

IT STILL MOVES.

By Very Rev. *En. McD. Dawson, LL.D. Etc.*



THE important movement towards the Catholic Church which originated many years ago at Oxford and Cambridge is still in operation. When it was first discovered that the Christian doctrines which were held and preached in the Apostolic age are professed and taught by the Catholic Church of our own time, the discovery was chiefly confined within the walls of the Universities,—*a trésor trouvé* for the learned. Time has brought a change. The light could not be concealed; and it was not long till it shone forth to the great delight of all who were conversant with the early history of the Church and the astonishment of those whose minds had been fed on the fabulous inventions which, in the anti-Catholic world, passed for history. The newly discovered knowledge, possessed only, at first, by a comparatively small number of learned and pious men, has since spread and widely spread, extending to all classes throughout the whole of England. Its diffusion has been attended with abundant fruit. At first, conversions were not uncommon, but mainly confined to men of learning and academical position. With the spread of knowledge their number has increased. It is now known that in each of the fifteen dioceses of England there are, annually, from 700 to 1000 converts, this shows an increase of the Catholic population within the last ten years of 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand). As it is customary in the Church to administer baptism and confirmation conditionally to all who join her communion, and a register of such administrations is kept in every parish or missionary rectory, there can be no doubt as to the accuracy of our statistics; and we state them notwithstanding the alarm they may cause in certain quarters, and the vigorous, and, in not a few cases, rancorous denunciations of everything Catholic which they may call forth. The more unsparingly such anti-Catholic literature is dealt out, the more widely is the knowledge of the Catholic religion diffused and its tenets adopted by a thinking people. The mere fact

of so many in each of the fifteen dioceses joining the communion of the Church, is a source of additional increase. Each convert has his neighborhood in which he necessarily exercises a certain influence, relatives, friends, acquaintances, among whom his change of convictions is discussed, the true state of the question made known, the wall of prejudice broken down, misrepresentation done away with, and new conversions, not unfrequently, brought about.

We are indebted to the Catholic Record of London, Ontario, for the following list of distinguished persons who have recently entered the communion of the Church: Mr. George Sheffington Ussher, a lineal descendant of the famous Archbishop Ussher, Protestant Primate of Ireland; Mr. George Parsons Lathrop, the well-known author, and his wife who is the daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne; Major-General and Mrs. Whinyates; Mr. Basil Lachmere, son of Sir Henry Lachmere, Bart. At a time when all England is venerating anew the memory of Nelson, it is interesting to find that the Hon. Edward Horatio Nelson has become a Catholic, making a third of the present Earl Nelson's sons who has taken the step. Viscount St. Cyres, the eldest son of the Earl of Iddesleigh, and a popular student at Oxford, whose conversion was prematurely announced, a year or so ago, and denied by his father, has now openly declared his adhesion to the old faith by taking an active part in the formation of Newman house in South London, which is to be worked by Catholic members of Oxford University on the social and religious lines laid down in the Papal Encyclical.

Among the ladies occur the names of Miss Stewart, of Ascog Hall, Bute; Mrs. Thornton, superintendent of Mysore College; Miss Charlotte O'Brien, the daughter of the late Wm. Smith O'Brien, M. P. No fewer than three matrons of London hospitals, as well as several in the Provinces. The latest clerical adherent is the Rev. Thos. Cato, of Oriel College, Oxford, being the twelfth minister of the Established Church who has "gone over" within a comparatively brief period.