

the chains of an ever-growing oppression. It has come to be without influence and without glory, in the midst of a people which has lost faith in its virtue, because the yoke imposed on its mind, its conscience, and its heart, condemns it to drag on a life which is one long lie.

"The Church of God is the plaything of a knot of ambitious and fanatic men, which, to assure itself terrestrial rule, contravenes the most legitimate aspirations of modern society. They have the Syllabus for their code: the ignorance of the masses and superstition for their end.

"Everyone knows that a critical hour has struck for the church of Rome. She is placed this day in the momentous alternative of either reforming herself or seeing the nations of the nineteenth century desert her altars.

"Monseigneur! for this long time, on account of that noble mother, my Catholic and priestly heart has been oppressed with grief. When the magnificent voice of the illustrious Father Hyacinthe and the wise Dollinger were raised, I leaped for joy. At once in my soul I hailed them as the heroic champions of evangelical truth, and the inspired apostles of the intelligent and free religions of the future.

"To-day I obey the voice of my soul, and fly to the worthy combat which is preparing.

"As a man and God's creature, I devote my faculties to the sacred defence of conscience and of reason.

"As a priest and Christ's soldier, I resolve to preach Him, and Him only, in His beauty and His sweetness.

"As a citizen of France, I dream of earning for my great and unhappy country, as for all other nations, the two noble possessions which insure the peace and stability of a people,—true Christianity and Liberty.

"Accept the assurances, etc.,

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3. — MONSIGNOR CAPEL'S GOOD WISHES FOR THE RITUALISTS. In a preface he has written for a newly issued book, Monsignor Capel concludes that the conversion (perversion) of England is yet far off. At the same time he feels

sure that considerable accessions will be made to the true fold. "It is certain," he says, "that the High Church party is preparing thousands whom we could never reach, for submission to the church. We wish them God-speed; for they are breaking down prejudice, and unwittingly bringing back our countrymen to the faith once delivered to the Saints." Such encomiums will do the High Church party more harm in England, than all the fervent denunciations of Lord Shaftesbury or the good Rector of Islington.

4.—We hear much of the rapid strides that Romanism is making in these days, and considerable alarm is expressed thereat. There never was a greater delusion. They make their converts appear numerous just as a theatrical manager makes his troupe of twenty appear to be a thousand, by marching them out at one end of the stage, and then in again at the opposite end, and so on, *ad infinitum*. In point of fact, Rome is losing ground everywhere except in England. She has gained a few thousands of the upper and clerical classes there of late years, through a combination of causes, chiefly the fact that the Church of England has always contained within its bosom irreconcilable principles, and has never made up its mind firmly and consistently for the great principles of the Reformation; but these few thousands no more influence the great mass of English society and opinion, than did the followers of Joanna Southcote, or the inmates of Mr. Prince's Agapemone. Look at other countries. Never was Scotland so thoroughly Presbyterian as now. Who ever heard of a Presbyterian Minister or Elder becoming Romanist? Whereas there are scores of congregations in Scotland, containing members who once were Roman Catholics. In Ireland the proportion of Protestants to the whole population is larger than at any other period in this century. In Spain, where, a few years ago, men were imprisoned for reading the Bible, there are now 16 Protestant congregations. In Italy, where, in 1855, except in the valleys of the Vaudois, there was not one Protestant congregation, there are now between seventy and eighty. An official return of conversions to the Lutheran State