

SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF The Grande-Ligne Mission.

Lord Macaulay, in his admirable essay on Leopold Ranke's history of the Popes, said, in 1840 : "The members of her communion (the Catholic church) are certainly not fewer than a hundred and fifty millions ; and it will be difficult to show that all the other Christian sects united amount to a hundred and twenty millions. Nor do we see any sign which indicates that the end of her long dominion is approaching." The sixty years that have elapsed since the great essayist and historian wrote those words have wrought wonderful changes in the religious world, changes that would need that magical pen to relate.

According to the most reliable statistics the respective figures have been greatly altered. Catholicism and Protestantism have become about equal as to the number of their adherents, viz. : two hundred millions each, figures which show that the progress of Protestantism has been much greater than that of Catholicism. In those sixty years Romanism has increased fifty millions in number, while Protestantism has increased eighty millions. If we take into account, not solely numbers, but general instruction, moral power, wealth, great institutions of learning, commerce, influence in the world, Protestantism is far in advance of Catholicism, and has, moreover, the promise of future greater ascendancy, as the distinguished economist, Emile de Laveley, has foretold.

It is always gratifying and inspiring to feel and to know that one is on the gaining side, however small the local forces are, if one forms a part of the great army of God's workers, who, in other quarters of the world, in great centers of religious activities are winning great victories for truth, righteousness and spiritual ascendancy.

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