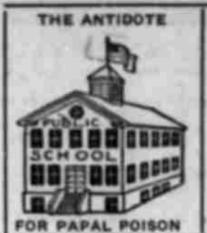


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OUR PLATFORM
 This publication does not condemn the Catholic religion, nor does it censure the honest, well-meaning Roman Catholic communicant; but it takes issue with the Roman Catholic organization in its political intrigues, its interference with established American institutions and government.
 Clippings and Contributions Wanted
 REV. THEO. C. WALKER, Editor

THE CONFESSIONAL

Of all the practices of the Romish church, confession to the priest is the most diabolical.

Auricular confession (that is, the whispering in the ear of the priest), in the papal system, is used as a means of universal dominion.

Through the confessional, the priest knows everything, even the most secret occurrence of domestic life, what the husband does, what he says, and even what he or anyone else in the house thinks.

By means of the confessional the priest has complete power over the woman, ruling her as a slave; he knows all her weaknesses, and can make such use of them as to cause her to be a plaything in his hands, to bring about his machinations.

There was a time (which will always be remembered with sorrow and horror), when through the confessional the prisons of the inquisition were crowded with respectable people, and the flames of the stake neither ceased nor diminished in intensity, being fed by the daily combustible material of the confessional. The practice of auricular confession degrades and debases the woman.

One cannot understand a retiring and modest woman, who would be offended at the least word being spoken to her by a person unknown to her, prostrating herself on her knees before the most dangerous of men, and hearing from him the most immodest questions.

Do not let it be thought that we say this only from a great desire to combat such a vicious practice! No; we could give the very questions which the priests are under obligation to put to their penitents, and among these questions there are such as would cause the most barefaced to blush.

Auricular confession is a practice that ought to be opposed firmly and perseveringly, being one most calculated to ruin family life.

Are not young women ashamed to whisper in the ear of an unmarried man all their weaknesses, revealing to him what ought to be secret?

Do they not blush as alone with him they are engaged in conversation with the greatest possible amount of intimacy? Do they not remember that the priest is an irreconcilable enemy of marriage and has taken vows of celibacy?

Then as regards the married women, can they dare disclose to a sworn bachelor what they would not tell their own husbands, with whom by God's will they are inseparably united? Putting themselves in the priest's hands they furnish him with a terrible weapon with which to attack them.

What right has the priest superior to that of the husband? Why should he, a stranger, merit more confidence? Why go and tell to other men the weaknesses that you do not like to tell your husband?

Husbands, is it possible that your dignity can consent to your wives and daughters being dominated over by celibate men, who spy into all that happens in the house, and who are declared enemies to real family life?

Is it possible that conjugal and parental indifference can reach such a point that you can permit a single man to hold the most intimate intercourse with your wives and daughters, and obtain more influence in the family than you?

Let your wives and daughters know that the practice of auricular confession did not exist in the primitive churches, when the faith was pure, but was introduced when the professing Christian churches became corrupt in doctrine and practice.

Teach them to drink from the fountain found in the Gospel of Christ, with the certainty that they will never thirst, showing them at the same time the deceit and false practices so contrary to the religion of Jesus Christ, and that the only safety is to follow this and forsake all contrary teaching.—Translated from a Spanish periodical, entitled El Cristiano.

TEMPORAL POWER

We Catholics have special reasons for giving thanks to God. The church flourishes in this country better than in any other land, and the prejudice against our people is fast disappearing.—Catholic Telegraph.

Now it turns out that the McNamara brothers are Catholics whose deeds equal, if not exceed, the diabolical plot and assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Twenty-one lives lost in one explosion.—Glenwood (Ark.) News.

Antiquity softens the most palpable absurdity. Mr. Dowle claims to be the successor of John the Baptist, and is ridiculed as an imposter, while the pope as a duplicate of St. Peter and the vicegerent of God is greeted by millions. And yet one is just as absurd as the other.

The progress of the world in all that is good for mankind can be traced by the lessening of the control of the Catholic church. It has hated and opposed every liberty, every improvement and every effort of man to gain a higher intelligence.

The pope has issued an encyclical letter against "modernism" and now the "modernists," the liberal element in the Roman Catholic church, have printed a vigorous reply. If this had happened a century or two ago, there would have been some fierce bonfires.

Catholics never vote for a Protestant when they have a Catholic opponent. To them party means nothing. They owe allegiance only to the pope as their priests tell them. They are the worst enemies of this republic that are permitted to practice their lying, deceptive lives under its protection.

What has gone with the patriotic speeches that used to be in our old McGuffey's readers? Such as Patrick Henry's speech, "Give me Liberty or Give me Death" Look at the school readers used in the Glenwood public school; full of fables (lies), mostly about "Rome on the Tiber." "Straws show which way the wind blows."—Glenwood (Ark.) News.

"There may be such things somewhere in the world as free government and free institutions without a free press, but I do not know how one can conceive of them. Certainly so far in human experience, the right of free expression of opinion has been the indispensable foundation of all other rights. When free opinion has been threatened the whole structure of human liberty, reared so slowly and with so much sacrifice, has been shaken with it."—Charles Edward Russell.

Talk about getting money under false pretenses—is there anything more flimsy or rascally than the blackmailing by priests of money out of their dupes for praying souls out of purgatory? Only by the slow education in dupery all their lives on their communants is such a lying fraud possible. They do not allow them to read anything that will enable them to think. Thinking is the death of Catholicism.

The Knights of Columbus and other Catholic military organizations are for the purpose, could have no other purpose, than the overturning by force of the free institutions of this country and placing it under the direct control of the Catholic hierarchy. Americans do not know what this means, but every country in Europe knows, and they are throwing off the yoke that is being imposed on this country. It may precipitate an Armageddon—but the Catholic hierarchy is a fading institution. It has only to be known to be discarded.

The Washington, D. C., Times is owned by Frank C. Munsey, a Roman Catholic and a Knight of Columbus. The people of Washington and the country who read the Times will understand when it makes a big noise in the interest of a Roman Catholic national holiday, and calls it Columbus day, that it is doing the bidding of the Jesuits. The Times will want congress to vote money, for sectarian schools in the interest of Catholicism among the Indians. What greater indignity do people want to put upon the Indians? We have robbed them of their lands and now these Jesuits want to deprive them of the right to think and worship the Great Spirit in freedom and love. Keep your eyes on the Catholic Times, Washington, for Catholic propaganda.

CATHOLIC BIGOTRY.

President Taft attended a Thanksgiving service of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, an A. P. A. anti-Catholic society, at Wesley M. E. church, Washington, last Sunday night. Mr. Taft is the president of us all, but, really, he should be more particular in choice of his company.—Catholic Union and Times, Buffalo.

Catholics are eternally wailing about anti-Catholics being bigoted, unfair and dishonest in their criticisms. How's the above for CATHOLIC bigotry?

In the first place the Union and Times lied. The Junior Order is not an anti-Catholic organization, has no connection past or present with the A. P. A., which is dead, though living in spirit, and is not dominated by survivors of the A. P. A., as Catholics would have you believe.

Where the Junior Order shoe pinches the Romans is in its "Eligibility for Membership" provisions. If Catholics could get control of the Junior Order and run it, as they do some organizations, it would be a good thing, and you would hear of the order being blessed by "Our Most Holy Lord God, the Pope," its leaders being canonized as saints, sprinkled with holy water, smoked with holy smoke, etc., etc.

But Catholics can't very well qualify for membership in the Junior Order because it declares that it is "Opposed to the union of church and state."

Because members must be "able to earn a livelihood" by honest means. (Priests can't do that.)

Because it is "in favor of upholding the American public school system, and preventing interference therewith."

No wonder the Romans hate the Junior Order. The Junior Order is patriotic, and is everything that Catholicism is not.

THE BISHOP'S OATH.

We have had quite a time with the doubting Thomases.

Even the New Orleans Morning Star (Catholic), has roared about our publishing oaths that no loyal man can take. And said we did not print the true oaths.

The Menace sighted the authorities and the Star printed a bishop's oath, which did not agree with that printed in The Menace. The Star went on record with the oath taken by Archbishop Gunn, and said the Catholic church was scandalized by non-Catholic periodicals concerning the oath taken by Catholic bishops. Among the papers which have published the so-called spurious oaths, the Star mentions the South West Presbyterian, Tom Watson's Jeffersonian, the Baptist Chronicle and others.

What are the facts? Why, when the bishop is consecrated he takes a preliminary oath until he goes to Rome where he takes the final oath, as published by The Menace. But what do you think of the Star, which can write a whole column with the deliberate purpose of making the impression that the non-Catholic papers have lied about the bishop's oath?

The Star knew it was deceiving its readers. Was that "all for the glory of God, in the interest of the church?"

But now comes the priest, Rev. A. Stocker, writing editorially in the Southern Guardian and reprinted by the New Orleans Star, and says:

"If I want to know what oath a bishop must take, I open the page of the 'Pontifical Romanum,' the official book of the church, in which every detail of a bishop's consecration is contained. There I find an oath which the bishop is to take and it is the same for all, etc., etc."

Just so, brother, that is the identical book and the identical oath The Menace prints.

It has taken a good while for the Roman Catholic press to get around to the truth about the disloyal oaths the hierarchy take, but they had to come to it. Even the "Holy Father" came to the defense of The Menace and revamped the cardinal's oath, and put a paragraph in to make it look new. Now let some Catholic brother jump up and deny that the priests and religious bosses take oaths. For such people The Menace is printed, and our friends must see to it that they get it.

What do you suppose a Catholic military organization to be good for unless it be used to enforce the pope's decrees at the point of the bayonet?

When the Roman hierarchy begins the use of the American press it is time for the American citizen to begin the use of his brains and eyes and vote.

Those liberal brothers who are ever ready to spring up and profess sorrow over the alleged narrowness of The Menace should remember that even a man of capacity may become so broad as to become shallow.

The hierarchy is pleased to note that in no other country has the Catholic church prospered as it has in America. It remains to be seen how America will prosper under control of the hierarchy.

The only rule to which the world has submitted was that of the Roman Empire. Is Rome again to rule the world through the hierarchy? There is only one way it can be done and that is for the world to go back to the condition it was in under the old Roman rule.

In the chambers of congress, in every state capital, in every county seat, and in nearly every school district the wily wizards of Rome are reaching forth to touch the treasury and obtain funds raised by taxation to use in furthering their own political ends. Put none but Americans on guard and see that they do their duty.

It would be interesting to know how many public libraries in the United States have excluded that great novel, "The Wandering Jew" by Eugene Sue, from their shelves. Suppose our readers apply for this book at the libraries and report the result. If you find the book it will be more than worth reading and a means of understanding much that is Jesuitical.

The conduct of priests in nunneries ought to be investigated. Nunneries should be examined, and every nun should be permitted to see a representative of the state alone, and apart from the surveillance of her keepers or companions, once a year. When this was insisted on in Germany, the convent system was abandoned. It might be so here.

A devoted Roman Catholic lady used to tell this story to her children: "Martin Luther was so bad a man that, before he died, the fires of hell burned within him. They burned so fiercely that he would shriek and scream with anguish because of their flame and heat. He used to be put in a tub of water, and the water, in a few moments, would boil around him, because of the fires of hell that were in him."

Did you ever see a Catholic priest who seemed much perturbed or worried by the sins of the world? Do they look much like one would expect a follower of the lowly Nazarene to appear? Did you ever see one who seemed to have much more on his mind than the thought of something good to eat or drink or to satisfy some other appetite? Look them over and see how much spirituality you can find expressed in their florid faces and forced-physiques.

Nothing has happened of late that has relieved the minds of the hierarchy so completely as the death of Hon. Henry T. Bowers, founder and president of the American Protective Association. He was a terror to evildoers and a veritable Gideon, breaking the pitchers and scattering the Roman standing army. The Catholic press breathes a sigh of relief, as though their pent-up fears of Bowers could hold out no longer. Some day the brave old man will have a monument reared to his memory by a grateful people.

GOLDBRICK

By WM. C. BRYANT, JR.

"It is a pleasure to goldbrick the president in this manner," were the words expressed by the speaker when a \$300.00 goldbrick was presented to President Taft at a banquet at Lead, Arizona.

"It is a pleasure to be goldbricked in this manner," was the smiling response of our chief executive.

One feels instinctively inclined to extend congratulations toward the recipient on this occasion, for one is moved to compare it with the many instances of goldbricking done in every form and manner imaginable where the recipient was unburdened of his worldly goods and found himself the victim of a bunko-game. One is moved to recall the many exposures of graft in public office, which is only a species of goldbricking—for here whole communities have their money unconsciously separated from them. And this method of goldbricking people seems to be one of the favorite methods these days, for to get a little from each is ever so much easier than getting all from one. And furthermore one is moved to contemplate how gradually and how surely is being molded the greatest of all goldbricks that ever was or ever will be palmed off upon an American public. The price to pay will stagger the nation to its very foundations—the priceless jewel of liberty will be the forfeit.

And for this priceless jewel what do we get? Back of all the glitter—the pomp, the tinsel, the impressive ceremonies—we find but cowed subservience to priestly rule. The wheel of progress is reversed, the activity of the mind discouraged and repressed, the fountain-heads of learning checked and sealed. The whole nation changed into a cringing multitude of priest-fearing, pope-imploping people. The pope rules—obey the pope.

Shall liberty be the forfeit for such a life as that?

Shall we—loyal citizens of the United States—allow the pope to have the satisfaction, eventually, of saying: "It is a pleasure to goldbrick the American people in this manner."

"HIS LAST TESTAMENT"

Daniel Webster was once arguing a case in which the validity of a will was in controversy, the contest being between the heirs of the testator and a certain church, to which, it was contended, the testator, unduly influenced by its clergyman, had in his last hours devised the most of his property. Webster claimed that the testator was then too feeble in mind to make a valid will, and in the course of his argument he related this incident:

A wealthy Spaniard, when on his deathbed, was visited by a certain friar, and in solemn form was thus interrogated: "Is it your last will and testament that your estate in Andalusia shall be given to Holy Mother church?" The dying man replied, "Yes." "Is it your last will and testament," proceeded the friar, "that your estate in Castile shall be given to Holy Mother church?" The answer was "Yes." And thus the eager ecclesiastic went on until the testator's son, who was standing by, anxious lest his dying parent should will away his entire property, angrily interposed, "Father, is it your last will and testament that I should take your gold-headed cane and drive this friar out of the chamber?" "Yes" was the still affirmative reply.

Personal character is the strongest plea that one can offer on behalf of any influence or faith. Whatever makes good men is of itself good. Mr. Webster used to say of New England, that it produced men. Other sections might be more highly favored, but none could surpass its manhood. By this test the world's religions must ultimately be judged. Historic successions avail nothing before results. The Roman church for four hundred years had the most absolute sway over the brain and conscience of the West Indies and left them almost as densely ignorant as at the first. No one ever urged so strong an argument against Rome as Rome by this fact urged against herself. The result of the labors confirmed the character of the laborers.

THAT "VILE AND FILTHY SHEET," THE MENACE

Complaint was made of the circulation in this city and surroundings of anti-Catholic and objectionable papers and books, among others THE ABOMINABLE, FILTHY SHEET CALLED "THE MENACE," OF AURORA, MO. The chairman of the committee on PUBLIC MORALS reported that the national law committee of the American Federation of Catholic Societies has in preparation a bill which will be introduced in Congress forbidding such vile publications from circulating through the mails.

THE above quotation was taken from the December 7th issue of The Church Progress, a Catholic paper published in St. Louis. It was found in an article giving the proceedings of the November meeting of the St. Louis Federation of Catholic Societies, and it was at this meeting that the complaint was made against The Menace.

And why is it The Menace keeps these Roman hierarchs awake at night?

If The Menace is vile, and mangy, and filthy, and bigoted, as they claim, and there is no truth in its columns, why should they be annoyed by its circulation?

A lie hurts no one in the end, and a publication founded on falsity cannot live, so what have they to fear if The Menace text is a fabrication, as they claim?

If Roman Catholicism in all its phases is what it claims to be, and what it should be to be tolerated in free America, millions of people in this nation have been deceived, and it should be more than willing to have its case threshed out before the bar of public opinion.

But it is not willing to do this, and therefore employs stealth, chicanery and cunning to strangle inquiry and thwart investigation. It's a matter of common knowledge that the Catholic press throughout America, at least, wrecks with vilification and abuse of everything and everybody not just exactly Catholic. But let somebody refuse to "turn the other cheek," or strike back in self defense, and the seven phials of Roman wrath are poured out, and the excretions of the Roman press smell to high heaven. Yet, you never hear The Menace demanding that Catholic papers be excluded from the mails because they are filthy, false and obscene. The Menace believes in FREE SPEECH in all that the term implies. Politically, we believe in free speech for Anarchists for the same reason that we believe in free speech for Republicans; we believe in free speech for Socialists for the same reason that we believe in free speech for Democrats; and religiously, we believe in free speech for Catholics for the same reason that we believe in free speech for Protestants and Free Thinkers.

With apologies to the great Englishman, Murray, we would remind you that "every new generation is obliged to rescue the most precious of its privileges—the Freedom of the Press—from the insidious encroachments of power, and to stand in defense of the liberty which is the foundation of all other liberties; which is essential to everything that can, with propriety, be termed good government."

We do not fear the legislation which the American Federation of Catholic Societies purposes to lobby for at the present session of Congress.

IN THE FIRST PLACE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WON'T STAND FOR ANY SUCH LEGISLATION!
 IN THE SECOND PLACE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS NOT LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO START A REVOLUTION!

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