

(*Universal Register.*)

THE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

(Continued from *last Number.*)

The following extracts from Protestant writers, afford gratifying admissions of the glorious progress of Catholicism, and of the "decline and fall" of Protestantism:—

Captain Marryat, thus quotes and writes:—
"Judge Halliburton asserts, that all America will be a Catholic country.

"That all America, west of the Alleghanies, will eventually be a Catholic country, I have little doubt, as the Catholics are already in the majority; and there is nothing, as Mr. Cooper observes, to prevent any state from establishing that, or any other religion, as the religion of the state; and this is one of the dark clouds which hang over the destiny of the western hemisphere."

Next, quoting Dr. Reid, he says, "It should really seem that the Pope, in fear of expulsion from Europe, is anxious to find a reversion in this new world; the crowned heads of the continent having the same enmity to free political institutions which his holiness has to free religious institutions, willingly unite in the attempt to enthral this people.

"They have heard of the necessities of the West. They have the foresight to see, that the West will become the heart of the country, and ultimately determine the character of the whole; and they have resolved to establish themselves there. Large, yea, princely grants have been made from the Leopold Society, and other sources, chiefly, though by no means exclusively, in favor of this portion of the empire that is to be. These sums are expended in erecting showy churches and colleges, and in sustaining priests and missionaries; everything is done to captivate, and to liberalise in appearance, a system essentially despotic."

M. De Tocqueville, noticing the same subject, draws very different conclusions as to the influence of the Catholic religion on the free institutions of the United States. "I think that the Catholic religion has been erroneously looked upon as the natural enemy of democracy. Among the various sects of Christians, Catholicism seems to me, on the contrary, to be one of those which are most favorable to equality of conditions. In the Catholic church, the religious community is composed of only two elements—the priest and the people. The priest alone rises above the rank of his flock, and all below him are equal. On doctrinal points,

the Catholic faith places all human capacities upon the same level.

"It subjects the wise and the ignorant, the man of genius and the vulgar crowd, to the details of the same creed.

"It imposes the same observances upon the rich and the needy; it inflicts the same austerities upon the strong and the weak; it listens to no compromise with mortal man: but reducing all the human race to the same standard, it confounds all the distinctions of society at the foot of the same altar, even as they are confounded in the sight of God. If Catholicism predisposes the faithful to obedience, it certainly does not prepare them for inequality; but the contrary may be said of Protestantism, which generally tends to make men independent, more than to render them equal."

"The voice from America," traces the influence of Catholicity to the same sources, and, in a very exaggerated strain, remarks—

"The Roman Catholic church bids fair to rise to importance in America. Thoroughly democratic as her members are, being composed, for the most part, of the lowest orders of European population, transplanted to the United States with a fixed and implacable aversion to everything bearing the name and in the shape of monarchy, the priesthood are accustomed studiously to adapt themselves to this state of feeling, being content with that authority that is awarded to their office by their own communicants and members."

ANNALS OF THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

November, 1844.

We hardly know at what part of this valuable miscellany to commence our extracts. America, China, India, and the Levant—all have equal claims upon the attention of our readers in these most edifying and encouraging narratives. We first take a view of the flourishing Jesuit Missions of Missouri, the head-quarters of which is St. Louis.

"Saint-Louis was founded, towards the end of the last century, by a colony of French Canadians. The Bishop of Quebec, at that time, extended his jurisdiction over the entire west of America.—Father Meurin, the last pastor of our Society at Cahokias, probably said the first Mass that was celebrated at Saint-Louis.

A series of pastors, the greater part French, succeeded each other till 1817.

His lordship, Dr. Dubourg, brought at that time several zealous priests from Louisiana, and Dr. Rosati, some years afterwards, was consecrated its first Bishop.

The city, for a long time thinly peopled, contains at present thirty-two thousand souls, the half of whom are Catholics. Every one agrees that it is