

children go to mass, and only 100,000 out of the 2,000,000 inhabitants of Paris? And how is it that out of ten millions of these "Catholics" five or six millions deliberately vote for atheists, or agnostics, as their representatives? If Romanism, under the name of Ritualism, triumphs in England, we shall see the same results. Already numbers of Evangelical laymen—grieved, abandoned, insulted in clerical newspapers, and despondent almost to death—have had their allegiance to the Church of their fathers rudely shaken and impaired; already many of them are being driven to worship in other religious communities, because they will not tolerate a Romish Church of England. Already multitudes, and even whole congregations, refuse to subscribe to diocesan funds which they fear may be expended in the promotion of Romish innovations. A few years ago many of them would have fought, heart and soul, as one man, to arrest the peril of Disestablishment; now they will scarcely lift a finger to avert the overthrow or humiliation of a Church which, in their opinion, is turning its back on the very principles of its foundation. For the same reason thousands of Nonconformists, and nearly all the Methodists, would now vote as one man for Disestablishment, which, even twenty years ago, they sincerely opposed.

But there is another class—a class, unhappily, of disastrous and ever-increasing magnitude—which will never accept such a form of religion as Rome or the Ritualists offer. It is not averse to the simple gospel of Christ, but it is now being driven into indifference. There are thousands in England, where fifty years ago there were only scores, in the upper classes, who now devote their Sundays exclusively to worldly amusements, who rarely enter a church, and scarcely ever dream of partaking of the Holy Communion. In the working classes such men may be counted by millions, and their numbers will steadily increase as Ritualism increases. England may be driven by Ritualism into infidelity, but I believe that she will have to reel back into barbarism before she becomes Romish, or again accepts the form of religion which the Spanish Armada would have forced upon us with stakes and implements of torture. On the day on which I write, Bishops and Churchwardens are assembling to denounce the Welsh Suspensory Bill. But what is the cause of the Nonconformist animosity to which the Welsh Suspensory Bill owes its origin? The Nonconformists in Wales feel no hatred towards Evangelical Christianity,