

there was no such a thing as a Socialist in the United States. In 1908 the Socialists polled almost half a million votes. They have two daily papers, one in Chicago and another in New York City. They have almost a hundred weeklies and monthlies, and an ever-increasing stream of pamphlets is constantly being turned out from their presses everywhere throughout the country. They are growing in numbers and influence, and the real secret of that growth rests upon the effective use of the simple, commonplace, old-fashioned printers' ink. Now it is barely possible that there is a lesson for us in the two striking facts to which we have just called attention. The lesson of course bears on this overlooked subject of printers' ink. It is a lesson, too, which has been hammered into us by constantly recurring events during the last four hundred years, but it is hard to convince many of us that such is the case. Two out of every three Catholic heads of families have no use for a Catholic paper. They do not believe in it. A daily or weekly secular paper is good enough for them, and there is little use in trying to reason or argue with them. It is pretty hard to get out of an old rut, and there are quite a few people plodding along in that old rut, still believing that the Catholic Church can hold her own merely by word of mouth. With countless printing presses revolving and turning out every variety of anti-Catholic literature they still labor under the hallucination that talk cuts a big figure. Yes, just about as much as Mrs. Partington's broom did with the resistless Atlantic.