

## PRESIDENT TRAYNOR.

The Superintendent of the American Protective Association Speaks.

Questions of Vital Importance to the Order Ably and Fearlessly Discussed.

To the officers and other members of the A. P. A. of the United States: Greeting: Viewed in the light of the present critical condition of affairs both at home and abroad, it is so much to prognosticate that the future prosperity or decadence of the nation for many years to come will depend upon the degree of patriotism and disinterestedness that actuates the members of our national legislative body during its present session.

Whatever the result, the patriotic orders in general, and the A. P. A. especially, are responsible therefor in proportion as their votes and influence have been instrumental in composing the Fifty-fourth Congress.

By the results of the labors of those whom A. P. A. votes and influence have elected to places of legislative trust will our beloved order be enabled to judge whether the discretion and acumen of its political boards and its local officers have kept pace with their good intentions and patriotic virtues. While mistakes have been made; while here and there a candidate has received the endorsement of our order who already shows signs of repudiating its principles; while many have received the suffrages of the organization as the least of two evils, I have every reason to believe that in but few cases could our selections have been improved upon under existing conditions, or that many will prove recreant to their trusts or pledges, or, if they do, that they will not live long enough politically to repeat the treachery.

We have reason to believe that we have been instrumental in electing a sufficient number of the exponents of our principles to Congress to insure the passage of those measures most dear to us, and maintain the balance of power in the Fifty-fourth Congress. If they fail in this regard, the failure will result either from their treachery or our own negligence, and it may be added in the latter regard that our duty, so far from ending, as many appear to suppose, with the election of our candidates, has only just commenced.

The honest legislator is the child of popular opinion, and thrives only upon a diet of popular favor, and according to the quantity and quality of his diet more than upon his own personality depends his power and influence among his legislative fellows. Not only must we convince the representatives of patriotic sentiment that they possess our unqualified support, but we must be ourselves united upon the channels through which we desire their labors to be conducted; and, more important still, convince the people at large, and our national legislature in session, that such representatives are exponents not merely of their own wishes and desires but of the principles of several millions of American voters who will avenge at the polls any slight offered to their champions or the measures which they favor.

In other words, having elected our representatives, it now becomes our duty to strengthen them with our united moral support, that their voices and votes may be all the more powerful to accomplish the reforms we demand. From now until such legislation as we desire has been accomplished, a constant stream of petitions should flow into Washington from every city, town and hamlet in the United States, demanding these reforms.

Chief among the measures to be agitated are the following: A bill to secure a just distribution of federal offices (known in the last Congress as house bill 8984).

A bill to establish a national university (known in the last session as house bill 8949).

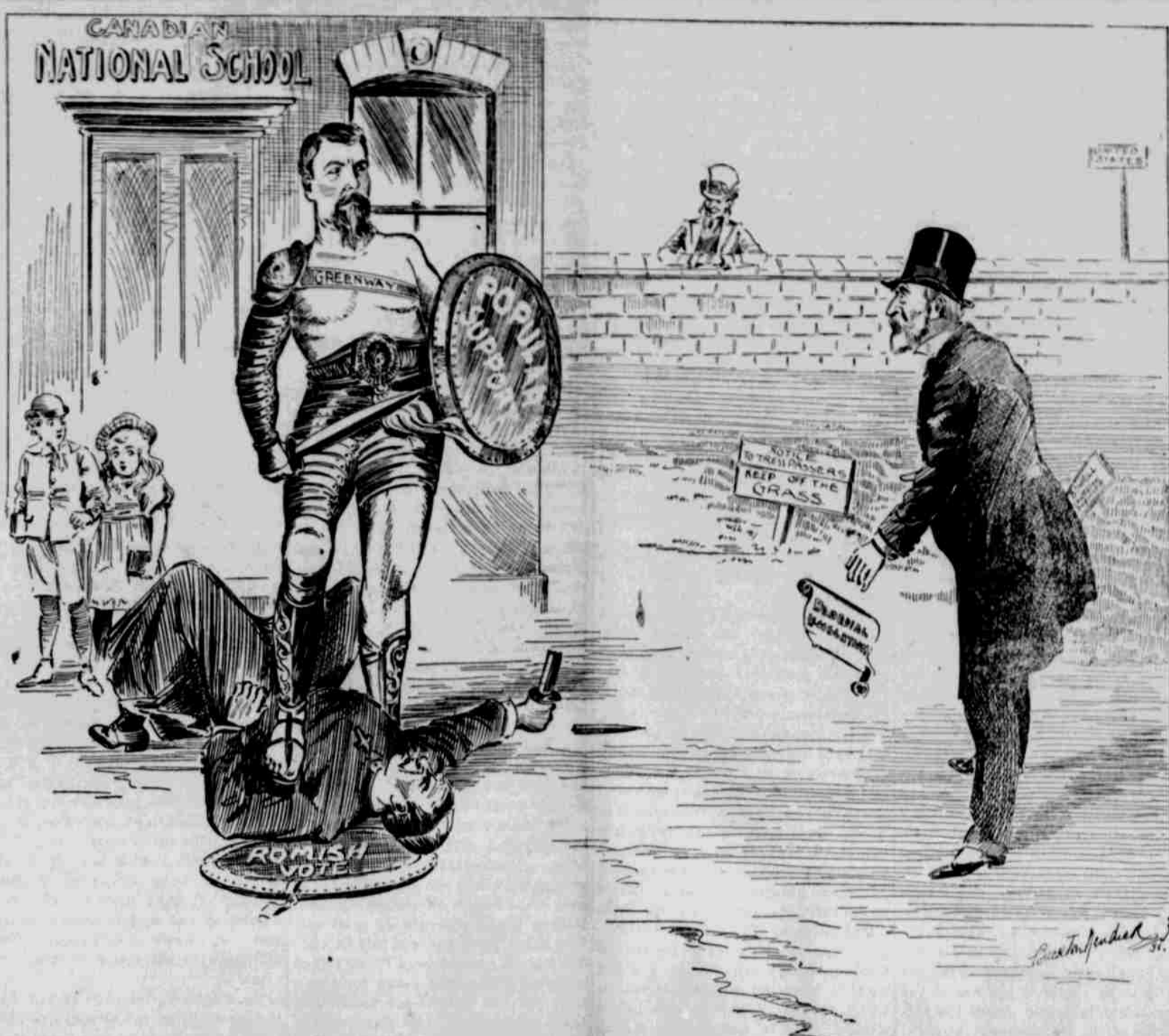
A bill to restrict immigration and regulate naturalization (known as Linton's bill, house bill 8774).

Linton's joint resolution No. 11, amending the Constitution prohibiting for all time sectarian appropriations.

A bill to prohibit advertisers or others from using the national emblem as an advertising device.

A bill—not yet formulated—to open to public inspection all monastic and private or semi-public institutions that are not under state control.

A bill—not yet formulated—prohibiting the official recognition by the United States or any officer thereof of any dignitary of any ecclesiastical body



THE MODERN GLADIATOR.  
Come one, come all, this School shall fly  
From its firm base as soon as I.

or church, or the official recognition of such as the delegate or representative of any church or ecclesiastical power.

A bill—not yet formulated—prohibiting any body of men other than members of the United States army and navy and of the militia of the various states from drilling or parading with, keeping in any armory or using firearms or deadly weapons of any kind, such act not to extend to the uniform ranks of benefit societies except to debar them from drilling with, carrying or keeping firearms.

To press these measures to a successful issue needs the constant agitation of the patriotic orders and the unremitting attention of their champions until they become laws of the United States. Not merely by petition direct but by private letters to representatives, by mass-meetings and resolutions of organizations, etc., should these matters be urged.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation for them, and comprehending at last that the American Protective Association is here to stay, the Jesuits will concentrate their power at Washington during this Congress to defeat every measure that will tend to deprive them of the power acquired by them under corrupt and unpatriotic administrations, and to introduce measures shrewdly planned to secure more. The situation for the priests, has become desperate, and desperate conditions will necessitate desperate remedies. All that papal money, influence and terrorism can accomplish to retard the growth of patriotism and increase the power of ecclesiasticism in our republic will be resorted to, for by such means only can the priesthood hope to impede the torrent of patriotic sentiment that is sweeping over the land.

A thousand different expedients will be resorted to to divert the attention of the people from the real issue, to deceive the nation as to the true source of the dangers which menace it.

Red-fire measures will be introduced, that bills of merit may be smuggled away or lost in committee. Gorging displays of spectacular rhetoric will fritter away the precious time so that it may not be devoted to legislation most needed to redeem the country from the enemies who threaten its institutions.

Of equal importance with the acts of the present Congress is the presidential election. Many of the prospective candidates upon the Republican and the Democratic tickets, respectively, have, either by their hostile attitude toward the principles of the patriotic organizations or their subservient demeanor toward the representatives of the pope, placed themselves beyond the pale of our assistance, or our recognition, except as enemies.

Of these, President Cleveland stands prominently forward as a man entirely undeserving the respect or confidence of our order, by reason of the many unpatriotic acts which have marked his second term; the truckling spirit toward the priests of Rome exhibited by him; his practical recognition of the pope as a temporal monarch, and the appointment of papists to offices of trust so far in excess of their numerical proportion. Perhaps the most glaringly disgraceful act in this direction, because the most unjust to our loyal and patriotic American army officers, was the appointment of Colonel Coppinger, the ex-papal guard, to the position of brigadier-general of the United States army.

At the outbreak of the war, Archbishop Hughes, of New York, persuaded the president to appoint twelve Roman Catholics to captaincies in the new regiments organizing for the regular army. One of these appointees was the present General Coppinger, who had served in the corps of papal guards in Rome, perhaps the best drilled and most aristocratic body of troops in the world. General Coppinger is said to be the last of these papist captains. Coppinger has been only three years a citizen of the United States, I am informed on good authority.

It is doing no injustice to Mr. Cleveland to assert that if the United States had been a papal country and the pope a temporal sovereign, our president could not have given more recognition to the papacy as a temporal power than he has during his present term of office, commencing with his obsequious present of a magnificently bound edition of the American Constitution to the pope and concluding with the disgraceful promotion of Colonel Coppinger, who is worthy of notice only, and that notoriously, as a fervent adherent of the Pope of Rome and an ardent admirer of papal institutions—two facts sufficient in themselves to eternally debar him from any public office in the gift of a free nation or any of its representatives.

Upon the other hand, Allison, who is mentioned as a presidential possibility, is not such a one as—in the light of his past acts—the order can consistently unite with. Mr. Allison's passive, if not active, co-operation with the papacy, during his many years of service as chairman of the senate committee on appropriations, in securing money and special privileges for the eleemosynary and religious institutions of Rome in this country, especially in the District of Columbia, is notorious, and a fact even yet more suspicious is that, although a Republican, he has hitherto received the support of the Democratic papists of Dubuque, Iowa,

from whence he comes; and, even more significant still, employs and has employed for years past the papist Joseph Morgan as private secretary.

In his position as chairman of the senate committee on appropriations, Mr. Allison has had magnificent opportunities afforded him to declare and place himself on record upon the matter of sectarian appropriations. The fact redounds infinitely to Mr. Allison's discredit that nearly all the measures for the aggrandizement of the papal clergy through governmental appropriations have become law during his term of office as chairman of that committee.

While Mr. Reed, another prominent aspirant for presidential honors, possesses a record less unworthy of consideration, his constant association with and recognition of papal officials render him anything but acceptable to our order—unless his guarantees for the future are much more in keeping with our principles than his actions in the past.

There are as yet no indications that the Democratic party has in view any more worthy candidate than the present incumbent of the presidential chair. It would be manifestly unfair, however, to prejudge the result of the party convention, although, at present, no presidential possibility from the Democratic quarter has presented himself that the A. P. A. or its sister orders could consistently vote for. There are some noble-hearted and patriotic Democrats of political standing, chiefly in the south, who would do honor to the White House; but it is hopeless, in the present priest-ridden condition of the party, to expect that any one not bearing the papal brand and the endorsement of the "Catholic vote" can secure recognition as a presidential possibility at the Democratic national convention, or, receiving it, could secure a victory at the polls unless supported by the entire patriotic vote.

Unless much more substantial pledges are given to the patriotic orders that the reforms demanded by those bodies will receive more attention in the future than they have in the past at the hands of the Republican party, there are but few presidential possibilities whose devotion to reform principles is equal with their chances of success. Among these W. S. Linton, of Michigan; Senator John H. Gear, of Iowa; Governor W. O. Bradley, of Kentucky, and Ex-President Harrison rank the highest. Mr. Linton's standing among the patriotic orders, as well as with all other patriotic Americans, is unexceptional. His memorable fight against the Indian-appropriation robbery in the Fifty-fourth Congress demonstrated most fully his courage as an American and his abilities as a statesman; and

while Mr. Bradley has not signalized his worth and capacity to this extent in so public a manner, his record is that of a most uncompromising patriot, to whom our principles, if not wholly, are for the greater part acceptable, and who, if elected, could be relied upon to pursue a course of courageous patriotism, uninfluenced by any enemy of the nation either at home or abroad.

In alliance with Mr. Linton, Congressman (now Senator) Gear placed himself on record as an ardent and courageous exponent of the principle of non-sectarianism in the affairs of state, and one in whom patriotic citizens cannot but feel implicit confidence.

While General Harrison, either from inclination or force of circumstances, during his presidential term of office, upon one or two occasions showed an undoubted inclination to make concessions to the papacy inconsistent with his position, we are forced to lose sight of these shortcomings in his persistent retention in office of General Morgan while the papal clergy throughout the land were clamoring for his removal, and his determined refusal to appoint Colonel Coppinger to a high military position, although constantly subjected to great political and ecclesiastical pressure to compel him to make the appointment.

While it is neither my duty nor aim to bring any presidential aspirant or possibility into undue prominence through this circular, I deem it my duty to mention those prominent men who have done most during the present decade to earn the gratitude of our organization and the American public at large. Events may yet develop a candidate whose prospects of success—his ability, loyalty and devotion to the best interests of the nation being equal—would be greater than any of those I have mentioned; and to such we should, as a matter of prudence and consistency, give our support.

The Republican party, at the next convention, will have an opportunity to declare to what extent it feels itself indebted to the patriotic orders during the past three years. During the past four years Thomas Carter, of Montana, an uncompromising papist, has held the reins of Republican power as chairman of the national committee, while Harry—an equally loyal Romanist—in the Democratic party, performed a similar office for that body. It now remains to be seen whether a papist or a loyal American citizen is to run the next Republican campaign. This is, possibly, merely a straw in the presidential controversy, but it is a straw which, to my mind, will indicate beyond a shadow of a doubt which way the political wind blows, and whether, in the event of a Republican filling the presidential chair for the next term,

he will be governed by American sentiment and a spirit of patriotism in discharging the duties of his office, or, like so many of his predecessors, lend his ear and bend his knee to the vicar-papal court at Washington and fill our public offices with the enemies of the nation.

These are matters worthy of most serious reflection, and so I entreat the loyal citizens of America to regard them, for in their light they may read the future of the nation for the next four years.

It is with a full consciousness of the gravity of the declaration that I assert [that] the first indication which any party or its representatives gives of truckling to the papacy or any of her subjects during the coming presidential campaign should be the signal for the withdrawal of every patriotic vote from the party so committing itself. Should all parties offend in this regard a new party should and must be the inevitable result, lest we commit the fatal error of countenancing a repetition of conditions and results as disastrous to national prosperity as those which have obtained for the past four years.

The confidence of the American people in the old parties has been so constantly shaken, so continually betrayed, that an independent party, exclusively patriotic, and providing a platform which, while embracing the best of the principles of the old parties and rejecting those which have outgrown themselves or become an avenue for class legislation, monopolistic privileges, or clerical and foreign encroachment upon national institutions, would be welcomed by all whose love of country rises paramount above their party prejudices.

I regard an independent movement, however, merely in the light of a last resort, but it is a last resort for which we should be prepared in time. Should either one of the old parties experience a change of heart, and the patriotic members thereof secure, maintain and apply the balance of power in the proper direction, an independent party would be not only inadvisable but superfluous.

Yet, while I recognize the importance of the papal question in this country, I do not feel myself confined to discussion within its limits, for there are evils that beset the nation as grave as papalism, and roads that lead just as surely to monarchy, despotism and mental and physical bondage and servitude, as the road to Rome. I refer to the rapidly increasing power of plutocracy and the constant encroachment upon the territory laid down by the Constitution as belonging to the people by the trusts and corporations. I am not disposed to join in a war of extermination against one evil in order that an evil fully as great may fatten on the carcass.

One of the weaknesses of our great order in many localities is the belief that our battle is peculiarly and entirely with the papacy, whereas, in my opinion, our position should be that of defenders of the Constitution in its letter and spirit, irrespective of the quality, condition, nationality, or creed of those who seek to destroy or tamper with it. I believe that the constitution and ritual of our order are so broad and far-reaching in their intents and purposes that we cannot stand idly by or carry on an eternal war with one foe alone while another is knocking at our doors—more especially when the fact, is taken into consideration that papalism and despotism, hierarchy and monarchy, plutocracy and priestcraft, corporate greed and priestly rapacity are allies in the battle against freedom and enlightenment. Monopoly would have the mass poor that plutocracy may be rich; priestcraft would have the minds of its votaries barren of intelligence that the priestly influence may reign supreme. Plus and the priest conquer as companions in arms and feed as twin vultures upon the carcass. Wherever Croesus reigns priestcraft sits beside him, the first to cry: "Yield your money or your labor to the king!"—the second to pour unction upon the outrage and give the robbery the odor of priestly sanctity and godly approval.

Hence it is that I have heretofore included the great and crying evil of monopoly in my denunciations of the papacy, and still consider it my duty to do so.

Although it is inconsistent with the principles of our beloved order to interfere with the religious belief of any person or to seek to restrict him in its exercise—even less to make it an object of ridicule to others, as many lecturers are ill-advisedly doing—there is a limit to the rights of the religious, venturing beyond which they lay themselves open not only to attack by all Constitution-loving citizens but by the law itself. It has been asserted that