

Although other countries may be possessors of a splendid Catholic Press, yet the wreath in this respect must be given to Germany, which possesses the greatest Catholic Press in the world. It is distinctly militant in tone, and is the direct outcome of their struggle for freedom of education and religion. Political questions are discussed from a Catholic standpoint, and as the Catholic, or Centre party, as they are called, hold the balance of power in the Reichstag, their opinions are respected and their views upon the questions of the day are carefully and thoroughly read. Thus does the Catholic Press receive its enormous circulation; Catholic and non-Catholic alike peruse its columns. At the same time subjects of dispute in the Catholic doctrine are treated at length in a convincing style.

However, since the introduction of the Kulturkampf in 1875, the Catholic Press has become the daring defender of the oppressed Catholic masses. Their fearless attack upon the policy of Bismarck in regard to religion caused an unprecedented demand for Catholic reading matter. Thus in 1870 we had forty-nine papers in Germany; in 1900 we had two hundred and seventy Catholic periodicals, two hundred and seventy-eight daily newspapers and three hundred and fourteen weekly papers with Catholic owners. Among these the People's Newspaper of Essen has the greatest circulation, no less than fifty-four thousand five hundred persons subscribing to this daily paper. Other papers throughout the country give silent testimony, by the numbers of their readers, to the popularity of the Catholic Press in Germany.

From the fifteenth to the eighteenth century the ban against Catholics hindered the development of the Catholic ideals in Holland. Even under the dominance of the French (1795 to 1813) the Catholics could not rise from their humble position. They lacked spirit and energy. However, with the accession of William, they began the struggle for emancipation. In 1853 the Catholic hierarchy was established. Monsieur Lesage, a convert to the faith, was the father of the Catholic Press in Holland.

Newspapers and periodicals did not receive the best support that might be expected in Ireland on account of the disorder prevalent in the country. The famine, lack of education, penal laws and oppression of Catholics in every possible way prevented the