

AMERICANISM.

Father Sherman on the Principles of True Patriotism.

Exposition Hall, Omaha, Neb., was filled with an audience like of which has seldom assembled in that great structure, the lecture of the Rev. Thomas Ewing Sherman, S.J., son of the late General William Tecumseh Sherman, on "True Americanism," being the occasion that called out such a gathering.

It was understood that the speaker would take up the religious war that has been waged for the past year or two, not only in Omaha, but in a number of the cities throughout the country, and he was confronted by an audience in which both sides were numerously represented. Seated in the hundred or more chairs on the platform were representative citizens of all branches of business and the professions, while stretching to the farthest corners of the hall, filling the great galleries that extended around three sides of the building and occupying every seat under them, was as an intelligent an audience as ever assembled in that city, numbering between 2,500 and 3,000 people.

Father Sherman speaks somewhat rapidly, and with all the fire and energy of perfect youth and health. There is something magnetic in that superabundant power and energy, and it held that great audience until the close.

Father Sherman spoke in part as follows.

"When the last spike was driven in the Union Pacific railway, and that vast work accomplished, there was a setting at rest, forever, of something of a national dread lest, perchance, the Pacific Coast might endeavor to imitate the South, and, with better success, seek to form an independent empire. My father, I am proud to say, was among the first to encourage that great enterprise. He was then a California banker and he materially assisted in seeing this great iron link between the east and the west become a riveted reality.

"The fears of Californian independence were well founded. If you remember, California would not accept our paper money before this railroad was completed, but the achievement of this grand enterprise gave relief.

"It is but natural that here on the western shore of the Missouri river, at the terminal of that trans continental railroad, a thriving metropolis should rest forever, to mark the interest of that mighty achievement in railroad building. The metropolis is Omaha, and it has every indication of permanent prosperity. But, at this moment a slight cloud hangs over Omaha. It is the cloud of religious war. On the Fourth of July last, there congregated in this very hall, men and women who listened to socialistic doctrines, which, if carried out, would rend the ties of the nation, of home, of hearthstone, and of God. In a moment of enthusiasm carried away by some clever speaker, many people might be deceived by the blizzards of abuse, misrepresentation and malicious calumny that these speakers might use against the Roman Catholic Church, and these people might applaud such doctrine, applaud innocently to an infringement of the religious liberty of Americans.

"As I gaze about me, here to-night and see so many intelligent faces I am convinced that the people that I now see before me did not constitute the audience upon that occasion, last July. (Applause.)

CARDINAL AMERICAN PRINCIPLE.

"The right of religious liberty is one of the principles that made this glorious nation. It is not true Americanism to seek to trample upon the rights of our fellow-citizens. By the term 'Americanism' I mean citizens of America, and by American I mean the United States. A man may be a Canadian or a Mexican and be regarded as an American. There is no such recognized adjective as 'United Statesian.' The term 'American,' should distinctively belong to the United States. I hold the same opinion in this respect as the distinguished James Gillespie Blaine. (prolonged applause.) He said that the United States is America and America is one. When I say the doctrine of America, I therefore mean the doctrine of the United States and not the doctrine of Canada or Mexico. I believe in sole allegiance to the principles of American independence, principles of liberty gained by our great grandfathers when they severed the strings that tied them to the skirts of England. (Applause.) Americanism is not one opinion a universal unanimity. It includes among other things, a combination of sentiments, differences of opinion upon many subjects. Differences of this kind, however, should be settled openly and honourably and with some regard for truth. Applause. They should not be settled in secret lodges, where men's rights are trampled upon. (Applause.)

"Patrick Henry and the forty men who framed the constitution, which was purchased by the blood of the revolution, new threatened in its strongest principles believed in open discussion on that sacred subject. No man ever got up and said that religious liberty should be restrained in those days. The first principle of America is liberty, and especially religious liberty. (Vociferous applause.) Religion has vested rights and should not be thrown as a fire-brand into the midst of political life. There is discord enough in politics now. (Laughter and applause.)

"These zealous assassins of truth, these products of secret organizations that are anti-Catholic in sentiment and principle, falsely prate that the Catholics are seeking to unite State and Church. I stand before you to-night as a citizen—a proscribed citizen, if you will, I might plead that my father fought for the Union. (Tremendous applause.) Union means concord; they mean discord. They are men utterly opposed to principle.

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"The Orangeman's idea of liberty is to kill everybody who differs with him upon religion. (Laughter.) He does not realize that he is committing treason in denying religious liberty.

"When a citizen of the United States takes the oath of allegiance he agrees that all must have equal rights, and yet these so-called exponents of American principles who have started this religious strife profess great loyalty to the constitution upon which this grand republic was founded.

"If a man has a spark of manhood in his breast he will resent being called a coward. At Detroit, before a crowd of these un-American people, I hurled the charge of cowardice in their teeth and proceeded to convince them that they were poltroons. No one resented it at the meeting; no one answered my argument. But the next day some individual came out in two columns of abuse in a Detroit paper and signed himself 'U. K. Booth.' I don't know what the U. K. stood for unless it meant unknown. (Laughter and applause.) I have never seen the interior of one of these secret society lodge rooms that make a specialty of attacking Catholics. I imagine that the members sit on each other's laps and hug each other

tremblingly for fear of the Pope. The repeated and unjustifiable attacks of these enemies of Roman Catholics are absurd. It is a stupendous parody of ignorance. In the celebrated Know-Nothing campaign of the past similar attacks were made and, I am sorry to say, resulted in prejudicing many people against the Catholic Church, until fair minded American citizens took the platform and with two pistols on the table in front of them, proceeded to talk reason to the more rabid exponents of Know Nothingism. There was soon a change of sentiment. The people were convinced that there was no danger from the Papal power. The Papal power is a spiritual power and not a political power. (Applause.)

SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE.

"If the Pope imagined that he had political power and called upon me to renounce my allegiance as an American citizen to the President of the United States, the elected chief of the American nation, I would resist the Pope. (Applause.) If President Cleveland called upon me to renounce my spiritual allegiance to the Pope as Vicar of Christ and head of the Church, I would resent such an interference. (Applause.)

"Monsignor Satoli, the Pope's representative at Washington, is a modest little Italian gentleman. He is in this country mostly as an arbiter and goes about his business like a plain everyday American citizen. He has no strength to threaten a nation. He is a man without any shadow of physical force, and there is none at his command. I therefore cannot conceive how he can endanger even the power of a village magistrate. Why, the other day he obeyed the summons of a Jersey judge. Yet this is the man who is pictured as the standing menace to the safety of this great, powerful nation. There is no danger of Papal aggression dividing this country. The danger in politics is not a spiritual one. (Applause.) The idea is ridiculous.

"The constitution says that there shall be no religious test for office; it does not seek to ostracise Catholics from the political rights that every American citizen should possess. These men seek to stand in the way of the constitution, like a man who puts an orange blossom in his hat and jumps in front of an express train that is going sixty miles an hour in the hope of stopping it. (Laughter.)

"Every man, one and all, who belongs to the secret organization that seeks to tear away constitutional rights is a traitor. They are all traitors, and, like Benedict Arnold, they meditate for excuses for their treason. Arnold's ideas were somewhat like theirs. Arnold's punishment shall be theirs also. (Applause.) Is there one of these cowards here to-night that will get up and declare his principle? (A pause and no response.) You may rest assured there are some in the audience listening. (Laughter.) If they are afraid of a sheathed sword, what would be their fear of an unsheathed sword? They make assertions utterly devoid of truth. I say they are liars. (Applause.)

"Among other assertions they say that Catholics cannot be loyal Americans. How about General Sherman (tremendous applause), Thos. Ewing, Captain Washington of Company A at Vicksburg, Luke Clark and thousands of men in blue that fought for the flag we all love so well? (Cheers.) It was a Roman Catholic that planted the Stars and Stripes on the parapet at Vicksburg after three other soldiers had fallen in the attempt. Was a Roman Catholic who led the most dashing charge on that occasion and fell just outside the trenches of the enemy. Had it not been for Irish bayonets and the soldiers who came over with Lafayette in the Revolution, how would American independence have been gained? George Washing-

ton instructed his soldiers not to speak against the Catholic religion. Had it not been for Roman Catholic assistance we would not now be a nation. (Applause.)

PROPHESIES THE REPUBLICAN FAITH.

"I could take from my quiver many more arrows barbed with silver that would reach your hearts and disprove this silly assertion that Roman Catholics were not loyal Americans. Who ever heard of the loyalist party in America in politics? I am not a politician, though my sympathies lean to the principles of the Republican party. (Major Furay Bullly for you, laughter and applause.) There is the Republican party and the Democratic party, the Populist party and other parties, but no loyalist party exists.

"Now for the personnel of these political nonentities, these Hessians who attack us. It is composed of all kinds of ingredients. There is another spavined hack, also the fallen priest. Among the chosen twelve there was a Judas. At the head of this secret organization there is a fallen priest, who is like Judas, except that he had not sense enough left when he fell to go out and hang himself. (Laughter.) This broken down political hack and this fallen priest, the leaders of the crowd, are breeders of the worst of all discord religious discord. On their heads will fall the responsibility. (Applause.) No man in America will have his rights threatened, especially those men whose great grandfathers were with Washington at Valley Forge, and who themselves wore the uniform of loyalty at Shiloh, Vicksburg, at Atlanta (cheers) and other tests of devotion to our flag. These men will not be cowed down by a few Hessians led by fallen priests. (Applause.)

"By a strange dispensation of God a soldier's son is a Catholic priest. (Loud applause.) He stands before you with a sword of truth to night, ready to fight for the rights of every man, be he Jew or Gentile. (Cheers.)

"I have a plan of treatment for these Hessians. I move that the government give them a reservation and fence it in with a red fence, and let the red-coated soldiers do guard duty on top of the fence. (Laughter.) Paint their cottages orange color and throw a lake upon which they may float a crescent-shaped ship similar to the one Washington Irving describes in 'The Knickerbockers.' On the poop of this ship let them erect an equestrian statue of William of Orange. (Laughter.) Let them adopt Washington Irving's 'Knickerbocker,' as their bible. (Laughter.) The word 'Catholic' should be prohibited in conversation, and they should be left to their own isolation where they cannot poison the public mind. (Major Furay. "I second that motion." Interruption by the audience with a chorus of votes in the affirmative.)

THE LATE'S FORMATION OF A NEW PARTY.

"I am surprised that John Wannamaker issued those Columbian stamps, because every time a man licks one his face gets so near to a Roman Catholic. (Applause and laughter.) You cannot get these prejudiced cowards to listen to argument or reason. We cannot get Orangemen because they run so fast. (Laughter.) If you people of Omaha do not chose to shake off these men who seek to grapple religious freedom by the throat you will drive the Roman Catholic to form a political party of their own strong,

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