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THAT KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS OATH

WHEN he becomes a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, how does the knightly Nit swear? That is the question agitating papist publishers since the original oath was printed in the Congressional Record of February 13, 1913. The explosion that followed, and the eruption that continues to date, were both caused by one Eugene C. Bonniwell who introduced the document as evidence in contesting the seat of Thos. S. Butler as a member of congress from the seventh district of Pennsylvania.

Since Bonniwell was a papist pretender trying without success to oust the legally elected member, The Menace made mention of the matter as an example of Romish activity in American politics, and incidentally printed Bonniwell's document. And then came the fireworks. The Nits repudiated the oath as a fabrication, and have been trying ever since to get away from it. Strange to say, although they have had several opportunities to bring their ritual into court and make a showing, they have not done it. Instead of that, they have recently offered the public a brief form of obligation which they declare to be the real thing. The new obligation reads as follows:

"We promise to support the Constitution of the United States, to promote respect for the law and order, to do everything in our power to protect the purity and integrity of the ballot, generally so to conduct ourselves in civil affairs so as to reflect honor and credit upon our citizenship; to remain loyal members of the Catholic church and to continue loyal to civil authority."

This makes the third proposition in regard to the much mooted oath. From the three it is the privilege of each reader to take his choice: first, that the Congressional Record oath is the thing; second, that there is no oath used by the fourth degree Nits; or third, that the brand new, recently discovered, obligation is genuine and all others spurious.

The third proposition has some pretty strong points in its favor. The Nits and their patron saint are great discoverers; and if the original Columbus discovered the new world it would be easy for his numerous Nits to discover a new oath when so badly needed. More than that, we have to take off our hats and acknowledge that the new obligation is the best thing discovered by Christopher or his Nits to date. But does the new discovery belong to them? Is it their own, or did they find it in the books of the Boy Scouts?

The Nits would be willing for us to take their word for it, and let it go at that; but that kind of testimony doesn't go in court, and why should it go with us? Failure on their part to produce their ritual or other credible evidence compels us to follow the established rule and begin with the known to find the unknown. The only recourse is to probabilities based on known facts. What a man swears to is based to a degree on what he does.

By that reasonable test their latest obligation loses; for the mob and murder tactics they indulge in so freely indicates anything but support of the Constitution, respect for law, protection of purity, creditable citizenship, or loyalty to civil authority. We know that they are a secret military body; that their membership is restricted to subjects of the pope; that they are armed, drilled, uniformed, and commanded by good Catholics; and that as such they are licensed, and are to be rewarded, for the extirpation of heresies and heretics. It is believable that they may have no oath in the fourth degree since they could be thrice sworn before they get to it to say nothing of prior agreements. But if they take an oath to support the Constitution we might reasonably expect to find them doing it occasionally; if they swear to promote respect for the law of the land, it is likely that someone might at some time catch them or one of them in the act; if they swear to protect the purity of the ballot, how about the notoriously corrupt political conditions in such a city as Chicago where they are in control? Of course they can be loyal to the civil authority in cities or communities where they, themselves, have captured that authority.

The latest obligation seems to be too good for the people who discovered it. It doesn't fit the people who claim it. Their everyday actions are not in harmony therewith; and it has a strange ring when compared with papal utterances and papal editorials with their declared or implied "To hell with the government" sentiments. The same test applied to the original Congressional Record oath gives more reasonable results. In that alleged oath the candidate makes sixteen promises or affirmations. Stated and examined one at a time they are as follows:

First, that the pope is Christ's vice-gent. Preposterous as the proposition is, we dare say that not a Nit can be found who will deny his faith in it.

Second, that by virtue of authority derived from Jesus Christ the pope has power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths, and governments; and that they may be destroyed. Did you ever hear a good word from a Nit for what they consider the heretical governments of Great Britain, France, Portugal, or Constitutional Mexico? Is not their sympathy and efforts directed to the destruction of these governments and the establishment of monarchs in their place under papal control?

Third, that each pledges himself to defend the doctrines in the second proposition against heretics and Protestants, and to regard such as usurpers. This is merely a continuation of the second proposition and harmonious therewith.

Fourth, that each denounces and disowns allegiance to any heretical king, prince or state named Protestant or liberal, and refuses obedience to their laws or officers. Is this not the logical position of all who agree to the first proposition? And is it not in perfect agreement with Priest-editor Phelan's assertion that in any clash of authority between the pope and the United States he would, with all other papists, the Nits included, say "To hell with the government of the United States?"

Fifth, that Protestant doctrines and Masonic principles are damnable, and that all are damned who believe in them. The popes say as much, and the Nits, invariably subjects of the pope, must abide by the declarations of the infallible.

Sixth, that each fourth degree Nit promises to help extirpate Protestantism and Freemasonry. What could be more logical to the fifth proposition?

Seventh, that he promises to spy on Protestants by joining Protestant churches and anti-Catholic organizations. If the Nit stands for the rest of the requirements why should he balk at this one?

Eighth, that he will obey all orders, and that he will hold no opinions or exercise no will but such as are prescribed by his superiors. If the pope makes no mistakes and reveals his will through his hierarchy what would be safer than for the laity to take no chances but merely obey those who never err?

Ninth, that he will go anywhere and do anything commanded. Nothing to that but perfect obedience.

Tenth, that he will wage war, secretly and openly, against heretics, Protestants, and Freemasons, as ordered, without respect for age, sex, or condition, by poison, bullet, or any means prescribed. Merely a continuation of the Inquisition in secrecy since it can't be done openly.

Eleventh, that to the aims and objects of the papal machine he dedicates life, soul, and all his ability, under penalty of torture. The crowning pledge of a fanatic who has already promised everything else.

Twelfth, that he will always vote for a Nit or a papist in preference to all others. That would be easy enough for one who had entered into a conspiracy to join in everything from espionage to murder.

Thirteenth, that he will not deal with or employ a Protestant if avoidable. A very mild pledge, and one evidently practiced as proven by the boycotts promoted numerously by the papist press.

Fourteenth, that he will put Catholic spies in Protestant homes and places of business, and see that they render weekly reports to officers of the Knights of Columbus. Such an extension of their secret service would be in keeping with their deeds of darkness and intrigue.

Fifteenth, that he will prepare to execute the orders of the pope by means of arms. If not, what are the arms for? If the pope is the infallible ruler of earth by grace of supernatural power, why shouldn't his military commands be obeyed the same as all others which require obedience?

Sixteenth, that he seals this obligation with a dagger in hand and a pancake in his mouth. Pancake and dagger are equally holy to the fanatic who subscribes to the other fifteen articles. The climax and conclusion is fitting to what goes before.

For the present each is free to form his own conclusions, and reach them by reasoning from the known to the unknown. Until the Nits bring an authenticated ritual into open court we have nothing but hearsay and conjecture as to the literal text of their obligations. Even a ritual so offered would not be conclusive since they could manufacture one as easily as to discover or invent a new obligation.

The supreme test of loyalty to the Constitution and civil law is conformity thereto in letter and spirit. Mobbing patriotic lecturers, scheming to have the plain provisions of state and federal constitutions set aside, hostility to popular education, efforts to obliterate a free press, and to merge church and state with the pope of Rome in control of both, are not the least bit reassuring. Papal war on Portugal, on France, and on the Constitutionalist government of Mexico, indicates that the pope's soldiers are enlisted for some purpose other than the defense of the republic or of promoting loyalty to popular institutions.

No matter what their oath, or whether they take one of any kind, the Nits can regain some degree of standing in the United States only by behaving themselves. It is up to them.

Rome Answers The Menace by Circulating Absolute Forgery

Charles J. Cummings, a pill roller who puts the M. D. after his name and resides in the state of Pennsylvania, who will probably be sainted by the Catholic church after he is dead and have splinters of his miserable carcass placed on the various American Catholic "shrines" in recognition of his ability to lie for the Catholic church and abuse The Menace, is out with a pamphlet entitled, "Menace Calumnies Refuted."

The thing is not worth answering except to show to what depths of infamy these "holy" prevaricators will descend in an effort to becloud the issue and pull the wool over the eyes of the Roman Catholic laity.

On page four of this damnable little "calumny" the doctor (?) publishes what he is pleased to term "The Confession of Guilt," which purports to be a confession signed by the editor of The Menace, the contents of which are as follows:

THE CONFESSION OF GUILT

I, the Editor of The Menace, fully, freely and without reservation, confess that I have lied about the Catholic church, the Knights of Columbus and all things Catholic.

All this I did without one thread of justification, knowing that I was lying, my sole and only purpose being to stir up hatred against the Catholic church and all things Catholic. I realize that I richly deserve the eternal contempt and condemnation of all honest men.

Upon my bended knees I humbly beg the merciful pardon of those pure, noble and self-sacrificing men and women whom I have sought, by my base lies, to slander.

I confess I am not only a liar, but a sneaking coward as well, who would turn his back on his country's flag as shamefully as did Benedict Arnold. I am a prating, blatant, masquerading patriot in times of peace, but a whining, cringing coward when my country is in danger. Finally I confess that my crimes cry to heaven for vengeance and that an eternity is too short to make amends. (Signed) EDITOR THE MENACE, November 21, 1912.

This blatant liar and "holy" pill roller knows that The Menace never signed any such document—and he does not claim that we did, for if he did, we would bring him into court on a charge of libel and prove his guilt, but he is smooth—very smooth. He knows that the average reader, who reads hurriedly, is easily fooled, and he worded the introduction to this "confession" in such a way that the ignorant

dupes of Rome, as well as many Protestant readers, are led to believe that The Menace was really cornered by this "holy" blather-skite and forced to sign the above document.

In fact the Romanists in certain quarters have taken the thing to be genuine and are anonymously circulating the naked "confession" without any introduction or comment, and are using it as the doctor (?) evidently intended that they should do, as a bona fide document when, in reality, it is a bare-faced lie of the deepest hue.

The "confession" is one that the doctor (?) concocted in 1912, and one which he merely wished that he might be able to force us to sign, and that he should continue to circulate it, veiled in such language that the average reader would be led to believe that we did sign it, is evidence enough that the Romanists will not stop at anything to injure The Menace or the people connected with it. This is the kind of cattle that compose the "holy" Roman Catholic church in America. These are the people who want America made Catholic and who preach "To hell with the government of the United States," and yet we have Protestants in the United States who, perchance, have a decent Catholic neighbor, and insist that the thing is all right, that The Menace is attacking a "religion," that we should be more tolerant, and that our language is too rough, and other rot equally as silly and nauseating to a red blooded American citizen. If there are any subscribers of this kind left on our list we recommend that they read Matthew 23 once a day and see their physician for some kind of a good nerve tonic.

Holyboners and Boneyards

Nature abhors a vacuum—even in a human head. The human mind must be filled with something: if not with sense, then with nonsense. The priests of tomfoolery know that, and fill the void in the minds of their dupes with miraculous stories of saints' relics, mostly bones, to keep out information that might free the foolish and confound the cunning.

The pope has recently established a permanent college at Rome for the education of priests, who, when they have finished their two-year course, are to follow Italian emigrants to America and continue to bound them into the papal corral with the same old superstitions and religious intolerance. Ubiquitous Rome! ever dogging the footsteps of those who would rise from her thrall-dom.

Panhandling the Public

The enormous tax levied by Emperor William on the city of Brussels startled many readers of our news a few days ago. Although in keeping with the rules of civilized warfare (if there is such a thing) it was a surprise because unfamiliar and few had thought about it. But there is a tax by a foreign power that comes nearer home, and is being paid every day by every American citizen of size or consequence. Even those who pay it do not grasp its significance or real purpose. If they did, they wouldn't pay it.

Taxation without representation was the cause of trouble between the American colonies and England. We even went to war to resist it and like unreasonable demands of a crazy monarch. But the Italian pope and his invading army of priests levy and collect an enormous tax without representation from the sleepy offspring of the old heroes.

To be sure, the method of making the levy is different, but the effect is the same. To carry on the Invasion and make America Catholic, the papists levy their tax by a most elaborate and systematic campaign of begging. Like the wolf that begged permission to put-but his head into the henhouse, they will be in a position by and by to take by force and command what they now beg. The tax levied by beggary is but the beginning of a tax to be levied by authority. The wolf is at the door. His head is inside by your permission. Will you encourage him to come in, or will you close the door?

Yes, dear people, purely from the diving impulse to do good we are about to build a hospital, a House of the Good Shepherd, a convent, a church, a school, a reformatory, or something else that is altogether good. Of course you will help us because you believe in good things. If you come across you will get our smiles and blessings. Our people buy the goods you sell, so if you are in business you will soon get the money back; and if you happen to be working for wages our people will help you to a job or help you hold the one you have. Just a few dollars is all we ask. Let us know what you can give, and make the payments to suit yourself.

A few assaults like that on one whose generosity exceeds his judgment, and his name is down on the swelling list for five, ten,

Roman Catholic Slave Pens Are Hard Up For Funds

We take the following article from the Denver Register of July 30th, and would ask that you give it careful reading:

"The telephone at the house of the Good Shepherd was put out of service last Thursday by the phone company because the Sisters, due to the extreme financial difficulties under which the institution is laboring, were unable to pay their bill, which was due for two months. Officers of the Good Shepherd Aid Association did not learn until Tuesday of the condition of affairs, having merely been told, when they attempted to call up the institution, that the phone was 'out of service.' The bill was \$38.66. Ladies of the Aid Association on Tuesday contributed enough to put the home back into communication with the outer world. The financial condition of the Good Shepherd home at the present time is so desperate that it is a constant problem of how enough food is to be obtained. * * * One thing is sure: Unless something is done for the Good Shepherd home in the near future, that institution will have to close. It is kept open now merely because of the kindness of its creditors. Its laundry is not a money-maker, and its revenue is decidedly sparse. The friends of the home feel certain that the public will rally to its support if a well-organized campaign is launched. Balls, ball games and the like help it temporarily, but it needs more aid than can possibly come from these. The entire state should aid it, for all Colorado, as well as Wyoming and other states, send inmates to it."

"It is almost certain that a definite campaign will be launched within the next several weeks to save the Good Shepherd home from closing its doors. A leader seems to be lacking, though. Somebody will have to take the initiative. Four plans to raise money have been proposed."

"One aims to clear the institution of all indebtedness, in order to give it a fresh start. As every one well knows, it will take a large sum of money to do this. If the bonded and floating debts were both to be cleared off, it would take about \$200,000."

When The Menace started, three years ago, the Roman Catholic slave pens of this country were profitable institutions, for they were being fed daily with innocent girls and young women by the modern Romish white slavers who preside over the juvenile courts of this country. But now the scenes are somewhat changed, and in the city of Denver, where the police force and the fire department and the public schools are honeycombed with members of the Roman Catholic church, that politico-ecclesiastical monster whose claws and fangs drip with human blood throughout all history, the "sisters" are getting hard up and

have to call on the public to pay their telephone bills. These rotten dives that have existed for ages on the profits wrung from slave labor, walled in from the world and running untaxed in opposition to legitimate business have reached the zenith of their perfidy—the people are finding them out—and they are crumbling to their ruin. The Denver institution is two hundred thousand dollars in debt! Think of it!

They are given the money to build with—they are given free slave labor to operate with—they are given money for sustenance, and run without legal inspection or taxation, and still can't keep out of debt and out of the hands of the sheriff!

What's the matter with these places? I'll tell you what's the matter—the money goes into the pockets of the priests, and to the pope of Rome, and is spent in an effort to hide the shame and perfidy of those who operate them—and as a result they are unable to pay their bills. Not only that but the sheep are not so easily led to slaughter as they once were. Catholic fathers, mothers and brothers are getting wise to what takes place in these institutions and they are refusing to feed them with the flesh and blood of their daughters and sisters. Not only that but the people are keeping tab on juvenile judges who constitute themselves slave catchers for these damnable hell-holes of vice and corruption and are making it uncomfortable for them—making it so uncomfortable in fact that they cannot be re-elected to office when they persist in the practice, and they are quitting it for self protection. May the time come when they will all be in bankruptcy and forced to suspend business for the lack of slaves and the subsequent lack of revenue!

Hearst for Glyn

William Randolph Hearst, of yellow journal fame, is out in a signed editorial in the Chicago Examiner in defense of Governor Glyn, of New York, and is supporting him for re-election. Glyn is the Roman Catholic, Nit of Columbus governor who recently said in public that "Catholics should band together and show, instead of the teeth of the lamb, the fangs of the lion."

Glyn has already shown the fangs of the lion, in that he has appointed since he has been governor, and if we are not mistaken William Sulzer and the American party are going to pull Glyn's fangs at the general election in November, provided Glyn gets the democratic nomination, and not one believes now that he will fall.

Sulzer has the Tammany crowd on the run at this writing, and if the good people of New York will stand by him he will give the state the only genuine cleaning it has had in a quarter of a century.

In the seventh grade final examination questions for the May examination, prepared by Supt. H. C. Souder, of Milbank, was this question: "Make a list of the books, newspapers and magazines you have read outside of school during the year." The superintendent of one of the largest counties in the state reports that for the books read, at least three-fourths of his pupils answered that they had read, "The Girl of the Limberlost," and "The Boy of the Green Valley," and that for newspapers, even a greater per cent answered that they had read "The Menace." Now here is some food for reflection.—South Dakota Educator (June).

"Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever." Peter, therefore, was a married man. Being such is it not the least bit strange that he should be selected as the head and foundation of a celibate priesthood?

"The church in Italy is quite aptly typified by Mt. Vesuvius—quiescent, and dignified outwardly, but full of forces that may at any time explode with great violence. And it will do well when this happens, for the signs are that it is impossible that the church can or will purify itself. The trouble is with a powerful organization back of the pope that selfishly wishes to retain its lordship over the people."