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The Lying, Malignant Menace.

By C. A. WINDLE.
(Continued From Last Issue)

According to this official report there were 3,674 inmates in this institution last year, religiously proportioned as follows:

Roman Catholics	2,016
Methodists	529
Baptists	408
Presbyterians	291
Lutherans	180
Episcopalians	60
Jews	29
Other denominations	78
No religion	88

Total 3,674

You will notice that the Romanists have more than all others combined, even counting those who claim no religious affiliations with 358 to spare.

This report is an official document, issued by the officials of the institution, and without fear of contradiction, we can state that it is on a par with all criminal statistics which we have examined.

Notwithstanding these facts and figures the Romanists are the people who want the various states of the Union to turn over to them a portion of your good, hard-earned tax money for the support of their criminal factories which they are pleased to designate parochial schools.

If we accept these figures at the value placed upon them by The Menace, they stand as a terrible indictment of all Christian churches. The Christless Jews are represented by only 29 inmates, while the thousands who make no profession of religion in Allegheny county, have only 88 representatives in this penal institution. The criminality of Catholics is charged to the Parochial schools, but The Menace failed to tell us what caused all those Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists to go wrong. Would it be fair to blame the Public Schools for their dereliction? Would it be just to brand these Protestant churches as "fountain heads of crime?" Let us be fair to ALL. Criminals, whether Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians or Catholics are such, not because of church institutions, preachers, priests and schools, but in spite of them. Crime is due to greed, jealousy, lust and revenge. These things exist in Protestants and Catholics. The object of education and religion is to make the individual master of these passions. The presence of people in penal institutions is not always an evidence of guilt. A vast majority of all criminals never get caught. Men often go to jail, not because they are guilty, but because they are poor—too poor to hire a good lawyer. But to show how unfair, unjust and ridiculous are these charges, conclusions and arguments advanced by The Menace, I now call attention to some criminal records, as shown by official reports from various state prisons. These are vastly more significant than reports from some County Work House and Inebriate Asylum, like the Allegheny Institution. Here are the inmates of the Arkansas state prison, for 1906, classified religiously, with reference to three principle churches:

Baptists	166
Methodists	75
Catholics	40
Non-believers	526

Here we have the reverse of the situation as shown by the report of the Allegheny County Work House. In the Arkansas Penitentiary we find four times more Baptists than Catholics and nearly twice as many Methodists. Were they educated in Catholic Parochial schools? The figures also knock into a cocked hat the theory that no religion is better than any religion, as indicated in the table published by The Menace.

Now suppose we take a look at the Federal Prison, located at Atlanta, in Tom Watson's state. The inmates of this institution come from the Eastern and Southern portion of the United States, and on this account the figures are far more significant than the records of any County Work House, or State Penitentiary. Here they are for the year 1908:

Baptists	332
Methodists	191
Catholics	122

Never having attended a Catholic Parochial school, where did these bad Methodists and Baptists get their inspiration to commit crime? They are products of the Public Schools, but this does not prove these institutions to be "criminal factories." Like Catholics who turn criminal, these Protestants—these Methodists and Baptists—wandered into the paths of crime, not because of their education, not because of their church affiliations,

but in spite of these things. Let us be fair. Truth and Justice never require the defense of lies. Take a glance at Missouri, Walker's own state. Here are the figures showing the inmates for 1908 and their religious affiliations:

Baptists	488
Methodists	346
Catholics	324

If Walker was looking for light, had he wanted to be fair, why did he select a County Work House and Inebriate Asylum in Pennsylvania and ignore the prison records of his own state? Why did this lying slanderer print in his issue for April 12, 1913, that idiotic screed on the same subject by Frank C. Gonzales? This blatant bigot pretended to give "official figures" for the Iowa State prison located at Fort Madison. He placed the total number for the year 1910 at 356, while the official report for that year gives us 775 inmates. Of this number, there were 347 Protestants and 129 Catholics. One cannot accept the unsupported statement of these fanatics on any proposition without danger of believing a lie. There never was a slanderer who was not also a liar.

So much for The Menace mud-gun number two. When its editorial gunner states that the figures of the Allegheny County Work House either prove his contention, or that they "are on a par with all criminal statistics," he uttered as deliberate a lie as ever wriggled through the lips of man.

Since the publication of the alleged Knights of Columbus oath in the Congressional Record, The Menace editor has been firing his third "big" gun with such rapidity that he almost melted his gun carriage. This oath was printed in the Congressional Record in connection with the contest brought by Eugene Boniwell against Congressman Thomas S. Butler of the Seventh Pennsylvania District. The Menace has tried to make its dupes believe that, since the oath has been printed in the official organ of Congress, it must be genuine. Its editor deliberately ignores the fact the Election Committee which ordered it printed, as part of the records in the case, declared it "could not stigmatize too strongly the false and libelous article referred to, which was the spurious Knights of Columbus oath." The evidence also shows that Butler was found guiltless of circulating it and not only denounced the oath as spurious, but repudiated those who caused it to be circulated. These facts The Menace carefully conceals from its readers.

In a recent issue of The Iconoclast, I demonstrated the utter absurdity of that oath, and its impossible application to any modern fraternal insurance society like the K. C. But the fraud has been further exposed in an effective manner in Bellingham and Seattle, Washington, where the A. P. A. movement has become very active and aggressive. The story of their discomfiture is told by the Bellingham Daily American Reveille, in an able editorial, under date of May 25, 1913. Here it is:

"During the past week this city has been pretty well covered with a circular headed 'Congress prints Knights of Columbus Oath,' which contains what is purported to be an obligation which fourth degree Knights of Columbus take. 'The circular attempts to convey the idea that the oath was printed with approval as to its genuineness by Congress and adds 'leaving all comments to our readers.' 'Naturally all members of the orders assailed are very indignant over this travesty on their obligation and this indignation runs to all citizens who give any thought to the matter or who have been watching the controversy in Seattle and other cities where the 'oath' has been made use of.

"In Seattle, several months ago, the matter became so acute that leading members of the Knights of Columbus brought the circular and the actual fourth degree obligation to the attention of prominent non-Catholics with the result that a public statement was made and widely circulated by the Seattle newspapers.

"This statement follows: IS BLASPHEMOUS TRAVESTY. "Honorable Catholic gentlemen of this city have placed for examination in the hands of the undersigned two papers. One, the actual Fourth Degree obligation taken by each person upon becoming a member of the Catholic organization known as the Knights of Columbus; the other, a printed circular purporting to

be the above-mentioned obligation. The latter is a blasphemous and horrible travesty upon the real oath and as fair-minded citizens of this city, we cannot allow an atrocious libel upon the large body of our public-spirited Catholic fellow citizens to stand undisputed. We declare further, that the obligation taken by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus is one of loyalty and patriotism to our flag and nation, and that the said obligation binds those who assume it to the exercise of the highest type of American citizenship.

"Signed at Seattle, Wash., this 31st day of October, 1912.

"H. C. Henry,
"J. D. Lowman,
"J. E. Chilberg."

H. C. Henry is a railroad contractor and president of the Metropolitan Bank. J. D. Lowman is president of the Seattle Cham-

ber of Commerce. J. E. Chilberg is vice-president of the Scandinavian National Bank and of the best known business men in Washington.

Many non-Catholic clergymen and others who have inquired into the situation do not hesitate to denounce the purported 'oath' as a malicious slander and as calculated to create a religious prejudice that is hurtful to any community and is positively without the least foundation."

This ought to put an end to that miserable canard and silence Walkers mudgun batteries forever. Still ignorance is dense, prejudice strong and many long to be humbugged. On the other hand there are millions of Protestants who have been deceived, but are anxious to know the truth. To these we appeal in the name of liberty, justice and fair play.

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ample opportunity for training in every phase of Physical Culture.

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TERM BEGINS—

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For further information with regard to the school address

PRESIDENT J. H. ACKERMAN,
MONMOUTH, OREGON.