

number of mixed mariages recorded in the recapitulations of the dioceses of Omaha and Des Moines. No less than twenty-five per cent of all mariages contracted in the Diocese of Omaha, and more than thirty-three per cent in the Diocese of Des Moines, were "mixed." Surely, it cannot be that in these dioceses mixed mariages are encouraged by the ecclesiastical authorities! How, then, are we to account for this abnormal percentage?

Perhaps a few facts from a record which I have kept of mixed mariages coming within my personal experience as a priest will be helpful. In 1912 I was appointed pastor of a congregation numbering sixty-three families. In addition to these, I found within the limits of my parish twenty-nine "ought-to-be" families, of whom nineteen had forsaken the Church in consequence of mixed mariages. In the fall of 1915 I was given charge of my present congregation. Within approximately a five-mile limit I have twenty fallen-away families, of which sixteen are "mixed."

Did the readers of the *Fortnightly Review* ever hear of an Irish Catholic becoming a German Lutheran? I have such prodigy here, and the transformation took place when he took unto himself a Lutheran wife. He and his five children are faithful members of the German Lutheran church.

This and many similar facts go to show that mixed mariages are an evil, and those who encourage instead of opposing them, are helping to augment the leakage.

It is to be hoped that the correct number of mixed mariages in all dioceses of the United States will appear in the Official Directory for 1917. If truthfully given, the grand total will furnish food for reflection.

L'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles l'épiscopat et le clergé canadiens français luttent si énergiquement pour conserver la langue française au sein de notre nationalité, c'est pour préserver nos fidèles de cette terrible plaie des mariages mixtes, mal endémique qui ronge les catholiques de langue anglaise du Canada autant que ceux des Etats-Unis. L'expérience démontre que la langue française constitue pour notre peuple un heureux préservatif contre ce chancre de la foi du grand nombre des parties catholiques qui s'allient à des protestantes.

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— D'après le *Catholic Directory* de 1916, le nombre des catholiques en Angleterre et au pays de Galles est estimé à un peu moins de deux millions, soit un vingtième ou cinq pour cent de la population totale.