

most sensitive of Anglican brethren; but the matter is of too much importance to be passed over silently. The conclusion has been arrived at that the number of adults received into the Romish communion by conditional baptism and subsequent admission to the other sacraments during the last twelve months in England amounts to about 2,100 or 2,200 persons, of which about half have been received in the provinces, and the other half in London. "The class to which these persons belong is almost entirely the upper, the middle, and the professional classes, including in a degree which has somewhat surprised us, the better class of shop-keepers, and not a few of the educated mechanics in some of our large towns. The number of male converts predominates slightly over that of females, and putting out of consideration London and its suburbs, we find that more of the higher classes—clergymen, independent gentlemen, professional men and the like—have been received in the Church at Edgbaston, by Dr. Newman or some of the Oratory Fathers of that church, than in almost any place in England; a singular enough comment upon the oft-repeated assertion of certain Anglican divines, that the head of the Edgbaston Oratorians is more attached to the Establishment than to his own Church." The *Register* will not give names:—"It is sufficient to say that it includes in its list two peers, nineteen Anglican clergymen, seven or eight university graduates, and many other persons more or less well known in their respective spheres and callings."

Continuing its commentary, the *Register* remarks that there has been a material increase in the number of Roman Catholic priests in the country.

"At the end of 1864 there were in England and Wales 1,338 priests; at the end of 1865 we find the number increased to 1,381; at the end of 1866 they numbered 1,415; at the end of 1867 they were still further increased to 1,438; and at the end of 1868 they number 1,489; showing in five years an increase in the number of our clergy of 151 priests in England and Wales. At the end of 1864 there were in England and Wales 941 churches, chapels, and stations; at the end of 1865 these were increased to 987; at the end of 1866 they had further increased to 1,014; at the end of 1867 to 1,082; and at the end of 1868 they number 1,122.

"The convents have gone on steadily increasing. At the end of 1864 they numbered 187; at the end of 1865 they had increased to 196; at the end of 1866 they had further increased to 204; at the end of 1867 to 210; and at the end of 1868 to 214.

"In Scotland the progress of Catholicism appears to have been very slight indeed during the last five years. At the end of 1864 we find 183 priests and 191 churches in the whole of North Britain. A year later, at the end of 1865, the number of priests had increased to 188, but the number of churches or chapels had decreased to 184. At the end of 1866 they had increased again to 193 priests and 193 chapels; and at the end of 1867 they numbered 201 priests and 201 churches or chapels, at which figures they remain to the present time."

The *Register* concludes by stating that it sees the Roman Catholic faith "steadily and not slowly making way."—*Christian Times*.

BRAZIL.—The case of persecuted missionaries has been brought before the notice of the Government, which has extended its protection to them. It is likely that religious liberty will be maintained. The principal obstacle is the malice of the priests.