

the attention of two continents on account of his utterances on church topics.

On the attempt of the reformer not much need to be said. So far as he aims at the breaking down of bigotry and religious intolerance, it is commendable. But if he holds that the bridging over of the chasm that separates Rome from her opponents is all that is needed for the restoration of the Church, he is certainly as much mistaken as many other reformers have been. The Church, being the organization of the Almighty among His children, can not be built nor rebuilt by any man without Divine authority. Perhaps Pater Hyacinthe has felt this and also his lack of authority to reorganize it, for he does not call his organization a church but the National Society of Evangelization.

THE PASSING OF POWDERLY.

Those who have been particularly interested in the proceedings of the recent general assembly of the Knights of Labor, and those who have that degree of patience that enables them to read everything the newspapers have to say, will have noticed, and doubtless commented upon, the removal of Mr. Terence V. Powderly as head of the great labor organization mentioned, and the very small excitement this seemingly important change has caused. There have been times when Powderly's personality was of much more importance to the order than was the strength of the order itself; when not only corporations and communities, but also states and a nation even, hung upon his individual dictates and promises with all the breathlessness and interest that the influence of one man, who stands at the head of nearly a million men, all voters, and who is popularly supposed to control them by the slightest crook of his finger, could in emergencies excite. He was courted, yet feared; and if he seemed sometimes offensively conscious of his impregnability, it is but due to say that he repelled any attempt at flattery and resisted every assault upon his personal integrity. We are not aware that he was ever charged with accepting a bribe, or that any of his followers had cause to lose faith in his honor; there was no apparent diminution in his influence with his followers, nor any impairment of the faculties and abilities of the possession of which, under the severest strain and at the most trying crises, he had given such signal proof.

We must look elsewhere, therefore, for the cause of his downfall, for such it must now be deemed; but we do not have to look very far. Politics and political ambition have been his ruin, and the former has given the Knights of Labor organization a blow from which it will not readily recover. Powderly committed the monstrous error of endeavoring to foist himself and his order into the political arena, and to secure a controlling place and influence in political affairs. He thought he saw great opportunities in this line, and the phantasm warped his vision. Formerly moderate, wise, clear in mind and sincere of purpose, he guided the great organization

through many a maze and problem that would have baffled a less forceful and intelligent leader. But when the false light above mentioned broke in on him, he began to consider labor problems and their solution more from the standpoint of political expediency and popular passion than from his old ground of justice and right. Party nostrums and cures, from one side and the other, were too readily considered and tried by him; and in exactly the same degree that he began to traffic and trim and feel his way forward as a politician, he sacrificed his own influence and estranged sympathy and support from the organization he directed. The Knights of Labor have declined materially in weight and importance during the last two or three years, and the cause is as we have stated it. His ambition required him to disregard the sacredness of his trust, and he not only permitted but actually stimulated a forgetfulness of the fact that the Knights constituted a labor organization, not a party to make terms with or dominate any political faction. The lesson is one that may well be heeded by leaders of men in any other organized capacity, and by the rank and file who follow those leaders. The attempt to deliver votes in blocks of five or any other wholesale quantity, by reason of a supposed control of men in the industrial, commercial, social or religious world, invariably and properly results disastrously to the bosses who make it, the voters who yield to it, and the party that expects to receive and profit by it.

A GOOD RULE.

Kissing is a very common as well as very popular custom among some classes, notably young people and those of the gentler sex of all ages. It may be the outcome of spontaneity of affection, or a method of greeting between female friends and acquaintances; sometimes it is even used as political ammunition in an election campaign, as is stated was the case with a candidate for office in Sevier county at the last election. The local paper of his town gave as the actual reason of his running ahead of his ticket and beating his opponent by a small majority that he went around winning the hearts of parents by kissing their babies while the other man was practically sticking close to what he understood to be regular business.

Kissing is all right and proper in its place. Just where that is we will not now discuss further than to say that there is a vast amount of it carried on outside of the rules of propriety, and that a large share of the responsibility for this improper osculation rests upon parents and people of mature years. One particular in which kissing is carried on to a dangerous extent is suggested by the health officer of San Francisco, Dr. J. W. Keeney, to the proprietors of the Golden Rule bazaar in that city. These instructions are directed to a Christmas day festival, in which the officer requires the proprietors to prohibit in their establishment the kissing of children by the representatives of Santa Claus. "This action," says the health officer, "is taken to prevent any, possible danger

from the spread of diphtheria or other sickness among the thousands of children who will visit the place during the next few weeks."

It is the experience of medical men and others who have investigated this subject, and whose admonitions are not to be passed lightly by, that not only a great deal of sickness but sometimes deaths are directly traceable to the evil of indiscriminate kissing, particularly of babies by older people. It is quite possible for a person, particularly a bearded man, who kisses a great many children to transmit the bacteria of diphtheria from one child to another without being affected himself. The germs cling to the whiskers or face of the indiscriminate kisser, and while he or she may not inhale them they may be borne a considerable distance and bring disease and death to a family far from where the germs were obtained.

It is not a great while since a peculiar case occurred at a wedding in the East, where eight of the guests became victims of diphtheria. At the time of the reception the bride had what was believed to be only a slight cold but which was found to be diphtheria, which had been transmitted to those who, suspecting no evil, kissed the lady in offering their congratulations.

A good place for a start to check indiscriminate kissing is with the children. They should be taught that when visitors or strangers pucker their mouths for the osculatory exercise it is time to be on guard. Babies do not usually enjoy being kissed by strangers, and submission is frequently gained by compulsion. Children in the schools should be taught the dangers of the practice, and when this is done the extent of its range may be limited in the next generation. It may be impossible to effect a reform in this generation for the reason that the mass of people are averse to shaking off a long-established habit, even when their judgment is convinced that it is injurious. But educators of the young should place before their pupils demonstrated facts, and if this is done with the topic under consideration, indiscriminate kissing, particularly of babies, will be relegated to its place among the foolish errors of the past. The San Francisco health officer has started a good rule. The News warmly endorses and commends him in it, not only on the sanitary ground, but for moral reasons and considerations of modesty and purity, which may form the subject of a future article on the subject.

ANOTHER ANCIENT TOWN.

The ancient city just discovered in Guatemala is located upon the large estate of Don Manuel J. Alvarado, at the foot of the Volcans de Agua, and about a mile and a half east of the present village of Santiago de los Caballeros. On several occasions the owner of the estate had noticed articles having a strong resemblance to the domestic utensils of the North American Indians as he had read of their appearance at the period of the discovery of this part of the new world. This fact finally led to an excavation, and at a depth of from seven to eighteen