

## GROWTH OF RELIGION IN SCOTLAND.

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THE Scotch Catholic Directory for the current year is before the public. It contains valuable and highly encouraging information regarding the state of religion in Scotland, that once Catholic country. As the work was in preparation during the year 1892, it could not give more recent statistics than those of 1891. The Arch-Diocese of Glasgow on account of its greater numbers, may be allowed to take the lead. Its estimated Catholic population is 240,000, a fair proportion of the inhabitants, the whole population being 600,000. The figures contrast remarkably with the state of matters towards the close of last century, 1778. At that time all the Catholics of the great commercial city could hear mass in the comparatively small house of a comb manufacturer, by name Donald McDonald, and in that obscure place were not safe from molestation. On occasion of the excitement caused by the passing in Parliament of a certain measure of relief in favour of Catholics, the Presbyterian synod of Glasgow issued most wicked resolutions against "Popery," and the fanatical populace took it upon itself to execute them. Mr. McDonald's house was attacked, and the Priest who was celebrating mass there had barely time on the approach of the mob to conceal the vestments and other things connected with the mass. He then escaped into the midst of the mob, and shouted louder than any one else "where is the Priest?" Mr. McDonald's wife, although a Protestant, was badly used by the demented rabble, so severely bruised that she was obliged to take refuge in a friend's house.

As we proceed with the statistics supplied by the directory, the contrast appears still more striking. Instead of one Priest, who visited the Catholics of Glasgow at

rare intervals, there are now resident in the Arch-Diocese 155 Priests, 28 of whom are members of religious Orders, — Jesuits, Vincentians, Passionists and Franciscans. There are 68 missions, and 106 churches, chapels and stations. There are 187 departments of mission schools, with a corresponding number of buildings. The number of children presented at religious examinations is 32,055. In addition to these schools, there are colleges and academies, among which may be mentioned St. Peter's College, new Kilpatrick, St. Aloysius College, St. Mungo's Academy, conducted by the Marist Brothers. There is also a Reformatory for boys at Toll-cross, Glasgow. Industrial schools, that were established many years ago by the late venerable Bishop Scott, still remain, one for boys and another for girls. There are six Orders of Religious Sisters: Sisters of Mercy, Franciscan Nuns of the Immaculate Conception, with four houses, Sisters of Charity, with three houses, Little Sisters of the Poor, with two houses, and Faithful Companions of Jesus. The number of charitable institutions that have sprung up in so short a time is highly creditable to the Arch-Diocese. The directory mentions ten. — Magdalen Asylum, St. Mary's Orphanage, Catholic Hospital, Deaf and Dumb Institution, Asylum for Aged Poor, Home for Servants out of place, Day Feeding School, Children's Refuge, St. Vincent's Day Shelter, Asylum for Aged Poor (Greenock).

In all the other Dioceses, according to their extent and the number of their people, there are religious, educational and charitable institutions. In the Arch-Diocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh there are four Communities of Jesuits, and one of the Oblate Society, so well known at Ottawa. The Communities of Religious Sisters are more numerous. The Ursulines of Jesus, who impart a superior education for young ladies, and also minister to the sick poor, have houses at Edinburgh, St. Angelas, Portobello, and Berwick on Tweed. The Sisters of Mercy