

The Catholic Press.



T the present time no question is deserving of greater consideration than that of the Catholic Press. Even while the work of destruction and devastation is going on, while a deluge of blood crimson the beautiful green of Nature, we behold various belligerents, Catholic and anti-Catholic alike, sending ambassadors to the Vatican to honour the Successor of Peter and to place their causes in a favorable light. And how was this change effected, and why did these powers give recognition to the temporal power of the Pope? In answer, we point to the Catholic Press to which we owe in no small measure this tardy but nevertheless gratifying recognition. These organs of Catholicity which have sprung up of late in almost every country exert great influence in the moulding of opinion among the Catholic and frequently also among the non-Catholic masses. They have reached this enviable position through their love of truth and justice. And though they are in some cases allied with political parties, yet we do not witness the species of yellow journalism so frequently found in other daily papers, the distortion of fact and misinterpretation of opinion. And it is of this energetic exponent of Catholic truth that we wish to speak.

Now the Catholic Press includes all newspapers and periodicals which are recognized as Catholic. These may be divided into two classes; first, those journals which are merely Catholic in tone, which view and treat questions from a Catholic standpoint, when we have the militant journals which defend and explain Catholic doctrine, practices and customs.

As early as 1493 we had papers, chiefly of a political nature, in Germany. But it was not until after the emancipation of Catholics that the Catholic Press in England began to assume a rank of equality with the other English dailies. In the middle of the nineteenth century, when religion became a paramount consideration, the Catholic papers shed their dormancy and stalked forth as the noble and valiant defenders of the Papal See. Before this time the Catholic Press had been languid, but in defense of its