

always as considerate in the imposition of her duties? We think not.

But celibacy *fully carried out* would diminish population; and population after all is the only true riches of a nation.

We will admit all the excellence you wish to claim for population, but in your objection there is a factor introduced into the sum, which does not belong to the question. Celibacy *fully carried out*. But where is this *fully carried out* celibacy? Celibacy *fully carried out* or *universal* celibacy would not only diminish population but would *destroy* it altogether. But in the Catholic Church every man is not a celibate, and therefore your idea of universal celibacy is only a dream, a phantom. Nor does celibacy as carried out in the Catholic Church diminish population. All other things being equal, it is not found that Protestant countries are any more populous than Catholic countries. In fact in some countries formerly Catholic, but which have long ago left the Faith, it is found that there has been a considerable falling off in the population since religious celibacy was proscribed. Take Sweden for example; two hundred and fifty years ago she had three times as many inhabitants as she has now. Under paganism, amongst the Romans, celibacy of the clergy was unheard of, and yet at the present day, when ecclesiastical celibacy is in full force in all Catholic countries, the population of the world is far greater than it was then. All this proves conclusively that celibacy as practised in Catholic countries does not diminish population, whilst on the other hand, that universal celibacy dreamt of by our adversaries exists, and can exist, only in their dreams. When all men become cobblers the world will be coming to an end.

This fear of celibacy arises from an erroneous estimate of the workings of populations. Take a family in Montreal or New York, for instance. If this family remains in Montreal or New York amongst the depressing influences obtaining therein, it would in all probability at the end of three generations number only some ten or fifteen souls; if indeed it did not become extinct; place it on a fertile island in a good climate and it becomes a people. This

is observable amongst animals. A couple of rabbits taken from, or left in a warren would not affect the population of the warren in any great degree either one way or the other. But place those rabbits at a distance from their former home, and in favorable circumstances for food and shelter, and in a few years you have a warren. We have historical examples of this expansibility of populations. The horses which were brought to America after its discovery by the Spaniards did not sensibly drain the horse population of Spain, but they have expanded on the American continent into a huge horse nation, such, indeed, as they would never have expanded into had they been allowed to remain in their own country. And we have an example of this expansibility of populations in our own times and under our own eyes. The English sparrows brought to New York only a few years ago, and which have peopled all the Eastern States of the Union and are now fast peopling Canada (with sparrows) would undoubtedly not have expanded as rapidly, nor over as great an extent of territory had they been left in England. Here, then, we have an evident and well defined law of expansion. To what is it due? To the removal of the surrounding pressure. Now it is precisely thus that celibacy acts in Catholic countries. By removing a large number of priests and religious from the state of marriage, it removes the pressure and enables the other members of the community to rear and bring to maturity a corresponding number.

But even supposing, granted for a moment, all the injury to population which our adversaries claim, does not celibacy itself and does not the Catholic Church fully make good in other ways this diminution? There is undoubtedly no more fatal check to population than libertinism and immorality, and there is no more powerful protest against libertinism and immorality than that celibacy of the clergy and of the religious bodies which obtains in the Catholic Church. Why then do our adversaries, whilst exaggerating the diminution, ignore this protest? Is the Catholic Church the only institution illogically dealt with? If our adversaries have any faith at all in protests,