

THE STATE OF CATHOLICISM IN SWITZERLAND (1889).

THE census for the decade between 1878 and 1888, taken December 1st of the last-mentioned year, furnishes us with the following relative statistics of Switzerland :—Total population, 2,920,723. Protestants, 1,724,957; Catholics, 1,190,000. Of the inhabitants of eleven out of the twenty-five states the great majority are Catholics, and in some of these the Protestants are in such minority as scarcely to count at all. Especially is this the case in the Canton Valais, of which the last census gives us a population of 865 Protestants against 101,013 Catholics; Appenzell Rhodes Intérieures, which counts 697 against 12,206 Catholics; Unterwald, 457 against 27,097; Schwytz, 109 against 42,289; Uri, 378 against 16,892; Zug, 1,394 against 21,696. On the other hand, the only two cantons in which the Protestant population greatly preponderates over the Catholic are Appenzell Rhodes Extérieures (4,502 Catholics against 49,555 Protestants) and Schaffhausen (4,813 Catholics and 32,890 Protestants).

The cantons where the two confessions are most mingled are Basle (city), 50,305 Protestants against 22,426 Catholics; Berne, 468,097 Protestants against 68,226 Catholics; Aargau, 106,408 Protestants against 85,962 Catholics; Thurgau, 74,282 Protestants against 85,962 Catholics; Geneva, even, of which my English readers will no doubt learn with surprise that the majority of the population is Catholic (52,817 Catholics against 51,669 Protestants). According to that law of solidarity which is one of the most mysterious laws in human life, the respective centres of the two communions created at the epoch of the Reformation have remained the