

large contributions to others in course of erection—but what is this to the vast number built? If England has made fast advances in the faith; if Archbishop Manning has received during the past year in London alone 1000 into the one fold, if Catholicity is known and respected is it not due in a great measure to the Irish people. And if it is true that a considerable number of England's sons are now Catholics and are devoting heart and soul to carry on the work, yet, under God, the glory and the praise is due to those who have borne and who are bearing the burden and the heat of the day. And an English Catholic would be the last to refuse that meed of acknowledgement which is so justly due. If many of her best geniuses have been converted yet this would be like so many green spots in the desert, beautiful indeed, but only serving to show forth in darker colors the depths of the desolation by which they are surrounded. And to what cause are those conversions due? Chiefly to the power of prayer, especially to the prayers of the children of the slave of Melcho, of that great saint whose festival we celebrate to-day, who whilst performing the most menial offices, "when" as he tells us "saying a hundred prayers by day and almost as many by night, when he rose and prayed in the frost and snow and rain with the spirit of God warm in him" prayed for the conversion of those who had forced him away from home, comfort and friends; that prayer which his children have learned from him; that prayer of Jesus, desolate, persecuted, agonizing on the cross "Father forgive them;" that prayer for those who have injured us, which obtains swiftest audience at the throne of God; the prayer of those in whom the spirit of Jesus and St. Patrick lives, uttered so often in ages past and now again to-day which has brought the Mannings, Spencers, Newmans back to save England at last, and obtain of God in mercy her conversion, for fifty just are left.

A new empire is rising in Australia, and in it are 500,000 Catholics, an Archbishop, seven Bishops, Convents of Sisters of Mercy, Asylums, Monasteries, Colleges and Schools. The Church is already there on more than an equal footing with other denominations. The first sight that meets the eye on nearing Victoria, is Emerald hill and on its summit an Asylum. Like some of the old Irish Abbeys erected along the sea shore by Catholic piety as a refuge for ship-wrecked mariners, it forms the shelter of many a child who otherwise would be lost in that vast oceanic world. In the British possessions in continental Africa, the Irish Catholics hold their own. In India with its 20 Bishops, 900 Priests, and so in all the British possessions. And to whom is this due? I say it with gra-