

noted engineer, Professor Rankine, of the University of Glasgow, was able, in a poem, to apostrophise the 'North Country' express of his day: 'Dash along, crash along, sixty miles an hour!'

'Put forth your force, my iron horse, with limbs that never tire!
The best of oil shall feed your joints, and the best of coal your fire;
Like a train of ghosts, the telegraph posts go wildly trooping by,
While one by one the milestones run, and off behind us fly!'

Professor Rankine's sixty miles an hour have long been left behind. German experiments with electric traction on specially constructed lines give promise that in the not distant by-and-by people that are 'so disposed' will be afforded opportunities of being 'hurled through space' at the rate of a hundred and twenty miles an hour.

They Rule

In his 'Arabian Society in the Middle Ages,' Lane gives some curious instances of the extraordinary love of poetry that filled the hearts of some of the Khaleefehs or rulers of Bagdad. Some of them gave a thousand, ten thousand, thirty thousand or more gold pieces for a few verses—and even for a single couplet—by poets of such renown as El Asma'ee. Gifts of like value—to the tune of \$165,000—were bestowed by Carnegie upon his friend Dr. Henry S. Morton in 1897, when the latter wrote a little poem on the occasion of the birth of the millionaire's daughter. The poem had the long-drawn but now well known title: 'The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Rules the World.' The sentiment is a good one, and in its intended sense represents both sound morals and proven fact.

In our last issue we showed how the Catholic people of French Canada promise to be the future possessors of the Dominion heritage. In his recently published book, 'Canada As It Is,' John Foster Fraser, a strongly non-Catholic writer, says:—

'While population in France is practically at a standstill, population in Quebec Province is astounding. Families of eleven and fourteen are common. Quebec Province has its own French Civil Law, and only the Legislature at Quebec, overwhelmingly French, can change it. The Roman Catholic Church is recognised by law and its privileges kept intact. The education is in the hands of the French, though, rightly enough, there is provision for the Protestant minority.'

Commenting on this extract from 'Canada As It Is,' the 'Outlook' (Presbyterian-Methodist) says: 'There is thus great significance in the fact that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier of Canada, is a Frenchman, that two millions out of six million Canadians speak French as their mother tongue, and that the increasing French population in Lower Canada is the dominant factor in Canadian politics to-day. The French Canadians not only hold the balance of power in the Dominion, but Quebec Province regulates the representation in the Dominion Parliament. For "French-Canadian" put "Catholic," and the situation is seen at a glance. A colony in which the Catholic interest is paramount. . . is the colony which aspires to be the paramount partners among the nations of the British Empire. What possibilities does not this foreshadow?'

Catholics Lead

In the United States, as in Canada, the Catholic Church is the greatest and most active of all religious bodies. It will, perhaps, be news to some of our readers to learn that one-third of the entire population of New York profess the Ancient Faith. Here are the latest figures in point, which have been compiled by a non-Catholic organisation known as the Federation of the Churches. That organisation has, says the Milwaukee 'Catholic Citizen' of May 6, 'gained a reputa-

tion for remarkable thoroughness and accuracy in the gathering of social and religious statistics of New York, and, where these cannot be secured precisely, for the intelligence and fairness with which its estimates on the subject are made. The last number of its official publication, the Federation, estimates that the population of New York last year was 3,945,907. Another estimate of the Federation distributes this population, as to religion, thus:—

		Per cent.
Roman Catholic.....	1,300,000	32.9
Russian Orthodox.....	1,500	
Greek Orthodox.....	1,500	
Armenian Apostolic.....	900	
Jewish	725,000	18.4
Additional Protestant Attend- ants.....	497,547	12.6
Protestant Communicants.....	331,698	8.4
Churchless Protestants.....	1,987,762	27.6
	3,945,907	99.9

'Of the Protestant communions in New York, the largest are these:—

Episcopal	69,849
Lutheran	47,006
Presbyterian	44,461
Methodist Episcopal	42,373
Baptist	37,449
Congregational	18,644

A Campaign of Calumny

In his 'Paradise Lost,' Milton makes Lucifer say, after having sounded the devouring depths of flame:—

'So farewell hope, and with hope farewell fear,
Farewell remorse: all good to me is lost.
Evil, be thou my good.'

According to Mr. Moore a little more leavening of evil, a few more doses of original sin, sundry further whiffs of the moral principles of the Abyss, would prove an enormous 'good' for Ireland. For has he not, in a recent and somewhat unsavory book, endeavored to make it appear that virtue is the blighting curse of that old Catholic land? Prisons are being steadily closed there; white gloves, the emblems of the total absence of crime, are (as our news columns show) presented to judges at assizes after assizes in a great number of the counties; and during the past year no fewer than one hundred and eight police stations were closed throughout the country. 'The only counties,' says an esteemed contemporary, 'in which no reductions of the constabulary have taken place are Derry, Antrim, and Down.' And there, it is the excessive 'playfulness' of the festive Orange brethren that furnishes a scope for the operations of the armed and semi-military police of Ireland.

The Howard Association is one of the most useful philanthropic societies in Great Britain. It is named after the great prison reformer, John Howard, and was founded two generations ago, under the patronage of Lord Brougham, 'for the promotion of the best methods for the treatment and prevention of crime, pauperism, etc.' In its report for 1903, the Association has the following interesting information in the paragraph which appears under the heading, 'Visits to Prisons. Ireland'—'Two visits to Ireland have been paid during the year, the secretary having been gratified to note how large a part of the country is almost crimeless. A visit to the convict prison for women at Mountjoy (Dublin) revealed the surprising fact that the total number of women convicts in Ireland at that time was fifteen.'

This inconvenient freedom of 'Banba of the streams' from serious crime is a sore affliction to the Orange and Coercionist pressmen and politicians. It gives them occasional spasms of acute indignation and compels them, in order to serve their party ends, to resort to some of the ungentlest arts of the professional calumniator. For some weeks past they have been working