

Joseph Smith was murdered in this State, and no wail of horror is raised either by preacher or editor. "Mormon" missionaries have been murdered in several of our States, and not a word of protest was raised; but Dr. Cronin, the friend of Cardinal Gibbons and of Archbishop Feehan is removed, and all the preachers and mountebanks in the country are up in arms against Irish societies. It is rather premature to enter into anything like an analysis of this case at present, pending the police investigation and judicial inquisition. The press and pulpit are a little intemperate in the matter, and perhaps a little hasty in anticipating the verdict. When the murderers are found, and when the causes for Cronin's removal have been firmly established, then is the time for comment. Anyhow, the "Pats" are in hard luck at present. Patrick Egan, Patrick Ford and Patrick Linnihan are getting some hard knocks. But even an Irishman is entitled to a fair trial, and should not be prejudged. The most one can do at present is to give some echoes of the press and pulpit in the matter.

The worst of the case is that it is creeping into American politics. All the actors in the tragedy are Blaine-Harrison republicans; even Cronin was one, and shortly before his death made a pilgrimage to President Harrison counselling him what policy to assume in national affairs. The British American Association has issued a protest against the appointment of Pat Egan as Minister to Chili. Governor Thayer, of Nebraska, replied to this protest in language vigorous if not intemperate. Thayer must be credited with pluck and courage anyhow to speak as he did at present.

The Chicago *Herald* characterizes Governor Thayer's reply to the British-American Association concerning Patrick Egan as the most startling episode in the Cronin affair. The governor said that Chicago's coroner spent weeks trying to fasten the murder of Cronin on Alexander Sullivan, rather than in endeavoring to find out who killed Cronin. The *Herald* charges Thayer with being an apologist if not an ally of the Clan-na-Gael society. It says:

"This truckling governor, who thus hurls reproach on popular institutions, is a pander of the high-tariff conspiracy. With the aid of the Irish vote in Nebraska, the farmers are held fast to the tax of \$17 on steel rails. With the aid of Patrick Egan, Thayer is governor. With the aid of Thayer and Blaine, Patrick Egan is sent to some country as minister—some country in which he may be safe from extradition to England, where he is held to be a criminal. The minister to Chili answers the purpose and offers the salary, which is what Patrick Egan must have."

The *Herald* further says:

"To fasten a spurious statesmanship on this nation, the agents of the war-tariff have not hesitated to league themselves with an unpatriotic organization. To repay dema-

gogues for votes delivered, this scandalous appointment of Patrick Egan has been gazetted; and to fortify a name so closely beleaguered with the suspicion of murder itself, an American governor is now whipped into line to cast reproach on the procedure of justice in the State of Illinois. How do the citizens of Illinois relish the gubernatorial reflections which a faithful defense of Patrick Egan and Jim Blaine now seems to require?"

The *Daily News* speaks of the Cronin case as follows:

"A fresh illustration of the vice of hyphenated American citizenship is afforded by the protest of the 'British-American Association,' directed at the President and Secretary of State for the appointment of Patrick Egan to the post of United States minister to Chili. Not that the appointment does not call for protest and denunciation; it was, on the contrary, one wholly unfit to be made. But it should be protested against and denounced by American citizens from the standpoint of American citizenship, pure and simple. The 'British-American' standpoint from which to criticize the national affairs of this country is as foreign and out of place as is the 'Irish-American' or 'German-American.'"

On the other hand, Gov. Thayer, of Nebraska, rushes to the defense of his fellow-townsmen with an eagerness and intemperance of language and purpose which betray his consuming anxiety to capture the Irish vote of his State. And, not content with defending Egan, he goes out of his way to throw his influence, such as it is, against the prosecution in the Cronin murder case. "Chicago's coroner and a coroner's jury," he says, "spent weeks in trying to fasten the murder of Dr. Cronin upon Alexander Sullivan, rather than in trying to ascertain who is guilty of the awful crime."

It is a little difficult to see what this has to do with Mr. Egan and the 'British-American' association. Gov. Thayer's statement is wholly false, and could have been made only with the intent to cater to the Irish-American influence as arrayed against the 'British-American.'

American citizens who are such from conviction and principle—and whether born in this country or in Canada or across the water—are tired of this impertinent importation of foreign issues and interests into American politics. And we are more than tired of these secret, oath-bound political organizations—whether plain or hyphenated. There is nothing in this country to justify or excuse their existence. In a free republic with a free ballot—upon which rests a government of the people, for the people, by the people—the political purpose which cannot bear the full light of day, but needs secrecy and oaths for its growth and endurance, stands self-confessed as vicious and dangerous. Assassination is a natural agency of such an organization; but far short of bodily killing it stabs reputations, tempts to embezzlements, and leads to unnumbered cowardly actions.

There is no room for either a British-Irish or German-American association in this country, and still less for the Clan-na-Gael or the "Know-Nothing."

Bishop Fallows spoke on the Cronin murder in St. Paul's Episcopal Church last Sunday. He said that it produced a crisis which horrified even Chicagoans, evoked the execrations of mankind, and that the organization which is responsible for Cronin's death has presumed to say who shall be elective and appointive officers of our State and city. He further said of Irishmen in general:

"To the crime of treason they have added the stain of treachery. They have filled full the cup of infamy. We do not, we cannot, exaggerate the danger that menaces. These societies, having for their aim any treasonable end, must be stamped out; they must be broken like a potter's vessel—and the quicker the better." The reverend gentleman was repeatedly cheered during his discourse.

The Rev. Robert McIntyre preached on "Foreign-born Citizens" at Grace Episcopal Church. His utterances occasioned such boisterous outbursts of applause in his congregation that he had to request his hearers to remember the sacredness of the building in which they were assembled. His discourse touched on the Cronin case. Certainly the Cronin business is nasty enough, without turning a house of religious worship into a variety show or a dime museum. The rev. gentleman denounced secret societies and hyphenated organizations of American citizens, such as the Irish-American, Scottish-American, German-American, French-American, British-American and such. He thinks it will soon come to be Oskosh-American and Kalamazoo-American, and that the hyphen will be as necessary to American citizenship as it is to a St. Louis newspaper or an English surname.

Two other Protestant clergymen—the Rev. Mr. Brushingham, *nee* Brosnahan, and the Rev. Mr. Brobst—also "distinguished" themselves by attacking the Irish in general terms from their pulpits on last Sunday. The Rev. Brushingham, who changed his name for one suggestive of a long-tailed ancestor, and who figured in the criminal court not long ago in a very salacious seduction case, ought to have more modesty than to shove himself into public notice at present. Mr. Brushingham ought to carefully brush the lingering blue flies of renegadery and recent scandal off his name before venturing to sit in judgment on his fellow-beings. He needs about as much clemency in this community as any of those whom he may accuse, either specially or generally.

As for the Rev. Mr. Brobst, he may be dismissed with the recommendation that he study more carefully the teachings of Christ, and the principles of logic. His attack upon the Irish-American community reveals nothing of which a preacher of the word of God ought to be proud. All these reverend gentlemen would have done much