

FIGHT METHODISTS WITH WAR DONATIONS

Here's Truthful Summary of Existing Conditions in City of the Vatican.

LONDON, Aug. 9.—The \$1,000,000 fund which the Knights of Columbus of America tendered to the Pope some time ago for the purpose of ejecting Methodism from Rome and Italy is evidently bearing fruit, according to a story published last week in the Methodist Times of this city. The Rome correspondent of the paper is the authority for the following summary of the existing situation in the city of the Vatican. It would seem that while preaching tolerance in America, the intolerance of the middle ages is being urged by the forces supplied with American money to drive Americans from Rome.

Bible Publicly Burned.
In order to fully acquaint the American people with what is going on in Rome the story of the prosecution and persecution of Methodists by Roman Catholics is herewith given as seen by this Rome correspondent:

"Events of the greatest religious importance have lately been taking place in Rome. In the early part of June the Bible was publicly burned in the square in front of the church of Santa Maria della Navicella. It was part

of a sacred function in which the clergy took part. The facade of the church was illuminated and a big bonfire was lighted. To quote the Observatore Romano, the official newspaper of the Vatican, 'there were thrown into the flames many licentious books, immoral periodicals, and Protestant Bibles, which had been taken from the hands of the young. They were consumed in the fire in honor of the Madonna.'

"We should be only too happy to believe that this was merely a sporadic incident. But also, we have to recognize that it is symptomatic of an attitude not new in the Roman church, though not displayed of late for political reasons. The church is today sunning herself in the smiles of the government and feels herself strong enough to show that the old feelings still move her.

Newspapers Protest.
"There have been a few newspaper protests, and we are glad to record that among them has been a vigorous one from Il Popolo d'Italia, the great Fascist paper founded by Prime Minister Mussolini and now edited by his brother. This paper characterized the proceedings as 'most deplorable and unworthy,' and the Observatore Romano entered into controversy with Il Popolo on the subject. Some of the observations of the Observatore are noteworthy, in view of its official character as a voice of the church. It defended intolerance, saying, 'why may not intolerance be permitted in religion? There is not in question an opinion but the truth! Not a form of government but the government of the soul! Earthly institutions are not at stake but eternal salvation. We believe that for men of sincere faith intolerance is a duty—in harmony with the thought of St. Dominic when he fought error and would have saved the erring among the Albigenses. This is a grim reminder, for the unfortunate Albigenses were, as history records, massacred by St. Dominic and his friends without regard to age or sex.

View of Socialists.
"Well may Avanti, the great Italian Socialist paper, say, 'What a pity! Must have thought the orator and the reverend gentlemen who stood around him that the spiritual reevaluation brought about by the national government does not permit to throw on to the flames not only the books, but also their authors?'

"We had hoped that the heart of Rome had been changed and softened by the Christian sentiment of the centuries. Alas, it seems as though intolerance, if permitted, would go as far as in the old days. The Observatore Romano explains the fitness of putting the Protestant Bible together with the immoral books on the fire and to justify it thus: 'Christian morality is preceded by Christian faith, and it is not illogical to deduce that an error of morals may be of less gravity than an error of faith.' This disgraceful auto-fa-fe is an unseemly

EDITOR IS JAILED FOR SLUR ON YETS.
CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—Convicted of criminal libel on action brought by the American Legion, Arthur Lorenz, former chief editorial writer of the Staats Zeitung, German language newspaper, has been sentenced to six months in the house of correction. Lorenz's attorney pleaded that the article was written in a "heat of passion," but in imposing the sentence the judge said: "I say it is almost within the realm of treason." The article reflected on members of the legion.

sequel to the recent visit most graciously paid by the King of England to the Pope. The Bible, printed and published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, of which the King's uncle is president; the accepted textbook of the church of which he is the official earthly head and which is revered by the majority of his British subjects as a most sacred book, is insulted and outraged in the streets of Rome by priests of the church and the blasphemous act is defended and applauded by the official organ of the Vatican.

Fight Against Protestants.
"There are many other symptoms of the fierce spirit of intolerance which, hitherto suppressed in deference to public opinion, is now being expressed very freely. A deliberate attempt is being made by the Roman church to stir up public opinion against the few Protestant workers in Italy, and especially against those in Rome. Naturally the Methodist, since they are regarded as the most dangerous and the most aggressive are subjected to the fiercest invective. One clerical paper says, 'It is necessary that there should be an uprising of the masses of all the Catholic people of Rome to let the hated enemies of the papacy and Italy know, "further than this you shall not go."

"New Catholic organizations are springing up and the numerous societies already existing are being coordinated with great vigor and ability to oppose the Protestants and especially the Methodists. The Giornale di Roma a few days ago said, in an atrociously bigoted article, 'the Methodist mission may pack its trunks and prepare itself to seek another center of colonization, because Rome will never tolerate within her walls such a center of communist infection.'

Bigoted Roman Partisanship.
"Great newspapers have changed their tone completely from a broad liberalism or a complete indifference on religious questions to a most black and bigoted Roman partisanship. This change has followed the initiation of the campaign of the Knights of Columbus. There has been a clever organization of street processions. Gorgeous spectacles which please the Roman mob and furnish them with a free theatrical entertainment. A well organized newspaper campaign is appealing to sentiments of national pride against the introduction of a foreign religion and suggesting that Protestantism is on the side of anarchy and means sinister social disaster. The latest development is the initiation of a monster petition against the Methodists. If the populace could be sufficiently excited one is quite sure that a riot would be started up to drive the Protestants out of Rome.

"The people of Rome and the Italians in general do not hate the Protestants. They are, on the contrary, being converted in large numbers to Protestant ideas. The Methodist schools in Rome and other parts of Italy are well attended by the children of all classes of Italians, and the same is true of the schools of other Protestant churches. Protestant services are well attended in Rome, as elsewhere. In Rome a number of Protestant ministers and laymen are entitled to wear decorations conferred by the Crown of Italy. This all proves that they are only unpopular with the church and the bigots. But it may be easy for the priests to rouse, by careful propaganda and appeals to superstition and prejudice, a certain proportion of the people. The masses of Rome are as fickle as all masses of people in great cities. Our friends in England and America are asked to watch prayerfully the very difficult situation in which the Protestants find themselves in Italy."

SMITH A POSSIBILITY!
Seven Democratic possibilities: Smith, Ralston, Underwood, Ford, McAdoo, Cox, Wilson.—"Catholic" Citizens.

The above from the local R. C. Citizen places the only Romanist at the head of the list. Smith is an impossibility. The toe-kissers, Cox and Wilson, also have no chance. As to the other four we will not pass judgment at this time. Why doesn't the R. C. Citizen boost for Al(c)ohol Smith for president and Jim Jamming Johnnie Parker of Louisiana for Alf's running mate? That combination would be a scream.—Badger American.

GIVE FULL CREDIT TO INNOCENT CUB

(Continued from Page 1)

60-per cent Methodist one at that—who fatuously imagines he has a grievance against the great Klan. Some day the Vancouver Klansmen will fit a neat little nightie on him and a jolly little helmet and mask, and put a little cross in his hand and a song of deliverance in his heart. He's a good boy, fellows, and worthy of his hire. He really loves the Klan, for he protests too fiercely against it. Finally, he is gently urged to read the 13th chapter of Romans. That's the Klan.

This comment is by way of compliment, not criticism. Far be it from us to jump on a festive young writer, whatever his theme may be. An old grizzly likes to see the signs of budding bearhood in a cub. The "innocent youngster's" mind is liable to change at any moment; it is kaleidoscopic, subject to suggestion and momentary fancy. Persuade him to think the right way about the Klan and he will go out in the garden and eat worms in remorse—a woolly one for calling names at the Klan, and a slick one for picking a quarrel with his admiring neighbors. We haven't anything personally against Jerry Riordan, either. Any man who finds Thirty Thousand Dollars belonging to a fly-by-night circus and gives it back to them IN THESE DAYS of get-all-and-keep-all-you-can, has more than a streak of iron in his character and a nucleus of radiant honesty in his heart. We have no personal animosity toward Roman Catholics. GOD FORBID! We fight political Romanism—foreign interference in American affairs—that's all. Get us straight on that all-important point.

Now read the kid's letter, and see why we presented him with his First Pair of Long Pants (figuratively speaking). We know all the time that Jerry wasn't writing that stuff; 'tisn't in him; if it were, he would be owning and editing a daily, as his cub is going to do some day.—The Editor.

Vancouver, Wash., Aug. 6, 1923.
Mr. Lem A. Dever,
Editor The Western American,
Portland, Ore.
Dear Mr. Dever:

My attention has been called to an article in your esteemed publication for August 3 headed "Romanist Editor Nabbed As Sneak," in which it is made to appear that Mr. Riordan was afraid to sign an article pertaining to the Ku Klux Klan and that instead, he signed the name of an "innocent youngster," F. T. Stone. I am that "innocent youngster" and while neither I nor Mr. Riordan care a rap about the opinion of the Ku Klux Klan or its spokesman, it irks me to think that after all the hard work I went to in gathering material for the article in question, writing it and composing the headlines, someone else should get the credit for it.

Frankly, I think The Western American is in need of a change in Korrespondents here. I wouldn't be so rash as to say that you need someone who would tell fifty per cent of the truth, but for a starter, oh, about ten per cent. To begin with, Mr. Riordan is not a Knight of Columbus and has no connection with that organization. Admittedly, he has no quarrel with it and has good friends among its members. Admittedly, also, he has a quarrel with the Ku Klux Klan. So have I. So, I believe, has every good American citizen.

But that is aside from the question. Your Korrespondent failed to mention that there were three others in the party with Mr. Riordan when we attempted to secure reserved seats for your show here. I was the only one that did any Krawling, to use your quaint spelling, and I'll admit that I had achieved an excellent position near the Fiery Cross, which would have enabled me to take in everything had it not been for the inopportune arrival of your pickets. As for "whining" after we had been surrounded by 15 or 20 Klansmen, the Klan spokesman came off decidedly the worse in an exchange of repartee with Mr. Riordan, as we other three members of the party can testify. Nor did the Klansmen "grab the papal spy by the scruff of his neck," etc. They never touched us. Why they did not, I don't know. Some have been unkind enough to suggest that perhaps, there being only 20 Klansmen, they were afraid to attack our party of four. But let that pass.

Not being movie heroes but only newspaper men of the common or garden variety, we bowed to superior numbers and left, followed, as I described in my article, by a parade of Klansmen. I am compelled to state that the Clarke County Sun carried a much more accurate account of the affair than The Western American, unflattering as our article may have

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most be valuable, preoccupied as you doubtless are with some new expose which will appear in the next issue of The Western American, properly embellished with dynamic adjectives. In order to make sure that you do not mistake this for a letter from Mr. Riordan, or one that he is signing my name to, I am having my signature attested by a notary. I wish to add that this is not dictated by Mr. Riordan nor has he any knowledge of it. Oh, yes, I nearly forgot an important disclosure—I am a Methodist, as is my father and as was his father. Hoping that you may have time to drop me a line, I am,
Very truly yours,
EDWARD THOBURN STONE,
City Editor.

A few days ago, I asked a former associate of yours if you really took your position as editor seriously, or if the products of your pen did not appeal to you in the same light as they appeal to us. He replied that he believed you took it seriously. Oh, well, it takes all kinds to make a world. We can't all be mental giants, I suppose, and far be it from me to reproach you with any possible shortage in your intellectual equipment. But I must bring this social chat to a close. I realize that your time

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