

Catholic commonwealths a grand and wholesome example.

Furthermore, the Belgium Catholics, for the last seventy-two years, have persistently, and at times heroically, combatted the most pernicious of all forms of secret and condemned organizations, that of the liberal theorists or *doctrinaires*, and while thus setting an example of perseverance and united action, they have had the satisfaction of seeing their efforts crowned with success.

But now with the late amendment to the constitution, there is a new factor to be taken account of. What the outcome will be of universal suffrage, even the most experienced and keen-sighted are unable to predict. It is true that the evil is somewhat mitigated by a *plural vote* given as a check to certain determined classes among the enfranchised, but this privilege itself extends to a very numerous body of citizens.

On the other hand, the socialistic leaders are roused to renewed activity, and very unfortunately they easily secure a hearing amongst the great masses of wage earners, many of whom, through the fault of their employers, are weak of faith and dilatory in the practice of their religious duties.

The great historian Rorhacher—it is now more than forty years ago—in speaking of Holland, wrote thus of the prospects of Catholicity in that kingdom: “The Dutch Catholics offer a spectacle unique in history. After three centuries of oppression, it was thought that they were reduced to a mere handful and had become more concerned with their worldly interests than with their faith. When lo! on a sudden, they astonished Europe not only by their multitude but by their zeal for the glory of God and of His Church. More honor to them!” (XII., p. 151).

Less excited than England, adds Mgr. Plantier, “herit-