

lightened Protestants it must be satisfactory. We are often called upon to mourn over the rapid advance of Popery and the supposedly incontrovertible fact that Protestantism scarcely holds its own without making any advance. But it is well to ask what may be the actual facts, and how far do figures justify such mournful Jeremiads?

In 1500 the Roman Catholic Church comprised a population of 80,000,000, and the Greek of 20,000,000, while a few thousands were all that could be called Protestant. In 1830 Maite Brun estimated the numbers as follows:

Roman Catholic	116,000,000
Greek Church.....	70,000,000
Protestants.....	42,000,000

Total..... 228,000,000

This shows a pretty fair percentage of advancement on the part of Protestantism. But the next estimated increase is greatly more startling. In the forty-eight years which elapsed from 1830 to 1878 the relative increase was as follows:

	1830.	1878.	Increase.
R. C. Church.....	116,000,000	209,000,000	80%
Greek Church..	70,000,000	88,000,000	26 "
Protestant Churches..	42,000,000	113,700,000	170 "

It is all very well to cry "nominal as far as Protestants are concerned," but what evidence is there that there has been more nominalism among them than among the others? If we pass from individual profession to governmental rule we find that while in 1500 only 100,000,000 were under professedly Christian Governments, in 1700 there were 155,000,000; in 1830, 387,000,000; and in 1876, 685,000,000. In 1700, or one hundred and eighty years ago, what a contrast in the mere matter of power and its holders with what there is to-day! Protestantism was then the only form of religion not disseminating itself. Almost all existing Christian missions were Roman Catholic. Great Britain and her colonies did not comprise more than 10,000,000, and her authority extended over no others. What is the case to-day? She rules over more than three hundred millions, while professedly Christian Governments exercise authority over half the population of the globe. In 1700 Roman Catholic Governments exercised civil sway over 90,000,000; in 1870 over 180,000,000, just the double. In 1700 Protestant Governments ruled over 32,000,000, but in 1876 over 408,000,000, an increase of more than twelvefold. Since 1830 Romanism has added 46,000,000 to those under her civil sway, while Protestantism has added 376,000,000. The fact is that instead of Romanism gaining, as some would have us believe, its power is broken and it is rapidly going to the wall. But it is said that Romanism is at any rate making rapid advances in the United States, and will soon rule that great Republic. Is such the fact? The very reverse. In 1850 there were in the States 1,600,000 Roman Catholics out of a population of 23,000,000; in 1870, 4,600,000 out of a population of 38,500,000; while in 1880 there were only 6,300,000 out of a total population of 50,152,866. This does not show a mighty increase, especially when we think of all the Roman Catholic immigrants. Indeed it is calculated that if all those who came to the States as Roman Catholics had remained such, with their children, there would now have been 20,000,000 without counting conversions, instead of something over 6,000,000. What do all such figures and many more which could easily be given indicate? What but this, that in spite of all the outcry about the advance of Popery, and of every form of unbelief, Protestant freedom and Protestant prosperity are ever making greater advances and ever achieving more noticeable triumphs? No doubt much still remains to be accomplished, but the apologetic is not the tone in which Protestants ought uniformly or at all to indulge. It may be and is true still, as one phrased it more than forty years ago, "that the enemy comes in like a flood with the gathered strength of a hundred torrents," that its columns are still as deep and as dark, its hostile array as firm and determined; and its approaches quite as secret and insidious; but now as then there is an opposing army in the field. A Man of war is against all those thronging enemies—the Lord of Hosts is His name. A standard has been raised, the Spirit of the Lord hath raised up a standard against them. And who can help rejoicing and being strong as he sees so many flocking to that standard from the north, from the south, from the east, from the west, as he marks that glorious banner waving above our own and many other lands, and as

he hears the pure music which is produced as its celestial folds rustle over head when stirred by the soft breath of penitential sighs or spread aloft to heaven on the strong gales of hymns and prayers? It may be that in some localities the battle waves occasionally seem to go against the cause of truth, of righteousness and of Christ. But as a whole advance is surely being made, while even where the opposite may be feared, it is only as with the inflowing tide which though it seems to recede from the advantage it has already secured, is found to do this only to gather greater force, and thus in due time to reach a higher mark than it had ever previously attained.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

THE attempt made last Saturday morning upon the life of President Garfield has filled the whole civilized world with astonishment, indignation, and horror. No crime could possibly have been less expected, none was less excusable, and none less likely in the long run to subserve the ends desired by the miserable assassin. Whether or not the result will be as generally feared, is while we write still uncertain. It is not impossible that the wounded man may survive, though the chances are sorely against him. Should he be spared, he will in all likelihood become the most powerful President that ever occupied the White House, and may thus be able to accomplish for his country, and for good and honest government, what but for this dastardly assault would have been altogether impossible, or at least much more difficult. Should he die, as most seem to anticipate he will, then it is in the highest degree likely that the whole wretched "spoils system" will be buried in his grave. It would be unjust in the last degree to think that any of the President's great opponents in the late miserable struggle, which on their part has been so ostentatiously prosecuted for the meanest and most selfish purposes, had any hand directly or consciously in this attempt to remove the great obstacle to their triumph. But that their bitter selfishness, and their unscrupulous denunciation of the President and his proceedings have had a mighty influence in working up the wretched miscreant to the requisite point of hatred and determination seems to us beyond all reasonable question. They may not have considered what effect their language was likely to exert upon a weak, ambitious, disappointed, and unscrupulous partizan. That influence, however, was exerted, and they can understand the whole thing a great deal better now in the light of actual events. That selfishness, hatred and greed—though in this case displayed perhaps more impudently and more unblushingly than in any other previous political struggle, even in the States—could so blind any to the requirements of ordinary honour and decency as to make them not particularly indignant at the removal of one who was shewing himself intellectually, morally, and politically too strong for them, is not to be believed except on the most unquestionable evidence. Still, it is not impossible, and with a morality so low and a selfishness so impudent and unscrupulous as have been lately but too frequently displayed, it is not even improbable. Let us hope, in the interests of all, and especially of those who might on a narrow view of the case appear likely to be benefited by Garfield's death, that the President's life will yet be spared, and that there will be no reason for any except the would-be assassin himself lying under the odium which somehow or other would be likely in this case to attach to those who would be personally and politically benefited by what would then be an utterly indefensible and most scandalous murder.

THE Senate of Hanover College, Indiana, has at a late meeting conferred on Rev. A. T. Colter, of Clarksburg, the honorary degree of M.A.

CORRECTION.—By an oversight the name of Miss Machar in the open sentence of the report of the Woman's Union Missionary Meeting was substituted for that of Mrs. Machar, President of the Kingston Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

THE Board of Trustees of Fulton College, Mo., U.S., has, we understand, at a late meeting conferred on Rev. T. Gallaher, of Lagrange, Mo., U.S., the degree of D.D. Dr. Gallaher is well known in his own district and in some parts of Canada as an able writer and speaker on the Baptist controversy, and especially for his little work entitled "A Short Method with the Dipping Anti-pædobaptists."

BOARD OF FRENCH EVANGELIZATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

The following circular has been issued by the Board of French Evangelization to all ministers and missionaries. We trust that the collection this year will in every congregation be larger than in any former year.

ANNUAL COLLECTION, SABBATH, 17TH JULY, 1881.

Dear Sir,—By appointment of the General Assembly the annual collection on behalf of the French Evangelization Scheme of the Church will be made on Sabbath, 17th July.

From the report forwarded you will observe that encouraging progress is being made. During the past year 6,150 copies of God's Word, in whole or in part, and about 32,000 French tracts, were distributed by the fourteen colporteurs and Bible women employed by the Board. In twelve of the fields under the care of the Board there are mission day schools—including the central schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles, full particulars as to which will be found in the body of the report. During the past year thirty-five mission fields were worked by the Board; the total number of missionaries, teachers and colporteurs employed being fifty-five.

Did the funds at the disposal of the Board admit of it, from ten to twelve additional labourers could be at once employed in districts where there is urgent need of the services of French-speaking missionaries, and many additional schools could be opened.

While the estimated expenditure for the current year, on the basis of the staff at present employed by the Board, is \$34,000, fully \$6,000 additional will be required to enable the Board to take advantage of new openings and prosecute the work with that energy which its great importance demands.

We invite your attention to the following points.

(1) That the collection be made on the Sabbath named—17th July. Upwards of \$8,000 are required before the end of July to meet the salaries of missionaries, etc. then due.

(2) That the collection be taken in every congregation—settled and vacant; in every mission station, and in every preaching station connected with the several congregations and mission stations of the Church.

(3) That owing to the precariousness, from various causes, of a Sabbath collection, an additional opportunity to contribute be given, where there are no missionary associations, by means of subscription books or cards, which can be obtained on application to the Secretary. Your co-operation in this direction is specially solicited.

(4) That the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools be brought before your Bible-class and Sabbath-school with a view to the support of a pupil. Should they be unable to provide the full amount required (\$50 per annum), a liberal contribution towards this object is earnestly solicited. The Board are most anxious to increase the number of pupils to 150 next session.

(5) That, by instructions of the General Assembly, all collections and contributions for the work of the Board (including the Ste. Anne mission, of which the Rev. C. Chiniquy is pastor) be forwarded direct to the Treasurer, addressed Rev. R. H. Warden, 360 St. James street, Montreal, from whom additional copies of last year's report may be obtained.

We take the liberty of suggesting that on the Sabbath preceding the collection you give your congregation the substance of the annual report of the Board, with a view to draw out their sympathy and increased liberality on behalf of the Scheme, and that on this Sabbath special prayer be offered for the continued success of the work and for the outpouring of God's Spirit on all engaged in it. With an improvement in business throughout the country generally, and with the prospect of a good harvest this year, is it too much to ask an average contribution of \$1 per member towards this increasingly important Scheme of the Church?

D. H. McVICAR, LL.D., Chairman.

ROBT. H. WARDEN, Secretary-Treasurer.

P.S.—The General Assembly having enjoined that contributions be made in all mission fields, students and missionaries will kindly see that this collection is taken up at each preaching station supplied by them, and the amount forwarded, as soon as convenient, to the Treasurer. In vacant congregations the session will please attend to the matter.