

Imperial Wizard Parodies Ceremony of Baptism in Ritual

Candidates Are Warned if They "Turn Traitors" They Will Be "Banished from the Invisible Empire, Remorse Will Revile Them and Direful Things Befall Them," and Then They Are Led to the "Sacred Altar."

"FIERY CROSS" FURNISHES ONLY LIGHT AS MASKED KLANSMEN ARE MASSED

Grand Goblin, in White and Scarlet, Then Says: "America for Real Americans! Guardianship Against the Alien and All Who Would Subvert the Banner, Be They White or Black or Yellow. The Enemies of True American Principles Are Myriad"

WHAT IS THE KU KLUX KLAN?

How has it grown from a nucleus of thirty-four charter members to a membership of more than 500,000 within five years?

How have its "domains" and "realms" and "Klans" been extended until they embrace every State in the Union but Montana, Utah and New Hampshire?

What are the possibilities of an order that preaches racial and religious hatred of the Jew and Roman Catholic, of the negro and the foreign-born citizen?

What are the possibilities of a secret organization that practices censorship of private conduct behind the midnight anonymity of mask and robe and with the weapons of whips and tar and feathers?

What ought to be done about an order whose members are not initiated but "naturalized," whose oaths bind them to obedience to an "Emperor chosen for life?"

What ought to be done about an organization with such objects when the salesmen of memberships in it work first among officers of the courts and police departments, following then with the officers on the reserve lists of the military and naval forces?

At the end of months of inquiry throughout the United States and in the performance of what it sincerely believes to be a public service, The Star this morning continues the publication of a series of articles in which answers to these questions will be offered, set out against the vivid background of as extraordinary a movement as is to be found in recent history.

ARTICLE VII.

William Joseph Simmons, Emperor and Imperial Wizard of Ku Klux, Inc., copyrighted and claimed to be the author of the Klaxon, or ritual book of the Klan. He therefore may be taken to be personally responsible for everything contained in the volume.

In two preceding articles of this series The Star has exposed its claim to being a sacred secret by showing how "Emperor" Simmons himself copyrighted it and placed the required two copies in the Library of Congress, where it is catalogued and open to general perusal like any other volume; exposed also an instance where the former professor and present president of Luther University inserted "Latin" in his ceremonies to impress his less scholarly disciples; and, finally, laid bare an apparent case of plagiarism in the unacknowledged appropriation for Ku Klux use of a poem by a standard American author, Joseph Gilbert Holland, who is long since dead and cannot defend his proprietorship of a noble and inspiring piece of verse.

Christian Ceremony Parodied in Klux Ritual

It remains only to reveal the full moral and spiritual outlook of the man by showing how, in the secret lodge work of Ku Klux, Inc., he has not hesitated to parody that ceremony of baptism, which to every professing Christian, of whatever sect or creed, is a sacred and holy rite and a sacrament of Divine ordination.

When a candidate for passage through the "portals of the Invisible Empire" has "satisfactorily" declared that he is native born, white, Gentile and Protestant, and therefore able to join heartily in the Klan's hymn of hate against all aliens, naturalized citizens, colored people, Japanese, Chinese, Jews and Roman Catholics, he is ready for "naturalization," and by the Kladd, or "Conductor" of the Klan, after taking the first two sections of the quadruple oath of the order, is led into the presence of the white-hooded and white-robed Klansmen.

"What if one of your party should prove a traitor?" asks the outer guard as the Kladd enters with his candidates.

"He would be immediately banished in disgrace from the Invisible Empire without fear or favor, conscience would tenaciously torment him, remorse would repeatedly revile him, and direful things would befall him."

"Does he know all this?" asks the masked guard.

"All this he now knows," answers the masked Kladd. "He has heard, and he must heed."

After this the countersign is given, and the candidates are led into the place of assemblage, where the masked Klansmen are massed, with the "sacred altar" prepared with flag, Bible, dagger and bottle of water, and the "Fiery Cross" furnishing the only light.

Candidates Are Harangued.

Then, in the "long" form of the ceremony, follows a protracted per-

"NATURALIZATION" OF A CANDIDATE AT ALTAR



TAKING THE K. K. K. OATH AT OMAHA, NEB.

lee of our country, our Klan, our homes, each other and humanity."

Then, following the stage directions, he advances to the candidates and pours a few drops of water on each one's back, saying:

"In Body," pours a few drops on his head, saying, "In Mind," places a few drops on his own hand and toizes it upward, saying, "In Spirit."

And finally moves his hand "in a horizontal circular motion" round the candidate's head, saying, "and in Life," which action terminates the baptismal parody, except for a prayer during which all "Terrors" and mere Klansmen kneel while the blessing of God is once more unctuously invoked on Ku Klux, Inc.

Here is an Imperial Lecture.

Appended to the corpus of the ritual is an Imperial lecture which affords an excellent final sample of the spiritual fodder fed to the Ku Klux flock by their pastor and shepherd. In part, it runs as follows:

"The noble achievements of the Ku Klux Klan shine with undiminished effulgence through the gathering mists of the accumulating years an eloquent tribute to the chivalry and patriotism of the past, and the holy heroism of our fathers in preservation to us the sacred heritage of a superior race, political supremacy, racial integrity, social peace and security, and to humanity the boon of cultured civilization. It abides the malicious slanders of the age, and is an inexhaustible source of inspiration to those of this generation who aspire to all things good and noble for themselves, our country and our race."

"Then follows a burst of genuine oratory:

"When," announces "Emperor" Simmons, "when the shuddering peals of the thunder of the impending storm of the American Reconstruction were heard above the fading echoes of the battles of the great Civil War, the chosen victims stood aghast and pale wondering at the meaning and purpose of the gathering gloom."

When they learned the meaning, he goes on, still lying very high, they gave a cry which was "a horrible medley full of intense anguish—melancholy groans of manly men struck dumb, mingling with the sickening, penetrating sobs of distressed women, and the plaintive cry of hungry, cladless children; on this melancholy orchestra grief touched the chords of universal sadness and played the direful dirge of death over the slaughtered corps (sic) of civilization."

And then what happened?

Sacred Duty Calls the Klan.

Then, says their modern Emperor, then came the Ku Klux Klan, and "with a grim smile of sacred duty resting upon their manly countenances" leaped into the saddle, riding "from over the mysterious borderland from the Empire of the Soul," and "baptized with a suffusion of tears."

They came, he repeats, and adds with notable originality, "They came; they saw; they conquered." Then "the voice of music was again heard in the land; their purpose and mission was ended; they laid aside their spotless robes, and the greatest order of chivalry in all history disbanded—for the Ku Klux Klan rode no more."

But, he goes on, their "noble ride" is immortalized and memorialized in his Ku Klux, Inc.

"The spirit of the Ku Klux Klan still lives and should, prove a priceless heritage. That this spirit may live always to warn the hearts of manly men, unify them by the spirit of holy chivalry, to assuage the bittering tide of fraternal alienation that surges in human breasts and inspire them to achieve the highest and noblest in the defense of our country, our homes, each other and humanity, is the paramount ideal of the Knights of Ku Klux Klan."

The romantic appeal connected with

TWO PAGES OF THE KU KLUX RITUAL

DEDICATION.

The E. C. addresses the candidates as follows:

E. C. "Sirs: Have (each of) you assumed without mental reservation your Oath of Allegiance to the Invisible Empire?

Mortal man cannot assume a more binding oath; character and courage alone will enable you to keep it. Always remember that to keep this oath means to you honor, happiness and life; but to violate it means disgrace, dishonor and death. May honor, happiness and life be yours."

(Then he holds up the vessel from the sacred altar, containing the dedication fluid, and addresses the candidates as follows):

"With this transparent, life giving, powerful God-given fluid, more precious and far more significant than all the sacred oils of the ancients, I set you (or each of you) apart from the men of your daily association to the great and honorable task you have voluntarily allotted yourselves as citizens of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

As a klansman may your character be as transparent, your life purpose as powerful, your motive in all things as magnanimous and as pure, and your clannishness as real and as faithful as the manifold drops herein, and you a vital being as useful to humanity as is pure water to mankind.

You will kneel upon your right knee."

Just here the following stanza must be sung in a low, soft, but distinct tone, preferably by a quartette:

(Tune—"Just As I Am Without One Flea.")

To Thee, oh, God! I call to Thee— True to my oath, oh, help me be! I've pledged my love, my blood, my all: Oh, give me grace that I not fail.

E. C. "Sirs: Neath the uplifted fiery cross which by its holy light looks down upon you to bless with its sacred traditions of the past— I dedicate you in body, in mind, in spirit and in life, to the holy service of our country, our Klan, our homes, each other and humanity."

He advances to the candidates and pours a few drops of the dedication fluid on each candidate's back and says: "In Body," pours a few drops on his head and says: "In Mind," places a few drops on his own hand and toizes it upward and says: "In Spirit," then moves his hand in a horizontal circular motion around the candidate's head and says: "and in Life."

After this he says:

"Thus dedicated by us, now consecrate yourselves to the sacred cause you have entered."

(To all he will say): "My Terrors and Klansmen: Let us pray."

All except those officiating at the sacred altar must kneel, the E. C. will step back to the rear and left of the Kladd; the N. H. remains in his position; the Kladd will advance and stand close to the sacred altar on the side toward the station of the E. C., and will use the following

DEDICATORY PRAYER.

God of all, author of all good: Thou who didst create man and so proposed that man should fill a distinct place and perform a specific work in the economy of Thy good government, Thou hast revealed Thyself and Thy

original Klan is another of the favorite talking points of Simmons and his salesmen. In the proper place it will be shown that the claim is as unwarranted and the romance as spurious as the deep secrecy of the copyrighted Klaxon is bogus.

But another angle of the Ku Klux movement calls for more immediate examination. It will be noted that in the peroration of his Imperial lecture, quoted in the second paragraph above, one of the paramount ideals of the K. K. K. is said by its Emperor to be "to inspire manly men to achieve the defense of our country, our homes, each other and humanity."

Klan Must Have Enemies.

It may also be noted that the enemies of humanity et al—against whom Ku Kluxism rallies manly men, and presumably, now that it has become co-educational and doubled the visible supply of \$10 donors, will rally womenly women also—are not specified. And they exist?

They have to be existent. Ku Klux, Inc., needs enemies in its business of defense. A movement without a mission is a movement out of luck. A crusader without a definite objective is like the French king who with 40,000 men marched up a hill and then marched down again.

Who are the enemies? Let Ku Klux itself speak, through the lips of a so announced Klansman who is decrying in a press telegram the meeting near Philadelphia, on the night August 25, when 149 candidates were "naturalized."

"A narrow pathway leading to woodland glade, and every 50 feet a masked and white-robed sentry. Within the little clearing an altar and beside it the banner of the night with the night wind rustling through.

(Continued on page 26.)

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