

West Shore

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The WEST SHORE offers the Best Medium for Advertisers of any publication on the Pacific Coast.

Saturday, February 22, 1890.

EVERY few months some cleric "sounds a note of alarm" about the growing power of the Catholic church in America. The fact that the Catholics are outstripping Protestants in the race for membership need not specially alarm those who do not feel that the downfall of a particular creed or dogma means a general cataclysm. No matter how fast that church may grow, the great body of free and intelligent thinkers—many of them from the Catholic ranks—is growing faster, and these will see that there is no union of church and state in this country. No one can have watched the course of events the past score of years without noticing how perceptibly the Catholics have broken away from the absolute domination of the church in secular affairs. The time will never come when the United States will be at the beck and call of the pope. Let the Protestants come boldly forward and stand on the platform of no bible in the schools and no use of public money for religious purposes—either directly, by appropriation, or indirectly, by exemption from taxation—and they will find a mass of Catholics ready to stand with them. If there be any danger of Catholic usurpation in America it can be fought better with secular than sectarian weapons.

It seems the San Francisco Presbytery is opposed to a revision of the creed by a vote of 27 to 22. The professors in the theological seminary decided the question by voting solidly in the negative. They have studied creed, taught creed, breathed the air of creed and had it for their daily meat and drink till it has become as much a part of them as the organs of their bodies. On the other hand the men in the pulpit, who come more in contact with humanity, who learn that there is a great multitude of the brightest and best of the earth to whom creed in its ancient purity is repulsive, are gravitating away from it. There is

scarcely a Presbyterian pulpit of note in America from which the Presbyterian creed is preached, and why the church should cling to the empty words while discarding the doctrines they express is a puzzle to men of liberal minds. From Presbyterian pulpits to-day emanate doctrinal sermons that come far closer to Universalism than to Presbyterianism. In fact, the Westminster confession is practically dead in the church, and can only be found in theological seminaries where abstract creeds are taught and humanity is naught.

New York syndicates are being formed to furnish dull interior villages like Chicago, Kansas City, Louisville and Omaha, pictorial humorous weeklies—a sort of "patent inside" affair, though brilliant. By the managers of this syndicate it is stated, with customary metropolitan assumption, that only in New York can pictorial weeklies be successfully produced. Yet we beg to say that *St. Louis Life*—beautiful as she is young—successfully contradicts the above statement. WEST SHORE has been offered this syndicate fun, but prefers to be original, if not so brilliant. Its readers can depend upon it that whatever appears in WEST SHORE is neither warmed over nor being given a second birth, and that it does not simultaneously appear in the *San Francisco Whangdoodle* nor the *New Orleans Side-Splitter*. WEST SHORE will at least be original.

If the Montana legislature remain in its disorganized state until its existence terminates by law on the 25th of the month; if the senate decline to receive either set of claimants for seats; if Governor Toole appoint two democrats; if the senate decide that the failure to elect has created a vacancy such as is contemplated in the law authorizing the governor to appoint, then Montana will have two democratic senators, and the whole question will be settled until the next election. This is a long string of "ifs," but they are all probable except the last, which, to say the least, is doubtful.

Germany is adding another board to the high fence about the empire for keeping the people at home. Too many want to come to America to suit the ideas of that military despotism. Human nature is so constituted that the higher the fence the more people try to climb it, and Germany will find that her young men will now become more eager than ever to view the pinfeathers under the American eagle's wing.

An English syndicate has purchased the rubber interests in America for \$10,000,000. Now they can make a rubber blanket to cover the entire country at once, instead of buying it up in chunks, as formerly.