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Peculiar Campaign

A peculiar campaign is in progress in Missouri, waged by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Its purpose is best explained by a reproduction of the following interesting document:

Our New Department
Dear Comrades:

As the provisions in the Constitution of the State of Missouri relative to Religious Instruction in the Public Schools, leave the final decision of such matters with the Board of Public Instruction, we must move cautiously lest we antagonize Boards that may not be in sympathy with our work and thus block all progress.

There are doubtless schools in our state where teachers could read the Scriptures without opposition and they would be willing to do so if requested.

But over a large part of the state, especially in the cities, it will be necessary to direct our first efforts towards creating favorable sentiment.

Let us take the matter up at every opportunity, securing the active co-operation of Christian people and all who have the good of the youth of our land at heart.

The claims of this department might be presented at Teachers' Institutes, Preachers' Meetings, Missionary Societies, etc.

Use the Press where it can be done without creating an issue.

If we are patient, tactful and prayerful, God will help us to win.

Yours for the uplifting of Missouri

Mrs. Alice A. Magill,
Superintendent, The Bible in the Public School.

Why the secrecy? If Bible reading is legal in Missouri, then the W. C. T. U., would be perfectly within its rights in demanding that the reading take place as a matter of right. There would be no need of any secrecy whatever. It looks as if somebody wanted to sneak something into the public school curriculum which has no right or business there.

In fact, the Missouri campaign seems to be waged on the lines taken by a former state superintendent of public instruction in this state who notified local boards of education that they could order the Bible read in their schools. When asked about this by a state senator the state superintendent acknowledged the order and when reminded that it was contrary to the state educational law, replied: "I guess that is so, but the only way you can nullify my order is by the passage of a law specifically forbidding Bible reading in the public schools of the state and the Legislature has not courage to pass such a law." And the superintendent was quite right in his prediction.

The Shame of It

Commenting on the appeal made to Southern Protestants by Rev. Lucian Johnston to repudiate and revoke the standers against Catholicity and Catholics.

now appearing in certain publications which are supported by Protestants, the "Bellman," a secular magazine published in Minneapolis goes even farther than Father Johnston. It says:

Men and women of the Protestant church, clergy and laymen, men who speak from the pulpit and those who write with the pen, in the name of Christianity, of decency, honor and fairness, make that message something more than an idle echo by using every possible endeavor to disown, discredit, denounce and forever destroy such literature as this, which, from behind the shield of Protestantism, seeks to defame and dishonor another faith.

Christianity, be it Catholic or Protestant, has its work to do in this world, and there is room, vast room, for the efforts of all true men and good women in the uplifting of humanity. There is a place for all to labor for the world's betterment, and under whatever flag one may choose to fight the good fight, give him, in the name of God, greeting and help. Cast out shame and calumny and filth, and let each faith stand up, unashamed, consistent in the teachings of its Master, who dealt not in cowardly and vile slander, but spoke of love, and bade us live together in peace and harmony.

Proposed Law.

The next Kansas Legislature will probably be asked to enact a marriage law modeled after the law that has been in force in the Catholic Church since the Middle Ages. This law requires publication of the banns of matrimony.

According to the "Church Progress"

The law as suggested would require the filing of intentions with the probate judge of a county and the publishing of the engagement in the official county paper before the license is obtained.

The proposed law was discussed at a recent meeting of the probate judges of the state in Ottawa and met with considerable favor. There are no divorces among the members of the Catholic church and elopements seldom occur.

Judge Sims, of Wyandotte county, is going to prepare a draft of the proposed law and submit it to the other judges at their next session, which will be held before the meeting of the legislature. If the bill is indorsed it will be presented to the legislature.

Over in India

They are organizing in India a federation of Catholic societies modeled somewhat after the American plan.

Calcutta, at the present time, has a very strong association which is intended to be a model for the rest of the country. The Calcutta Herald says the plan was inaugurated on the return of His Grace, Dr. Menleman from Europe and that the initial meeting was a success. In reply to the address of welcome, His Grace outlined a program the principal part of which was a strong and decided pronouncement in favor of Catholic Educational rights.

The Catholic Journal hopes for the speedy recovery of Bishop Colton, of Buffalo, who was operated on for appendicitis a few days since.

Dr. Eugene Wasdin, the noted surgeon who operated upon the late President McKinley, after he was shot, died recently. He was a convert to the Catholic Church.

The welcome extended to Cardinal Farley is a testimonial of deep-seated respect for the man as well as Holy Mother Church.

Joseph P. MacSweeney is making a reputation as a witty and eloquent speaker and

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