

METHODIST BIGOTRY AND CATHOLIC HOSPITALITY.

A Catholic Woman's Graceful Act.

Marcus, Iowa, Nov. 30.

Editor of the Boston Pilot.—At the Northwestern Methodist Conference, held in Sioux a short time ago, one of the preachers advocated war to a finish with the Catholic Church, which brought from Senator Dolliver, of national prominence, a sharp rebuke.

The Sioux City Journal tells this pretty story:—

The rumor is that Rev. Dr. Lewis had not been greatly pleased over the outburst against the Catholics on the part of Rev. Dr. Smylie, presiding elder of the Sioux City district, and a few other ministers. Rev. Dr. Lewis and Morning Side College had been treated courteously and generously by the Sioux City Catholics as well as by Protestants, so he rather resented the seemingly unnecessary attack upon the Catholics which had been made by a few of the ministers in the conference. And the burden of the conversation with the senator is alleged to have been along the line of devising some way to let it be known that not all Methodists feel bitterly towards Catholicism.

But it was lunch time, the doctor and the senator were hungry, but they did not care to go to the city for their lunch. The suggestion was made that they go to the most conveniently located house in the neighborhood to secure their meal, and so, accompanied by Miss Gay Dolliver, the senator's sister, they started out to hunt something to eat.

One of the trio, acting as spokesman, knocked at the door of a strange house, and the young woman who came to the door was asked if she could feed three hungry wayfarers from the Methodist Conference. She replied in a most cordial manner that she would be delighted to do so. She invited the party into the house and gave every evidence of most genuine hospitality. After a brief exchange of remarks she excused herself and retired to the kitchen to prepare a lunch for her unbidden, but seemingly none the less welcome guests. Miss Dolliver asked to be permitted to assist her, and was allowed to do a part of the work of preparing the meal and setting the table.

From the diningroom Miss Dolliver could hear Dr. Lewis and Senator Dolliver, in the parlor talking over their plans, and every once in a while was to be heard something about "Roman Catholics" and "Catholicism." The woman of the house hustled about intent only on preparing a lunch that would do her credit and please her guests.

After the meal the guests endeavored to prevail upon their charming hostess to accept of a sum of money for her trouble, but she absolutely and persistently refused. Miss Dolliver wanted to know something more about her accommodating young friend, and by casual questioning found that she and her husband were a newly married couple and had just begun to keep house.

"Do you attend the Whitfield church?" asked Miss Dolliver.

"No, ma'am," was the reply. "We are Catholics."

The hostility declared and the rebuke given by the Senator, besides the report on missions, drew from the Rev. J. P. Phelan of Marcus, an article in the local paper:

"REUNION, NOT HOSTILITY."

"In your issue containing the report made by Rev. Dr. J. B. Trimble at the late Methodist Conference, you stated that Dr. Trimble told of the wonderful development of missions. He said that the Christian religion through missionaries was introduced into Africa in 1833, in South America in 1836, in China in 1846, in Germany in 1848, in Norway in 1853, in Sweden in 1854, in Denmark in 1857, in India and Switzerland in 1856, in Bulgaria in 1859, in Italy in 1871, in Japan in 1872, in Mexico in 1873, and in Finland in 1884.

Regarding Africa we find people from that continent present in Jerusalem on that ever memorable Pentecostal day. And about the year 49, St. Mark, evangelist, was sent by St. Peter to Alexandria and was by him made bishop of

what was then the second city in the world. And who has not heard of St. Augustine, that great defender of the Christian religion, who held the council of Hippo in 393, that approved of the Canon of the New Testament, such as we have it? And at Carthage a few years later.

It is evident that the Christian religion was introduced into South America ere 1836, for we find St. Rose of Lima, who died in 1617, named as patroness of that continent. One hundred and eighty witnesses judicially proved that miracles were wrought through her means.

It is evident that the Christian religion was introduced into Germany before 1848, for we find the man Luther making a fuss about the Christian religion about the year 1517, and early in 755 we find St. Boniface, the Apostle of Germany, martyred for the faith on the plains of Friesland.

It is evident that the Christian religion was introduced into India and Japan before the nineteenth century, for St. Francis Xavier, who raised five dead persons to life, and who is the Paul of the sixteenth century, is justly regarded as the Apostle of the Indies. He died in 1552.

And in 1871 the Christian religion was introduced into Italy! Well, this is news, indeed. Romans originally got the faith at the fountain head. For we read that among those who were present at Pentecost were "strangers from Rome." They may be the first to bring the glad tidings to the imperial city. It was at the request of the Christians there, that St. Mark, Peter's disciple, ten years after the ascension, wrote in Rome his gospel which St. Peter approved and commended to be read. And St. Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "Your faith is spoken of in the whole world." Hence in this stronghold of the Christian religion the faith was established there even before these scriptures were written.

I am glad to see that Senator Dolliver imparted a rebuke along these lines to those clergymen who would declare war against the old church to a finish; for no Christian no matter what his denomination is, should ever try that, for he would be merely cutting the earth from under his own feet, and have no ground to stand upon. "Reunion ought to be the password of this twentieth century and not hostility in different Christian camps.

Neither ecclesiastical nor profane history gives any record of any new authority being imparted to any person or persons to preach the gospel since the memorable authority was given from the lips of the Master to those listening teachers and their successors. 'Tis well known the zeal with which those Christian men preached that gospel, and St. Paul says: "If any one preach a different one let him be anathematized." There is therefore, no particular religion to be preached in the twentieth century at variance with their teaching. We would know nothing of Christ nor the sacred writing of His disciples only for that church which is the living witness to His existence and teaching, except, indeed, what information Pagans and Jews would give of Him. And from this latter source, Methodists would have a hard time in this twentieth century to formulate a Christian creed, independent of, and against the living church of the ages.

If Rev. Trimble should obliterate church history back from the days of the Wesleys, and the scriptures that have their seal of authority from the church, and that same Catholic church herself, he would be obliterating the apostles and their Master, her founder, and would leave a chaos between the Wesleys and the Jews that nothing could bridge.

And assuming that Methodists could exist without the old church that gave them and the world at large the grounds for their belief, is it really Christian to try to frustrate the wonderful work and design of the Redeemer? Is it wise for any sect to try to do the impossible? Is it right to try to dynamite that rock which Christ identified with his wonderful mission here below? No, let no sect in its misguided efforts to advance

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the cause of the Master ever be guilty of such unworthy tactics. For to destroy the Bride of the Redeemer is akin to that decide that makes the Jews abhorred among the nations.

An old gentleman whilst suffering from gout used to make use of most violent language. His son, on one occasion, in writing to a friend remarked: "You will be sorry to hear that the governor is down with the foot and mouth disease."

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