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The Squirrel Page Locally.

"When the Church allies itself with military power, political control or economic supremacy, it will suffer, for the masses will come into their own, with or without the Church," Rev. J. Burt Bouwman declared Sunday night in a sermon on 'Romanism in Spain,' in First Baptist Church. The Church and state have been so closely applied in Spain through the centuries, he said, that when the government was overthrown in the recent revolution, the communists also attacked and burned the churches in spite of the fact that the new republic put forth every effort to keep law and order.

"He traced the history of the Church in Spain, saying that the country long has been recognized as the most Roman Catholic in Europe and compared the relationships between Spain and Protestant countries. The effect of the close relationship between the government and Church, he stated, resulted in a large number of Saints' days, which handicapped industry, and in expelling the Moors from the country -- the one group successfully engaged in agriculture. With 280,000 families in a total population of 25,000,000 owning all the arable land, and 60% of the population illiterate, communism became widespread and when Spanish arms became powerless was soon beyond control. In referring to the trend in Germany, Russia, central Europe and China towards democracy, Mr. Bouwman said that with the radio and other means of education it was impossible to keep the masses of Spain ignorant of what was happening in other places. 'The Church must stay with the masses,' he said."  
-- The South Bend Tribune.

If the Tribune has quoted the reverend gentleman correctly, he needs an education in the history and religion of Spain. The heel of a Bulletin leaves little room for this, but an educated toe can give him something to think about. Let him answer these questions:

1. If alliance between government and religion results in the burning of churches, are the Federal Council of Churches, the Anti-Saloon League, the Bishop Cannons et al. striving to get the Protestant churches burned in this country?
2. If the Church multiplies Saints' days (holydays of obligation) to give people rest from work, isn't it staying with the masses? And isn't it a more desirable condition for the masses when all of them work five days a week than when 4,000,000 of them are idle? And how, pray, can 'disruption of industry' be an 'alliance with economic supremacy?'
3. If illiteracy breeds communism wouldn't you expect the illiterate Protestant South in this country to be the breeding place of communism instead of the industrial centers of the East and Midwest, and the lumber and mining camps of the Northwest?
4. If Spain expelled the farmers and still found farming a profitable pursuit, would it not be wise for Mr. Hoover to send his Farm Board to Spain for a little study?
5. If what is going on in Russia and China is a 'trend towards democracy' wouldn't it be wise for the United States to abandon democracy before it reaches that stage here?
6. Didn't you read in last Friday's papers that it was 'the masses' who thronged the churches Ascension Thursday and defended them against the organized small bands of communists when the government gave NO PROTECTION?

So, Mr. Bouwman, don't ploat when anarchists burn the convents over the heads of holy women; keep out of the papers; and breed salvation to your people, not enmity. Perhaps, if you try that, you will have more than fifty people at your sermons. You will do more good in this world, and save your soul in the next.

PRATERS: J. E. Baker's mother has just undergone an operation. Laurence McQueeny, old student, died Tuesday. Mass for Leo and Norb Crowe's father, 6:20 Friday, in church, by request of Corby subway.