

predilections and national susceptibilities, by its unity and Catholicity in the distribution of its funds, and the supply of its resources.

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH IN AMERICA.

WHAT IT OWES TO THE SOCIETY OF THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

The state of religion in the northern part of this continent was, previous to 1840, very different from what it is in our days. Throughout the vast region called the United States, there were only five dioceses ; namely Baltimore and New-Orleans, which are as old as the end of the last century, Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, which dated from 1808. In the meanwhile, every year brought to the shores of the New World crowds of immigrants. To hinder them from being lost in the midst of Protestants who flowed in from all sides, the Holy See increased the number of dioceses : but the clergy were very few. The expenses of bringing over the missionaries whom the Bishops were always asking from Europe, of building churches and presbyteries, founding colleges, schools, and hospitals, had all to be defrayed. The immigrants were for the most poor ; where could the indispensable means be found ? The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was the providence of the infant church of the united states, and *there is not a diocese even amongst those whose present prosperity Europe might envy, which had not, in the first years of its existence, to call upon us for assistance.* Their Bishops have recognized solemnly this fact, and often, collected together in councils, they have sent us, with their blessings and their prayers, the explicit testimony of their