

'rudis indigestaque moles'—of the 40,000,000 or more of the churchless masses that are estimated to inhabit the great Republic of the West. In 1890 Dr. Ellenwood stated in the 'Missionary Review' (an American Protestant publication) that the Catholic population of the United States then stood, in round numbers, at 9,000,000—a strong-stranded, hard-twisted agency which no one can ignore. He then added (we quote from the 'Review of Reviews') :—

'From 1800 to 1850 the population of the country increased nine-fold, the membership of all Evangelical Churches twenty-seven fold, the Roman Catholic sixty-three fold. From 1850 to 1880 the population increased 116 per cent., the communicants of Protestant Churches 185 per cent., and the Roman Catholics 294 per cent. Or, to take another line of comparison, in 1850 the Catholics equalled 45 per cent. of the total Protestant Church membership, and, in 1880, 63 per cent.'

According to a non-Catholic estimate before us, no religious body in the United States receives so large an accession of members by natural increase as does the Catholic Church. And Mulhall has shown that, in the forty years from 1850 to 1890, 'the Roman Catholic churches multiplied (in the United States) seven-fold and church property thirteen fold, while Methodists, Baptists, or Presbyterians showed a much lower rate of progress'. To-day the churches number about 11,000, the schools some 4000, the colleges about 1000, the hospitals and asylums some 600, and the country is governed by a hierarchy that is more numerous than that of Austria, France, or Spain.

Under the star-spangled banner the Church still moves onward as if shod with the shoes of swiftness. The various diocesan chancery offices are now gradually furnishing returns of the baptisms of converts. That of Mobile (say our latest exchanges) gives for the year 537, or one in 53 of its entire Catholic population. The San Francisco 'Monitor' of December 17 says :—

'According to the recent returns at the Apostolic Mission House, and published in the November issue of the "Missionary", twenty-nine dioceses whose aggregate Catholic population amounts to 422,611 show up 8,352 converts to the Church. This proportion is 1 in 506. If this same proportion is maintained throughout the 103 dioceses in the country, there would be a total of 25,056 converts received into the Church in this country every year.'

By the same mail we received the following striking paragraph from the 'Catholic Universe' :—

'A remark of the venerable metropolitan of Boston, Archbishop Williams, at the consecration of Bishop Walsh, of Portland, expressed very strikingly the marvellous progress of the Church in New England. He himself was living, he said, when there was not a priest in Maine, and none in all New England except one in Boston. The Church in the New England States is now so strong, so easily dominating all creeds and including all classes, that it is almost incredible that this strength should have been gained in the lifetime of one man.'

Some months ago—in its issue of August 2, 1906—the Boston 'Citizen' (a violent A.P.A. and anti-Catholic organ) took down its harp and relieved its overstrained soul of the burden of the following prophecy :

'In fifty years the French-Canadians and the Irish will have every town in the New England States, and the Jews will absolutely control the finances of New England. The Americans of that date will be "the hewers of wood and the drawers of water"—driven to it by the supremacy of their foreign-generated rulers. This is not a "pipe-dream" or a nightmare—our prediction is based upon facts and figures. There are a score of towns within fifty miles of Boston that at present are governed by French-Canadians—old one-time Puritan towns. And still the French-Canadian deluge has hardly begun.'

There is no race-suicide or pre-natal murder among the virile and moral stocks that are supplanting the decadent descendants of the once strong, austere, and God-fearing Puritans that were so long the undisputed lords of New England.

'The American Hemisphere', says the Milwaukee 'Catholic Citizen' of November 24, 'is preponderantly a Catholic Hemisphere. In South America there are 38,500,000 people, according to latest statistics. Of these, 38,000,000 may be classed as Catholics'. Our Milwaukee contemporary then goes on to say :

In North America the population is about 105,500,000. Mexico, with 13,500,000 people, the Central American States with 3,500,000 people, and Cuba, Porto Rico, and Martinique, with 3,000,000, are Catholic, and there are 1,000,000 Catholics in the other West Indies. There are 3,000,000 Catholics in British North America and 15,000,000 in the United States. Here, then, is the summary :—

Population of North America	...	...	105,500,000
Population in South America	...	...	38,500,000
			144,000,000
Catholics in South America	...	38,000,000	
Catholics in North America (south of the United States)...	21,000,000		
Catholics in the United States...	15,000,000		
Catholics in British America...	3,000,000		
Total Catholics	...	...	77,000,000
Total non-Catholics	...	...	67,000,000
			144,000,000

There are 60,000,000 non-Catholics in the United States; 4,000,000 in British America, and (an extra liberal estimate), 3,000,000 in British West Indies and South America.

In his 'Little Tour in America' (published in 1895) the noted Anglican writer, Dean Hole, dwells with wonder upon the 'enthusiastic zeal' of—the Catholic body in the United States. 'Not only', he continues, 'are their buildings the most beautiful—there is no church in New York to compare with the Cathedral of St. Patrick—but they are used more frequently for their sacred purposes than any other places of worship'. We are witnessing the beginnings of the fulfilment of the prophecy of a non-Catholic writer in the 'Edinburgh Review' for April, 1890. The Roman Catholic Church in the United States (said he) is 'one of the most powerful and most democratic religious communities which the world has ever seen, and one which is fated to leave a lasting mark on the history of Christendom'.

Notes

A Wellington Interview

There is at present in New Zealand a prominent English Baptist, the Reverend Mr. Gange. (We are not quite sure about the 'Reverend'; but the fiery superlativeness of his oratory seems to justify the title, so we give him the benefit of the doubt). Our visitor from afar varies the calm delights of feasting his eyes upon our lake and mountain scenery by the more strenuous joys of making a punching-bag of the Anglican Church. The 'Romanising' of Anglicanism has got him down and is worrying him o' nights. And it looks as if our anxious friend feels that he has a mission to reform the Establishment by knocking most of the stuffing (that is, the Popery) out of it. Instead of taking lodgings in a tree, Anglicanism in New Zealand seems, however, to be ignoring the critic's word-blows in a rather provoking way. That, however, is his affair and theirs. We refer to it here, in as much as it may afford a possible clue to an open frontal attack which he made a few days ago in the Wellington 'Times' upon Catholics in England. Up to that time he seems to have been content to approach us (so to speak) by a flying sap.

'Mr. Gange', says the 'Times' representative, 'was asked to explain the attitude of the Roman Catholics in Britain to the religious education question. He said he was glad to hear that question asked, as it gave him an opportunity to make clear one of the motives of

J. TAIT, Monumental Sculptor,

273 Cashel Street West, CHRISTCHURCH.

{ Just over Bridge
and opposite
Drill Shed.
..... }

Manufacturer and Importer of Every Description
of Headstones, Cross Monuments, etc., in Granite,
Marble, and other stones.