BLUE GRASS BLADE.

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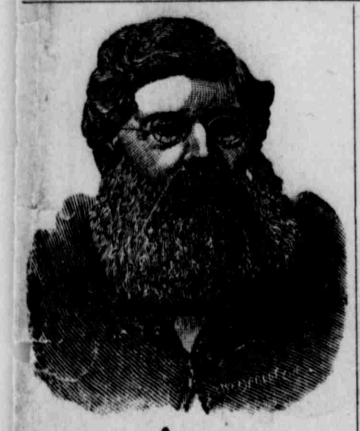

Charles S. Moore
Editor

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"THE DAMNED STUFF CALLED ALCOHOL."

I believe that alcohol, to a certain degree, demoralizes those who make it, those who sell it, and those who drink it.

I believe from the time it issues from the coiled and poisonous worm of the distillery until it empties into the hell of crime, death and dishonor, it demoralizes everybody that touches it

I do not believe that anybody can contemplate the subject without becoming prejudice against this liquid crime.

All you have to do is to think of the deaths—of the suicides, of the insanity, of the poverty, of the ignorance, of the distress, of the little children tugging at the faded dresses of weeping and despairing wives, asking for bread; of the men of genius it has wrecked; of the millions who have struggled with imaginary serpents produced by this devilish thing.

And when you think of the jails, of the almshouses, of the prisons, and of the scaffold upon either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against the damned stuff called alcohol.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

"Keep Church and State forever separate."—GRANT.

"In no sense whatsoever is this government founded upon the Christian religion."—WASHINGTON.

"The divorce between Church and State should be absolute."—Garfield.

WANTED—The name and address of every farmer in the U. S. that has a drilled cased well, or contemplates having one put down. Mills & Ross Co., (well specialists,) Medina, Wisconsin. 1-1yr.

SATOLLI

TO DINE WITH ROOSEVELT And Secretary of War Taft—Cardinal Gibbons, It Is Said, Will Accompany the Prelate.

Baltimore, Md., June 11.—Francis Cardinal Satolli, prefect of the Congregation of Studies in Rome, reached Baltimore to-day. To-night he is the guest of James Cardinal Gibbons, with whom he will spend a part of Sunday.

The visit of Satolli has caused considerable speculation, especially as his itinerary, when originally made public, did not include Baltimore. It is believed that Monsignor O'Connell realized that Satolli has made a mistake in publicly slighting Cardinal Gibbons and finally prevailed on him to pay his respects to the Baltimore Cardinal. Those close to Satolli say that his visit is one of a personal nature, but this is taken with a grain of salt, the true object of the mission, it is alleged, being to endeavor to establish a nunciator in Washington, thereby establishing diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican.

It has been learned tonight that Satolli will dine in Washington one night, probably next week, with President Roosevelt. The following night, he will be the guest of Secretary of War Taft. It is understood that Satolli was made to understand that these functions could only become possible by having Cardinal Gibbons as one of the guests, and it is now a part of the program for Cardinal Gibbons to be present at both the Roosevelt and Taft dinners. Satolli will leave here Sunday afternoon for New York, and will begin a part of his Western tour Monday.

Comment—The Liberals of the country should keep their eye on the visit of Satolli. The Catholic church has been trying to get this country to send a minister to Rome and have one of its own accorded here, for a long number of years. At every presidential campaign the attempt is made. The election of president affords the church the opportunity to trade its power.

Look out, or they will succeed.

The above clipping is taken from the Sunday's Cincinnati Enquirer. You will see that while this short notice is given out as a news item, not a word of objection will be raised and no comment made in the press, notwithstanding it is clear to every one, just what Satolli is here for.

At the last election McKinley and the Republican powers to be, were importuned by the church, and the whip of the Catholic vote held over them. McKinley was afraid to do it, and stood the church off, but as he could not be elected without the Catholic vote, and as it was disputed, they had to buy it.

I have seen where Republicans themselves have stated that that election cost the Republican party $30,000,000. Just how much the Catholic church got no one knows, but probably from one to five million.

Now it is at work again at this coming election. Satolli is to dine with Roosevelt and Secretary Taft.

Taft, as you remember, was sent to Rome, in the capacity of Ambassador by Roosevelt, for which act Roosevelt ought to have been impeached. Hardly a paper in the country said a word when Roosevelt put out a feeler as to what the people would say.

But he had to do it. The Catholic club was suspended over his head. It is suspended now. It is either send an Embassador to Rome or shell out your millions if you want to be elected.

Taft is training as Roosevelt's successer. He told a lot of plain lies about the good done by the Catholic priests in the Philippines when every one knows that the constant wars there was due to their extortion, brutality and vice.

Be sure that Rome will get either some mighty strong and sure promises from Roosevelt or an enormous slice of the Republican campaign fund. Roosevelt, after office, is conscienceless. Let every American be on guard or Rome will accomplish her object and American liberty will trail in the mire of tyranny and beastly bigotry. The closer I look into public affairs the more I conclude that the only way for an American patriot to vote is to first find out what priests and plutocrats want and who they are for, and then just vote the opposite.

MORE ABOUT JULIAN RENFRO

In addition to what I have printed about Julian Renfro the Chicago Evening American's account adds the following:

Renfro regained his normal strength rapidly, but did not speak nor could he hear. Realizing that he had been stricken deaf and dumb, and believing that his challenge to God brought on his affliction, friends summoned Rev. W. S. Jacoby, assistant pastor of Moody Church. The clergyman called and engaged in a written conversation with Renfro, a part of which is reproduced, word for word, as taken from the original notes.

"God loves you," wrote the pastor on the tab.

"What did you do? Did you believe what you said? What do you think about it? To which Renfro answered:

"I didn't believe there was a God. I believed what I said, but now I am satisfied that there is a God, and that I am wanted in his service."

Now Believe in God

"Why do you believe there is a God?"

"Because I said that I would not believe there was unless I was stricken deaf and dumb. A flash from His countenance struck me down—a look from His eye which was a flash of lightning."

"Did it fell you to the floor?"

"Yes."

"Do you now believe in God?"

"I do."

The minister told Renfro that God was sending him a warning, and the youth replied in writing:

"I feel that way about it and think that I shall remain this way until I have prepared to work for Him. My life is now His to use as He sees fit. I shall go home and apply all my time in learning of Him and when I am fit to do His work I shall be all right."

ANGEL VISITS RENFRO

MAN WHO WAS STRICKEN DEAF AND DUMB IN CHICAGO WRITES OF VISION.

CERTAIN HE WILL RECOVER.

Believes his Afflictions of Divine Origin and That the Cure Will be the Same.

New Orleans, June 6.—"At the time I lost my hearing I saw a beautiful light in one corner of the room. It reminded me of lightning. In the midst of this light there appeared an angel I remember the scene perfectly. The vision lasted for a few moments only, then disappeared as suddenly as it came."

The words were written to-day by St. Julian Renfro, who was strickened deaf and dumb in Chicago last Tuesday immediately after he had expressed disbelief in the existence of God. Renfro is at the home of B. A. Barrow, 2003 Seventh street. He will go to Shreveport, where his mother lives in a few days.

Writes of Affliction.

In further description of his experience he wrote:

"I told my friends that unless the God they believed in would strike me deaf and dumb I would not believe there was one. Almost as soon as I finished the sentence the power of speech was taken away from me, and a few minutes afterwards I was unable to hear anything my friends were saying, nor was I strickened so suddenly that I hardly knew what had happened. I tried to address my friends, but that was impossible, and since that day I have been unable to hear or utter a word.

Believes in God

"Now I am sure there is a God and have every reason to believe that God wants me to work for him. From now on I shall spend my life in His service.

"I am confident of getting all right. I believe my powers will be returned to me through the same source from which I was relieved of them."

Renfro said he would not consult a specialist not try any other way to secure scientific relief from his affliction. He was asked regarding a statement in a Shreveport dispatch to the effect that he was greatly affected by the crow of the cock. He wrote in answer that he was extremely nervous at times, but did not remember when the cry of a rooster had any effect on his nervous system. "While I am of a nervous nature," he wrote, "I cannot be shaken as easily at that."

Owensboro, Ky.—You will see by the enclosed clipping, under the same headlines, the brutality of two human fiends, one black and the other white and a father who kills his child and a preacher at that.

Men who can uphold that hideous hell can do, and will do, almost anything in the calendar of crime. Both are ripe for mob violence, and the preacher is the worse of the twain.—W. L. COPPERSMITH.

MRS. HENRY

ADDRESSES THE READERS OF THE BLADE ON DR. WILSON'S TRIP TO ROME.

The time is rapidly approaching for the convening of the "International Freethought Congress" which meets in Rome, Italy, in September. The National Liberal Party with the Blade for its organ, inaugurated a movement for the Liberals of the United States to be represented at the Congress and Dr. J. B. Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio, one of the ablest Liberals on either side of the Atlantic, was unanimously selected as the representative of Freethought in America.

The plan to raise the funds for this extensive trip, and important mission was that Dr. Wilson was to write a book giving the proceedings of the Congress, and his impressions of status of Freethought as exhibited at this Congress. It was hoped that at the low price of $1 enough copies of the book would be subscribed for to publish the work and defray the expenses of the trip. As the time for the Congress is so near it is evident that the subscriptions for the book will not be sufficient to carry out the original plan.

The last published account of the treasurer of the fund shows that 596 books have been subscribed for with only $297.90 paid in. In other words 596 copies of Dr. Wilson's book have been subscribed for and 297 have been paid for and Mr. Morris Sachs, the treasurer, has the latter amount on deposit in the Central Trust and Safe Deposit Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

It will be readily seen that the publication of a book in connection with this proposed trip with the funds on hand, or likely to be sent, is an utter impossibility.

If 1,600 copies of the book at $1.00 per copy had been subscribed for, the expenses of the trip could have been defrayed and Rationalistic literature would have been enriched by one of the most valuable works of our time, as no man in the Liberal ranks is so well fitted for this gigantic task as Dr. Wilson. He is one of the clearest thinkers and strongest writers of his day and so keen an observer that nothing at the great Congress of Rationalists would escape [illegible] readers know that Dr. Wilson's searching pen probes to the root of [illegible] he discusses, and his unselfish, untiring, and fearless championship of Rationalism should excite the admiration, gratitude and support of Freethinkers everywhere. I feel sure that no delegate to the Rome Congress will command greater attention and respect for his ability than Dr. Wilson and that he will honor the cause of Freethought in America equally as much as Freethinkers of the United States will honor him by sending him as a delegate.

Since the publication of a book with the small amount that has been subscribed is impossible, for the honor of our great cause, and that American Rationalists may not be unrepresented at the Rome Congress, I propose to the subscribers of this fund that all the 596 persons who have subscribed to this fund send in their subscriptions at once to Treasurer Morris Sach's, Atlas Bank Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, and that the $596 be used to defray the expenses of Dr. Wilson to the Rome Congress, with the understanding that he write a series of articles on the Congress, and all points bearing on it from notes taken on the trip, such articles to be contributed to the Blade on his return from Rome.

Even $596 will be a small sum to pay the expenses of this trip and gather all the information necessary.

I am sure that educative and entertaining articles Dr. Wilson would give us would be worth ten times the amount each one subscribes.

Let all the subscribers to the Rome Congress Fund signify their willingness or unwillingness to adopt the plan herein suggested by sending at once a postal card with their assent of dissent to Treasurer Morris Sachs, Atlas Bank Building, Cincinnati, O. If American Freethinkers are to be represented at the Rome Congress some decision must be reached in the next two weeks.

I personally submit this plan of sending a delegate to Rome without consulting Dr. Wilson, or the officers or members of the N. L. P.

Let all subscribers attend to this matter at once so a decision can be arrived at. If this plan is accepted let all subscribers to the fund pay in their subscriptions at once to the treasurer.

For the honor of mental liberty let not America be unrepresented at the Rome Freethought Congress.

JOSEPHINE K. HENRY.
Versailles, Kentucky.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION

If the above plan to send Dr. Wilson to Rome be adopted I further suggest that just before his departure a Rome Congress edition of the Blade be issued, printing the credentials of Dr. J. B. Wilson, President of the National Liberal Party, testifying that he is the regularly appointed delegate of American Freethinkers to the Congress, bearing the greetings of the Liberals of the United States in their co-workers in other lands. In this issue let the Blade publish a list of all the Freethought publications in America giving the location and name of editor of each one, also the names of all Liberal organizations with names of officers.

Articles of greeting and information regarding the status of Freethought in America will bring the workers of all lands in touch with each other, strengthen the cause and renew the courage of the workers.

It seems to me that it is peculiarly fitting that the Blade that has fought so heroic a battle for Freethought for 20 years, should get out such an issue, and peculiarly fitting too, that Dr. Wilson, who, for the great cause, has as it were, at times

"Stood on the burning deck,
When all but him had fled"

Should bear this issue across the seas and distribute several hundred copies of it to the delegates at the Rome Freethought Congress.

This idea may not be worth anything, but I send it on just as it occurs to me.

JOSEPHINE K. HENRY.
Versailles, Kentucky.

DR. WILSON'S

FRIENDS ARE REQUESTED TO REMIT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS AT ONCE.

Shall Dr. J. B. Wilson represent American Freethinkers at the coming Freethought Congress of the world? And is it a physical impossibility to raise a fund of one thousand dollars for that purpose?

Let the reader decide for himself. As to the sentiments entertained by Dr. Wilson's friends in Cincinnati I would say that it is the consensus of opinion that the Doctor shall go to Rome and that a thousand dollars ought and can be raised.

We now have about $300 in the bank and about $50 in the Blade office. We still have $300 to collect from those who have subscribed, and if they will remit the amount of their subscription at once there is no question but that Dr. Wilson will be able to make the trip and publish the book on his return.

If the three hundred subscribers will remit at once I will guarantee to raise one hundred dollars in Cincinnati in addition to former subscr[illegible] $750, and I am sure [illegible] receive the other 25[illegible] fore the Doctor's return fr[illegible]

Hence it ought to be an es[illegible] fact that the President of the N. [illegible] Liberal Party will be able bo[illegible] make the journey and publish [illegible] book.

All we ask now is for the subscribers who have not paid the respective amount of their subscription to do so at once, and if possible to get their friends to subscribe and remit.

MORRIS SACHS,
Atlas Bank Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

ROME CONGRESS FUND

It is the desire that Dr. J. B. Wilson represent American Freethought at the World's Congress of Freethinkers to be held in Rome, Italy, next September. Dr. Wilson is president of the National Liberal Party and is eminently qualified to participate in the deliberations ar the Congress. On his return from Rome the Doctor will write a book embracing his experience and proceedings of the Congress, and it is needless to speak of the Doctor's versatility and ability to write such a book.

The price of the book will be one dollar, and as the expense will be very heavy it is hoped that all who are able will subscribe for as many books as possible.

All money received is deposited in The Central Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of Cincinnati, and will be acknowledged through the Blade.

Contributions and subscriptions (with and without money) will be received by the Secretary of the National Liberal Party. Address:

MORRIS SACHS,
Atlas Bank Bldg. Cincinnati, O.

Condition of Fund

Total Subscriber	$661 00
Amount in bank	300 55
Amount sent to Blade	50 00

John C. McGinnis, Lawrenceburg, Ky., $1.25, pd; J. L. Peebles, Titutsville, Pa., (additional) 1; J. H. Alcorn, Titusville, Pa., 2; R. F. Smith, Whatcomb, Wash., 1; A. E. Wright, Whatcomb, Wash., 1; W. L. Miller, Whatcomb, Wash., 1; C. Senior, Whatcomb, Wash., 1; J. M. Carnahan, Whatcomb, Wash., 1; Louis Kolb, Cincinnati, O., 1; Dr. T. J. Bowles, Muncie, Ind., (additional), 4; N. W. Noble, Cincinnati, 1; Chas. Watts, Chillicothe, O., 1; Dr. A. W. Nelson, Cincinnati, O., 1; W. H. Morrow, Ada, O., 4 pd; Jno. Gauel, Kenton, O., 1 pd; E. B. Lockhart, Eastabuchie, Miss., 1 pd; B. McClanahan, Eastabuchie, Miss., 5 pd; H. T. Raff, West Liberty, O., 1 pd; W. J. Trenham, Alexandria, Minn., 1 pd; Thos. Duell, Idana, Kas., 2 pd.

"THREATS"

HURLED AT THE POPE

BY ITALY'S PREMIER IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

CHURCH WARNED TO KEEP HANDS OFF POLITICS.

HEATED DEBATE ON THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT LOUBET

Provokes bold Utterances From the Extreme Parties Against the Authorities of the Vatican.

Rome, May 30.—The Chamber of Deputies was crowded to-day to hear the discussion on the interpallation of the attitude of the Government toward the Vatican protest against President Loubet's visit. Sig. Mazza, Republican, called the note of the papal Secretary of State, Merry del Val, a perfect insult. He recalled that the Pope had not protested against the atrocious offenses to religion in France. His Holiness had now risen against a King who according to the Vatican, had stolen the pontifical patrimony, designating His Majesty as a usurper. The note, therefore, was a declaration of war.

Sig. Mazza asked the Government to take energetic action to prevent the invasion of the church into the kingdom's affairs. The Government had forgotten all pride and the national dignity in answering the Vatican insult by giving hospitality to Cardinal Swampa when the King on Saturday went to Bologna. The Government permitted the people of France to defend Italian rights.

The Liberals and the extreme parties applauded, and the galleries joined.

The Vatican Arraigned.

Sig. Guerci, Radical, followed, saying that "this time the Vatican is not resting, but bleating." Sig. Cabrins, Socialist, interrupted by exclaiming: "All it braying." (Laughter.)

Signor Guerci, continuing, said that Italy had less to fear from the papacy than other countries. Being near the Vatican she could always see preparations behind the scene. He complained that the Pope, who in his career before he became Pontiff, saw, appreciated and profited by Italian unity, should now as Pontiff, have as his inspirer and executive against Italy a foreigner, Cardinal Del Val.

Premier Giolitti, who arose amidst a breathless silence, said that the Vatican note naturally was not communicated to the Italian Government. France had answered as she thought best. The affair was one in which Italy could not interfere. The Vatican not contained a phrase regarding the King of Italy, but the effect produced was such that they must be extremely glad of the existence of that phrase as it had offered Premier Combes the opportunity to make a statement so flattering to Italian patriotism.

Cheers For Combes.

The crowded galleries rose and applauded for five minutes, crying "Viva Combes."

Signor Gielitti said that the note contained the usual protest which the Vatican has been repeating for 34 years. Italy has no reason to change her policy. She does not fear the invasion of the congregations, as she has laws to protect herself. If these laws are sufficient she will make new ones. To fear that the country cannot protect itself against the influences of foreign congregations it to insult Italians The state and the church must be as two parallel lines which never meet. Both must enjoy liberty.

"It will be worse for the church on the day she illegally interferes in the affairs of the state," concluded the Premier.

Rev. Whitsett formerly of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville seems likely to occupy the presidency vacated in the University of Tennessee by Dr. Dabney, who is to succeed Dr. Ayres at Cincinnati.

Whitsitt was fired out of his position in Louisville, because of his honesty. A lody in Dog Fennell precinct, who is (supposably) a good Presbyterian, said of Whitsitt that the only charge the Baptist had against him was that he went to Jerusalem, and came back and told the truth about it.