

intelligence and activity. The traveller is at first confounded at what he sees. The cause to him is wholly incomprehensible. He sees the two cantons lying side by side, warmed by the same sun, their soils equally fertile, their people of the same race, and yet their bounding line has a garden on this side, and a desert on that. The traveller discovers at last that the same order invariably obtains—that the rich cantons are Protestant, and the poor cantons Popish; and he never fails to note down the fact as a curious coincidence, even when he may fail to perceive that he has now reached the solution of the mystery, and that the Popery and the demoralization before him stand related as cause and effect.”

A similar contrast is presented between the Protestant cantons of Switzerland, and the adjoining Kingdom of Sardinia. Says Dr. Murray, (Kirwan), “I passed from Genoa to Turin, and from Turin to Geneva through Chambery. About 3 or 4 miles from Geneva, you pass through a gate, leaving Sardinia behind you. In five minutes you are persuaded by the style of building, the appearance of thrift, the evidences of taste, of wealth, of intelligence, by the altered appearance of the people, the tillage, the mode of dress, that you are in a Protestant country. After spending a few days in Geneva, I passed through Bonville and Salanche to Chamouni. A few miles from Geneva you pass through another gate, and enter the Kingdom of Sardinia; and the exchange of decent houses for tents—of neatly dressed people for rags—of a self-sustaining people for beggars—and the appearance of crosses, priests, and pictures of the Virgin, soon convince you that you are within the dominions of Popery.”

But before surveying Popery in Italy, let us look at it in two countries which we have passed, viz: France and Spain. The former from its extent, central position, and resources, as well as the genius of her people, was meant to be one of the first of European nations. At the opening of European history she took the lead, and after a period of decadence she again assumed this position under Louis XIV. Since that time her progress has been steadily downward. Doubtless she is nominally richer than in the days of the Grand Monarque. But considering the difference in the value of money and the progress of Protestant States she is poorer, or at least relatively so.

A short time ago a M. Randot published a work called “The Decline of France” in which he showed the comparative position of France with the great Protestant States. From this we present a few facts. In 1816 the population of France was 30,000,000, and in 1848, 35,000,000. During the same period England had risen from 19½ to 29 millions, and Prussia from 10 to 16 millions. Thus, during that period, France had added only 1.7 to her population while the others had added 1.3. But more than this, by the last census of France, it appeared that the population had been nearly stationary during the period since the taking of the previous census, and in many districts it had decreased, while notwithstanding the large diminution in Ireland, that of the British Empire had largely increased.

Again, the shipping of France in 1788 amounted to 500,000 tons, that of England to 1,200,000; but in 1848 that of France amounted