

population--Roman Catholicism is relatively falling behind, and the several Protestant denominations are rapidly going ahead as elements in the population of the Dominion. To the Protestants of Quebec, however, the prospect is anything but cheering. They are overshadowed by a compact and colossal system of popery, which holds the balance of political power, and acting at the bidding of an Ultramontane hierarchy, menaces the civil rights of the Protestant minority. With the exception of the vast resources of the Church, however, the bulk of the wealth, as well as the preponderance of intelligence, and social and moral influence--especially in the great commercial metropolis of the Dominion, Montreal--is with the Protestant population. Still more conspicuously is this the case in the other provinces.

Amid the intellectual activities of the present day the Church which represses thought, free enquiry, and mental independence must fall behind in the rivalry with communities which cultivate and stimulate these potent elements of material and moral progress. The law of the survival of the fittest is inexorable, and the superstitious mediævalism of the Church of Rome cannot, in the long run, compete in this eager, active nineteenth century with mental emancipation of Protestantism.

N.B. - The publisher of this Magazine will give sixteen cents each for copies of the *February* number. Any persons having a copy with which they are willing to part will confer a favour by sending it to his address.

RELIGIOUS AND MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, M.A.

WESLEYAN METHODIST.

The Missionary Notices for March are full of interesting details from various parts of the Mission field. The brethren in India have great difficulties to contend with, but all are full of hope that the idols will be abolished, and that Jesus shall reign. In South Africa the Kaffir war has greatly impeded the labours of God's servants, but there is reason to believe that the sword will soon return to the scabbard. When peace is proclaimed much labour will be required to place the churches in the state in which they were at the outbreak. Transvaal is a fine field for missionary enterprise, but the low state of the funds of the parent Society forbid any extension at present. There is a decrease of three

thousand pounds in the income of the Society for the year ending March 1st.

LONDON.

During the last sixteen years ninety-one new churches have been erected in London and the suburbs. In ten years six thousand members have been added in the various Metropolitan circuits, and during the same period an addition of fifty-three has been made to the ministerial staff.

The Primitive Methodists stand next to the Parent Body, having increased during the same period twenty-six new churches, twelve hundred members, and nine ministers.

The Methodist New Connexion Missionary Society is about to send