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A Catholic newspaper in a parish is a perpetual mission. Let all who truly and from their souls desire that religion and society defended by human intellect and literature should flourish, strive by their liberality to guard and protect the Catholic press, and let everyone in proportion to his income, support them with his money and influence, for to those who devote themselves to the Catholic press we ought by all means to bring helps of this kind, without which their industry will either have no results or uncertain and miserable ones

POPE LEO XIII.



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1903.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT WEEK.

MAY.

- 10—Fourth Sunday after Easter. Octave of the Patronage of St. Joseph.
- 11—Monday—Saints Cletus and Marcellinus, Popes, Martyrs (transferred permanently from April 26).
- 12—Tuesday—Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs.
- 13—Wednesday—Finding of the Holy Cross (transferred from the 3rd inst).
- 14—Thursday—Our Lady of Good Counsel (transferred from April 26).
- 15—Friday—St. Isidore, Confessor.
- 16—Saturday—St. John Nepomucen.

THE BARR COLONY.

Some objection having been made to our remarks last week anent the Barr colony, we beg to state that these remarks were not influenced by any unconscious prejudice against the English middle class as a whole, which, as every one knows, is England's mainstay; we distinctly spoke only of "that English middle class which has just enough snobbishness to ape its betters." Perhaps we might have made our meaning clearer by saying "that portion of the English middle class which, etc." But our phrase was sufficiently perspicuous for the average reader, whom we invariably credit with discernment. Those only who are conscious of any snobbishness need feel their withers wrung. Besides, we expressly protested against critics who condemn all English immigration. We would be delighted if the Barr colonists succeed. Our fears were based on a general impression produced by the reading of all the despatches from the scene of their westward march, and the correspondences published this week tend to increase our diffidence. The staff correspondent of the Free Press writes under date of April 28: "Of the 1,350 Barr colonists it is doubtful if two-thirds will ever reach the district for which they were bound when they left their English home. At Winnipeg nearly 300 left the party, at Saskatoon 150 were distributed north and south to lumber camps and railroad gangs. Another hundred cut adrift from the Barr movement and decided to select lands for themselves in locations apart from the Barr reserve. And of the seven hundred or more re-

maining in the Town of Tents at Saskatoon a good many are not likely to proceed to the reserve." However, the correspondent hopes for the best, as we devoutly do. Speaking of the heroic, patient women pedestrians facing the bitter cold wind, he says: "It is this substratum of hardness and determination that, despite blunders and mistakes, will eventually bring the Barr colonists to prosperity."

PERCENTAGE OF CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In reference to the question of Catholics being in the majority in several of the United States, Mr. E. L. Scharf, Ph.D., manager of the Catholic News Agency, reallirms, in a letter to us, his statements and supports them by a colored chart, issued in connection with the eleventh (1890) census of the United States. On this official chart each state and territory is represented by a circle, in which the variously colored sectors show the strength of each denomination. Although we can find only eleven circles in which the Catholic sector is larger than all the others combined, Mr. Scharf assures us he found that "in the last 12 years we had gained two more states"—which makes thirteen, not fourteen.

But there is one very important aspect of the question which Mr. Scharf failed to emphasize in his Washington letter of Jan. 12th, in which the impugned statistics are found. Dr. Scharf now, rather late in the day, does emphasize this point by adding, with a pen, three essential words to the original printed letter, which began thus: "It is perhaps not generally known that there are 14 States and Territories in which Catholics outnumber all the Protestant denominations combined." To this he now adds the vital qualification, "not all non-Catholics." Had these words appeared in the original text, they would have immediately reminded us that the denominational membership of the United States does not represent one-half of the entire population, and that consequently those Catholic majorities need not mean the majority of the entire population. But, accustomed as we are in this country to consider "non-Catholic" as practically synonymous with "Protestant," we did not detect this most important limitation. Neither did Mr. Preuss, or he would not have given himself the trouble to construct his counter list. Neither did the Daily News nor the Tablet, which says distinctly: "More than one-half of the population of fourteen States and Territories are members of the Catholic Church."

We find, therefore, that these majorities mean only a majority over the church members of all other denominations. But all the denominations, Catholic and Protestant, do not constitute one-half of the population of the United States. Consequently, these figures do not help us far as to the absolute majority over the rest of the population in any State or Territory. This latter phase of the question has been well handled by Mr. Preuss and this is the only one we had in view. The other phase, to which Dr. Scharf confines himself, may be pretty fairly dealt with by him. In fact, he assures that he has at his disposal the almost unlimited resources of the library of Congress and scrutinizes very carefully all statements and figures, before he admits them into his news letters. But Mr. Preuss, who has also received a polite remonstrance from Dr. Scharf, says in "The Review," April 30: "We cannot admit, from his own materials furnished, the accuracy of the figures given in his statement. It is well known that the government did not ask any questions on religion when the census was taken. Besides, Mr. Scharf's figures differ widely from those of the Catholic Directory.

We should be glad to learn where he found his figures and what authority he can bring forward to show them reliable." One more difficulty occurs to us. Dr. Scharf's remark that "in the last 12 years we had gained two more States" implies that his chart and figures are taken as indeed they are, from the census, not of 1900, but of 1890. Statistics 12 years old are somewhat out of date.

To show by one instance how we

were misled, Dr. Scharf states that the percentage of Catholics as compared with all other Protestant denominations in Montana is 85. The colored chart he sends us represents the Catholics as filling a very little more than three-quarters of the circle, certainly not more than 75 per cent. But when we turn to Mr. Preuss's extract from the census of 1900 as compared with the estimate of the Catholic Directory, we find the entire population set down as 243,329, while the Catholic population is estimated at 50,000, i.e., about 20.5 per cent. Therefore, according to Dr. Scharf's estimate, there are less than 9,000 Protestant church members in Montana. Therefore, again, about 185,000 people in Montana, that is to say, nearly three quarters of the entire population are unattached to any church. This seems incredible, and at any rate a Catholic majority of that kind is not much to be proud of.

HUGE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

The editor of the "Socialism" department in the "Voice" has adopted a more rational tone in his reply to our recent article, "A Socialistic Diatribe." But he labors under the weight of the anti-Catholic lies he has absorbed in lieu of real history. The most atrocious of these lies is the basis of the following remarks of his: "The Review says 'the Church is used to martyrdom.' No doubt she has been at it for a long time, and she wasn't the martyred party every time, either. The complaint about martyrdom comes very strangely indeed from the defenders of the Church of Rome. Almost all religions have shown themselves ready and willing to do a little persecution when occasion offered, but I do not think any one will deny the unenviable pre-eminence of the Roman Church in that line. The Church which is responsible for the horrors of the holy inquisition, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, the persecution of the Albigenses, and the burning of Bruno, Vanini, John Huss and Savonarola, not to speak of the continuous and relentless persecution of Protestants, Jews and alleged witches, can scarcely complain of martyrdom. The blood of untold thousands of earth's best and brightest sons cries out against her."

Now the first amusing aspect of this tirade is that we never complained about martyrdom at all. To a veiled threat of assassination we replied that we were ready, for we were accustomed to see our best men die for the faith. Complain about martyrdom! Why, in the last four hundred years the principal incentive to mission work among the English butchers of Elizabeth's time, or the cruel Calvinists of Holland, or the pitiless and hypocritical Huguenots of France, or the tyrants of Japan and China and Tonquin, or the savages of all heathendom, has been the hope of martyrdom. And in the nineteenth century alone we count our martyrs in China, Annam and Oceania by tens of thousands, and those were really—not falsely like the "Voice's heroes—"earth's best and brightest sons."

What we have called the most atrocious of historical lies is contained in the foregoing extract from the Voice. The writer says: "I think no one will deny the unenviable pre-eminence of the Church of Rome in that line." We gladly accept the ridiculous challenge, although it betrays such astounding ignorance. He thinks no one, and we think the majority of real students of history will deny that pre-eminence. In the first place one-half of Christendom, and that the more learned half, the Catholic body, denies it utterly. In the second place learned and impartial Protestants, like the Rev. Charles Starbuck, are every day strengthening their proofs of the falsity of that charge. Let us take up each of the stock proofs alleged by the Voice man.

1. "The horrors of the holy inquisition." We take "holy," not as a sneer (though it may be intended therefore), but as the distinctive appellation of the Roman tribunal, as differentiated from the Spanish Inquisition. Now the Roman Inquisition was the most humane tribunal in Europe. But even if we include the Spanish Inquisition, we can find therein no such horrors as be-



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