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## THE PUBLIC SCHOOL QUES- TION.

Report of the Illinois M. E.  
Conference on the Subject.

The Hock river conference of the M. E. church, comprising the northern and southern portion of Illinois including Chicago, held at Joliet, September 29th, adopted a report on the public school question which contained the following: "Our public schools are the conservators and safeguards of the nations. No system of parochial or church schools can meet the demands of the general public school instruction. The principles on which our public school system rests are the outgrowth and in harmony with the principles of progressive interests of the government. The system itself deserves and had hitherto received the approval and cooperation of all classes of our citizens. It has without question done much to give us a distinctly intelligent national character and to give us a national and most important political and linguistic unity. That educational system is now endangered. Constant attacks of the Roman Catholic hierarchy upon our public school system, and the persistence of that great ecclesiasticism in demanding of its adherents the withdrawal of their children from the public schools and their undivided attendance upon parochial schools is slowly but surely arraying an un-American antagonism against the most cherished institution of our common country. All concessions have been made that can be consistently made to preserve the national character of our public school system. These concessions have not satisfied the hierarchy which demands that religion be made the basis of public education and demands that said religious instruction shall be wholly under its own control. This demand has been voiced in the pope's evangelical councils and conventions at Baltimore, of Roman Catholic laymen and clergy, and the utterances and action of the Roman Catholic German clerical convention just closed at Buffalo. The demand is now formulated in these deductive utterances of the Buffalo convention which announces its purpose to secure home rule in all matters pertaining to the education of the children of the nation. We stop not now to speak of the other features of its plans for the disintegrating of our national unity in language and character.

We know well what its demand for home rule in educational matters means and we reply as follows: Resolved, First, that we declare emphatically for American home rule in all matters of public education and the sustaining of our public school system.

Second, that home rule in our state and national affairs forbids the interference of any foreign pope, priest, potentate or prince in our domestic affairs or the furtherance of any foreign scheme for the disintegration of our national unity in language or in educational interests.

Third—That home rule in matters of public education shall mean no interference of any ecclesiastical, sectarian, or sectional organizations in the administration of our educational affairs and no appropriation of public moneys to the sustaining of schools controlled for ecclesiastical or sectarian purposes,

Fourth—That we will seek to cause such enactments by constitutional and legislative provisions as shall strengthen our public school system and make it more than ever worthy of the support of every earnest, loyal, moral, patriotic, and Christian citizen who wishes to see a free ballot in the hands of an intelligent, free, patriotic, and prosperous people.

### A Living Curiosity.

A printer may have a bank and quoin and never be worth a cent; have caps and small caps and have neither wife nor children; others may run, but he gets along faster by setting. He may make impressions without eloquence, use the lye without offending and still tell the truth. Though others can not stand while they set, he can set standing, and do both at the same time; may use furniture and have no dwelling, may make and put away pi, yet never see nor eat a pie. A human being he may be a rat at the same time; may handle a shooting iron, yet know naught of gun, cannon or pistol. He may lay his form on the bed, yet be compelled to sleep on the floor; may use a dagger without shedding blood; from earth may handle star; and he may have a sheep's-foot and never be deformed.

### In Bad Humor.

Editor's Child—What's the matter with papa to-day? He's in an awful bad humor.

Editor's Wife—Yes, my dear. The regular funny man of the paper is sick, and your father is trying to keep the department going.—Good News.

Prepared to Sell His Life Deary  
Chicago Tribune.

He had heard a good deal about the ways of Southern fire-eater, and he didn't exactly like the looks of the tall man with the imperial who was leaning up against the hotel counter when he registered.

"Newspaper man, sah?" asked the Southerner.

"Yes, sir."

"I thought so. I can generally tell one, sah. From the North?"

"Yes, sir."

"I thought so. All liars, sah?"

"I beg your pardon."

The Northerner edged away nervously.

"All liars, sah. Can't tell the truth about the South, sah. They side with the niggabs and call the Southe'n gentlemen fish-catahs. Evah been down heah befo', sah?"

The Northerner shook his head.

"You'll find the Southe'n gentlemen have been slandahed, sah—slandahed. We don't allow such lies down heah. We have our rodress. Every Southe'n gentleman knows how to act, sah, when he's slandahed. But in the North it seems—Have you youah weapon with you?"

The Northerner looked for something to get behind and again shook his head.

"You No'the'n gentlemen ah peculiah," continued the Southerner. "Down heah' sah, when one gentleman lies about anotheah he gets his weapon ready. It isn't safe ortharwise. In the North you lie about a gentleman, ah, and then go into cou't. But that is not ouah way, sah. No, sah; not at all. A Southe'n gentleman is a Southe'n gentleman at all times."

The Northerner reached for the office inkstand as the Southerner paused and made a grave little bow. Then the latter said:

"Will you join me at the bar, sah?"

The Northerner laid down the inkstand, drew a long breath and joined him.

### Amount of Public Land.

The following shows the vacant public lands in the several public land States and Territories.

Arizona	55,061,095.
California	61,299,439.
Idaho	23,781,851.
Montana	74,372,860.
Nevada	53,689,554.
Oregon	39,220,151.
Utah	35,428,987.
Washington	20,401,601.
Wyoming	50,842,434.

A runaway horse and a mad dog have no conscience. Never dispute the right of way with either.—Texas Sitings.