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Friday, Dec. 4, 1908.

Then As Now.

Theodore Roosevelt's detestation of religious bigotry is not recent. It has been a characteristic of the man. When he was governor of New York state he did not hesitate to appoint Catholics to positions which he considered them qualified to fill and several of his closest advisers were Catholics.

Moreover the "Catholic Union and Times" has resurrected another instance. This time when Colonel Roosevelt was police Commissioner of New York city. A certain prominent and influential citizen sent Commissioner Roosevelt a bitter complaint about the appointment of Catholics to the police force, The following reply was made:

Police Department
of the City of New York,
300 Mulberry Street.
New York, Jan. 29, 1896.

Dear Sir: I have no doubt you mean well and advise what you think would be for the best of the force; but I am sure that the most certain way to utterly destroy the usefulness of the force would be to manage it as you advise along sectarian lines. If you know anything whatever about the police you would know that some of the best men in the department, and some of the worst men also, are to be found in the ranks of every creed. Anything more wicked as well as more silly than the proposal you apparently endorse to discriminate against men because they happen to be Roman Catholics would be difficult to imagine. I would not tolerate it in the case of Protestants, and I shall just as little tolerate it in the case of Roman Catholics or Jews. It is such nonsense that it is difficult to discuss the proposition with patience. O'Brian's creed has no more to do with his being a good detective than Sheridan's had with his being a good general. To give you an idea of how utterly ignorant you are of what is being done in the police department, I have only to mention that Conlin happens to be a Protestant and not a Catholic. You complain that we keep a lot of drunken Roman Catholics on the police force. As fast as I can I will turn them out because they are drunkards and not because they are Roman Catholics; and at the same time I shall turn out the drunken Protestants. You can guarantee that just as long as I have anything to say on the board, the Catholic who does his duty will stand on precisely the same level with the Protestant or Jew, or the agnostic who does his duty.

I have not answered your letter fully on this subject before; but it is time you understand what I think of such a proposition as that you make.

Yours truly,
Theodore Roosevelt.

Presbyterians as well as Lutherans express the belief that Catholics should not be permitted to hold high office. That absolves all Catholics from obligation to vote for a Presbyterian or Lutheran nominee for President.

More Bigotry.

Do the Presbyterians and the Lutherans want to have it inferred that they desire Catholics to vote against any one of their faith who happens to be nominated for high office?

One might infer as much by the fact that representative gatherings of both denominations have adopted resolutions condemning President Roosevelt for speaking out boldly in comdemnation of what he termed unwarrantable bigotry on the part of some correspondents who have complained about President-elect Taft's friendliness to Catholics. In this connection the President expressed the hope that in the future a Catholic and also a Jew might be honored by election to the Presidency of the United States. The Lutherans in their resolution, came out boldly with an expression of their belief that no Catholic should ever be elected as President because he would be subservient to the Pope. The Presbyterians affirmed it as their firm belief that the Lutherans were entirely right in the position they had assumed.

We feel sure that if either a Presbyterian or a Lutheran were the nominee for President, his co-religionists would be loud in their praise of the virtue of religious tolerance before election at least. When that happens, let Catholics have long memories of the public declarations of 1908. It is reassuring to note that the secular press of the country is not outspoken in its approval of the stand taken by the Presbyterians and the Lutherans. Most of the secular papers are silent on the subject but a few are frank in their disapprobation.

The Buffalo "Republic", a representative labor paper, has this to say:-

"A committee of clergymen representing the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, has written a letter to President Roosevelt in which exception is taken to his opinion that there should be no religious opposition to the ambition of a Catholic to be President of the United States. The Lutheran ministers take the position that a Catholic should never be allowed to fill the chief executive office of the nation for the reason that the Catholic Church openly advocates a union of church and state, with the influence and interests of the church predominating.

"No liberal, clear thinking American, whatever his creed may be, will suffer any distress of mind over the contemplation of what might happen should a Catholic occupy the White House.

"Nowhere are patriotism and loyality to American institutions taught with greater sincerity than in the institutions of the Catholic Church. And when this country gets ready to place a Roman Catholic in the White House there need be no fear that he may not be a man so broad minded and so thoroughly American that he will fail to cherish and protect all that is of fundamental and of substantive worth in this Republic."

The "Wisconsin" of Milwaukee, speaks out in this manly fashion.:

"The New York City members of the synodical conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America would seem to have gone out of their way to get into an argument involving politics and religion. President Roosevelt who rarely if ever shows a disposition to avoid controversy, did not seek it when he wrote his admirable letter on religious freedom under the constitution of the United States and the obligation of Americans to divest their minds of bigotry when exercising the functions of citizenship. His letter was an answer to a correspondent. But the little group of New Yorkers who without so far as appears a semblance of authority to speak for any but themselves assume to voice the sentiment of "two million Lutherans of this country, not to speak of millions of other Protestants" this little group has come forward in pure voluntariness with a seeming determination to get up a shindy right now.

"Certainly it is a curious thing which these New York Lutheran clergymen propose it is that in the name of religious liberty Protestants shall proscribe Catholics in the United States. It is an invitation to Protestants to commit a violence against the spirit of the constitution, on the ground that the Catholics would do so if they had the power, and though the highest Catholic authority in the United States shows that this charge against Catholics is untrue.

Americans in general, including probably a very large proportion of the two millions of Lutherans for whom the two New York Lutheran clergymen signing the open letter to President Roosevelt presume to speak, will condemn the epistle as an impertinence, and will regard its evident purpose as redolent of sectarian bigotry and at war with true Americanism and the broad principles of political equality and justice."

Wise Judge.

Before Judge Newcome of Chicago there was brought recently a young fellow, who was the son of a widow, and he would get drunk. The judge imposed this somewhat remarkable sentence for the present day and age

"It will be mighty hard punishment for you, I guess. but I am sure it will do you a lot of good. Having never seen the finside of a church, it will also be a novelty and a treat for you.

"I sentence you to attend early services in the church every day for the next six months and to fall on your knees and pray for your redemption. The prayers too must not be of short variety. The good, long ones will probably make a man of you

"Furthermore you must also sign a written pledge before a priest not to drink intoxicating liquors again as long as you live. You can have the alternative of accepting this 'sentence' or taking six months in the house of correction."

Judge Newcome is not a Catholic and his example might be followed, with benefit to the community by other police magistrates.

Worth Reading.

J B. Lyon & Co. state printers, have issued a neat volume containing the public addresses of Secretary of State John S. Whalen. Since his elevation to the state office Mr. Whalen has appeared before the Syracuse University, the World's Temperance Congress, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Commercial Travelers Association, Young Men's Catholic Club, the Clinton Square Presbyterian Church at Albany with an address on "Capital and Labor," Chambers of Commerce and a great varity of educational, economic and social bodies.

These addresses are marked by clearness of thought, well chosen language and grasp of subject. While we were not privileged to hear them all we feel sure from those we have heard that the audiences enjoyed a rare treat. Surely it is a pity that Mr. Whalen was not retained in public office. But he is a young man and who knows what the future may have in store for him.

This beautiful appeared recently in the non-Catholic Pittsburg "Press"

"Our guardian angel prays continually for us, and offers our prayers to God and obtains grace for us, and other favors that are not contrary to the divine will and to the good of our souls; he also presents all our good works to God, and keeps an affectionately strict remembrance of them himself against the judgement day."

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Parents, bring your children. Children, bring your parents. Many of the ingenious devices represented in this vast collection are truly wonders of mechanical skill and will interest and amuse the old as well as the young. This list suggests in a general way the thorough manner in which Santa Claus has done his part in preparing for the coming event. Again we say, come.

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Toyland, in the Basement

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Fischer Piano, Goes for	25	Kuthler & Campbell cost $325	190	Shominger Upright cost $450	265
Bradbury Piano. Goes for	30	Kroeger Upright. Walnut case, cost $300	200	Sohmer Upright. Cost $575	295
Geo. Vogt Piano. Goes for	35	Hinze Upright. Sweet tone	205	Chapman Upright. The musician's choice	310
Gibbons & Stone Piano. Goes for	75	Martin Bros. Slightly Used	210	Fischer Grand, cost $700 2 years ago	500

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