

God forbid it. Rather may He draw those two great nations ever closer and closer together, uniting them by the powerful bonds of the same blood, a common speech and a noble destiny. Thus will the reign of law and order, of progress and liberty and common sense, be established over the earth, and we shall see that day of which the poet sang:

“When the war-drum throbb'd no longer, and the battle flags were furl'd

“In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.



THE CONVERSION OF ENGLAND.

During Holy Week, 1871, a deputation of the leading lay Catholics of England presented an address to the then Sovereign Pontiff, Pius IX. In it they expressed their unbounded devotion and loyalty to the Holy See and their utter abhorrence of the sacrilegious spoliation of the Papal States. His Holiness was pleased to deliver a most touching reply. It is worth while to recall a few of his remarks. Among other things, he said:

“I am filled with love, with affection, with gratitude, in answering the noble sentiments you have just expressed. The sight of you recalls to my mind one of my great predecessors—who loved you well—who loved England dearly—Gregory the Great. I am his successor. I cannot compare myself with him in virtues,

in elegance, in learning; but I in no wise yield to him in my love for you, for your country, for England. I have done all that was possible for me to do, in order to extend and expand the Church in that England which was once the Island of Saints, and which even to our own times has displayed so much power in the world and in society. I accompany you with my blessing. I give it to you with all my heart. I have already said that I love England; and I repeat that St. Gregory is my superior in science and virtue; but as to love for England, I am equal with St. Gregory. May my benedictions be with you throughout your lives; may they remain upon you, and upon your land and your possessions. O my God! grant that the Catholic Church may flourish in England!”

The prayer of the holy and venerable Pontiff has been heard and answered with a fulness that has surpassed the brightest expectations. Not only in Great Britain, but in every part of the world-wide British Empire, Catholicity is advancing and expanding with a rapidity that sets all bounds at defiance. According as the faith decays and dies in the so-called Catholic countries of Europe, it is becoming ardent, enthusiastic and aggressive in the British Empire and in the United States. Humanly speaking, the triumphs of Catholicity during the century that is just dawning will be won among the peoples of those two great nations. With the fine insight of a