

PROGRESS OF ROMANISM IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The most noteworthy advances made by the Church of Rome in England have resulted from the development of the Popish germs in the Established Church. Ritualism is the bud; Romanism is the blossom. Mediævalism is the root; full-grown Popery is the fruit. Scores of the Clergy of the English Church, and considerable numbers of the aristocracy, pass year by year from the Anglican to the Roman communion. The impression thus gains ground that there is a rapid increase of Popery.

Facts do not warrant the impression that Romanism is really gaining ground in Great Britain and Ireland. From statistics recently published we learn that in 1801 the entire population of the United Kingdom was between fifteen and sixteen millions. At that time there were in Ireland about four millions of Roman Catholics, and in Scotland and England about three hundred thousand,—being in all about 27 per cent. of the whole population. This is the way in which matters stood at the beginning of this century. Let us come to 1869. The population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has increased to nearly thirty-one millions.—The Roman Catholics in Ireland number 4,327,000; in England about 984,000, and in Scotland about 300,000; making in all about 5,600,000. This gives the Roman Church only 18 per cent. of the whole population in 1869, whereas she had 27 per cent. in 1801. The Roman Catholics increased during this period of 68 years 28 per cent.; while the increase of Protestant Churches reaches 120 per cent. The large increase in the Romish population of Scotland and England is mainly owing to the migration of the Irish people to the large cities and to the mines and factories of these countries. In the face of these facts Archbishop Manning must require a good deal of assurance to prate and preach about the "Conversion of Albion."

The Roman Catholic population of Europe numbers about 136,000,000; the Protestants and the Greeks number 144,000,000. The Church which calls itself

Catholic and boasts of its vast numerical strength, does not really number in its ranks one-half the nominal Christianity of the world!

The countries of South and Central America are Roman Catholic—intensely so—although not up to the mark of Roman Ultramontaniam. But the influence of these countries on the destinies of the world is very slender. They are not powerful and progressive nations. Looking to British America we have a fair and growing majority of Protestants. In the United States there are not at the outside, more than five millions of Roman Catholics, while the Protestants number nearly thirty-five millions. There are now in the States, as admitted by a Roman Catholic organ, at least ten millions of persons born of Catholic parents, but who are no longer adherents of that Church. Two thirds of the children of immigrants from Ireland and other Popish countries leave the religion of their parents. The Common Schools, the Bibles, the general enlightenment of the country, are fatal to Romanism, except where its disciples congregate in the heart of great cities.

Were we Roman Catholics we would be compelled to look, as the world now is in a most hopeless case—as far behind what it was three centuries ago. Thank God! there has been real and great progress in spite of Popery; and the rate of advance is increasing year by year.

EVANGELIZATION OF SPAIN.

For a lengthened period the vast empire of Spain has been groaning and struggling under a grievous captivity. When the kingdoms of Europe were at liberty to choose between freedom and bondage, she voluntarily placed herself under the galling yoke of the most abject slavery. Ever aspiring and doubtless cherishing the fond illusion that she would yet become the mistress of the world, she made choice of the Papacy, thinking that thus her dream would become a reality. Previous to this time the career of Spain was a most hopeful one. Being a powerful nation her terri-