

ignorance, superstition and false pretensions. We are indeed laboring at great odds in this still priest-ridden province. But it is no longer sequestered, it is drawn in the great movements and progress of the world ; and this worldwide onward march is more in favor of gospel truth and power than of Roman Catholicism.

As the head of the Roman Catholic Church, an old man still represents himself as in the bark of the fisherman, Peter, whom he professes to succeed. That bark has grown a great deal, it has become the enormous flagship of an immense squadron ; it has been in very troubled waters for many years, and though still wonderfully equipped, it must share the fate of the holy Armada. The winds of heaven and the breakers of earth speak louder than the voice of the old man in the storm, when calling to come to him for safety. There are other mighty fleets on the high seas, who steer toward larger destinies. Many a ship has the Gospel of Jesus Christ for its chart, and His Holy Spirit for guidance.

Popery has lost its temporal footing,—its political kingdom, and it has not risen to seize on spiritual religion, invisible realities, but it clings to ecclesiastical power and influence as fast and as long as it can. The Pope is doing so in Europe, and his inferiors, the bishops, have been imitating him in the Province of Quebec. Quite lately they have largely, openly interfered in politics ; they have brought their great influence to bear on political parties, and they have been found wanting ; floating between heaven and earth their balloon has been pricked, by men accustomed to admire with reverence, to obey without questioning, to submit without resistance to these powerful princes of the air. It has been to them a great surprise and dismay. They never had before such a rebuff from the people whom they have for centuries educated and moulded.

To us it is a great promise of future success in our work. Resistance to ecclesiastical power on political ground is a footing for further resistance on religious ground some day. It is the assertion of personal sense of right of conscience, which may give its full measure when undue clerical influence has become unbearable. We know from reliable sources, that our labors in scattering knowledge, based on the Gospel, have been an important factor in this result. A good part of it is the direct outcome of our varied evangelistic labors.

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