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RELIGION AND N. Y. POLITICS

Letter From a Buffalo Citizen, Unbuffaloed and Unterrified, Containing Some Interesting Information as to How the Two Have Long Been Mixed----Some Valuable Pointers for the Holy Humbugs

The following letter from a citizen of that city to the Buffalo (N. Y.) Express is full of interest and instruction as to the so-called "injection of religion into politics:"

Editor Buffalo Express:—Most sensible men are opposed to religion being mixed with politics, but most sensible men believe, in addition, that our Catholic friends should cease doing acts which are unlawful and should in future obey the spirit as well as the letter of the laws of the state in which they live. Any man who so desires has as much legal right to lecture against Roman Catholicism as Catholics have to lecture against atheism. To attack a man physically because he attempts to give a lecture against Catholicism is neither good religion nor good sense. Moreover, it is a violation of the law. It has been done in Buffalo, however, within a year, without condemnation, as far as I know, from any Catholic source. For a priest to send money to a minor to take her away from her Protestant mother may not be an illegal act. To harbor her in opposition to the mother's wish, the act of harboring being done by nuns, constitute a common-law misdemeanor. Both of these highly reprehensible acts have, to my certain knowledge, occurred within a year, one case in Buffalo, another in New York. In both cases the illegally harbored girls have now been returned to their mothers. The King of Italy appointed Ernest Nathan, for some years mayor of Rome, Italian representative to the Panama-Pacific exposition. Mr. Nathan is a Jew, and, as mayor of Rome, he has always opposed the so-called clerical party, the true object of which is, and always has been, to put the Roman Catholic church in control of the government of Italy. As a consequence of Mr. Nathan's activity in Rome, some Catholic societies in New York passed resolutions threatening to boycott the exposition. On June 8th last The Express described this action as "about as unreasonable as are the average anti-Catholic zealots." Mr. Nathan has, no doubt, at times said things about the Catholic belief which Catholics do not relish, but that is not a satisfactory reason for trying to persecute him or, indeed, any other Jew who is a good citizen of the United States or any other country.

The McKee bills passed at Albany in 1913 put New York City public schools practically under Roman Catholic control. Unquestionably a number of Catholics went to Albany to urge Mr. Sulzer to sign these bills, which are a violation of the spirit of the state constitution, but are not, I think, technically unconstitutional. Some persons who visited Mr. Sulzer did nothing in the least improper, but Mr. Sulzer has asserted that eventually a priest came to see him and told him that if he did not sign the bills he might as well cut off his political head. If Mr. Sulzer's account of what occurred is correct, there can be no doubt that so-called religion and politics were badly mixed at Albany early in 1913. Evidence in my possession forces me to the conclusion that Catholics as a body want to do one of two things concerning schools, viz: either to obtain money for their schools or to have religion taught in public schools. My impression is that the majority of the people of New York state are opposed to both plans.

If our Catholic friends—and I have many of them—wish to retain the respect of non-Catholics, they should refrain from accusing others of unlawful acts of which they themselves are in some degree guilty. They accused the socialists, for example of displaying vile and obscene pictures concerning priests and nuns. An investigation by Judge Maul showed that two out of the three men charged with this disgraceful conduct were Catholics, according to The Express of February 21st last. Finally, I would respectfully suggest that when Catholics are urged to ascertain why the population of Sing Sing, Auburn and Clinton prisons has been, in any year since 1908, out of all proportion to the total Catholic population of New York state, they should investigate, instead of denouncing the figures as fraudulent. In justice to themselves, they should look into this very important subject, for by so doing they may be able to mitigate some of the attacks of their enemies. I know absolutely nothing of the Guardians of Liberty, except what has appeared in The Express and the New York Times. I am opposed to the doctrine advocated by socialists. I have no prejudice against Roman Catholicism or against any other religion. I say, however, that our Catholic population seems to be getting the idea that in certain matters it need not conform either to the letter or the spirit of the laws of the state, and of this I have given a very few examples.

LAWRENCE IRWELL.

Buffalo, Nov. 2d.

Free Speech Triumphs at Red Wing, Minn.

On Friday, November 13, "Billy" Parker, who is lecturing under the auspices of the American Federation of Patriotic Societies and Voters, was billed to open a series of lectures at Red Wing, Minn. H. E. Fowler, who was distributing circulars advertising the lectures, was interrupted by the chief of police on the charge of violating the law and taken to the city attorney's office. The city attorney, if not a papist himself, was doubtless influenced by his Catholic wife, to inform Mr. Fowler that if he did not stop distributing bills advertising the lectures, he would be placed in jail. Thereupon Mr. Fowler notified F. B. Jordan, the national secretary of the A. F. P. S. of the situation over the telephone. But in the meantime Mr. Jordan had received a telegram from "Billy" Parker stating that he had missed a train and would not be able to reach Red Wing in time for the first lecture; so Mr. Jordan engaged C. W. Bibb, former national secretary, to fill the first date.

Upon receiving the call from Fowler, Jordan, together with C. W. Bibb, immediately started for Red Wing, fifty miles from Minneapolis.

At Red Wing, the men were met at the train by Fowler and the chief of police, the latter immediately informing Jordan that the city attorney wanted to see him; so Jordan and Fowler went with the chief of police to the city attorney's office. There the proposition was put to Jordan that the Catholic mayor of Red Wing would not allow the lectures to be delivered, and that they must immediately cancel their dates and leave the city. Jordan, who had spent his boyhood days in Red Wing, grew indignant at this intolerant papal frame-up to suppress free speech, and informed the attorney with no timidity that there was no intention of cancelling the dates, but that they would go ahead with the lectures as advertised. Fowler was placed under arrest, and the Catholic mayor and two others retired for a private consultation. Returning in about five minutes, the mayor tried to make a settlement with Jordan and Fowler by saying, "If you people will drop this and quit, we will drop the whole thing."

Remember this statement was made after Fowler had been "legally" placed under arrest, showing that the mayor did not hesitate to offer to compound a felony by dismissing a criminal action if he could only prevent an exposure of Romish corruption. Jordan answered that that was just the statement he had been waiting for and immediately wrote it down verbatim for future reference. Then Fowler was taken to jail and Jordan returned to the hotel.

At the hotel Jordan found a note from Bibb stating that the chief of police had been to the hotel and arrested him, and to call at the city jail immediately. Jordan went Bibb's and Fowler's bail. At the hearing the next morning, Bibb and Fowler were placed under bonds and the trial set for December 14.

The lecture proceeded and the people became very much aroused to think that such things could happen in their city. About an hour before the time for the lecture to men only, the chief of police informed Jordan that he had an order to prevent anyone attending the lecture. Jordan asked to see the order in writing, but was told only a verbal order had been given by the city attorney to prevent anyone attending the lecture. Then Jordan called up the attorney and asked him if he had given any such order, and the attorney replied that he had merely given his "advice" in the matter. The mayor was then called up and asked if he had given the chief of police orders to prevent attendance at the meeting, to which the mayor replied that he had told the city attorney to decide if the meeting was in violation of the law, and if it was to prevent it. These tactics merely showed that the Catholic mayor and the "assistant Catholic" city attorney were trying to make the Protestant chief of police the "goat."

Jordan informed them that if they issued written orders, signed by the mayor or the city attorney, to stop the meetings, that they would stop, otherwise they would go on with the meetings as advertised.

No written orders were forthcoming and free speech triumphed in Red Wing, to the praise of the patriots who stood so nobly for it.

Another Riot

While lecturing in Butler, N. J., Rev. J. L. King, according to a corespondent, had a rough house accompanied with stones, stale eggs and papal demonstrations of the most satanic kind. The account gives full credit to the women who disgraced themselves. The mayor, evidently a patriotic American, saw no reason why free speech should not be allowed and acted accordingly:

Sheriff W. B. Gillen, of Morris county, deputized a dozen men to aid Chief of Police Wm. McKeon, and his four deputies to keep peace here. This was thought to be necessary from several clashes which have occurred. On Sunday night Rev. J. L. King lectured in the Opera House under the auspices of the P. O. S. of A., while a meeting for women was being held stones and eggs were hurled at the Opera House. The attackers were principally women. Mrs. Charles Decker was hit by a stone, and others. Miss Rose Marquette was arrested charged with throwing missiles. She was paroled pending a hearing. The outbreak on Tuesday night was very violent. Windows were broken in the house where Mr. King stayed. A large number of Catholic church members besought Mayor Wittick to refuse to allow King to speak but he declared he had no power to do so.

Question for Priests

From *The Times-Picayune*, of New Orleans, La., we learn that at the late session of the Methodist Conference at Paris, Tenn., a prominent minister of that denomination was suspended on charges of immorality, while another member surrendered his parchments rather than stand trial.

Now it is all right for the secular press to print this kind of news on the Methodists, etc., even if they are silent as the grave over the numerous escapades of Romish priests. Then, too, the Methodist Conference probably acted wisely in purging its ranks from even the very appearance of evil. But when and where will we read of the Roman Catholic church suspending or expelling any of its priests for drunkenness or profanity, and if they did, how many of their confessors would be left?

Recipe for Gray Hair

To half pint of water add 1 oz. Bay Rum, a small box of Barbo Compound, and ¼ dr. of glycerine. Apply to the hair twice a week until it becomes the desired shade. Any druggist can put this up or you can mix it at home at very little cost. Full directions for making and use come in each box of Barbo Compound. It will gradually darken extracted, faded gray hair, and remove dandruff. It is soothing for falling hair and will make harsh hair soft and glossy. It will not color the scalp, is not sticky or greasy and does not rub off.

Paragraphic Pellets

Joseph Smith, "of Boston," is quoted by the Lynn (Mass.) Evening Item as saying that "there are rogues in every community." We are willing to accept Joseph as a living witness and example of the fact.

* * *

With "Pan-American Mass" only a few days distant we have watched in vain for the usual announcements that President Wilson would again fall for the usual bait. Something must have happened since this time last year.

* * *

The spirit of '76 is abroad in the land. The fires of liberty are burning on every hilltop. And the time is not distant when the red hats will be hustled out of this country with the same vigor that the redcoats were walloped in the good old days.

* * *

As a result of the small-pox epidemic all the schools, shows and churches were ordered closed recently at Conneaut, Ohio. St. Mary's Catholic church disregarded the order, and it was necessary to detail policemen to enforce the sanitary regulations.

* * *

Belated reports of victories at the recent election continue to pour in. From every section the glad tidings of cities and counties reclaimed from papist administrations are announced with enthusiasm. It was a great fight and a great victory for Americanism. Keep the ball rolling.

* * *

It would be an effective stroke when papist mobs rock church windows and destroy property at patriotic meetings to sue the city for the damage so permitted by the police. Let every propape administration learn the cost of letting papist hoodlums run wild, and the nuisance will be abated.

* * *

The pope's efforts to capture America is nowhere pressed with more zeal than in the state of Nebraska. Just now the papes are bent on securing a Romish postmaster for the town of Schuyler and on flim-flamming the Protestant population out of money wherewith to build a holy hospital.

* * *

The Denver Post has distinguished itself by the gift of a thousand dollars to the H. O. G. S. fund in that city. This ought to buy The Post several smiles from the papes; but it is to be hoped that the people of Denver can find better use for their spare change than in boosting such a graft.

* * *

It is said that one Hon. Roger C. Sullivan is protesting vehemently against the "religious prejudice" which recently barred him from the job of U. S. senator from Illionis. The Hon. Roger makes the usual mistake in locating the cause of his defeat. It was a Political prejudice against papist politicians.

* * *

At Frenchtown, Missoula Co., Mont., is a large public school building with two teachers and one scholar. This state of affairs is due to the establishment of a parochial school. The Frenchtown school formerly had fifty pupils. The parochial school has 100 pupils. An attempt has been made to have the public school closed. Such is the effect of Rome's unceasing warfare on public education.

* * *

The Roman Catholic Political System in this country is thunderstruck because the great war in Europe has not caused the great anti-Catholic crusade to even pause. In fact, the war is making the movement stronger, because we now see the danger and folly of permitting intriguing Jesuits to interfere in governmental affairs. This great New Reformation goes on to victory. Nothing can stop it.—Keystone American.

* * *

Joseph Smith "of Boston" is again heard from. At last account he was dispensing hot air to the Boston Knights of Columbus on the occasion of a bussers' banquet, telling them that he was a Protestant and an Irishman. Anyone could guess at the Irish of it; but if all Protestants were of the Joseph Smith kind, Protestantism would amount to about as much as a circle without a circumference or a cipher without a rim.

* * *

Bridgeport, Conn., was the boyhood home of P. T. Barnum, the man who discovered how "the American people love to be humbugged." And just now Barnum's home town is being humbugged with a begging campaign for a St. Vincent's Hospital Fund. Governor Walsh, of Massachussetts, is to be used to make the humbug hum; and the hum people of Bridgeport are to be held up by the usual means—that is, if they will stand for it.

* * *

A court at Troy, N. Y., is wrestling with the question as to whether Sister Mary Cornelia is crazy or sane. Her sister sisters say she is crazy, and wish to exclude her from membership in their order. Cornelia says she is mentally sound and insists on remaining a member of the cult. The question that occurs to a man up a tree is what the sisters would want with a sane member, and why a sane person would want to join such an organization.

* * *

According to the present plans of the Louisiana Historical Society, that state, and especially the city of New Orleans, will be treated to a Roman Catholic Celebration January 8-10. Although the Centennial Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans is a civil affair, yet the Roman Catholic Church has in some manner managed to force her way onto the program, so that Roman Catholic chants, masses and pomp are the beginning, center and end of the celebration.

* * *

"I don't expect the Catholics to vote for me, and what's more I don't want a Catholic to vote for me," is the language ascribed to A. J. Gronna, candidate for U. S. senator, by the Journal of Devil's Lake, N. D. The sentiment so expressed seemed to be as strong as it was startling, since the gentleman credited with it won the day. Public men will make no mistake by coming out clear and plain on this issue. It can't be dodged, and to be an honest American is to win.

THE *Question Box*

"Why are Catholics forbidden to eat meat on Friday? That is, what is the reason given by the priests, and what is the real reason?"—M. V. T.

The reason given by the priests and literature of their church is that meat is abstained from in observance of the day upon which Jesus was crucified. The probable origin of the custom is that it was a concession to ancient pagans who believed that there was something essentially evil in all flesh.

There has always been a vegetarian sentiment, and that sentiment was incorporated into many religions of the ancient and medieval world. It is therefore likely that the prohibition of meat eating on one day of the week was one of the many adaptations of Romish rite and dogma to the practices and prejudices of pagans as an inducement to bring them under the papal sway.

Abstinence from the use of meat on one day out of seven is probably a good thing in itself on the same principle that total abstinence from nourishment at times may be beneficial. Nature often enforces it through loss of appetite in times of sickness, and bodily derangements might be avoided at times by judicious abstinence.

These undeniable facts indicate that the practice originated in sanitary measures for the health and physical welfare of the people, and was subsequently made part of the prevailing religion to be inherited by the church of Rome when it spread over the vast territory ruled by the Roman emperors.

It is one of the remnants of Romish practice that seems to be honored now about as much in the breach as in the observance. The average Roman Catholic eats meat when he feels like it and can get it; and those who are conscientious can easily get special permission setting the rule aside. It seems to be merely one of the remnants of ancient practice handed down through Rome like the veneration of images, burning of candles, and other customs that appeal more or less to the animal and sensual nature.

"Why do you refer to the church of Rome as pagan and idolatrous? I have always supposed that, with all its faults, the Roman church was properly classed as Christian."—M. L.

The answer to the preceding question answers your query in part. The essential difference between Christianity and paganism is that Christianity is a spiritual kingdom set up in the hearts of mankind, while paganism was wholly external and demanded penance and personal effort as the material means of placating deity.

Christianity recognizes but one Mediator between man and God, while Rome has a host of mediators, including the Virgin Mary, numerous saints, and another media between these and man consisting of images, relics, scapulars, medals and other items all having a pagan origin and more or less idolatrous in their nature and use.

Romish theologians tell us that they do not kneel to their images with the expectation of the image responding to their petitions, while the pagan worshiper really relied upon the stock and stone to answer his prayers. This is an injustice to the pagan whose real relation to his idols or images was practically identical with that of the Romanist. As a matter of fact both used and use the image as a symbol of the person or principle worshipped. None but the most ignorant ever thought a piece of statuary would hear or answer their petitions. These bone-worshipping, relic-relying, superstition-soaked remnants of paganism find their proper consolation in the temples of Rome where they find their images and idols; and that is really what the images are there for.

Whatever the more intelligent communicants of Rome may think in regard to theology, the shinbones and idols are provided for the ignorant, and that is what makes the so-called church of Rome pagan and idolatrous.

"During the campaign several Roman Catholic papers were regularly distributed here, as well as several Socialist papers. The Catholic papers were very bitter in denunciation of Socialists, but the Socialist papers I have seen seem to be totally indifferent. Is the Socialist party Romanized?"—H. S. S.

It would be inaccurate to say that any political party in this country has been Romanized—that is, wholly captured by the papacy. All are more or less tainted, but the Socialist party least of all since it has less power and patronage to bestow upon the ecclesiastical wire pullers.

It is evident, however, that the Jesuits have some of the Socialist papers bluffed; for, while Rome, from pope to priest, perpetually denounces Socialists and Socialism, many of the Socialist publications, like weak-kneed Protestants, either lie down and take their lashing like an obedient canine, or explain away the attack with evident desire to dodge the issue.

While it is difficult to understand what their papers hope to gain by ignoring the papacy and political Romanism, it is safe to say that their party organization is far from being Romanized.

"Since the Constitution forbids imprisonment and involuntary servitude, why are the girls who escape from Houses of the Good Shepherd not released by law, and all places guilty of violating the law closed?"—J. H.

Because there is no specific provision for the enforcement of the law, and because the people generally do not realize the true nature and purpose of such places. The fiction that convents etc. are places of refuge for the weary is accepted by the thoughtless and the many who have too many troubles of their own to seek for the troubles of others hidden in dungeons or behind thick walls.

What is needed is a convent inspection law such as that printed elsewhere in this paper which will make it obligatory on certain officers to visit all cloistered premises un-announced within certain intervals and see what is going on inside as well as to give those held by compulsion a chance to appeal to the law and get in touch with friends.

When that is done the religious penitentiaries will close automatically without further action.

"There has been some excitement here caused by discussion of the Knights of Columbus oath. What is the truth about the oath?"—C. P.

The truth to a certainty concerning the oaths taken by the Knights of Columbus will likely never be known, for the two reasons that the members are pledged never to reveal any of the secrets of the order and no one outside can be certain as to the authenticity of what may be seen or heard.

When the membership is sworn never to tell the truth about their rites and practices, they would have to violate that oath if they were to exhibit their obligation; and for that reason any obligation offered by them may reasonably be looked upon as a fake.

Therefore, what these papal knights swear to must remain more or less a matter of conjecture and opinion based upon related things concerning which we do know. We know of their determination to capture political power. We know of their intolerance, and of the papist mobs ever active where these Knights are numerous and patriotic speakers hold meetings.

These, and many other facts of like nature, give a clue which is stronger evidence of what they may swear to than all the protestations and committee reports they will be able to concoct in the next century. People who behave do not need to protest their innocence, for they so act as to remain always above suspicion.

The best possible argument for the Nits would be such good behavior on their part as to show a complete change of heart. Keeping peace in the future would tend to cover up many of their past evils.

"Why is it that Catholic priests are not allowed to marry?"—J. S.

Because to do so would divide their devotion, loyalty, and interest between the natural affection due their families and the unnatural attachment to the papal corporation. The papal game requires a band of conspirators with a single purpose and a single end.

Equally important is the fact that a bachelor priesthood means the acquisition of great wealth by the papal system that, if the priests were married, would be absorbed and scattered by their families. Since the aim and object of popery is to build up a power to dominate the whole world the acquisition of wealth is one among the first things to be considered; and celibacy is a most effective means of keeping all that comes in.

GUARDIANS, ATTENTION!

We regret to announce that a Mr. Nathan Long, who is operating in the section covered by Oklahoma, Kansas, and other central states, has been, to say the least, remiss in his financial transactions and although he has been instrumental in organizing one or two of our local courts we are now obliged to publicly announce that he is no longer an organizer nor connected officially in any manner with the National Court, Guardians of Liberty.

Should he present credentials which he may have covering the state of Oklahoma, they should be considered valueless and any financial dealings with him of any nature whatsoever should be avoided.

PERCY S. BROWN, [SEAL] Secretary.

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