

PROTESTANT MISSIONS.

SOME plain truth about Protestant Missions is told by the 'Catholic Review' of Brooklyn. The 'Review' takes for its thesis the following:—Protestant teaching never has converted, and never can convert any people. Then the writer goes on to say:—This remark, innocently made, has called upon us some rather severe denunciation, from various quarters. Among others, the 'Congregationalist' remonstrates, but without pointing to any fact which would invalidate the position taken. Nobody doubts that within the present century Protestantism has made efforts of great magnitude in the cause of foreign missions. The various sects have used money enough, Bibles and tracts enough, and men and women enough to have accomplished a great deal in the way of Christianizing pagans, if men, women, books and money had been used in the one way in which alone they could have been of service. Unfortunately the missionaries have been of the kind of whom the Holy Ghost declares that He "has not sent them and yet they run." If their labor when measured by the material used seems barren enough, the fault is not, we suppose, in the intention nor always in the character of the workmen, though a Goble in Japan or a Van Meter in Rome are not calculated to excite admiration in the unprejudiced. The charge we made could hardly be other than irritating to the good people who remain at home to edit journals, preach missionary sermons and collect money for the missionaries. But would it not be more fairly answered, if answered at all, by a reference to some one people which has really been converted to the Protestant imitation of Christianity by Protestant missionaries, than by any other method of reply? They were Papal missionaries who brought all Europe into the Christian fold. And when schism and heresy devastated some of the European nations, does any one pretend that "Protestant preaching" would have availed to pervert them if the Popes would have allowed such unbridled license to the civil rulers as was complacently accorded by the Protestant reformers? Was it Protestant preaching, or was it the rack, the gibbet and the quarterer's block which made England Protestant? Where is the effect of Protestant preaching on Catholic Ireland, or what is it that makes Protestant city missionaries here in New York fly off to Rome, like Van Meter, or up town like most of the others, when Catholicity flourishes so abundantly down town? Why go to "convert the Mikado of Japan" before making one hearty and combined attack upon that more easily accessible dignity, the Archbishop of New York? For our own part, we have never heard of any people Christianized by Protestant preaching. Has the 'Congregationalist'?

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

(From the Melbourne 'Advocate'.)

CATHOLICS who have from day to day watched with interest and pleasure the progress of the extensive works of St. Patrick's Cathedral will be glad to be afforded some details and particulars regarding the operations being carried on. Since the present nave was opened for divine service in 1870, the transepts have been begun, the arches of the large central tower have been set, and the tower is gradually rising to its level above the ridge of the roof. This part of the work is far the heaviest in the building, the walls being four feet in thickness, and the tower forty feet square. The south-eastern transept is now up to the level of the parapet of the clerestory, the height of the walls being 64 feet above the level of the floor of the church. The end of this transept has a large central doorway with deep projecting canopy, and buttresses terminating with richly-carved pinnacles, the canopy being surmounted by a carved floriated cross. At the end of the aisles on each side there are two smaller doorways, enriched with deep ornamental mouldings, and prepared to receive the carving at some later period. Above the central doorway is a large window, divided by mullions of freestone into six lights or compartments, the head being filled with ornamental tracery of beautiful design and excellent workmanship. Over this window is a panelling of quatrefoil tracery corresponding with the parapet of the nave. There are two octagonal turret staircases, one on each side of the gable, for the convenience of getting upon the roof. These turrets will be finished with spirelets, terminated with carved finials. In the centre of the gable will be a large circular window filled with geometrical tracery of rich design, the gable terminating with a carved cross. The aisles and the nave walls will be finished with flying buttresses and carved pinnacles, as in the present building. In addition to the transept and tower, a portion of the chancel is built, and also a portion of the north-western transept, to the height of the clerestory, with retaining walls, so that the other parts may be carried out when this is completed. One of the chapels and a portion of the cloisters leading to the sacristies are nearly built, and will be used as sacristies until the permanent ones can be erected. The foundations for the remaining part of the north-western transept are set to the level of the datum-line, and will be proceeded with when funds are available. The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is begun; the foundations for one of the pillars are laid, and the walls will be proceeded with when funds are available. The extent of the transepts from north to south will be 184 feet, including wall and buttress; and the width across, including the aisles and buttresses, is 96 feet. This comprises the whole of the works now in progress, the details we have furnished will give some idea of the magnitude of the undertaking, which can only be carried to a successful issue by the liberality of subscribers.

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