

THE OWL.

VOL. XI.

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY, JUNE, 1898.

No. 10

THE PROGRESS OF CATHOLICITY IN NEW YORK CITY.

The recent magnificent religious and secular demonstration in honor of the Silver Jubilee of the Most Reverend Michael A. Corrigan, Archbishop of New York, has attracted a widespread attention to the marvelous progress Catholicity has made during the last hundred years in the great Metropolis of the American Republic. Now that the United States is engaged in a deplorable war with a Catholic European power, and since many there are who do not hesitate to characterize said struggle as a deadly conflict between Catholicism and Protestantism, at the same time making the strange, we might say irrational, assertion that Catholics should support, by sympathy, and word, and action, the European nation, it is, we think, well in season to remind everyone whom it may concern that the real life and spirit, and teachings, and hopes, in a word, the whole grandeur of the Roman Church is not exclusively a European, nor even a Canadian article, but may be witnessed in all its splendid vigor, saintly fervor, and Christ-like zeal in the hospitable Republic that is now-a-days so often and so maliciously maligned.

The scope of our article must necessarily be very limited. To follow

with any sort of exactness the rise and progress of Catholicity in New York, to record even briefly the heroic self-sacrifice and unflagging labors of its prelates, priests, brothers and nuns, as well as the admirable cooperation of its Catholic laity in the interests of our Holy Church, would be an undertaking far outdoing our abilities; it would fill goodly volumes, and would demand the scrutinizing patience of a lifetime. Our modest object is a brief look at the past and present of New York Catholicity with a view to putting in nutshell briefness the unrivalled grandeur of its faith-nourished vitality, and the brilliant prospects of its future transcendent glory. Any one specially interested in the subject will do well to peruse carefully the May numbers of the *Catholic World* and *Donahoe's Magazine*, where, in carefully prepared essays, the Catholic progress, and spirit, and life of New York, as well as some reasons for the actual pre-eminence of our Immaculate Church in that Metropolis, are ably and authentically discussed. The essays in question contain many items of weighty interest from the pens of men, who, by their talents, learning, and long experience in the New York ministry, are well capable