

THE PUBLIC FORUM

MARRIAGE COST. — The article on "Marriage Cost" by Wm. Burton was very good. He outlines a very simple way to get ahead of the rich. The more children the poor man brings into the world the more poor people there will be, the more suffering, the more cheap factory labor, and more profit for the master class. It is at least a sure way of solving the problem of the working class. — A Reader.

CHURCH AND POLITICS. — I would like to reply to J. A. Clark, "Fool Convincer," of Feb. 24, in regard to the Roman Catholic church not being in politics. He offers Walsh's "hot shots" as proof positive that the aforesaid church is not in politics. He says Walsh is a Catholic and a Knight of Columbus and that many will be surprised to know it. Personally, I am not surprised. The name implies much.

But why all this enthusiasm? Is it unusual that a K. C. speaker has some real American ideas? There are some good men in the order in spite of their religion. He says that they have been pictured as cowards, sneaks and murderers. So they have. Who killed the anti-Catholic lecturer, Wm. Black, at Marshall, Tex., a week or so ago? Four K. C.'s in good standing armed with automatic pistols. Who mobbed Spurgeon and other anti-Catholic speakers of recent date? Not the Masons, surely. If in their efforts to suppress free speech and free press, they are taking the law into their own hands, their nickname, "Knights of mob and murder," is a just criticism. In politics? Yes, up to their ears.

J. W. Freund, chairman legislative committee Catholic Union of Illinois, sent out from Springfield circular letters to every candidate for the legislature in the state asking their attitude on the list of political

questions pertaining to the church and state and school affairs.

As further proof of the K. C.'s non-political aspirations, J. A. cites the instance of Gov. Dunne, a K. C., stumping Chicago for Harrison, a Mason, against Sweitzer, a Catholic K. of C. Horrible, I must say. Personal animosity, no doubt. Harrison's whole family are Catholic. Maybe he took them into consideration. Heretofore, Protestants have always voted that way, indiscriminately. If there's been a change of heart, "there's a reason."

Read Father Phelan's "Western Watchman," "The Sunday Visitor" and other official organs of the church. Their attitude toward civil government is plain enough without referring to the Menace.

Pope Leo XIII. in his official letter of Nov., 1885, says all Catholics must make themselves felt as active elements in the daily political life in the countries where they live. They must penetrate wherever possible in the administration of affairs. All Catholics should do all in their power to cause the constitution of the states and legislature to be modeled on the principal of the true church.

In another letter to the Roman Catholic church in 1890, Pope Leo said: "The faithful should always take as the rule of their conduct the political wisdom of the ecclesiastical authority."—L. M. Hall, 611 S. 2nd av., Maywood, Ill.

REAL SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY.

—It has been said that nations and communities achieve democracy in thought and life only to the extent that the individuals become truly democratic in their own hearts. If this statement is true it is clear that not only every German-American who understands the democratic system of government and believes in it would prefer all of Germany to be ruled by France, but Germans in Germany, especially tollers and farmers who understand and believe in