

THE SECRET ORDERS.

Opinions on a Subject That Was Made Prominent During the Week Past.

TWO RELIGIOUS VIEWS.

Cardinal Gibbons Says They Have No Excuse for Existence.

ALGER LEAVES IT TO CONSCIENCE.

Henry Clevs Includes the Caucus in a Sweeping Condemnation.

WANAMAKER RELIES ON CHURCH HELP

During the past week the subject of secret societies was agitated to an unusual extent by the State Reform Association of the United Presbyterian Church, which held its session in this city.

Notwithstanding the opposition of several church organizations, a great many people are members of secret societies, and believe in them.

Mr. Henry Clevs, the millionaire banker of New York, who for more than 25 years past has been prominently identified with public events in this country, contributes the following masterly letter on this subject:

"You have submitted to me the following questions: First, Do you approve of secret orders on general principles. Second, Do you deem them inimical to the spirit of our institutions and the stability and permanence of our Government? And if so, why? Third, Which of the existing orders do you deem the most desirable for a young man to join? Fourth, Do you think it an advantage or a disadvantage to a man in business, social and political life to be a member of such an organization?"

"Now, before discussing these questions it may be well to define what kind of secret orders are presumably implied in them. According to the generally received acceptance of the term, secret orders or societies may be divided into three classes, on the principle of the objects which they propose to accomplish, namely, political, agrarian and provident. Of the first class, examples are furnished by the Illuminati, Philadelphians and Carbonari, which played a very important part in the history of Europe, in the revolutionary period, and during the time of the first Napoleon and afterwards. In later times the Socialists, Nihilists,

Communists and Anarchists have figured in a similar role. In this country the Know-Nothings and the Knights of the Golden Circle have acted prominent parts.

The Rare and the Common Societies.

In the second class, the Agrarian, the history of Europe from the earliest days to the present time affords numerous examples, but in this country very few. The most notable one, probably, was in the State of New York in the time of Van Buren, when the famous Barn Burners cut such a prominent figure.

In the third class, the Provident, we have Free Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and many others. These are persons that don't quite fit into any of these classes and can hardly be properly designated by the epithet of secret, as their secrecy is merely nominal. One of these is the College Societies, which are multiplying rapidly, and are usually designated by the names of two or three letters of the Greek alphabet. The first organization of these was the Beta Beta Beta, of William and Mary College. Now their number is legion all over the country, and they are considering a plan of consolidation by which they will make themselves a power in literature, social science and the arts.

"Secret societies are distinguished from other combinations of human beings by the following characteristics: The members take an oath of secrecy and fidelity, an initiatory ceremony and the use of symbols, passwords, grips, etc. Now, regarding the societies in general, possessed of these characteristics, and aiming at the purposes described, with the probable exception of a limited number of the provident class, history has no story to tell. No matter how pure their original intentions have been, they have eventually degenerated far beneath their beneficent purposes. In many instances they have become so powerful that they have usurped a power in the name of liberty. I do not, therefore, approve of secret orders as such, except where I believe they are wrong in principle.

Opposed to the Caucus. "In any country possessing manhood suffrage, secret orders in politics can hardly prove otherwise than detrimental to the best interests of the society and liberty. For ample proof of this read history, either ancient or modern, beginning with to-day's newspaper or Herodotus, the father of history. Each is pregnant with proofs of the point at issue, from the very dawn of history to the latest fiasco in South America. The tendency of all secret societies is to lead to the sovereignty of the mob and 'that leads,' says Macaulay (no mean authority) 'to the sovereignty of the sword.' The leaders of these societies generally appeal to the emotions instead of the rational in man's nature and fill his mind with visions of Utopias impossible of achievement. Know-Nothingism, still existing under various names, though opposed to the Constitution and the best interests of the nation, is the worst form of secret society in our politics.

"King Caucus is perhaps the worst. It is the most insidious and pretends to simply and honestly dispense justice, but really deprives the citizen of everything making it worth while to be a citizen. It robs him of the privilege of taking part in selecting a candidate for any office, and obliges him to register the name of a selfish clique, or more likely that of one man owning and controlling that clique. Switzerland, best and oldest Republic the world has ever seen—best because its practice accords most closely with its governmental theory, which in the main is a counterpart of ours—has no caucus. The Swiss Republic has seen its sixth centennial, while with all our greatness we have celebrated only our first. The question where we will be 500 years later appals the imagination. If there is to be no retrogression we must eliminate the caucus, and every other form of secret society opposed to the spirit of the Constitution. For these and many other reasons I deem secret societies inimical to the spirit of our institutions and the stability and permanence of our Government. "Some of our secret societies are now speaking to regulate immigration. Let us see that under that pretence political liberty is not nullified. A 21 years' probation for citizenship, as some of our secret societies now propose, would be a practical denial of that citizenship to a large majority of immigrants who are our most profitable producers.

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A Mystery of Human Nature. "Thousands of volumes tell the rise and fall of the world's secret societies. They have had a wonderful fascination for the human mind in all ages, and some such societies are powerful to-day. In their outbreaks they constitute periodical phenomena in history, and they have afforded the mental philosopher a fruitful theme in the attempt to discover the hidden mystery in human nature by which they are propagated and perpetuated.

"The origin of such societies can be frequently traced to the selfishness of human nature and the intense desire to be 'boss.' If not of this character in their origin they soon degenerate into it. The Tammany society, for instance, was one of the provident class in its origin, and one of the most exemplary of that class, with the broadest possible charity. Tammany is still provident, and is possessed of enormous means, but the objects of its bounty are now chiefly confined to the Executive Committee and its dearest friends who have a 'pull,' and they are all subservient to the will of the 'boss,' so that friction is reduced to a minimum in this political machine and the money reigns supreme. This is no one of the strongest, perhaps the strongest, and most efficient models in its peculiar province of a secret organization, but its germ of dissolution are quietly fermenting and the end will be worse than anarchy. I am now speaking on general principles and without any special animus against Tammany, but it is the most prominent modern illustration of the subject in hand, it would be bad judgment on the part of any writer treating your questions regarding secret societies to overlook it.

"I trust that in response to your interrogatories I have now made it plain to you that I do not consider it an advantage on the moral and social grounds for a man to be a member of a secret organization.

Religious Leaders in Opposition. Cardinal Gibbons, the first American to wear the red hat of a Cardinal, is flat-footedly opposed to secret societies of every kind, as will be seen from his appended letter:

"I do not approve of secret orders on general principles. I deem them most unquestionably inimical to the spirit of free institutions. They have been proven so by the experience of all nations. With constitutional methods always available, as they are in this country, there can be no possible excuse for the existence of secret orders of any kind. I do not think it can be any advantage to a man in social, business or political life to be a member of such an organization.

Right Rev. Henry W. Warren, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, seems no more of a friend to secret societies than is our Catholic Cardinal. He expresses his views as follows: "You can best judge of my opinion of secret orders by my own course in life. I have belonged to several such organizations, including the Free Masons. I do not belong to any of them now and shall never belong to any secret society again save one, which has only two members, namely, myself and my wife."

Hon. Charles F. Manderson, United States Senator from Nebraska, and one of the brightest men in Congress, sends the following letter: "As regards secret societies, I think the pros and cons about equally divided. As to whether secret orders are right on general principles—if a single individual has the right to keep his own secrets, why may not a number of individuals keep a secret or secrets among themselves collectively? Orders, secret or otherwise, formed for social and beneficial purposes, certainly need not be inimical to the stability and permanence of our Government. Emergencies might easily occur in life in which

membership in a wealthy and influential order might be of advantage."

The Smart Man Out of a Job. Hon. John J. Ingalls, ex-Senator from Kansas, who now facetiously describes himself as 'a statesman out of a job,' expresses himself in no uncertain terms as follows: "In reply to yours I would say that I am unalterably opposed to secret political organizations for any purpose, believing such action to be wrong in principle, un-American and dangerous to civil liberty and constitutional Government."

Hon. Rutherford B. Hayes, ex-President of the United States, "drops into history" on this question, much as Mr. Silas Wegg was accustomed to "drop into poetry" for the edification of his patron, Mr. Noddy Rodin, in "Our Mutual Friend." Mr. Hayes says: "I do not regard the questions you put to me regarding secret societies as vital ones. Nor do I consider a large and generally important question for a young man whether or not he shall join some secret society. He may pursue either course and be a good citizen and a successful man. The great George Washington took one side of the question and John Quincy Adams the other."

Postmaster General Wanamaker says: "Personally I am not a member of any secret society. With respect to the advisability of a young man joining such an organization I would say that I have always found the greatest satisfaction in connection with action to be wrong in principle, un-American and dangerous to civil liberty and constitutional Government."

Ex-Governor Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, is attracting a large and public attention just now by reason of his Presidential aspirations. His letter is, therefore, specially interesting at this time. It reads: "Our questions regarding secret societies can best be decided in accordance with the dictates of one's own conscience. A young man's conscience should be his best guide in religion, politics and secret societies. In all these matters let him always govern his course which his own conscience acknowledges to be right."

LONGEVITY IS INHERITED.

Insurance Men Often Prefer Fanny to Robust Risks for That Reason. An inherited tendency to longevity is the primal qualification for reaching old age, and this is something very different from good health or even a sound constitution. It is simply a tendency to live long, and such a person often has more of a tendency on life, though he is sick and puny from childhood, than another person who is strong and robust. Health and vigor may give more pleasure and enjoyment to a person in life, but it does not always signify longevity. So strong is this tendency to longevity among certain families that many of the beneficiaries of life insurance companies attach more importance to the life of parents and grandparents than they do to the simple examination of the applicants.

A risk is less of a risk when the policy is issued to a weak, puny individual who comes from a long-lived family than when given to a strong, robust person, with no visible disease or complaint, but with a tendency to a short life. Some families are made to last, and for generations the majority will live to 70, 80, and 100 years of age. They will be attacked by numerous diseases, but their tenacity on life will enable them to live through all of them. It is only when all of the organs are finally worn out that they die at a ripe old age. There is no explaining this physiological phenomenon, but striking examples are daily quoted in the death columns of papers every day.

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BY MARK TWAIN, Author of "Innocents Abroad," "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn," etc., etc.

STORY OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS. Lord Berkeley, ostensibly Earl of Rosmore, has a son who has studied the claims of one Simon Leathers of America to Chalmersdale Castle and the vast estate, and becoming convinced that he and his father are impostors, he is imbued with democratic ideas. His father declares the son is stark mad, but he starts to America nevertheless. In Washington he narrowly escapes death at a hotel fire, and has to work as a newspaper reporter. As the fire he accidentally gets the clothes of One-Armed Pete, a cowboy, who is also reported burned. In the pockets is a sum of money which Tracy puts in bank. He falls to work as a reporter, and the newspaper editors are so impressed with his news that he has had to bear. Finally he becomes a hero by thwarting the bully of the house. The latter, after taking Tracy's money with him, the landlord, insists Tracy for not paying the bill. Discovering by telegraph his adopted name to his father, expecting help, an announcement that he expects a cablegram from his father, who is an English Earl, convinces Tracy that he is an impostor. He goes to the bank and gets a cablegram. Tracy finally takes up with an old sailor and a German who paint abominable pictures. He begins to make money for the first time since he came to America. Simon Leathers and his brother get killed at a box rolling out West, and Colonel Mulberry Sellers, the central character of the story, becomes the American claimant to Chalmersdale Castle. He and his old wife, with a sprightly daughter, live in a tumble-down house in Washington, which now becomes Rosmore Towers. He mourns the young Lord as dead, and came near sending the old Lord a basket of ashes from the hotel fire as his son's remains. He is always full of chemical schemes, among them a Figs-in-Clover puzzle, which at the instance of his wild Western friend, Washington Hawkins, he sells to a Yankee at 5 cents for each puzzle sold. One-Armed Pete is wanted for a crime and a reward is offered. Sellers and Hawkins determine to get the reward. After the hotel fire they get a glimpse of Tracy in the cowboy costume and prepare to capture him. Sellers thinks he has the power of materializing the dead. One day Tracy, wandering about Washington, sees the emblems of his house on Sellers' residence. The latter takes him for the dead cowboy's materialized spirit and goes through wild rhapsodies to draw him to the residence. Tracy comes, attracted by curiosity, not Sellers' imaginary power. Sellers and Hawkins see Tracy to retouching chromoliths while they discuss the rewards offered for the cowboy. Gwendolyn and Tracy immediately fall in love. After a time of doubting Tracy confesses to Sally that he is an Earl's son. She will not believe him and dismisses him until he can get proof. Tracy has written his father the situation. The old Earl is glad his son has made his own living and will not resist from the field and become an Earl's son once more, but his proposed marriage to the American claimant's daughter so angers him, he starts at once for the United States. Colonel Sellers' Figs-in-Clover turns out well. He soon has stacks of money in bank, and starts to England to claim his estate, taking his good wife with him. The two Earls pass each other on the ocean.

CHAPTER XXV. Sally had also had a chance to do another thing. That was to make up her mind that life was not worth living upon the present terms. If she must give up her impostor and die doubtless she must submit; but might she not lay her whole case before some disinterested person first and see if there wasn't perhaps some saving way out of the matter? She turned this idea over in her mind a good deal. In her first visit with Hawkins after her parents were gone the talk fell upon Tracy, and she was impelled to set her case before the statesman and take his counsel. So she poured out her heart, and he listened with painful solicitude. She concluded pleadingly with— "Don't tell me he is an impostor. I suppose he is, but doesn't it look to you as if he isn't? You are cool, you know, and outside, and so maybe it can look to you as if he isn't one when it can't to me. Doesn't it look to you as if he isn't? Couldn't you—can't it look to you that way—for my sake?" The poor man was troubled, but he felt obliged to keep in the neighborhood of the truth. He fought around the present detail a little while, then gave it up and said he couldn't really see his way to clearing Tracy. "No," he said, "the truth is, he's an impostor."

This was so wholly un expected that it at once obstructed the narrative; Hawkins was not so sure that he had heard aright. He said: "I can't know that I quite understand. Do you mean to say that if he was all right and proper otherwise you'd be indifferent about the Earl part of the business?" "Absolutely." "You'd be entirely satisfied with him, and wouldn't care for his not being an Earl's son—that being an Earl's son wouldn't add any value to him?" "Not the least value that I would care for. Why, Mr. Hawkins, I've gotten over all that day-dreaming about aristocrats and aristocracies and all such nonsense, and am become just a plain, ordinary nobody and content with it; and it is to him I owe my sure. And as to anything being able to add a value to him, nothing can do that. He is the whole world to me, just as he is; he comprehends all the values there are—then how can you add any?" "She's pretty far gone," he said to himself. He continued, still to himself: "I must change my plan again; I can't seem to strike one that will stand the requirements of this most variegated emergency five



minutes on a stretch. Without making this fellow a criminal, I believe I will invent a name and character for him calculated to disenchant her. If it fails to do it, then I'll know that the next right thing to do will be to help her to her fate, poor thing, not hinder her." Then he said aloud: "Well, Gwendolyn— 'I want to be called Sally.' " "I'm glad of it. I like it better myself. Well, then, I'll tell you about this man Snodgrass! Is that his name?" "Yes—Snodgrass. The other's his nom-de-plume." "It's hideous!" "I know it is, but we can't help our names." "And that is truly his real name—and not Howard Tracy?" "Hawkins answered regretfully: "Yes, it seems a pity." The girl sampled the name musingly once or twice. "Snodgrass, Snodgrass. No, I could not endure that. I could not get used to it. No, I should call him by his first name. What is his first name?" "His—his initials are S. M." "His initials? I don't care anything about his initials. I can't call him by his initials. What do they stand for?" "Well, you see, his father was a physician, and he—well, he was an idolater of his profession, and he—well, he was a very eccentric man, and— " "What do they stand for? What are you huffing about?" "I never heard such a name. It sounds like a disease. Is it a disease?" "No, I don't think it's a disease. It's either scriptural or—" "Well, it's not scriptural." "That's anatomical. I knew it was one of the other. Yes, I remember now, it is anatomical. It's a ganglion, a nerve center—it is, what is called the zylobalsium process." "Well, go on, and if you come to any more of them omit the names; they make one feel so uncomfortable." "Very well, then. As I said, this one was not a favorite in the family, and so he was neglected in every way, never sent to school, always allowed to associate with the worst and coarsest characters, and so of course he has grown up a rude, vulgar, ignorant, dissipated ruffian, and—" "He? It's no such thing! You ought to be more generous than to make such a statement as that about a poor young stranger who—who—why, he is the very opposite of that. He is considerate, courteous, obliging, modest, gentle, refined, cultivated—oh, for shame, how can you say such things about him?" "I don't blame you, Sally—indeed, I haven't a word of blame for you for being

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