

"PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME IN ENGLAND."

The *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* referring to a letter from the Secretary of the Irish Society, under the above heading, calling in question the desponding tone of the *Tablet* on the progress of the Roman Church in England, and giving extracts from a recent sermon by a Roman Bishop published in the *Catholic Times*, says:—

The controversy affects three points—(1) the credibility of the several witnesses; (2) the "plant" of the Roman Church in England; and (3) the actual numbers of that communion. As for the first point, against the Bishop's magniloquent oration, must be put (setting aside entirely the statements in the *Tablet*) the authorized numbers of that Church as given in the "Catholic Directory" of the current year. Bishop Vaughan states the Roman Catholics in the United Kingdom to be 1,700,000. The *Directory* puts them down as 1,354,000. Here are two conflicting statements. Which of the two is to be the more relied on? It is a question of the authority of evidence. Secondly, as to "plant," there can be no doubt about the increase in the number of priests and religious establishments in Great Britain. There is more of these than ever before: it shows an increase in the expenditure of means, but is no evidence of the necessary increase in the adherents of the Anglo-Roman Church. It has been always Rome's tactics to make a great outward show. Now as to actual numbers. In addition to what has been said above, our readers will note that Dr. Vaughan estimates the Roman Catholic population of Lancashire alone at *half a million*, leaving, by his own figures, only one million two hundred thousand for the rest of the United Kingdom. The Irish Roman Catholic immigrants in England are certainly more than a million; and if to these we add French and Italian immigrants, we reduce the actual English Roman Catholic population to a very small figure indeed. If the Roman Catholic population had increased in the same ratio with the rest of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom, the actual figures should now be 2,360,000, and thus greatly in excess even of Dr. Vaughan. In a question of this kind the most accurate statistics, because entirely unbiassed, must be those of the Registrar-General—and what do they show us? The largest number of Roman Catholics was found in 1853, when they were 5.09 of the entire population; but every decade since has evidenced a decline until 1885, when they were only 4.13 per cent. In other words, fifty years ago they were about one-third of the population of the United Kingdom; now they are only one-seventh; that is to say, they are at least a million short of the numbers they should have reached by ordinary progression. The fact is, a perpetual drain is going on from the Roman communion in England, as has been acknowledged by both the *Month* and the *Tablet*. The break in the stream of conversions to Rome has of late been very remarkable, and there can be little doubt that the advance of the English Church in her regard for the ritual of Divine service, and the spread of the doctrines of the Catholic Church, have been of great service in checking the proselytising movement, and even in winning back converts from Rome. Men like Mr. Bell-Cox have been very successful in this direction.

A list of "Converts to Rome"—Rome's recruits from the educated classes within the last forty years—was made out some time ago, and created a little stir, but when all was told what did they amount to?—the paltry figure of 1,900—not very much more than the congregation of a single fairly large church in Dublin, to be set down to the credit of the 2,671 Roman ecclesiastics labouring for the "conver-

sion of England!" We do not think, therefore, that our correspondent need feel much alarm at Dr. Vaughan's most questionable figures. If truth is to be told, the danger is more imminent with ourselves, where we believe a much larger number have been lost in proportion to the Church of Ireland, and where there is every reason, therefore, to strengthen the work of the Irish Society, and to have our people well grounded in the true Catholic faith.

We may observe that in Scotland, where the Papal Church has to deal with the Presbyterian system, it is relatively stronger than in England, where it is face to face with the Catholic faith.

A NOBLE TESTIMONY.

The late Edward Corderoy, Esq., a highly esteemed merchant in London, was once called upon to address a meeting of several thousands in Exeter Hall, on the question of Sunday Rest, and in the course of his telling remarks, which were listened to with the deepest interest, he said:—

"I knew a man once, who honored the Sabbath day. He was the manager of large works for a Government contractor, and had to pay some hundreds of men on a Saturday night. I think it was at a time, when, by a change in the coinage, some temporary works were required in haste. His employer told him he must work on Sunday, and have his men in the yard. 'Sir,' replied he, 'I will work for you till twelve o'clock on the Saturday night, but I dare not work on the Sabbath. I have a higher master to serve.' 'George,' said the master, 'my back is not so broad as yours, but I will bear the blame.' His foreman told him, 'There is a day coming when each must give an account for himself,' and firmly, but respectfully, he declined to work on the Sabbath.

"Yet that man was but a servant; he had a wife and six children; had he lost his situation, he had nothing but his character and his skill as a workman to sustain him. You would say: 'Oh, yes, he had far more; he had the blessing of the God of the Sabbath.'

"The Sabbath morning came—who that witnessed the sight ever could forget it? The men assembled and went to work under other orders than those they were accustomed to receive. This good man assembled his family—the Scriptures were read—prayer was offered—the frugal meal was despatched—and then, father and mother, and the six children left the yard (for they all lived on the premises) in the sight of the assembled workmen, and walked solemnly to the House of God.

"I thank God that that working man was my father!

"The situation was not lost; the God-fearing working man was all the more honored and trusted because of his religious consistency. He closed the eyes of his employer when the friends of more prosperous times had nearly all forsaken him. The family my father served consisted of four brothers, the eldest of whom was buried with honors in Westminster Abbey—my father attended the funeral of the youngest in an ordinary graveyard, and none were found to erect a tombstone!

"My friends, *whatever of prosperity* has been vouchsafed to my brothers and myself, I unhesitatingly attribute, under God, to that honored father's instruction and example, who would not break the commandment to 'Keep holy the SABBATH DAY.'"

To any one sending us \$1.70, with the name and address of a NEW subscriber, we will send a copy of Little's "Reason's for being a Churchman," the price of which *alone* \$1.10.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX.—EASTER MEETING.—*St. Luke's Church*.—The annual cash statement was read which showed the receipts for the year to be \$7,407, expenditure \$7,437, liabilities \$678 and assets \$150, was adopted. The estimated expenditure \$4,413 and receipts \$4,528, were also passed. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz., Messrs. Maynard Bowman and C. M. Creed, churchwardens.

J. T. Wyld and W. C. Silver, delegates to synod.

The resolution passed by the vestry in reference to the death of the late bishop was endorsed. It was resolved to co-operate with the metropolitan, through Dr. Partridge, in welcoming the new Bishop. The meeting then adjourned, and, according to notice, met again immediately for the election of a rector. W. C. Silver was appointed chairman. It was resolved: "A vacancy having occurred in the rectorship of the parish by the resignation of the late rector, F. R. Murray, that his successor shall not be appointed thereto until the 1st of December next, or (if the bishop consents and the election can be legally postponed, so that parishioners shall not forfeit their privileges) until Easter next." It was also resolved that Rev. W. B. King be appointed priest in charge of the parish monthly, viz., from the 1st of April to the 1st of December, or until Easter next, if the bishop consents, on the terms stated in the wardens' estimate for the ensuing year.

St. Paul's.—(Rev. Dr. Hole, rector). The annual statement of *St. Paul's* showed the receipts to have been \$8,407 and the expenditure \$8,473, which does not include \$4,694 special collections, etc., collected and expended as additional expenditure during the year. The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year, is \$8,500, and the receipts \$8,000. The statement and estimates were passed. The envelope system was adopted. The question of introducing the surplice was discussed, but it was decided to make no change at present. Officers were elected as follows:

Wardens—Robt. Taylor and C. C. Blackader. Judge Ritchie and Mr. Robie Uniacke were appointed delegates to the synod and Dr. Slayter and Thos. Ritchie substitutes.

St. George's.—(Rev. Dr. Partridge, rector). Spent according to the statement, \$3,930 and collected \$3,948. The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year is \$4,538. \$589.26 to be raised by special effort. The estimates and financial statement were passed and considerable business of a routine character transacted. The following officers were elected:

Wardens—C. W. Remnells and W. Bennet. Delegates to Synod—Messrs. J. J. Hunt and D. H. Whiston.

St. Mark's and St. John's.—(Rev. N. LeMoine, rector). The annual statement shows *St. Mark's* to be in a very healthy state, for the first time in its history it is out of debt and has a balance to its credit of \$140. During the year about \$2,300 was collected. They paid \$550 of old debts and wiped off between one and two hundred dollars of bad debts. *St. John's* Church after paying all expenses has \$300 to its credit.

Wardens—Messrs. H. F. Worrall, E. Stubbing.

An Entertainment in aid of the building fund of *St. Mark's* Church was held last week in *St. Mark's* Hall and was a great success. Alderman Worrall presided. The musical part was taken part in by Mrs. Le Moine, Miss Worrall, Miss K. Black, Miss L. Bond, Mrs. Flint, Miss A. Curren, Messrs. A. D. Wiswell, A. DeB. Tremaine, George Burgoyne, J. Godfrey Smith, Marshall Black, F. Jackson, and Mr. and Miss Stubbing. We are glad to see increased ac-