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Heaven on Earth.

IT is the aim of the Church to bring all men to obedience to the faith of Christ,—to revolutionize the world so that sin shall no more reign in the individual heart, or in the social system. Were the Bible ideal realized, were all true disciples indeed, did all live up to the Golden Rule, then there would be no violence in all our borders,—no strife, no dishonesty, no falsehood, no theft, no greedy rich men, no envious poor men. Fathers would no longer mourn over dead Absoloms, mother's hearts would not be broken by ingratitude and shame. War would cease, and nations would no longer need to waste their substance in defence against each other's supposed intentions of evil,—Well; the more fully and faithfully we do our work as a Church of Christ, the nearer we bring this happy consummation. The panacea for every ill is in our possession. The true "elixir of life" is within our reach. The only difficulty is in the hardness of the human heart. The Gospel of Christ is powerful even to overcome this hardness. Ever since the angels sang their blessed song when Christ was born, the echoes of that song have been thrilling human hearts and drawing them to Him who is Light, and Life, and Love. When He is acknowledged by all, then we shall have heaven on earth.

Note-worthy Statistics.

IT is not unusual now for Roman Catholics to claim that in the United States they have a population of 12,000,000, and that in a few years it will reach 20,000,000. Now, no R.C. Year Book or statistician of any repute gives a higher estimate of the R.C. population than *nine millions*. The immigration of Romanists has been very great, but it is now less than the immigration of the Protestants; and year by year the relative strength and volume of the two incoming streams is changing to the advantage of Protestantism. In 1850 the Roman churches in the United States numbered 1,245; Evangelical churches 43,072. In 1870, the numbers were 3,912, and 70,148. Sixteen years later, in 1886, the figures were respectively 6,910, and 120,944. These are the figures as regards church buildings, and they certainly are not discouraging to evangelical Protestants. The following figures regarding the relative numbers of clergy are equally significant: In 1850 there were of R.C. priests and bishops 1,302; and of Protestant clergy, 25,655. Twenty years later the figures stood respectively 3,966 and 47,609. Sixteen years later the figures were 7,658 and 83,845. To put it another way, the R.C. churches increased 12 per cent more from 1870 to 1886 than they increased in the twenty preceding years.