

naries preparing for the priesthood, eleven or twelve colleges, a large number of female schools and nunneries, eight or ten newspapers, and, including men, women, and children, about two millions and a half of people who prefer the Romish Church. The increase of late years has been rapid; but it has been an increase by emigration from Europe not by proselytism.

Rome finds the United States to be a hard field. There are a thousand influences which give her trouble. First of all, there is a free press there, which is a great annoyance. Her followers are continually reading what is more or less dangerous. In the next place is there a freedom of speech on the subject of her claims, which is also very dangerous. In the third place dispersed Romanists in the rural districts, away from the visits of the priests are very likely to imbibe ideas and opinions from the Protestants around them which sooner or later, subvert the peculiarities of their faith. Romanists in the cities are also much exposed to Protestant influences, and can easily escape the notice of the priests which those who live in the villages find more difficult to do. The influences just named lead many Romanists to fall away, as Father Mullen said, in his letters to his friends in Ireland, less than two years since, after he had surveyed, during six months, the state of the Roman Catholic Church in America, from New York to New Orleans. Father Mullen supposes that there are not as many Roman Catholics in that country, by two millions, as there would be had they all remained in the bosom of Holy Mother Church, and their children after them, who were Roman Catholics when they went to America. This is probably an over-estimate by one-half. Still there certainly has been an 'awful falling away,' and it is going on still!

The free Schools in America have troubled Rome very much, and her Hierarchy have made violent opposition to them. At first they called them sectarian, because the Bible was read in them. And when they had succeeded in getting the Bible out of them, they pronounced them 'Godless.' Of late, their great effort has been to get what they call 'their share' of the School moneys; that is, a share proportionate to the number of their children, not to the amount which they pay in the shape of taxes, in order that they may have Schools of their own and teach in them such doctrines as they please. One thing is certain, they would have in them no Bible at all. But they have been defeated in these attempts in the States of New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, and Maryland.