

MR. TAFT'S RELIGION.

A discussion of the Facts and the Bigotry Which Both True and False Statements Have Brought Into Evidence. Philadelphia North American.

We have received numbers of letters inquiring about the religious beliefs of Taft. The two which we print below we have selected as fair samples because they raise the two questions which constitute the basis of all the similar communications.

To the Editor of the North American: It is rumored in this place that William Taft is a staunch Roman Catholic. Is it true? If so, can Americans, and especially those born on American soil, support him for President, as he would be subject to a foreign puppet-master? JOHN R. MEYERS, Hanover, Pa.

To the Editor of the North American: I have heard a report to-day, in Pittsburg, to the effect that Mr. Taft is a Roman Catholic. He is a member of the Unitarian Church. That was the Church of his parents, and he has never separated himself from it. His wife, however, is an Episcopalian, and he worships more often beside her in her church.

These are the facts, which are utterly and absolutely unimportant. The matter of a man's religion has no right place in consideration of his fitness for the presidency. The constitution of the nation, ordained and established "to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," expressly places the very suggestion of such thought outside the pale of patriotism.

No words can be clearer than these from our country's fundamental law: "No religious test ever shall be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

The numerous queries about Mr. Taft's religious belief show simply the extent to which his enemies have gone to rouse some prejudice—accusing him, they have no spot upon his whole clean record of private conduct and public service to which they could point to Taft's detriment, they displayed their willingness to descend to any depth of pettiness, covetously hoping to find some filthy, filthy, filthy attack that might do him harm.

Now, it was not because Mr. Taft was born of a Unitarian family that it was thought possible to disseminate a false sentiment in the minds of his countrymen. The fact that Taft, when Governor-General of the Philippines, adjusted for all time a diplomatic question of such extreme delicacy that, handled by any other American representative, it would likely have rankled for half a century a source of danger and dispute.

The disposition of the friars' lands involved, besides important business, religion in Europe and this country and resulted in a treaty. The place to do business is at headquarters. Taft went to the Vatican. And in two days' talk he settled the controversy upon the lines so far so broad so impartial as to win for America the honor and admiration of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, yet making no concessions that ever yet has offered a loophole for recanting the interest of the Roman Catholicism.

But Taft went to the Vatican. That was his first offense.

The second offense was having his picture taken beside the Pope. That picture has been reprinted and distributed throughout the country. And the letters we have received show that this had some effect, even in a supposedly sane and civilized nation.

Those two incidents constitute the foundation for all the enormous gossip that has been going concerning Mr. Taft's religion.

The first won for American statesmanship and American fair-dealing the approval of the world.

Not can we see a semblance of excuse even for attacks by petulant and scrupulous enemies in the recognition of an American representative by Rome or in dignified deference shown by that representative to the head of the oldest of religions, the revered chief of two hundred million throughout the world, including the 600,000 loyal Americans.

The attempt to hurt Taft by saying he identifies him with the Roman Catholic Church, as the attempt to ensure him because he has refused to turn from the church in which his mother knelt. Both are kindred attempts to the bigotry which we hold in utter detestation.

We had thought as we have hoped that the day of religious prejudice in national politics was done in this country. What better proof could we have asked of the disappearance of that vicious error than the religious complexion of Roosevelt's campaign?

No sane man believes that the President chose any adviser except for his religion. By we have seen the English Reformed Churchman surrounding himself with Root the Presbyterian, Taft the Unitarian, Straus the Jew and Bonaparte the Roman Catholic.

And not because of their varying faiths, but because not one word was spoken of the religion of any as a qualification, we thought we had reason to believe that the prejudices which never should have existed were dead at last.

The North American yields to no one in its Americanism. And in the spirit of the normal, but intense, American, we say that if Mr. Taft were a Roman Catholic or a Hebrew or the adherent of any other faith, our support of his candidacy would be no less ardent because he chose to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

What the man murmurs with bowed head on Sunday matters much to his soul. But what concerns us in the filing of an office with which religion has no affair is, that not on one day, but every day, with his eyes facing all men, the every act of this man has proved him the God-fearing patriot who has done Christ's own work in earning the title of "the secretary of peace."

MARRIAGES.

Ramsey-Divers, at Roanoke, Va. Special to The Observer. Winston-Salem, July 27.—S. M. Ramsey, news and telegraph editor of The Journal, and Miss Sonora J. Divers, of Roanoke, Va., were married at 8 o'clock this morning at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Divers, in Roanoke. The couple arrived here this afternoon. Miss Ada H. Lumpkett, of Roanoke, was maid of honor and Mr. Ben F. Miller, of this city, was best man. The bride is an attractive and accomplished young lady, while the bridegroom is a capable young newspaper man. The couple will reside here for the present.

Fell in Love Over Telephone. Special to The Observer. Roanoke, Va., July 27.—Sumner Morrison Ramsey, city editor of The Winston-Salem Journal, was married here to-day to Miss Sonora J. Divers, a pretty young lady of this city. While the groom was city editor of The Roanoke Times, some months ago, he heard Miss Divers' voice in the telephone and fell in love with her. The meeting of the wife, was followed by a romantic courtship, which resulted in the wedding to-day. The couple left immediately after the marriage for Winston, where they will reside. Mr. Ramsey is a son of Prof. George Ramsey, of Central University of Kentucky, and is well known in Virginia journalistic circles.

PROF. MUNSTERBERG'S THEORY.

Harvard Psychologist Discusses Prohibition From a New Standpoint. New York Evening Post.

Professor Munsterberg has attempted a psychological refutation of the abstract doctrine of prohibition. Declaring and eschewing all personal criticism of the advocates of legal prohibition, the savant argues that the moderate use of alcohol liberates certain brain activities especially beneficial to Americans by releasing them from the monotony of a puritanical existence. "Better America inspired than America sober!" he exclaims. "We confess that we do not feel that the argument of the watchdog need make the advocates of total abstinence, or even the prohibitionists, feel very much alarmed. Is it really true that our national habit of life is so fest-colored that a total and exclusive abstinence must be willed at the 'big chisel'?" Moreover, it is hardly in point for him to remind his readers of the fact, if it be a fact, that "in almost all parts of the globe even religious life began with the intoxicating cults." Religion is to be congratulated on its progress away from this point of departure. "The truth is that the romance and poetry which have won the hearts of the general public come from wits that knew too much to imbibe their art deeply. The learned professor has not yet reached the bottom of this question. We suggest a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Drink deep, or taste not the Median cup. There's shallow draughts intoxicate the brain, And drinking largely sobers us again."

Woman Tougher Than Man.

New York Globe.

Although men as they run are perhaps marginally stronger than women, their inability to withstand elements and their reliance upon clothes places them considerably below the so-called weaker sex in the matter of unyielded toughness. Women wear clothes for ornament, men use them as a protective covering. A group of men marooned clothesless on an island in the temperate zone might be expected to die off in a month from draughts and colds and rheumatism. The health of a woman similarly placed would suffer little from the enforced exposure. The fact appears to be, therefore, that in everything but muscle—in vitality, ruggedness, character, disposition, brain power, etc.—woman is the tougher, not the weaker sex.

From a Philosopher's Note-Book.

Success Magazine.

"Who in for all you are worth" is bad advice to give a young man who is playing with the stock market. Millions are the green trading stamps which attract bankrupt abolitionists' investments in the American municipal market. The health of a man similarly placed would suffer little from the enforced exposure. The fact appears to be, therefore, that in everything but muscle—in vitality, ruggedness, character, disposition, brain power, etc.—woman is the tougher, not the weaker sex.

"Fingy's" Dare.

Miller's Weekly.

Several stories are afloat on the Buffalo docks as to how "Conners," New York's "Up-State" Democratic boss, came by his name, "Fingy," but this is the accepted version: He and a playmate were boasting back and forth of their nerve. "Aw, I bet you could let me chop your 'fingy,'" said the playmate, "you ain't got the nerve to let me chop your 'fingy.'" "I'll bet you ain't got the nerve to chop it," said Conners. They got a cleaver, Conners laid his hand down on the block—and they both won. Down the street ran Jimmy Conners, waving his bloody stump and yelling: "He chopped me 'fingy'! He chopped me 'fingy'!" For the rest of his career, "Fingy" Conners fought with a crippled left hand.

THE WEATHER.

Washington, July 27.—Forecast: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, local rains Tuesday and Wednesday, increasing northeast wind. East Florida, showers Tuesday and Wednesday, fresh to brisk north winds. West Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and east Texas, showers Tuesday and Wednesday, fresh south winds. West Texas, local rains Tuesday and Wednesday. Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia, showers Tuesday and Wednesday.

LOCAL OFFICE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU. Charlotte, July 27.—Sunrise 5:3 a. m.; sunset 7:35 p. m.

TEMPERATURE (in degrees).

Highest temperature	81
Lowest temperature	71
Mean temperature	76
Excess for the day	1
Accumulated deficiency for month	5
Accumulated excess for year	223

PRECIPITATION (in inches).

Total for 24 hours ending 8 p. m.	0
Total for the month	4.77
Accumulated excess for month	0.33
Total for the year	45.13
Accumulated deficiency for year	4.77

Prevailing wind direction N. E.



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