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PROPOSED REFORM IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

THE Roman Catholic church in the United States is just entering on a crisis in its history that will have material effect on its future. It is well known to observers who follow closely the developments taking place in that religion, that the nations from continental Europe are of late years directing its policy and regulating its discipline. Foremost among these nations are the German speaking peoples, France, Spain, Portugal and what used to be known as the real hidebound Roman countries are not taking any interest in the new departure. Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium are now the trusted guards of the Roman religion. News reaches here that at the instigation of these countries "national bishops" must be appointed for the church in the United States by the Pope. By this term "national bishops" is meant a European envoy who would direct and control the policy and discipline of the church here, and shape it to suit European affairs. During the past few years there is a tendency among German speaking races to maintain their language as the national tongue of the United States. The Roman church encourages and sustains the plan. This element would recognize the "national bishops," but the English speaking races will not. Gilmanny of the *New York Catholic News* says:

"We can look on this movement abroad as one fraught with great danger to the church of the United States. These self-constituted committees will seek the support of the ambassadors of their respective countries in Rome and of the cardinals representing other nationalities. Our liberties in this country hang by a frail thread on a few words in the first amendment of the Constitution. Once get up a cry of foreign interference in our affairs and a new amendment would easily pass, by which Catholicity in the United States would be fettered and trammelled in a thousand ways. There are leading men ready and anxious to organize a movement against us, and a single step at Rome will bring an avalanche down upon the church."

The Vendome Column, Paris was overthrown May 16, 1871.

AS TO THE ITALIAN INCIDENT.

THE *New York Mail and Express*, commenting on the report of the New Orleans grand jury on the 14th of March massacre, is not very complimentary to the citizens of Louisiana. It attributes the wide divergency of newspaper opinion on this subject to ignorance of New Orleans local history. It says that Americans should thoroughly understand the causes and significance of this outburst of popular wrath, and why it could only have come in New Orleans.

The *Mail and Express* further says:

"The history of the Mafia in Sicily does not disclose a more ghastly record of assassinations and murders, than were exposed by the Congressional investigations of the horrors of the Ku-Klux Klan's deeds of violence, in order to keep the nigger voters under." Why should not the Mafians have been attracted to a State where violence ruled and the honest, law-abiding negroes had to skulk or seek safety in flight?"

It goes on to say that the number of political murders in New Orleans since the close of the war is greater than the number of Union soldiers killed in more than one great battle. But it is emphatic in its denunciations of the Mafia, and though censuring the people of New Orleans, yet it is far from espousing the side of Italy. The *Mail and Express* is always at its best when finding fault with something or somebody.

Owing to the illfeeling aroused in Italy against Americans by the New Orleans tragedy, William Jacques of Massachusetts and his daughter, while driving in Ferenze, were stoned. The case was investigated by Minister Porter and the attention of Premier Rudini called to it. Very little has been said on this side about the indignity to Mr. Jacques and his daughter, but it will doubtless lead to further official correspondence.

This latter incident may not be without value if it will have the effect of calling the attention of American sightseers to the grandeur and matchless scenery of their own country. What need to go to Italy for sightseeing, when at home we have mountains, lakes and rivers unequalled in the whole world! Have we not clearer skies and blander climates, more variety of fruit, flower and foliage than any to be found in Italy? Then why not turn the tide of travel from New York to the Pacific, thence to Alaska or to the regions of Southern California! There are neither brigands nor mafia, neither the insults of an ignorant populace nor the wailings of a repulsive lazzaroni.

The first English invaders landed in Ireland May 16, 1167.

WILL IT BE ANOTHER "ALABAMA" CONTROVERSY?

AT ONE time Mr. Blaine was eulogized because of his spirited foreign policy. It looks at present as if he would have a good opportunity of showing what he can do in this line before very long. The Behring Sea negotiations are still in progress, but very far from being settled. The Italian embroglio is just as complicated as it was several weeks ago. And now France comes to the front and desires an explanation from Mr. Blaine relating to the St. Nicholas Mole at Hayti. It is said that attempts were made to coerce Hayti to grant this Mole to the United States for a coaling station. France asks Mr. Blaine to explain his grounds for this coercion.

In addition to the European troubles, Mr. Blaine has an American one now on his hands. It appears that the firm of W. R. Grace & Co., who have large interests in Chili, have been supplying the Chilian rebels with arms and munitions of war. This accounts for the trouble on the Pacific coast a few days ago, when a Chilian transport was seized at San Diego by a U. S. marshal. This transport, the *Robert and Minnie*, supplied a rebel man-of-war with arms, obtained from United States merchants.

The rebel man-of-war *Etata*, which had made good her escape, must be captured. So says the United States Navy Department. The *Baltimore*, the *Pensacola* and the *San Francisco* are under orders to search for the runaway. The old flagship *Omaha* is now in San Diego, and is also under orders to participate in the hunt. The *Etata* has a start of 500 miles, but it appears from the dispatches that she is to be persued and captured even in Chilian waters. This will bring the United States directly in conflict with the Chilian insurgents, but it will prove that there was no connivance on the part of our government to violate neutrality laws.

THE NEBRASKA CONTEST.

AN interesting instance of how the omissions of the fathers may be visited upon the children is found in the recent ouster proceedings in Nebraska, by which Mr. Boyd, the Democratic candidate for governor, though elected by a good safe majority, is declared ineligible and his predecessor, the Republican Governor Thayer, is required to hold over in the office until a legal successor shall be elected and qualified. The case is a very peculiar one, viewed even in the light of American political curiosities, which in variety and in striking features ought to furnish sat-