

their effect on a nation's progress and prosperity. The great masses of the people in these countries, it is true, have remained Catholic, loyal to the Church, obedient to her laws, but the ruling powers have everywhere turned against her.

Take Italy with its anti-Papal Government since 1870, Spain with its anti-clerical ministries, France with its law of separation, Portugal with its atheistical Republic. It matters not in short what country you select, you will find that the secular princes or their cabinets have persecuted and crippled and endeavored to enslave the Church.

Not Catholic.

Surely then these have no right to be called Catholic powers when comparing the imperial greatness of various nations.

Nor can you call Britain at the present day a Protestant nation with her brightest men coming back in large numbers to the old Church. Germany is no longer a Protestant nation with her Centre party and over 25 millions of Catholics who surely exercise some influence upon her general prosperity. And as to the United States, of her a Protestant writer has said these remarkable words: "Catholicism is in a fair way to conquer her."

"We are confronted with the possibility of a Catholic America in twenty-five years!" And even at the present day the 23 millions of American Catholics are exercising a greater influence upon the destinies of their beloved country than the adherents of all forms of Protestantism combined, 60 per cent. of whom are practical unbelievers. A comparison then between Protestant and Catholic nations where their material progress and prosperity are concerned, is utterly impossible, rather might we institute a comparison between countries where the State has taken charge of religion and countries where the State has simply left religion to its own resources.

And what do we find? Wherever the Church is bound hand and foot

by law to the State, wherever a ministry of public worship curtails its liberty, wherever her destinies are guided by politicians, wherever religion, so to speak, is a department of State, there religion continually grows weaker. State interference and State patronage have ever made of religion, whether Catholic or Protestant something suspected, hated, and finally cast aside by the average individual. These are facts written large upon the chronicles of Southern Europe and South America.

Where Churches Free

But wherever the Church is not interfered with by the State, wherever religion is left to its own resources, wherever religion stands on its own feet, wherever it is able to deliver its message without fear or favor, there it grows stronger, there the undying words of Cardinal Gibbons are ever verified: "Where the Church is free, there religion blossoms like a rose." Witness the religious records of Britain, Germany and the United States.

Now let me draw your attention to a statement of Dr. Gordon's with reference particularly to Spain:

"I imagine," he says, "that Spain is the most thoroughly Roman Catholic country in the world. There are in Spain 3,000 monasteries and 100,000 monks and nuns. Many of these are engaged in secular pursuits, and, being free from taxation, are driving the native Spaniards out of business. What do you think of a Roman Catholic country where Roman Catholic monks and nuns cannot be guaranteed respectful treatment as they pass through the city streets?"

There is a commandment of the Lord which says: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." This is what Dr. Gordon failed to observe when he stated that there are 100,000 monks and nuns in Spain. This is absolutely untrue and after this what credence can be given to any of his statements.

According to the statistics of 1909 and since then the number has rather