

petitions on the subject were presented to Parliament, having 291,654 signatures. Many were weak enough to imagine that such a demonstration would check the progress of Rome; but they little knew the kind of enemy with which they had to deal. Rome had fully calculated on all the temporary uproar and difficulty which she must encounter, but was as confident that, if nothing else was done, the uproar would soon subside, and she be left in peace to prosecute undisturbed her struggle against our religion and liberties. To a large extent, unfortunately, her anticipations have been realized.

• THE REAL AGGRESSION STILL GOING ON.

The real aggression is now steadily advancing. The kingdom has, to a large extent, gone to sleep; and Rome has been gaining steady influence amongst our nobility and gentry in the Church of England, amongst our statesmen and in the country at large—nay, even over a portion of the public press. Her priests, trained at the public expense, are now being appointed and paid in many of our public institutions. Her chapels and monastic establishments are multiplying everywhere around us; she receives upwards of £300,000 a-year from the public purse; she is strong in all our colonies; and freedom of speech in regard to Rome is almost put down even in the Parliament itself; whilst our political parties are outbidding each other in support of Popery. It requires no prophet to tell that, if this state of things goes on unchecked, it must ultimately lead to the subversion of our religion and liberties. This may seem strong language, but it is the language of truth and soberness; and I ask if it was not in this very way that Popery acquired such triumphs as it did? It did not descend upon any of the countries of Europe in the form of a sudden and dark eclipse, but by a gradual progress of augmentation. Buildings increased, lands were acquired, agents were multiplied, until the whole machinery of a government was paralyzed and made subordinate to a system still paramount in many Continental nations; and concerning which our great Adam Smith says, that it is “the most formidable conspiracy that ever was formed against the authority and security of civil government, as well as against the liberty, reason, and happiness of mankind.” From the grasp of that system the Reformation, by the singular kindness of God, set us free; but a judicial blindness seems again to have seized upon our rulers, and upon a great mass of our people.

THE ROMANISTS BOLDLY AVOW THEIR PLANS AND OBJECTS.

The result is, that the emissaries of Rome are becoming again so bold and defiant, that they do not think it necessary even to cloak their schemes. They are perfectly frank in stating their objects and plans. At a late influential meeting of Romanists in Belgium, Dr. Wiseman frankly explained the process by which all classes of politicians in Britain are now made subservient to the progress of Rome. Here are his words:—“Observe, firstly, that we have not chosen the government under which we live, but we have considered it to be our duty to draw from it every aid possible. We have used the means which Providence placed at our disposal to ameliorate our condition. We have recognized two powers in the State—the Crown and the nation. We do not acknowledge any third power between these and us. Being thus placed, the principal object of our efforts has been to secure the necessary support in Parliament. But we are only a small group,—a family, so to speak. And how were we to procure a majority in Parliament? All England only sends one Member to the House of Commons. Yet we did not despair. Catholics observed that they found that, by combining their strength, and then bringing it to bear in favour of one side or the other, they could cause that side to succeed which appeared the more disposed to do them justice. Thus have we taught the two parties in the State to count the power of Catholics as something.

THE POPISH PRISON BILL PASSED BY PARLIAMENT

There is a wisdom in this which one cannot fail to admire, and we may give an illustration of the operation of this Romish screw upon our infatuated states-