

GIRIMONDI'S APPOINTMENT.

Selection of Protestant Clergymen for Consulships Not Uncommon.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The State Department is not much interested in the objections to the appointment of the Rev. John P. Girimondi of California, as Consul to Santos, Brazil. The officials of the department say that there is no reason why a Catholic priest should not be appointed to a Consulship. The appointment of clergymen to Consulships is not by any means new; on the contrary, a large number of Consuls have been ministers of the Gospel. Nearly every Minister sent to Liberia has been a clergyman.

It is true that they have always been Protestants heretofore, but the State Department holds that if Protestant ministers are appointed, there is no reason why Catholic priests should not be. It is asserted, however, that at the time of Girimondi's appointment it was not known that he was or ever had been a Catholic priest, although the department was aware that he was a Catholic. He was born in Italy, and his faith was assumed to be Roman Catholic, even before he mentioned it to Assistant Secretary Cridler.

If it should be proved that Girimondi is an unfrocked priest that will make no difference. The State Department has heretofore appointed Protestants who had formerly been clergymen, but were so no longer. If it should be shown that Girimondi was suspended from the priesthood for any discreditable act, the State Department would feel called upon to take action, not because of the unfrocking, but because of the discreditable act. But nothing has been said or intimated to show that there is anything detrimental to Girimondi's character in the case.

The New York Times

Published: May 3, 1900

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