in the Lincoln (Neb.) diocese between Bishop Bonacum and Priests Murphy and Fitzgerald has taken another turn.

The latest chapter in the church trouble at Tecumseh, Neb., where Father Murphy holds the church and Father Caraher has services in the opera-house, while the application for an injunction to prevent Father Murphy from using the church waits decision in the courts, is this:

BISHOP'S HOUSE, LINCOLN, Neb., December 7, 1895.—Rev. John C. Caraher, Tecumseh—Reverend and Dear Sir: You will call the attention of the faithful of your charge to the following letter, which I have received from his eminence, the most reverend apostolic delegate:

"APOSTOLIC DELEGATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, December 3, 1895.—Right Reverend Dear Sir: In reply to your letter of November 27 I would say that—as I have before written—since the Revs. Murphy and Fitzgerald have been condemned in contumacia, the right of appeal has been forfeited by them, and they are obliged to obey implicitly the sentence pronounced against them.

Francis Archbishop Satelli, Delegate Apostolic.

You will not fail to point out to your people that according to the above letter, the original of which is in the English language, the Rev. Messrs. Murphy and Fitzgerald cannot appeal from the sentence of suspension and removal pronounced on them the 2d day of October last, and that when they pretend to appeal to the sacred congregation of propaganda, or to the supreme pontiff, they merely resort to a subterfuge in order to deceive the people.

It is my wish that you again notify the Catholics worshipping at Tecumseh that I have suspended from the sacred ministry and excommunicated from the church the aforementioned priests, Murphy and Fitzgerald.

Ellsworth and His Jew.

The lecture against the American Protective Association, at the Coates Opera-House, Kansas City, on Sunday last, by Mr. C. S. Ellsworth, formerly of Haverhill, Mass., but now of Denver, Col., was of no force whatever.

By holding communion in things spiritual is here meant assisting at any act of divine worship, or listening to any discourse on moral or ecclesiastical subjects which these insubordinate priests may presume to hold in any church edifice, public or private building, or receiving from their sacrilegious hands any sacrament or sacramental which the aforesaid Murphy or Fitzgerald may administer or attempt to administer during the time of their suspension and excommunication.

"The God of all peace after you have suffered a little will himself perfect you and confirm you and establish you."

In answer to this ultimatum, Priest Murphy's followers have sent out the following preamble and resolutions: TECUMSEH, Neb., December 15.—Father William Murphy's services at St. Andrew's Catholic Church were as usual attended by the major portion of the members of the church to-day.

an open meeting was held by the church members and a set of resolutions—which were decidedly complimentary to Father Murphy and opposed to Bishop Bonacum's persecutions of that gentleman—were adopted and signed by those present.

WHEREAS, We, the undersigned, constituting a majority of the parishioners of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church of Tecumseh, Neb., have assembled in open meeting to consider the proper position to take in reference to the controversy in progress in the ecclesiastical and civil courts between Bishop Bonacum and Father Murphy, the Tecumseh priest; and

WHEREAS, We, as parishioners in such church, view with alarm the serious condition and entanglement into which we are being led, and by which we are being brought into public scandal; and

WHEREAS, The attempt is continually being made by the bishop to dissolve the legally authorized corporation holding the title of our church and vest said title in said bishop, and that he may have control over the same, thus enabling him to place any incumbrance on the property he may see fit; and such efforts are against our desires; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bonacum is attempting to remove Father Murphy from this mission, and has pretended to pronounce upon him sentence of suspension and excommunication, and install in his place another priest, contrary to our desire; and

WHEREAS, Said bishop has, in an open letter to the state press, made threats of excommunication from the church while living and the deprivation of Christian burial to all Catholics who hold communion with Father Murphy; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we do hereby unhesitatingly declare to be heartily in sympathy and accord with Father Murphy, upon whom we have often called for spiritual aid and consolation in the time of trials, troubles and afflictions, and until he is removed in accordance with the laws of the church, be it further

Resolved, That we hereby make an open declaration that as Catholics we deny the right of any bishop to foist upon us any person as priest through malice, revenge or to gratify a personal pique, whim or caprice, and deliver to him possession and place him in control of our property, in which we have the vested rights, without our consent. Be it further

Resolved, That we declare no public threats of excommunication or the taking away of the sacred rights we enjoy as Catholics will in any manner intimidate or influence us to do any act in the premises which we believe to be against the principles of right and justice. Be it further

Resolved, That it is the duty of the church to investigate the scandalous conditions already too long tolerated in the diocese of Lincoln, and remove them from the faithful and from the state. Be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the Catholics of Lincoln to take action in these matters at once with all other Catholics throughout the state to move the authorities in Dubuque, Washington or Rome to immediately apply their solicitude and authority to the conditions of the church in this diocese.

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