

next year. The tongue and the pen, the pulpit, the platform, and the press, are all taxed to the utmost in this fierce propagandism. Even in New York city, in the free and Protestant United States, a Methodist girl has been abducted and is confined in a den filled with daughters of infamy, because forsooth, her father, a drunken Roman Catholic, has authorized the Priests to treat thus, an intelligent young woman of fourteen years of age! And judges and juries give no redress. If such an atrocity is perpetrated with impunity in New York, what may not be done in other places?

The boldness with which the Popish system is being pushed forward in Protestant countries is really alarming. It makes perverts in all ranks and classes, dragging away not a few from among the very clergy.

In England, Scotland, the United States and the British Provinces we witness the same plan of operations varied according to circumstances. The hierarchy and their tools scruple at nothing to get the control of the education of the young,—young girls especially. In Ireland they fought eagerly for a "Catholic University" over and above their well endowed Maynooth. They have left nothing undone to destroy the Queen's Colleges in Ireland where Roman Catholic students had to mingle with Protestants and breathe a liberalizing air. In all other countries, large and small, the same crafty selfish plot is being carried out as far as possible: for the word of command has gone forth from the Pope and it meets its response from all quarters of the globe.

It must be obeyed by every adherent of the Papacy.

We need not pause to point out the perilous advances made by the Church of Rome in connection with the development of "ritualism" in nominally Protestant churches. This movement is not without its effect in all or nearly all the Protestant denominations, and it must be taken into account whenever we study the signs of the times.

Popery is indeed a gigantic evil: it is a great enemy to the best interests, spiritual and temporal, of mankind. But there is a foe still more terrible and destructive buck-

ling on its armour for the day of battle.—INFIDELITY shows a front today in Europe and America such as has not been seen since the beginning of this century. Austria has flung away the galling chain of the *Concordat* but she has not taken upon her the easy yoke of the Gospel. The priest is despised and often treated as a pest, but the Evangelist is not accepted or sought after.—Materialism is in the ascendant, following in the bloodstained footsteps of a dark and cruel superstition. "We are all Darwinites," shouted the Austrian Parliament a few weeks ago when dealing with the educational question. Much to the same effect are matters in Italy. The Gospel makes but little progress, while the power of the Pope is decidedly on the wane. But it is in France we see the two antagonizing forces most sharply in conflict. The women are for the main part superstitious and subservient to the Ultramontanist influences: the educated men, especially the young men are not merely Infidels, but Materialists. "Long live Materialism" cried, without rebuke, the students of the French medical schools at recent public examinations. A bitter hatred of priests prevails in many quarters, leading even to attempts, in some cases to murder them. The Pope's antagonism to modern civilization is accepted as a proof that the "church" must be swept away as an obstruction and a nuisance.—In nominally Papal countries like France the christian religion is too generally identified with the "church," the priestly organization whose name is associated with much that is darkest and most tragic in human history.

Infidelity of the grossest kind thus pervades all ranks of society in Europe. The Protestant churches of the continent are by no means exempt. Even in France the influence of the Protestant church is neutralized by the painful divisions between orthodox and rationalist, and the same is true of German Protestantism. Coming nearer home we find Infidelity in its grossest forms lifting its head on high in scientific and literary circles in England, and creeping to the altars of the National Church. The "masses" too are to a deplorable extent