

WHAT THE WORLD OWES TO SECRET ORDERS

All Klansmen will read with deep interest and respect this excellent article by a distinguished American soldier and ex-missionary. Mr. Brouillette is a cultured student of world history and modern conditions and has seen and endured much of the world and of life. The great and invisible audience which he addresses through the columns of The Western American will render him the honor and applause which his character and position merit. He is one of the high State officers of the Grand Army of the Republic.

By T. BROUILLETTE.

NO GREAT REFORM WAS EVER ACCOMPLISHED IN CHURCH OR STATE WITHOUT THE INITIATIVE, THE FOSTERING CARE AND THE LOYAL SUPPORT OF SECRET COMBINATIONS OF MEN.

From time immemorial, despotism in various forms has ever employed its vast powers to thwart and frustrate the forces by which providence has provided for the progress of man.

In the hands of the despot, no means, however unjust, cruel and destructive of human prosperity and happiness, has failed to be employed, if they but gave their master the least hope of ultimately crushing in the human heart all aspiration to liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Secrecy Absolutely Necessary.

To oppose this power, men whose just liberties were thus invaded, saw that it was necessary for them to form secret combinations, as the only natural and promising method of enlisting, directing and controlling the active interests of the common people.

When, for instance in 1813, Prussia lay crushed under the merciless oppression of Napoleon, some great leader beheld him how he might rouse the spirit and unity of the country against the invader.

To this end he organized the "League of Virtue," which spread rapidly over the country, and soon numbered in its ranks the flower of the German people. Its organization and discipline were perfect. Its authority unbounded because protected by the deepest secrecy.

Its aim and hope was for representa-

tive institutions, with a free press, free speech and freedom of assembly. This secret order did not succeed in gaining all they wanted, but they ousted Napoleon and brought back into being German national life, and the seed of a freedom was thus sown, which ultimately bore its legitimate fruits in the democratic government of today.

The same process wrought wonders for the Italian people in 1814. The secret society organized by one Carbonari was an agent of inestimable value in the regeneration of Italy.

Like the Klan of Today.

The government of that day so misgoverned that, like the K. K. K. of America, this secret order instituted a body of moral and political principles different from, or at least supplementary to, that of the State, which was insufficient, therefore ineffective, to foster and maintain the best material and moral interests of the people. Like the Ku Klux Klan of today, it also overrode the country so entirely that in some districts the whole adult male population were to be found in its ranks.

However, it made the mistake of striking before the conditions were suitable to do so. For this lack of prudence great numbers of them fell in battle, many of its chiefs perished in dungeons or upon the scaffold.

But its labors were not in vain; the power of tyranny was weakened, and the spirit of freedom and unity among the Italian people was ultimately strengthened, and the deliverance of Italy was at length secured.

The Movement in Russia.

The Nihilists of Russia were another secret society which arose in its day to overthrow the oppressive political, military and religious institutions of that time. It took time to do this, but the world was given their opportunity and no one can doubt that they made good use of it.

When their work was done, their aim achieved, they disbanded as did every other secret society organized for similar purposes throughout the world.

So, in Austria, Poland, France and Spain, an oppressed people, not being permitted openly to advocate the reforms which they wanted, sought to secure them by the only method available, viz: by secret combinations.

Last Measure of Devotion.

Let me note here that those who joined these secret movements were well aware that by so doing their fortunes and their lives were placed in jeopardy. But so profoundly were they affected by the existing evils that to overthrow them they were willing to give the last measure of patriotic devotion!

It was no less an American than Thomas Jefferson who made this declaration of principles:

"Where reason is free, error may safely be tolerated."

He meant that reason is capable of successfully contending with error, for its overthrow.

All history testifies to the truth of this declaration. Wherever reason has had full play, error has disappeared. He meant that right makes might where reason prevails. But how can truth prevail, or right make might where reason is denied the use of free speech, free press and free assembly?

How can reason have her way where an intolerant governing class are determined, at any cost, to remain undisturbed in control of governments for their own selfish ends.

How can reason have her way where

a submissive press and a subservient legislature laugh at the constitutional rights of the people?

Slavish Courts in the Way.

How can reason have her way where to express an opinion on political questions, not in harmony with their own, is certain to invite the wrath of a slavish judiciary, and to suffer such penalties as this branch of government may choose to inflict, in fines or imprisonment, or both?

Are there not thousands of patriotic Americans lying in prison pens today for no other crime than the expression of an honest opinion on some political question which the ruling class did not want agitated? Yet, strange inconsistencies!

How we Americans used to clamor against the Russian Czar during the balmy days of his unspakably wicked reign! All because he condemned good men and refined women to a lingering death in the damp cold mines of Siberia for no greater crime than the expression of their protest against his method of government!

How clamorous we became when Spain pursued a similar policy in Cuba and the Philippine Islands! When she kept the leaders of these suppressed peoples in prison pens because, with the courage of their convictions, they dared to voice their protest against taxation without representation!

But what about our own guilty conduct on that point? Do we not impose taxation without representation? Witness the flagrant outrage against the political rights of a large and important group of people in the State of New York!

On the ground that they represented socialist ideas, five constitutionally elected representatives were refused seats in the legislative assembly. In short, an intolerable majority denied the constitutional rights of a helpless minority on account of a difference of opinion on political questions!

Witness again the persecutions and imprisonment of a group of honest farmers who thought best to band together in an association called "The Nonpartisan League," for the purpose of improving their industrial, commercial and financial condition.

Incredible as it may seem, when these farmers dared to carry on a propaganda in their own state to achieve their perfectly legitimate purposes, the political bosses of the dominant party, who controlled the courts, sent the poor farmers to prison!

Such political crimes, committed by an unscrupulous group of men in a thinly disguised and plain people, who are simply trying to improve their condition, by methods of their own choice, is of a character so outrageously wicked that men with a decent sense of American liberty, justice and fair play, feel like taking up their cause, shoulder their guns and march to the defense of these politically persecuted men of the Dakotas!

Is it any wonder if, under such outrageously tyrannical conditions in our own dear America, the common people should resort to other than open methods to bring about a more just, fair, American-like, judicial, political and moral state of things. Again, is it any wonder if, under such persistent effort by a group of autocratic churchmen and their blind devotees, to destroy American ideals and American institutions, we should find patriotic men and women binding themselves together by the most solemn and secret vows? Binding themselves together to defeat, at any cost, the pernicious efforts of this group of foreign-born and foreign controlled traitors to everything American!

Romans Against All of These.

Take for instance:

- (1) Compulsory attendance in our public schools.
 - (2) Closing the saloon and the prohibition of the liquor traffic.
 - (3) The "eight-hour" day for the worker.
 - (4) The prohibition of child labor.
- These and many other great reforms

that might be mentioned, would be placed to the credit of secret societies.

These combined societies carried such might with political power that they were compelled to yield to the voice of the people in order to hold their positions of honor and profit. Where they refused to carry out the will of the people there disloyal servants were defeated at the polls and other better and worthier men were chosen to occupy their places.

Masonry Mother of Liberty.

For these and all other great world movements and reforms which have contributed to the attainment of human liberty and the general improvement of the human race a grateful world is indebted, first and foremost, to the Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Masonic Order. History bears out the assertion that, without the initiative, the wisely conducted propaganda of this Royal Order, no great reforms were ever, or ever could have been accomplished either in the old world or the new.

This classic Royal Order has had to endure much and very determined opposition for the good which she has done and the liberty which she has fostered and protected.

Rome Always Fighting Masonry.

The City which is seated upon the seven hills and whose plagues cover her earth, has never ceased to humiliate her most hostile decrees against the moral fortress of this ancient and noble Order. But the fiercest and blackest ecclesiastical tempers have failed to mar the purity of her motives, or the beauty of her deeds throughout the ages! For more than four thousand years the fulminations of priests and kings have been hurled against her with a rage and determination worthy of a better cause, but with results so insignificant that they were finally turned into ridicule before the judgment of an impartial world.

Somewhat similar has been the experience of other secret orders. For these are the daughters of the Masonic Order, in the same sense that the various Protestant denominations are the daughters of the great Lutheran Reformation.

What Catholics Believe.

All of them, including the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which is the youngest of them, recently have been denounced and condemned in the following terms:

"If a society, besides being secret and oath-bound, has a chaplain of its own, and a ritual prescribing prayers and religious services, then such a society becomes also heretical and schismatical, and is condemned by the Catholic Church." See Plenary Council of Baltimore, chapter III, section 249, quoted by Reverend James E. McGavitt, priest of the Holy Angels Church, Chicago, Ill., in a booklet entitled, "What Catholics Believe and Practice."

Klan is Very Powerful.

Now, it is to oppose this destroyer of human liberty, this invader of American institutions, that the youngest of all secret orders was born. And although scarcely three years old, it has already attained the proportions of a robust and husky youth. It is, therefore, quite capable of taking care of itself against all opponents, whether political ecclesiastical.

It still wears its swaddling clothes ("white sheets") but it will soon, we trust and believe, be in position to cast them aside for the worthier garments of the full grown man. When its work is done it will retire from the field of its patriotic activities and not before, "though the earth be removed and the Heavens fall."

T. BROUILLETTE.

"Quod erat Demonstrandum."

THE SET OF THE SAILS.

One ship drives east, and another west, With the selfsame wind that blows;

'Tis the set of the sails And not the gales Which decides the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate As we voyage along through life; 'Tis the will of the soul That decides its goal, And not the calm or the strife.

—L. G. W. D.

The above beautiful poem is composed by one of our most loved sisters of the Order of the Invisible Empire, whose cheery smile is treasured by all when she attends our meetings. Her initials readily tell us who she is. Please send in more poetry, dear sister. This is published by a friend, "Not for Self, but for Others."

Porro's Boston tells this one: "Ever heard of the lastest one? This conversation was heard in a dining room where negroes are employed, between the head chef and another chef who was sent on an errand. He was gone longer than the head chef liked, and the latter said to his assistant on his return: 'Well, biggah, yo' can go de longest an' de quickest, an' stay de longest, an' de least of any niggah I ever saw.'"

At Random

By Allyn Jayne.

"Orphan Annie" (to date)

Yes, the Klan has come to our town And it has come to stay; To take the ticks from politics And drive the crooks away; To make some church folks mend their ways—

And stay where they belong, More effective 'gainst the wrong, As for underhanded tricksters, Who would put the truth to rout— Why the Lord himself will swat 'em— Et—they—don't—watch—out!

Come says people are expending their energies in making life complex and he advocates simplicity. We have to admit the clarity and simplicity of his reasoning and credit his success to the fact that he has nothing up his sleeves. A child can understand and adopt his ideas.

As an honor to George Washington, the K. of C. initiate 83 candidates on his birthday. Ye gods! What an honor! Almost enough to make George turn over in his grave.

Result of Ignorance.

Much of the unfairness toward labor exists because of the ignorance and inexperience of those who hire. The wealthy man amid the luxury of his surroundings—a dinner at the club with his board of directors, perhaps—speaks of labor as grasping and greedy, and yet what does he really know of actual labor? He has never sweated and toiled day after day in the depths of a mine, or felt the scorching heat of molten metal; has never bent again and again to a task with aching limb and straining sinew while the foreman cursed him for lack of speed.

Neither has he felt the daily hourly—urge of necessity, children to be clothed and fed, rents to be paid and only by giving his strength as a horse does. Indeed, it is not unlikely that the number of servants in his home outnumber the members of his family.

The very luxury that he accepts without question is the result of toil— toil that has ever been the nucleus of possession, and yet so few may possess the results of their own labor. The avarice of the man higher up withholds fair tribute because he is ignorant and inexperienced. Alas! 'Tis, that there should be employers who have toiled and risen from the ranks to position of master and will understandingly take unfair advantage. For such, hell alone is a fitting abode!

K-C TO MAKE WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

tional law of the State of Oregon, adopted by overwhelming mandate of the people.

Many law-abiding Roman Catholics are said to be denouncing privately and in bitter terms Scott's reckless and unexampled defiance of law and morality and his appeal to the lowest motives to which herds of men respond. Scott was lauded as a hero by the K.C.'s, however, and is expected to come to Oregon and lead the rebellion when the public school law is put in effect. This new school law merely requires all children up to age 16, or through the eighth grade, to attend the American public school.

Rebels Won't Need Jails.

Scott's tirade, which included the usual coarse reviling of the Klansmen—maledictions from such a source being praise worth coveting—evoked on all sides throughout the Oregon metropolis expressions of indignant repudiation and stern promises that the K.C.'s wouldn't be in need of jails and board at public expense if they ever dare attempt defiance of the laws of Oregon. The common expression was that any and every man who dares to defy and resist with arms the enforcement of any constitutional law in the State of Oregon will "traipse his hash" in hell.

There was wonderment at Scott's escape from arrest after making such a statement in a public speech, inasmuch as it is believed to be actionable under both the federal and State laws; moreover, that it constituted a public nuisance and was liable to incite riot and disorder. The jails have been filled with "wobblers" for offenses of far less importance. Scott, however, was allowed to escape.

State Inspection Necessary.

Scott's anarchistic utterances and defiance of law have raised the question whether his deluded followers in the KC have actually supplied themselves with arms and munitions with the intention of starting civil war in Oregon, and many are wondering how long it will be before State authorities, to safeguard peace and order, make an official inspection of KC halls and clubs and other papist strongholds to see whether they are storing up arms and munitions for the use of the treason-plotters of the State. There is plenty of law to justify the official inspection and the defiant speech by Scott is generally held to be sufficient provocation.

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