

of which I have the least knowledge of? If the ignorant scribbler, who puts forth all his home-acquired knowledge against us, thinks thus to pass himself in print as a first rate Divine, with our Gazette reading Hamiltonians, we shall shew him off to those of them who read our paper, and are not of the fanatical, bigoted, or prejudiced class, as a self-concoited, shallow-brained reasoner, an uninformed, and unscriptural controvertionist. Having volunteered the attack, he must abide the consequences.

The Rev. Mr. O'Flynn, from Saint Thomas, has been appointed to the Dundas mission—the Rev. Mr. Mills removing to Brantford.

RELIGION AND THE PEOPLE.

However much we may differ in judgment respecting the truth or falsehood of the various creeds which solicit our approval, yet all concur in the necessity of worshipping God, by some exterior demonstration of the will. No people, as far as these public signs can indicate, can allege a higher claim to the character of christian than the inhabitants of the United States, and yet in no country are the public morals so sadly depressed.—The churches are all crowded on Sundays; a Sabbath stillness dwells in our cities on those days of rest; a solemn precision of conduct characterises the inhabitants on the Lord's day, from the schoolboy to the deacon; the call of charity meets always with a generous response, and yet the newspaper comes the next morning with its history of four and twenty hours, and during that small fragment of life, what a multitude of facts take place to prove that the calm which we had admired was deceitful and that sin had labored as steadily as ever, beneath even the sacred shadow of the gospel! Gigantic efforts have been made to evangelise the whole length and breadth of the land; the press poured forth without intermission innumerable tracts and ponderous volumes, to induce the public mind to take the required direction, whilst through all the channels of society every prejudice was engaged, every interest enlisted, every social and political compact was invoked, to consolidate public opinion in a mighty effort to make the people of the United States the most moral and religious, as they were already the most free, amongst all the nations of the earth. The Legislatures were liberal in their grants of incorporations to sectarian societies; great districts of territory were exempted from taxation, to accelerate the progress of the gospel under the guidance of some favorite denomination; colleges were endowed, public monies, as in our own city, were appropriated to sustain particular institutions, the clerical character was respected, every public meeting was opened with prayer, and yet with all these vast resources, vice has moved rapidly in advance, leaving her competitor virtue to falter in the rear.—The zeal which worked such wonders for the spiritual conquest of the union, became too vast to be confined to our exten-

sive territory; it soared, and extended; it took the nations of Europe and Asia, the continent of Africa and the Ocean Isles under its patronage, and could it only be proved that the stars were inhabited, the same zeal would doubtless have culminated like the sun, and preached glad tidings through the "milky way."

What mighty advantages have accrued from this expenditure of treasure? What will the people say, the men who think, the men who have sense enough to know that a great cause must produce some great effect, what will they say when they ponder over the memory of scenes in which they were induced to act under the solemn sanction of religion, as they imagined, when they find that all has been dissipated like a mist, that nothing substantial has been left, not a monument to testify to the world that their zeal was not foolish nor their hopes deceptive? After the exercise of such vast energies to accomplish a particular purpose, with an unlimited command over wealth, amounting to despotism of the public mind, we now contemplate the works of Protestantism in the United States, as we would the broken pillars and crumbling arches of a city, which the earthquake had shaken to its basis, or the ravages of war had overthrown forever. The Catholic Church had no share in the work; she was not deemed holy enough to participate in such a hallowed revolution; her people were commiserated, and their conversion was a subject of prayerful consideration, and hence we looked on and smiled at the play, which had all the amusing and not unfrequently the grotesque characteristics of a farce; but as the closing scene approaches, as mobs and Jacobins crowd upon the stage, the indications are clear that the farce will terminate in a tragedy.

Will Protestantism, it may be asked, be brought like a culprit to the bar for crimes which it never sanctioned?—Surely not, though such has been the justice which has been meted out to Catholics. Of what crimes have we not been accused, of what infamous practices have we not been condemned by those suborned to betray us! Our object is to prove by the strongest testimony, testimony not presumptive but circumstantial and positive, that if the Protestant sects through all their contradictory and heterogeneous masses be the true religion, the pure offspring of the word of God, then their history for the past twenty years, and more especially since the recent developments of public morals, contradicts their preaching, and shows as plainly as facts can testify, that heaven has condemned their efforts, that their prayers have not been heard, that the circulation of their Bible has produced no good, that their dominion over the public heart has not suppressed its passions nor corrected its vices, that God does not bless the labors of those who are engaged in the diffusion of his truth! Here is an inconsistency which affect not only earth but heaven, whereas if we conclude that a system of faith which has no certainty but the multiplied conjectures of winds respecting the signification of a book full of celestial meaning "hard to be uttered" and "hard to be understood," if we conclude

that "a house divided against itself must fall," that the everlasting changing of the understanding respecting the true import of the Scriptures; discreditable to reason and offensive to God, then may we safely conclude that the disastrous career of Protestantism and its inability to control the vices of what one of our papers calls a "Protestant land," is to be attributed to the fact, that its mission was human, that it is of modern growth, that God was not its author, and consequently, like the fabled Sisyphus, it is engaged in rolling an idle stone to the summit which will wound its followers by its rebound, without terminating their labor.

The countries in which the reformed creed took strongest hold, are now the most sceptical in their devotion to its doctrines. The reason of Germany despises it; Prussia has altered its doctrines with less care than a figure in chess, as if she thought such a religion was a part of the political game which Monarchs play; France has dismissed it with a smile, Holland holds it secondary to her gold, England thinks it would have been better if she never had cultivated its acquaintance, and Ireland indignantly hates it. How it will consummate its course in America the progress of events is fast and plainly defining.

No wonder, then, that so many are looking for the "old," no wonder that the nations fatigued by the burthens which it has heaped on the shoulders of the poor, are struggling to cast it aside. The mind is left without any safeguard which professes it and the only balm which its professors can find to soothe the fiery torture of the conscience, is the infidel precept, that it matters not what you believe if your lives be moral. Hence every species of inconsistency, every possible diversity of sentiment, every variety of confusion in which thought can range, is honored with the name of the "reformed religion," and the character of the divinity must be sponsor for its integrity and he must say that "it is good"! That such a creed should be fruitless in good is natural; that God could be its author is blasphemy, that it will perish is certain.

Telegraph

CATHOLICITY ABROAD.

The latest intelligence connected with religion which has been received from China informs us that Mgr. Ignace Delgado, vicar apostolic, together with his coadjutor and twenty other Christians, have received the crown of martyrdom in that country.

Mgr. Maximus Mazlum, Patriarch of the Greek Catholics of Antioch, Alexandria, and Jerusalem, lately published an encyclical address, from Constantinople, to all the Archbishops and bishops within his jurisdiction, on the occasion of the troubles which afflicted the Christians of Lebanon. He has ordained—That during ten years the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered in all the parochial churches, together with the office for the dead, for all Catholic Christians who have perished in the unjust war excited by the Druses; and this to be done as well for the eternal repose of their souls as to honour their memory, which shall never be extinguished, for the memory of the just shall be blessed, and his name shall live eternally, because the death of His saints is precious before the Lord."

L'Union Catholique, a religious journal lately established in Paris, makes the following remarks in reference to the above events:—

"While the church bears witness with joy to this effusion of the blood of her children, her missionaries are spreading themselves over the whole surface of the globe, and gaining for her new disciples and followers. The Right Rev. Dr. Polding, Bishop of Sydney, in New Holland, already numbers, amidst the 200,000 inhabitants contained in the colonies over which he presides, more than 80,000 Catholics, a great number of whom are convicts, whom he has been happy enough to rescue from heresy, and from their sinful courses of life.

"In Africa, the Right Rev. Dr. Griffith, the Catholic Bishop of the Cape of Good Hope, has already extended his apostolic visits even amongst the Caffres and Hottentots.

"And there is not, even to Protestantism, any religion which, by the exhibition of its contradictions, does not propagate in its own way the Catholic faith.

Thus has the aspect of the confusion which reigns in the Helvetic Confederation not a little contributed to develop in Geneva, the very centre of error, a truly Catholic party, which is seeking to manifest itself in the elections for the new constitution. Let us hope that it will have, at least, some weight in the balance!

"On the other side in Holland, which sends us most valuable statistics, the ancient Catholic Society now shows itself with increased power in a country buried for so long a time beneath the waters of the Reformation, and out of 2,600,000 inhabitants that it contains, there are found to be at present no less than 1,100,000 Catholics, while the remainder are divided into no less than 300 distinct sects. This tendency in the Netherlands towards a unity in religion will probably be productive of important consequences in the political government of the country."

The following is an extract of a letter from Switzerland:—

"You are already aware of the movement which has taken place in Geneva, in the very bosom of Radicalism; but perhaps you do not know that it has had for a cause, or for a pretext, the affair of the convents of Argau; and yet so it is.

"There were in Argau four convents of men and four of nuns. The Argovians consented to re-establish three of the latter convents, but not the others, and the government of Geneva acceded to the destruction of all the convents of the men, but required the four female convents to be restored.

"In the meantime, the Radicals of Geneva declared themselves satisfied with the concessions made by the Argovians, and taking advantage of the prejudices of the Protestants against the convents, they declared with violence against a government which was the protector of nuns, and combining easily this grievance with others which they had till then worked upon without success, they succeeded in making a sufficient number of the Protestant population join them in organising the commotion, from which the revolution has proceeded."