

its limits. It is the step by which the State has taken the first step to deprive its citizens of their rights and to assume absolute powers, which are to transcend and override the rights of parents to educate their children in the teachings of the church to which they belong. This law is the step by which the church is impeded in its work, and the very entrance by which the anti-Christ of freemasonry will try to break into our Catholic principles, our Catholic schools and our Catholic churches. I have said this law is the step by which the State usurps to itself rights which no State possesses, and in order to judge what a State is and what rights a State has we need not go to Europe. I will tell you what a state is, if you will allow me to do so, from a natural and historical standpoint. Here and everywhere else the individual is before the state. First comes the individual, then the family, and then the state. God did not make a state first. He made Adam first, and then after He had made Adam He gave him Eve as his wife. Then came the families, and then, as the families grew, of course, when called of God, the state developed itself. More families came upon the face of the earth, and then different states came. So you see, first came the individual, then the family, and then the state; and since God has put the individual in the first place, He has given him freedom, given him rights and liberties, and to these rights He has added duties, and these duties are first to the individual and then to the family. As soon as the family comes then the family has rights and duties, and these rights and duties cannot enter into collision or in any way interfere with or become antagonistic to the rights of the individual."

The convention unanimously adopted a series of resolutions affirming parents as the natural and religious guardians of children, as also the proper educational caterers for such children. But the negligent, the improvident and impoverished parent is not forgotten, and for such compulsory education, public schools, and general taxation are required, the unconditional repeal of the Bennett law is demanded, and a strict injunction given to voters to vote only for candidates who pledge themselves for its repeal.

In Wisconsin alone there are some 100 German Catholic societies or vereins, all in harmony and under the guidance of the church. The Catholic religion in that State is by far the predominating one. There are a good many French, and although they don't like the Germans, yet in a religious issue they will join. As to Irish Catholics why of course as long as the Democratic party espouses freedom of religion the Irish will go with the Dutch in this. In fact all the decent, reputable, industrious Irish Catholics always voted the straight Democratic ticket and nothing else. Lately the Clan-na-Gael Irishmen, the professional patriots and Catholics voted the other ticket because there was money in it. Of course the Bennett law will go in Wisconsin. The politicians are crowding each other to repeal it. Even the Governor, who swore at first to stand by it, has deserted his post. The Republican party, which intended to make it an issue, has come in out of the cold and declares the law must go.

Wisconsin at no distant day will be a province of the Rhine, and if His Holiness desires to leave Rome, he will find comfortable quarters, good cool beer, and stout bologna sausage in Milwaukee, and what is better, more devoted, more sturdy followers than his present Dago adherents.

The German Lutherans are even more vehement than the Catholics in denouncing the Bennett law of Wisconsin and the no-name law of Illinois. They held a rousing meeting in this city one night last week, and though no advertisement was made in the English papers of the meeting, yet Central Music Hall was packed with disciples of the immortal Martin from cellar to garret. The German Lutherans are very strong in Illinois. They always voted the republican ticket, but lately the leaders of the republican party are showing so much of the old hide-bound know-nothingism of its early days that the good Lutherans took alarm at the compulsory education laws, or rather at certain clauses contained in them. The Lutherans are much the same as Romanists in all doctrinal matters. In fact, except not recognizing the Pope, the Lutheran is virtually the fac simile of her Roman mother. The Lutheran believes, in the real presence, the actual body of Christ in the Communion. And as the United States courts see no distinction between belief and practice, the pious Lutheran is apprehensive lest some fine day an Illinois Judge Anderson may disfranchise him for cannibalism. The speeches at this meeting went further than the Catholics. They ridiculed the Puritans of New England, and cracked jokes over the Cavaliers of Virginia. They even held up Uncle Sam as a kind of cross between Yankee Doodle and Dan McGinty. They went so far as to say that members of Congress and of State legislatures could not write nor speak a dozen sentences consecutively of correct English.

A few days ago the Democratic State Convention of Illinois was held at Springfield. The platform adopted is such that German Lutheran and Catholic alike cannot find fault with. It pronounces unequivocal in favor of absolute religious freedom. The Republicans are alarmed. With the Germans at the other side the grand old party would soon be named Dennis. A deputation of Chicago citizens waited on Governor Fifer at Springfield urging him to call a special session of the Legislature to repeal the Illinois know-nothing law. In his reply to the deputation Governor Fifer actually said that he signed the Illinois law without reading it, and took it for granted that it was a good one because Judge Prendergast and Washington Hession were partly its authors. These two latter are politicians of the unscrupulous type. They form the end men of the Pope's brass band in Chicago. One is a Dutchman, one an Irishman, both are nominally democrats, but judging from the implicit faith placed in them by Gov. Fifer, a republican and a G. A. R. man, it

seems to me they are democrats for revenue only. But the crawfishing Fifer is a pitiable spectacle of snobbery and political servility. He is the man who wanted a pension without showing his wounds, but Commissioner Black insisted on seeing the wounds. Joseph,—Private Joe Fifer he is called—was wounded in a place that showed him on the retreat, and he did not like the world to know it. Now he is on the retreat, but he is on his knees to Archbishop Fleisch.

In this matter of party versus religion I am reminded of an editorial I read in last week's Irish World of New York. It was written on the decision of the Supreme Court on the Utah Church case. Here is the closing paragraph of the editorial:

"Considerable surprise has been occasioned by the fact that party lines were drawn by the Judges in rendering their decision. Chief Justice Fuller and the two democratic associate justices, Field and Lamar, submitted a dissenting opinion, in which they claim that Congress transcended its power in passing the law, and had no more authority to legislate on the subject in a Territory than it had in a State. This seems to be carrying the doctrine of State sovereignty to a bold extreme, and there is no doubt but that the Christian sentiment of the community will most cordially approve the formal decision of the court, which declares that unlawful, scandalous and immoral practices shall not be carried on with impunity under the cloak of religious liberty wherever the jurisdiction of the National government extends."

When I first read this I was to use a vulgar but very extensive expression, papalized. That a paper written and owned by Irishmen should denounce Democratic judges for liberality in religious matters is something that "bangs Banagher and Banager bangs the Devil." In 1845 the Democratic party embodied in its national platform a plank specially protective to Irish Catholics. At this time the rude cabins of Irish laborers were broken open, the inmates assaulted, and often young children exposed to the winter's cold. Catholic churches were wrecked, convents were said to be lazar houses of lust, priests were denounced as defilers of female purity, and were it not for the Democratic party the Irish Catholic would have no vote today. Now Pat Ford writes in his paper a denunciation of Democratic judges for extending to Utah the same liberality extended forty years ago to Rome.

JUNIAS.

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M. AIME, a French balloonist, is soon to make an ascension for the purpose of proving that he can remain as long as he likes in the air. He will carry in his car a "serpollet steam generator," by means of which the gas of the balloon will be heated when the airship goes up, or cooled when the aeronauts descend, so that they will thus be masters of their altitude, be able to choose their air currents, and to prolong their aerial journey at will.