

CRIMINAL LIBELS

AGAINST THE

Knights of Columbus

EXPOSED



ISSUED BY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Editorial from the New York Sun

THE K. OF C. "OATH"

The Knights of Columbus are reminded, from time to time, of the persistent purpose of certain persons to stir up religious hatred in election years. Lately, copies of the notorious "bogus fourth degree oath," attributed to them, have been circulated in various parts of the country. This offensive production, which is about equally blasphemous and revolting, has been circulated, occasionally, for many years. It is an old and worn-out imposture and among intelligent persons defeats its own ends by its own absurdity.

Perhaps the best way to make clear what the obligation is which is assumed by the Knights of Columbus on entering the organization is to print it as it really is:

I swear to support the Constitution of the United States. I pledge myself, as a Catholic citizen and Knight of Columbus, to enlighten myself fully upon my duties as a citizen and to conscientiously perform such duties entirely in the interest of my country and regardless of all personal consequences. I pledge myself to do all in my power to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot, and to promote reverence and respect for law and order. I promise to practise my religion openly and consistently, but without ostentation, and to so conduct myself in public affairs, and in the exercise of public virtue, as to reflect nothing but credit upon our Holy Church, to the end that she may flourish and our country prosper to the greater honor and glory of God.

IF THIS IS NOT A SIMPLE PLEDGE TO GOOD AMERICANISM AND HONEST CITIZENSHIP, WHAT WOULD BE?

The Truth and its Proof

REGARDING THE

Spurious K. of C. "Oath"

THE Knights of Columbus was incorporated in 1882 under a special charter granted by the General Assembly of Connecticut. It is a fraternal benefit society composed of Catholic men who under said charter in addition to providing an insurance system which is scientifically sound and admittedly the best, endeavor "to promote such social and intellectual intercourse among its members as shall be desirable and proper."

Catholic men love their faith and would have all men respect it. The Knights of Columbus have worked to spread the knowledge of Catholic truth and thus secure for their religion the regard of all honest men.

The Knights of Columbus have now about 700,000 members, comprising men highest in public esteem, and those more humble, but none the less respected by all who know them.

They have the esteem and encouragement of the hierarchy, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and Priests. They hold the regard of all non-Catholic men who respect decent living and good citizenship.

And yet, there are those who would defame the Knights of Columbus, who would malign the men who compose it, who would libel in foulest charges this great Society and its adherents.

A most heinous, ungodly and unchristian "oath" alleged to be taken by the Knights of Columbus has been widely circulated. It is an attack against the Catholic and his Church, a creation of Know-Nothings, A. P. A.'s and their allies and successors. Its purpose is to breed hatred and intolerance, regardless of truth. Many of those who circulate it claim to be actuated by religious motives, but this is a mere cloak for their wicked purpose to arouse hatred and ill will among their fellow men. Their protestations of religious fervor are the "sheep's clothing" to mask their wolfish purpose to destroy the harmony that should exist among the people of this country and to deprive their fellow citizens of their sacred heritage—the right to worship God in accordance with their own convictions. No man is a true follower of the Saviour who ignores His injunction, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," and that is what every man who circulates the bogus "oath" is guilty of doing. Do those who are guilty of this terrible offense against their fellow men ever stop to consider the warning of Scripture, "The man that in private detracted his neighbor, him did I persecute." (Ps. 100: 5).