

tory broke upon the coast line of these two continents at exactly the same moment. The conditions for a comparison are perfect. If you desire to know what Roman Catholicism is—go into a Roman Catholic country. If you desire to know what Protestantism is—go into a country dominated by the spirit of Luther. Herein is the test of an actual experience. 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' Allow a generous margin for climate, drift of population and the strange eccentricities of circumstances and still you have a contrast so remarkable, that you immediately find in it, a strong confirmation of the historical results of four hundred years. Protestantism means progress. Roman Catholicism means ignorance, superstition and poverty."

National Prosperity.

First let us examine the common argument against Catholicism on the ground of national progress and prosperity.

It were unwise, of course, in this materialistic age to mention the fact that Christ never made wealth or material greatness a mark of His Church. To even a superficial student of Holy Scripture it is evident that exactly the contrary is the case. Christ said: The poor you will always have with you and the poor always have been with the Catholic Church. But the material progress and prosperity of a nation depends not upon the religion of that nation but to a large extent upon a multitude of considerations that have absolutely nothing to do with religion, upon the country's natural resources, the intelligence, energy and general endowment of the people, geographical position, and as Dr. Gordon himself admits, upon climatic conditions, drift of population and the strange eccentricities of circumstances. And a wide margin indeed may be allowed for these strange eccentricities of circumstances.

If we look back through history we find that every nation has had its rise and its fall.

Egypt, Assyria, Greece and Rome were once mighty nations, but they have long since gone down to their ruin. Will Britain, Germany and the United States be exceptions to the rule that never yet had an exception? Let us hope they will. Who would say that the Hebrews ceased to be God's chosen people, when in the days of their misfortune they suffered in Egyptian bondage or Babylonian captivity?

Who would say that the early Christians who worshipped in the dark recesses of the Roman Catacombs, professed a false religion because at the time they were not blest with material prosperity.

Again Spain was at the height of her power at the beginning of the 16th century when she was a truly Catholic nation and today when her government is anti-Catholic, as regards national prosperity, she is decidedly on the decline. History is there to attest that England of today cannot bear comparison with England before the Reformation, nor with a truly Catholic land at the present day such as Belgium. But this is no argument either in favor of Catholicism or against Protestantism. As a matter of fact, there is no possibility at the present time of finding a really Catholic nation to compare with a really Protestant nation.

Our opponents' method is to place Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and South America alongside Britain, Germany and North America, to calmly label the former Catholic and the latter Protestant countries, to gloat over the comparison and therefrom to conclude to the ignorance, poverty and general inferiority of nations under Catholicity.

But the conclusion is not logical, because the premises are false.

You cannot call France, or Spain, or Italy, or Portugal, or South America Catholic nations in the sense in which they once were Catholic and in the sense that is required for instituting a just comparison between the Catholic and Protestant religions in