

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RAISED \$50,000 IN ONE DAY to promote their Jesuit scheme of MAKING AMERICA DOMINANTLY ROMAN CATHOLIC by means of lulling to sleep the Protestant millions through raising an utterly false and misleading issue, while slandering the upholders of our fundamental democracy and promoting the political power of their boycotting persecuting hierarchy. Are there not TEN MEN among the friends of our splendid free Protestant democracy who will contribute \$5,000 each to enable the FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE to quickly lift the Roman censorship from the press and make impregnable the imperiled constitutional guarantees and bulwarks of free institutions—freedom of speech, press and assembly, divorce of church and state, and promotion of our magnificent non-sectarian public school system. AGAINST ALL OF WHICH ROME IS TODAY WAGING A DEADLY WARFARE.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC POLITICAL MACHINE: THE DEADLIEST MENACE TO FREE INSTITUTIONS AND LIBERTY!

THE NEW REFORMATION. THIS CONCERNS YOU!

Record of Hon. J. I. Sheppard's Stewardship of the Free Press Defense League; An Appeal to Patriots That Heralds the Dawn of Another Awakening

Fort Scott, Kans., December 12, 1916.

Dear Friends of the Patriotic Forces of America:

TRUST you will read every word of this communication and keep the same in mind.

In January, 1915, the owners and editors of THE MENACE were indicted in Federal Court at Joplin, Missouri, on the pretense that they were sending obscene matter through the mail. The alleged obscene matter consisted in the publishing of perfectly truthful statements of fact, gathered from the most authoritative sources concerning the unlawful and un-American practices of those high in the councils of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. At the same time, an indictment was pending in the United States District Court at Augusta, Ga., against Hon. Thomas E. Watson upon a similar charge.

THE MENACE people came to employ me in their defense. Prior to that time, I had known but little of the work which THE MENACE was doing. Like thousands of others of our countrymen, I had been led to believe that THE MENACE, was engaged in stirring up religious prejudice and for the sole purpose of making money for its owners. Therefore, I informed Mr. W. F. Phelps and Mr. Marvin Brown who came to see me, that before I would accept employment from them, I desired to make a full and careful investigation of their work. They sent me complete files of the paper and, with the exception of the advertisements, I read everything that had been published in it from the date of the first issue to the time of the bringing of the indictment in Federal Court.

Only those who have been constant readers of THE MENACE can realize my amazement at the disclosures which came with my perusal of page after page of the paper. I now believed I had been grossly deceived by those who sought to destroy the effect produced by the publication of THE MENACE. Therefore I determined to go to the very foundation of the papal system and determine for myself its true relation to our free democracy. The constant reference in THE MENACE to Roman Catholic books and other publications made my work comparatively easy. I had no trouble in procuring from Roman Catholic publishing houses, books which contain authoritative utterances and teachings of the popes, cardinals, the bishops, priests and leading laymen of this church. I procured copies of Roman newspapers, magazines and pamphlets. I procured printed reports of the proceedings of the Knights of Columbus and various other Roman Catholic secret societies. I also purchased the great Roman Catholic encyclopedia. Having gotten this authoritative literature from every quarter into my library, I made a careful study of it and, at the end of my investigation, found confronting me, these indisputable facts:

The Menace of Political Romanism

"I—The pope of Rome is a foreign sovereign, claiming allegiance in temporal as well as spiritual matters throughout the world.

"II—The papal system of which the pope is the head is opposed to, and seeks to destroy our free institutions, to-wit:

- 1—Our public schools,
- 2—The free press,
- 3—The right of free speech and public assembly,
- 4—The right of freedom of thought in matters of conscience.

5—The principle of separation of church and state.

"III—The papal system in America which consists of the Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, priests, the Jesuits, Knights of Columbus, Federation of Catholic Societies, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and other Roman Catholic societies together with the Roman Catholic press, seeks to substitute for our democratic system of government, the monarchical or papal system.

"IV—The Roman Catholic laity in the United States of America is taught, influenced, and commanded, by those in authority, to yield implicit obedience to the teachings of the popes of Rome and to blindly obey all their orders and decrees, even though said orders and decrees conflict with the constitution and the laws of the United States of America.

"V—The Roman Catholic organization in America is perniciously active in politics, and although having but few votes as compared with the whole body of electors, it manages by threats, intimidation, blackmail, and by coercion of the press, to secure an undue proportion of the elective and appointive offices throughout the country, and these offices when filled with Roman Catholics are used to further the plan of making America dominantly Roman Catholic.

"VI—in carrying out the conspiracy to bring the United States of America under the complete domination of the pope of Rome, the Roman Catholic hierarchy, aided by the Roman Catholic politicians and the Roman Catholic press, has inspired the Roman Catholic laity to resort to threats, to intimidation, to the boycott, to assault and to riot and murder."

I want you to view the situation as it then stood. Here I was past 50 years of age, a country lawyer. Had a comfortable home, a splendid law library and was out of debt. Two of my children had finished school and were members of my law firm. We had a business which, if taken care of, would make us a fair living. Some of my very best clients were Roman Catholics. I was well known and well liked by the people of my town, my county and my state.

Most certainly you will agree with me, that Providence had been kind to one whose years from early youth to young manhood had been spent as a common laborer in, and about, coal mining camps.

Frank Admission Reveals Attorney's Conternation at Gravity of Situation—Awakening Was the Result of an Exhaustive Investigation to Determine Whether or Not The Menace Editors and the Cause, in His Opinion, Were Deserving of Defense—Authentic Papal Publications Revealed Beyond Question That the Pope is an Allegiance Claiming Sovereign and Papal System is Enemy of the Public School System, Free Speech, Assembly and in Deadly Opposition to Popular Sovereignty—Splendid Results Obtained by the Free Press Defense League—Vital Program For the Coming Year

I found the free institutions of my country being rapidly undermined by those falsely professing allegiance to her while acting under the direction of a foreign potentate. The liberty-loving people of my country, were some of them asleep and others were too frightened to openly attack the enemy. Patriots who raised the warning cry were assaulted, boycotted, threatened, beaten or murdered.

THE MENACE had bravely fought to arouse the people, but the hierarchy had been heaping reproaches and obloquy upon it so long that many patriots refused longer to subscribe for it. Now the government had been coerced, by the Romanists, into prosecuting THE MENACE, *The Jeffersonian* and *Watson's Magazine*. If these friends of the people could be silenced the papal system would have an open and unobstructed road for making America dominantly Roman Catholic.

What should I do? That was the question for me to answer. No one else could answer for me. Two roads were open to me. One along which I had traveled many, many years. One which was perfectly familiar to me. It led, with reasonable assurance, to an old age of comparative ease and comfort among family and friends. The other road, without doubt, leading to the breaking up of old friendships, to the sneers and jeers of those who had formerly professed friendship, to social and business ostracism, to bitterness of conflict, to violence and to years of hard and unremitting toil. The choice of paths was not at all difficult. My conscience and my God directed me aright. I sent for Messrs. Brown and Phelps and told them of my discoveries. I told them as I now tell you that the prosecution of THE MENACE was only an incident of the great papal scheme of making America dominantly Roman Catholic. I told them that unless some great, powerful organization, working in the open, to arouse and defend the people against the schemes, intrigues and persecutions of the papal system, could be effected, then their work and that of Tom Watson and all the other patriots and the work of all the patriotic societies would come to naught. I told them of my plan for the Free Press Defense League and told them that if they would use the columns of THE MENACE to help in organizing the League, it would finance their defense and I would give my services to them free. They readily agreed with me as to the danger which confronts the nation and agreed to help avert it. I told them that no man standing alone, or even with the assistance of his immediate friends, could successfully resist Roman persecution.

The Free Press Defense League

So the Free Press Defense League was chartered under the laws of the State of Kansas. We have enrolled 33,000 members, collected, \$35,000 in cash and have, at this time, a balance of \$3,000 in our treasury. How we fought and won THE MEN-

HONORABLE THOS. E. WATSON

HON. THOS. E. WATSON, the statesman, publicist, historian and journalist, who was marked for destruction by persecuting Rome, and who was triumphantly vindicated in the United States Federal court on December 1st, has behind him a splendid record of high service to our fundamental democracy and the free citizenship of the nation.

In 1882, while a member of the Georgia legislature, he distinguished himself as the uncompromising friend and champion of the people's rights and of moral and civic righteousness. During this period, one of the most important bills before the legislature was a temperance measure. It required much moral courage in a statesman in those early days to champion a measure which would arouse the implacable enmity of the powerful liquor interests. Mr. Watson became the champion of this temperance legislation, and because of his activity and his ability, he was selected to close the great debate in this bitterly contested battle. The measure was passed, and through this law whiskey was banished from four-fifths of the counties of Georgia.

In 1891-3, he was in our national House of Representatives where he made a splendid record, becoming one of the most eloquent and convincing tribunes of the people in the great popular Renaissance of the early nineties. One of the measures he made especially his own was the Rural Free Delivery of Mails, and it was through his masterly advocacy that the first appropriation for the purpose was voted by Congress. He has been justly termed the "Father of the American Rural Postal Service."

He was an eloquent advocate of the 8-hour law and led a successful fight to compel the railroads to put automatic couplers on freight cars. Through this victory many lives of railway workers are annually saved.

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Established April 15, 1912
This is Number 295
THE MENACE
Aurora, Missouri
December 16, 1916

THE MENACE should be read by every non-Romanist in America and we propose to give them an unrestricted opportunity to do so.

The Great Campaign Before Us

The year 1917 will be a memorable one in American history. During this year will be celebrated the four hundredth anniversary of the launching of the Reformation by Martin Luther. Beginning with the first of the year, we expect to inaugurate a lecture system, small at first, but with the purpose and hope of having delivered during the year, one or more patriotic lectures in each Protestant church house in the United States. We expect to establish a Patriotic Reading Circle in each and every neighborhood. We will push the Lindbergh Resolution in congress to a hearing just as rapidly as possible. We have prepared Convent Inspection bills somewhat similar to those now in force in Arkansas and Georgia. These we will have introduced in the various State Legislatures during the present winter. So you can see that the year 1917, will be a busy one for us and likewise for the enemy.

You can also see very readily that we will need much more money than we now have if we are to successfully carry out our plans as herein set forth. To the patriots of this country, we must look for the necessary funds. We are sure you will not leave us unarmed to fight against this most powerful and vicious enemy. We feel confident you will willingly and gladly furnish the means necessary. Some can contribute liberally, others can give but little. Most everyone can give something. A Guardian of Liberty in Jacksonville, Florida, is contributing one dollar per month and he is not a man of large means. He made the suggestion that we call for 10,000 volunteers among the Guardians of Liberty who would each contribute one dollar per month to our treasury. We told him we could not do this, for to do so, would be showing discrimination among the patriotic orders. We are the good friends of all the patriotic societies and, while in no way interfering with their work, we are supplementing and assisting them all to advance and promote liberty.

I want to thank the Florida patriot for his suggestion, however, as it seems we should be able to find 10,000 volunteers from among the Guardians, the Knights of Luther, The Great Secret Order, the Junior Order of American Mechanics and the other patriotic bodies, who would be willing to contribute one dollar each, per month, to our cause, during the year 1917.

Think, my fellow patriots, of the achievements for the cause of liberty that can be compassed with such a fund! Could we not well call the movement, "THE NEW REFORMATION?" Would it not be appropriate to designate those thus contributing, "VOLUNTEERS OF THE NEW REFORMATION?" Then let us again thank our southern brother for his suggestion and act upon it. All patriots are eligible. FORWARD, THEN, TO VICTORY!

(Cut out and mail this coupon with your contribution TODAY.)

THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE

Ft. Scott, Kansas

I hereby make application for membership in the Free Press Defense League and I desire to be enrolled as a VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW REFORMATION. I agree to pay one dollar per month for the purposes of the League during the year 1917, and I enclose \$

as my first payment: I understand that in consideration of this contribution, I shall receive a receipt for each payment and when the total payments for the year have been made, I shall receive a certificate of membership showing my total payments and that I am a VOLUNTEER OF THE NEW REFORMATION. I also understand that I am to have all the rights and privileges guaranteed other members of the organization.

Name _____
Street or Rural Route _____
Postoffice _____
State _____

To those who feel unable to enroll as a Volunteer, we say, (even though you may have contributed before) use the coupon below and be as liberal as you can without too great a sacrifice.

(Cut out and mail this coupon with your contribution TODAY.)

THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE

Ft. Scott, Kansas

B. O. FLOWER, President J. I. SHEPPARD, Secretary-Treasurer
GILBERT O. NATIONS, Vice-President

I hereby make application for membership in The Free Press Defense League and I enclose \$ as my contribution for the purposes of the League.

I understand that in consideration of this contribution I am to receive a receipt and membership card. Also that I am to have a voice in the management of the organization and in the election of officers as provided in the by-laws of the League. Make all drafts, checks and money orders payable to The Free Press Defense League.

Name _____
Street or Rural Route _____
Postoffice _____
State _____