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OUR PLATFORM
 This publication does not condemn the Catholic religion, nor does it encourage the ignorant, unscrupulous Roman Catholic propaganda, but it takes issue with the Roman Catholic organization in its political influence, its interference with established American institutions and government.
 Clippings and Contributions Wanted
 REV. THEO. E. WALKER, Editor

'A Word to Secret Orders

By J. W. NORWOOD

There are several million members of secret fraternal orders in the United States, not less than half of whom belong to either the Freemasons, Odd Fellows or Knights of Pythias, and a large percentage to all three.

These are particularly mentioned, not because they happen to be the largest numerically, but because they have been, for about a century and three quarters past, the especially named subjects of the most violent and vicious condemnation by the Vatican. Pope after pope, has issued his "bull" against these "and similar orders." (Junior Order of American Mechanics, the Foresters, and the like) threatening with excommunication any Roman Catholic who joined them.

Where the Roman church has had the power she has actually put into force the penalties provided in these bulls. These penalties include not only excommunication and anathemas like "curse" of the church, "damning" the offender from head to foot, together with all his family, but confiscation of his property, imprisonment, and death. In the nineteenth century, while the church still held temporal sway in some portions of the world, Freemasons were hanged, shot and burned at the stake in Italy, Spain and Brazil for an offence that the "heresy" of being Freemasons. Others were arrested by the inquisition and sent as prisoners for life to the galleys and other prisons.

In this century, the church has nowhere the power to visit these extreme penalties, which however, are still in force. But she has the power to use the boycott in ruining the business of non-Catholics in Catholic communities and do so.

Why this violence and bitterness toward these societies? Because each and every one of them teaches the principles of universal brotherhood, freedom of conscience, speech press—in short democracy—or as the church calls it, "mobocracy." Such tenets are anti-clerical, and opposed to the union of church and state as well as of temporal power by the pope.

The church can no more be blamed for these limitations of her supreme pontiff, than a criminal can be blamed for objecting to his own arrest and punishment for the same reasons. Whatever else may be said of the Roman church, her political policy has never changed and she takes pride in the fact that she "never changes." This political policy encompasses and has always contemplated the subjection of the whole human race to the authority of the pope, not only in spiritual and religious matters, but in temporal matters as well, upon the theory that the Roman religion is the only revealed religion and as such is the only salvation for humanity.

Believing this sincerely we will admit for the sake of argument, it will be seen that it is but natural for this church to look upon the rest of humanity as rushing to its destruction through ignorance, and that it must be saved from itself, its passions, vices, desires, and mistakes in life.

Hence, according to the Roman theory, it is the bounden duty of every "Catholic" to persuade (or use force if necessary), his neighbor from committing spiritual suicide through his own freedom of conscience, thought and erroneous ideas of self-government. The entire system of church government is subjective to the last degree. The church looks upon the man who would persist in opposing its opinions upon these subjects, to "eat of religion" as held by it, much as we should look upon a man temporarily crazed, who would jump upon the ocean with the intention of committing suicide. Should we let such a man drown himself just because he wants to? Would we not rescue him, even if we had to beat him into insensibility to drag him out of the water?

So, when the church observes forms of government, scientific or religious societies, secret orders or other institutions opposed in principle to the dogmas of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, it is but natural that it should regard them as schools of harmful teachings to the rest of mankind, and do all in its power to suppress them.

Some attempt has been made in the past, to persuade the public that the Roman church is opposed to the Masons, Odd Fellows and "similar orders" because of their secret character, but this claim has long ago been exploded by the church itself. Ask a well informed Knight of Columbus the reason why his church opposes the Masons and he will tell you, when cornered, that it is because the Masons "withdrew from the church" long ago. He has been told so and believes it. He believes that originally the church or "Christianity" and the Masons were identical, and that the Masons withdrew. He also believes that Freemasonry as an organized body, has sprung all the other secret orders, and that each and every one are "branches" of the church and as such to be stamped out.

The truth of the matter is that Freemasonry, as we call it now, has gone under many different names in the past, and is thousands of years older than the church; that "Christianity" as it originated two thousand years ago, was a secret society itself built upon the same foundation and was buried as such. He led the armies of the republic to victory and

TEMPORAL POWER

by the same men who had received their training in the secret orders now recognized as Freemasonry. It was when the Roman branch of this church, whose original secret character was necessitated by the persecutions against Christianity as well as against the learned societies, sought to rule the world by a union of church and state, that the pope of Rome began to expel the learned societies and confiscate their books and property.

This necessitated a reorganization of the secret societies under various names, for the sake of preserving the sciences and individual liberty. The chief of these societies appears under the name of Freemasonry today, but there are many other organizations of special character, professing and practicing some one or more of the original tenets for which "Christianity" and before that other organizations stood.

The break came, not by secret orders withdrawing from the church, but by the church making the division itself, and introducing political dogmas into questions of morality. The church is subjective in its teachings and the secret orders are constructive—the reason they are called "builders of civilization."

Does Rome object to "secret orders" as such? Well, hardly. What is the College of Cardinals? What is the Jesuit Order, whose very symbol is an adaptation and corruption of that of Royal Arch Masonry? What are the Knights of Columbus, the Young Men's Institute and dozens of others? They are "secret," but have not "left the church." Rome knows that a secret order can be used to destroy as well as to build. She knows that her secret orders can be and are used as weapons of everything she wants to destroy, as well as constructors of the church.

Rome burned a Grand Master of the Knight Templar at the stake, confiscated his property, and presented it to a rival order, which had "rejoined" in the church. Today we find among orders of Christian Mason, various branches of the "Knights of Malta," for example, while the same order is also to be found in various branches, within the Vatican itself and in Roman Catholic courts of Europe. Rome never fails to cling to whatever branches of these secret orders she can control but damn with exceeding bitter damnation those she cannot.

Even among the fraternal insurance orders as well as less offensive fraternities like the Elks, she strives her best to capture whatever is attractive to her young men. The Elks, for example, have been taken over entirely by the Romanists who constitute the greater portion of its membership, nearly everywhere.

Another example, witness the "Order of Foresters" of which there are many branches and independent fraternities. This is the third largest fraternal in the United States, when all its divisions are considered. There are about 22 different organizations of this name in the United States and at least four of them bear the distinctive name of "Catholic" Foresters.

Now the question comes, what does this mean and what are we going to do about it? Are we going to remain idle and treat the bulls of "vice versa" of God" with silent contempt, just because we imagine they are harmless? If they are harmless then that is the only proper course. If not, then the game of battle has been hung down and it behooves us to at least protect ourselves.

Are they harmless? Well, Masons will scarcely forget the Morgan farce in this country, engineered by the Jesuits. This attack did not hurt Masonry, but it came very near disrupting the Union and destroying the work done by our Masonic associates in building up this nation and her laws. Needless to say, these bulls set every Roman Catholic (if he is a good one) against every non-Roman Catholic, especially the Masons, Odd Fellows and "similar orders." The Morgan episode made bitter enemies of Protestants, Christian as set against Jew and Catholic against Protestant. Bibles were burned, State legislatures were turned into courts of inquisition. A great political party was formed upon the issue of anti-Masonry with a dead body as the slogan—"It's a good enough Morgan ill after the election."

Are these "bulls" harmless? The present cry is that our federal constitution is godless! Our schools are godless! Catholics must have public school money for their parochial schools! Men must be elected to office and sit as governors, judges, and presidents—because they are Catholics! Voters must consider the religious affiliation of candidates before voting! All this is the cry of the priests and it is being acted upon. Political domination of any sect, means subjection. When religion is made a matter of political activity then the people of this country are not properly represented.

Just stop and consider, you secret order men, if you have not some responsibility in connection with this nation's government. Who built it? Who carved out each and every state that is now in the Union? Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? Who wrote, and what was the complexion of the state legislatures that adopted our federal constitution?

If you don't know, search your own

THE CLARK FUND

We introduce below a letter from New Orleans, La., which breathes the spirit of patriotism and presents the principles involved in the Clark case better than we could do it ourselves. The letter follows:

New Orleans, La., Nov. 14, '11.
 The Menace, Aurora, Mo.
 Gentlemen:—The Clark case appeals to us because behind it there is a great principle at stake. His failure to successfully appeal the verdict rendered against him, would, in our estimation curtail the privileges guaranteed to us by the constitution, and reduce us to a condition of absolute servitude to the powers who would have, or arrogate to themselves, the prerogatives of censoring the rights of freely discussing our honest opinions and proclaiming the truth as it exists, thus controlling our rights of free speech, and robbing our free press of its power. We are of the opinion that had which has suffered the most from the hierarchy's machinations and who have learned to love the country that guarantees us individual, personal, and political liberty, feel that we should contribute our mite towards defraying the expenses of this legal battle, take pleasure in enclosing to you the result of a small collection which we regret we were not able to make larger. However, with it goes the best wishes for the ultimate success of the cause for humanity.

Enclosed you will find \$4.25 which you will please transmit to the Clark fund.

Yours in humanity's cause,
 ESPANOL'S LIBRE.
 (Free Spaniards.)

We would that all could see the situation as the "Free Spaniards" see it. In that case we would not be long in raising a sufficient fund to carry this case all the way up to Jesuit White, of the supreme bench. The report for last week follows:

Previously acknowledged	\$57.75
Dr. H. E. Wales, Mass.	1.00
J. H. Ashendorf, Pa.	2.00
L. S. Munsell, Okla.	.40
Oklahoma F. A. M.	5.00
E. P. Van Kirk, Pa.	1.00
A. Friend, Buffalo, N. Y.	1.00
Total	\$70.15

The Catholic military societies are increasing their numbers and efficiency. The hierarchy knows why, but the Protestants are sound asleep. A stitch in time saves nine.

DEMOCRACY IN THE MELTING POT

A thing happens in the furnace that is happening in the United States and the world.

Have you ever watched the puddler stir the iron melting under the fierce heat of the blast?

The broken heterogeneous mass of iron begins to glow and scintillate. The puddler, bared to the waist, thrust in the long rods and stir the molten particles—the dross separates as they stir, and the iron begins to assume cohesive power; it runs together—it collects in masses and forms into a ball ready to be shaped into useful bars and merchantable iron, as it passes through the great shaping rollers in the mill.

Just see what China is doing. How come about the organized revolution—the drawing together of the progressive units in that east and fixed national life. The fires of revolution flaming out from time to time have fanned into a glow, the free ore and iron fragments of a stolid national existence. The mass seems to have reached that stage where the patriots—the puddlers—watching the fire see that the iron is hot—the units of society begin to mass—to roll together, and gather as it rolls and the new order of things is hammered into shape by passing into the "rolls" of constitutional law and republican democracy.

Democracy is in the world's melting pot. The virgin ore, born in the womb of nature—from the scrap pile—men broken and defeated in life—kings and emperors cast aside like out of date machinery are thrown by piecemeal into the fire—conservatives and radicals, undeveloped men—thrown into the furnace—democracy in the crucible of criticism, unrest and resentment. Suddenly the wind begins to blow from unseen quarters—the fire is started—the mass begins to bubble and boil—the puddler with their pens stir the super-heated mass.

Open the door—look in. There is a glowing together—a disposition to mass—a rolling up in a ball—the slag settles on the grate.

This state of things is easily discerned in every nation. Never in history have the minds of all men been so plastic—so glowing with brightening zeal, for brotherhood and better government. The holy fire of heaven burns under the melting pot—the free air roars with the shout of the multitude, and the great glowing ball of humanity is ready to be pressed into shape for the common good.

If this be true in the national life of the world—it is especially true in America.

The Menace has been looking into the oven—its a puddler—every sort of political and religious metal and ore is in the melting pot. The breath of the Lord blows upon the sizzling coals and that supreme moment seems to be at hand when the molten mass is ready to be sent to the mill and rolled into fine steel to be shaped on the anvil of God's providence to produce instruments of offensive and defensive action.

The Menace's phenomenal growth is an evidence that the crucial hour is here, where the units unite under the heat of an intense enthusiasm—there is a fusing together of hearts—the furnace grows hotter every day—the dross, the weak, the timid, the fearful and unbelieving are separated and the ball of precious patriotism grows and glows and will be ready for permanent organization in the mill of time.

To stand at the furnace fire, to toll in the heat and moil of the open doors and stand transfixed in the light of a purified democracy—to reach into the mass with pen and brain is a wonderful experience.

It's a great time to live—It's a great country to defend.

Let the Free wind blow and the Free born.

This is God's country and not that of a substitute, blaspheming the name of the Most High by assuming the prerogatives of Deity.

Be ready when the Democracy comes from the melting pot and God shall shape the mass into an instrument of His power by which he will conquer the world in love.

The Crime of the Age

By REV. JOHN P. GALVIN

In silence, for years, but as steady and as sure as night follows day, the use and tendency of one of freedom's greatest organs, the press, has been slowly changed from the people's forum into a mouthpiece and advertising agency for a priesthood—a priesthood which is more political than religious.

Some say the newspapers are giving what the majority of the people demand, and that, like the stage, when we insist on something better the said papers will furnish it. Now, to me, this is unphilosophical philosophy, and indicates a want of close observation. These men seem to forget that the masses of our people are scattered, isolated from the great centers and depending for their general information upon these supposed organs of news, and often their political and religious leaders are either as ignorant as themselves or too cowardly to speak the word of warning. I know this last clause sounds rather harsh, but the facts around us testify to its truth. Let a minister who doesn't forget he is a citizen, as well as a religious teacher, place himself squarely against that power which declares it has the American press "where it wants it," and how many of the clergy will stand by him in public and private? He is a rare one, indeed, if he hasn't found some liberal brother ready to spring up, after his heart to heart talk with the people, and whose special mission is to convey the impression he's sorry for the speaker's narrow way of looking at these things, and that he is not of that kind, and that the so-called politician who casts his vote and uses his influence for the extension of that power which laughs at our American liberty, and freedom in matters affecting the individual conscience, will be gladly welcomed at his church, and that he, personally, considers him a very liberal and useful citizen.

Then, as we have already intimated, see the vast number of poor country ministers, men whose starvation wages prevent them from the larger and truer sources of information, and ask yourself, "how can these men keep their congregations informed along these lines?" This year I addressed a body of Sunday School workers in an inland town, in this state of Illinois, and was more than surprised at the number of the different religious teachers who thanked me for my lecture, and at the same time declared they were formerly ignorant of the facts which I had placed before them. And herein lies the sadness of the whole matter—the general ignorance on such matters by those who are supposed to teach and lead their flocks. But these good men are not to blame. They are honest men, and doing their best with the material at hand. No, the blame rests upon those educated and wealthier men who have and are using their brains and money as tools for the most un-American force in our country. They have sunk intellect, honor and patriotism at the bidding of a national enemy, for the commercial and political value there is in it, and thinking it no sin to prostitute their manhood and their talents, they also think it no crime to hide the truth from their fellow citizens. When archbishop after archbishop declares in public that the great salaries and weeklies dare not admit anything in their, reflecting on their church and its workings, and remembering that no Protestant, or any other kind of a minister, will be allowed to reply to their boasts and threats, I think there must be more than a grain of truth in these reversed statements, and that my charge against the major part of the men running these great news organs is neither far-fetched, or unjust. And I am sure they are not answering the demand of either the working classes, our middle classes, or even the larger number of our educated and professional classes. And their usual plea for refusing matter which would expose the somewhat silly and sometimes treasonable sayings of these religious politicians, manifestly a mixture of hypocrisy and disloyalty that is truly sickening. "We cannot publish your article because it would open up an uncalled for controversy." Yet when the head of the Roman church in this country closes the public school with the cry of divorce, murder and vile lust, these same pe-

ple print the same gladly, and mix up a few handfuls of type to be used in fulsome praise of this man who has not the slightest bit of genuine Americanism in his whole mental makeup, and, worse still, they report our president as declaring the said cardinal to be the most influential and American man among the religious bodies of this country. And while this continues how can we expect those who look upon our newspapers as centers of truth to see the error behind the holy smile, and knife beneath the cape?

I believe that if the American people only knew the truth (and they will some day) they would at once lift up such an outcry of indignation as would forever silence these priestly voices, and put their gross agents out of business. And what we need is a general scattering of truthful information, letting the people understand how things are being in the political and newspaper world of thought and action. Of course this calls for brave men and women. Men and women fully Americanized, and who look upon the corruption of the press, the common man's source of information, as a crime equal to, if not greater than, that of America's first traitor, Benedict Arnold. And they must be prepared and ready for all manner of vile abuse from these same corrupt and unscrupulous organs, and the poor, ignorant souls which their masters, the foreign agents, will naturally call to assist them. It won't be a pleasant duty, by any means but to die fighting for the truth is no disgrace, while to sit with closed mouth and folded hands while our country is being handed over to those who are anxious to bring her into entire bondage and shame is a disgrace. And who is better qualified than the successors of those noble hearted men and women who protested against spiritual and political tyranny in Europe, and made the man of the Three Crowns and the keys feel as if he had been struck with an eternal gale? Here's the bond of cement that should draw the Protestant clergy in the close relationship which the good among them have been praying for. Let the Protestant ministers of America throw aside their varied differences, and with the word of God in their hands, as the all sufficient weapon, let them go forth, as our fathers did, united and trusting God, and it will not be many years until the Bible will be restored to our public schools, that best fountain of truth and freedom. And the White House will cease being the reception room of the Vatican, and congress and the senate something besides gambling places for priests and their political traps, and the press will be delivered from the black anarchy which has bound and gagged it for so many years, and it will be allowed to speak the truth, and the public schools will stand with open doors for all of our children, with no priest to hinder or hinder, and men will be free to worship a free God, and protect themselves.

May our ministers hear and answer. "Here we are for God and Truth, and for Free America."

"The greatest triumph in late years of Rome as a political power have been witnessed in this republic, by its influence over executives in municipalities, states, and nation, by its control of legislation, by its drafts on public treasuries, by its control of the balance of power in the centers of population all over the nation as the result of the solidarity of its votes. And yet men claiming to be intelligent continue to assert that America has nothing to fear from Romanism. This fact emphasizes the peril." (King.)

DO YOU WANT CLARK?
 William Lloyd Clark is now booking future lecture dates.
 If you want him for a series of free lectures on the Catholic question, make your wants known to The Menace and we will put you on the route. It will be some little time before Mr. Clark gets started, but if you want him you had better advise us at once so you can get in on the route before it is made up.