

understands full well that the truly successful man has more to gain than the applause of this world. With all our endeavors to be successful in the eyes of men, let us never forget that earthly reward will pass away, and give place to a supernatural one which endureth forever, and for which we are all bound to strive.

GREAT CATHOLIC LAYMEN.

With the article on Garcia Moreno in this issue, the Owl offers its readers the first of a series of student-sketches of great Catholic Laymen of this century. We hope to be able to continue the series regularly, month by month and to thus present a fair idea of the influence our laymen have wielded, and still can and ought to wield in the cause of the Church and civilization. There are not wanting those who accuse our age of the grossest and most widespread indifference to everything high and pure and noble. No more cruel or lying calumny was ever uttered, and the prejudiced pessimists who father the charge are clearly too blind to see and too deaf to hear. There is no denying that there have been only too many evil influences at work in this 19th century, too many individuals and organizations, the sum of whose efforts made for the attainment of false ideals in politics, society and religion. But the same is true of every age. Man's inherent proneness to evil may be sometimes softened down into a milder and less dangerous form of wickedness, but it can never be entirely eradicated from his character and will inevitably show itself in one form or another. What is perfectly false, however, is the assertion that our century has been prominent for its profession and practice of false principles and at the same time altogether backward in the support and

furtherance of projects tending to the spiritual, moral and intellectual welfare of mankind. The charge is not true either in general or in detail. The whole world has several times this century been profoundly moved by questions affecting the higher interests of mankind, and has shown an active and intelligent appreciation of what might be called its fitting duty in the work of the elevation and enlightenment of the mass of men.

How true this appears when we come to consider nations and individuals in detail! We have no intention of going outside the Catholic body, nor, within it, of considering more than a few members of the lay communion. What a lustre the names of Frederic Ozanam, Louis Veuillot and Montalembert shed on the later-day history of Catholic France. Spain glories in her Donoso Cortes. Germany may well boast of her Windthorst. Marshall, Allies and William George Ward have done England a service, the extent of which she little dreams. Faithful Ireland has given to the world, in the person of Daniel O'Connell, the greatest layman, not only of his own country but of any country, not alone of this century but of any century. Coming across the water, we on this side of the Atlantic have nothing to complain of. Garcia Moreno in South America and Brownson and Daniel Dougherty in the North are sufficient to prevent the stigma of sterility from being attached to our American laymen. In the face of this array of God's best gifts to man, where is the room for pessimism, for useless lament and baseless blame? The Owl believes that a consideration—even brief and imperfect—of the lives of these men cannot but be beneficial to the student body, and indeed to its readers in general. As Father Faber says "It is hard to live in the bosom of great examples and be uninfluenced by them."