

## LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE AT HOME AND IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE people may well lose confidence in political leaders and newspapers when they see Disraeli and such newspapers as the Auckland 'Southern Cross' putting forth the silly and extravagant nonsense they do, for the purpose of raising a No-Popery cry. Their efforts will prove vain for the best of reasons: the mass of the people are too well educated and too thoughtful to be gulled with such nonsense. They know what Roman Catholics are, and what they are not, better than Disraeli or the Auckland 'Cross' can tell them. They know that Roman Catholics have a common interest with other denominations to secure justice and good government—to obtain protection for the poor and weak against the rich and strong. The people are learning every day that the Catholic Church is the poor man's best friend. The fusion—political fusion of Roman Catholic people with other denominations, and a good understanding between them, will strengthen the power of both. It is such a fusion and good-will, and confidence that the Disraeli's and certain Auckland newspapers fear—if we may judge from their artful efforts to create suspicion and ill-will among them by circulating sensational stories, or fables, about Roman Catholics "conspiring against liberal progress and civil society." Conspirators—Catholic conspiracy! what awful words; and how well are they calculated to tell on the minds of the ignorant and fanatical Protestant! Disraeli and the 'Auckland Cross' know well what would likely be the consequence to us if they could only persuade any considerable portion of our fellow-citizens that we are "conspirators;" and our bishops and clergy "sacerdotal usurpers." The very fact of Disraeli and the newspapers of the Auckland 'Cross' and Dunedin 'Star,' and 'Guardian' school making such frantic attempts to raise a No-Popery cry, and by such foolish stories, shows how sensible they must be that the Catholic cause is triumphing gloriously. Not all the frothy declamations or cunning of Disraeli can now arrest the progress of Catholic sentiments throughout the British dominions. He, and his satellites in the Press, great and small, may as well give in at once and "go over to Rome." The spirit of the age will force them either into Catholicism or Atheism in the end—there is no middle course. Home Rule for Ireland is at hand; even the London 'Times' has come to see that and is resigned. A great university in Dublin, another in London under the auspices of learned ecclesiastics, and noble and wealthy English and Irish Catholic laymen—these are events which are "casting their shadows before them," and emphatically contradicting the fables in the Auckland 'Cross' and other newspapers of this colony about the Catholic Church being hostile to "liberal progress;" to all improvement in morals, politics, art, science, and literature. Shame on such slanderers!

## THE CREEDS OF THE CHIEF COUNTRIES.

As it is of interest at the present time to know the relative proportions of the creeds of the world, and the proportion of religious liberty granted by the various Governments, we have copied the following article from the 'Boston Pilot,' by which journal the facts and figures from the latest official sources have been compiled:—

The German census of December 1, 1871, showed the religious division of the population of all the States composing the German Empire as follows:—Protestants, 25,581,709; Catholics, 14,867,091; Christian sects of various denominations, 197,553; and Jews, 512,171. In Prussia, 65 per cent. of the people were Protestants, and 33½ per cent. Catholics; while in Bavaria, 74 per cent. were Catholics, and 27½ per cent. Protestants. In the Reichsland of Alsace-Lorraine, 80 per cent. of the inhabitants were Catholics, and 17½ per cent. Protestants.

The State religion of Austria is Catholic; but there is complete toleration for all religions. According to the returns of last census, rather more than 66 per cent. of the inhabitants of the Empire were Catholics, while of the remainder, 11 per cent. were Greek Catholics, 10 per cent. Protestants, and 9 per cent. Byzantine Greeks.

In Belgium, the Catholic religion is professed by nearly the entire population of upwards of 5,000,000. The Protestants do not amount to 13,000, while the Jews number less than 1500. Full religious liberty is granted by the Constitution, and part of the income of the clergymen of all denominations is paid from the national treasury. The amount thus granted in the budget of 1870, was 4,568,200 francs to Catholic priests; 69,336 francs to Protestant ministers; and 11,220 francs to Jews; being at the rate of 1 franc per head for the Catholics, of 5 francs per head for the Protestants, and of 7½ francs for the Jews.

The established religion in Denmark is Lutheran, with full religious toleration. In 1870 there were only 1857 Catholics in the country.

The population of France, by the census of 1872, consisted of 35,497,235 Catholics, 511,621 Protestants, 45,050 Jews, and 49,065 of other persuasions. All religions are equal by law, and the Catholics, Protestants and Jews have State allowances. In France there are 17 Catholic Archbishops, 69 Bishops, 192 Vicars-General, 723 canons, 3521 curés, and 31,569 curates.

The established Church in England is Protestant Episcopal. The Queen is by law the supreme governor of the Church, possessing the right to nominate Archbishops and Bishops. It is estimated that in 1871, there were in England 12,700,000 members of the Established Church, leaving about 11,000,000 to other creeds. There were 146 religious denominations in England in 1871. The number of Catholics in England is estimated at 2,000,000. There are thirteen high dignitaries of the Church in England and Wales, namely, one Archbishop and twelve Bishops, presiding over as many dioceses, united in the Province of Westminster. In Scotland the Catholic Church has one Archbishop and two Bishops, presiding over three "districts"—the Eastern, Western and Northern. The number of Catholics is not given in the last census; but it must be very considerable. The census of Ireland, taken on April 3rd, 1871, stated that there

were 4,141,933 Catholics; 683,295 Protestant Episcopalians; 558,238 Presbyterians; 41,815 Methodists; 4,485 Independents; 4,643 Baptists; 3,843 Quakers; 258 Jews; and 19,035 individuals of other persuasions. Ireland has four archbishops and twenty-eight bishops. The province of Armagh has nine dioceses, the province of Dublin has four, the province of Cashel has eight, and the province of Tuam has seven.

The State religion of Greece is the Greek Orthodox Church; the only dissenters from which are 24,000 Catholics in the seaport towns. Complete toleration of religious creeds is guaranteed. Nominally the Greek clergy owe allegiance to the Patriarch of Constantinople, who is elected by the bishops, subject to the Sultan of Turkey.

In Italy the "Statuto fondamentale del Regno," enacts that "the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman religion is the sole religion of the State." By the terms of Victor Emmanuel's decree of Oct. 9, 1870, which declares that "Rome and the Roman Provinces shall constitute an integral part of the Kingdom of Italy," this statute is left unaltered, and the Pope is constituted supreme head of the Church, formally preserving his former dignities as a reigning prince. In 1871, the census showed that 99½ per cent. of the population of Italy was Catholic, while the small remainder were returned as Protestants and Jews. There are 49 Archbishops and 198 bishops in Italy, with a total number, in 1865, of 23,961 religious persons—that is, priests, monks, nuns, etc. There are twenty-two Universities in Italy, some dating back to the 12th century.

The Netherlands guarantee entire religious liberty. The royal family is Protestant, and the people are nearly equally divided—Protestant and Catholic.

In Portugal the State religion is Catholic, with complete religious toleration. The number of Protestants in the country, mostly foreigners, does not exceed 500.

The established religion of the Russian Empire is the Greco-Russian, officially called the Orthodox Catholic faith. The Russian Church, of which the Emperor is the head, is separate both from the Roman and the Greek; it denies the supremacy of the Pope and prohibits the celibacy of the clergy. No priest can perform the spiritual function before he is married, nor after he becomes a widower; and as, by the rules of the Church, he is not allowed to re-marry, the death of his wife causes the cessation of his clerical functions. There are in Russia nearly 500 cathedrals, and 29,000 churches of the established faith, in which are 70,000 secular or parochial clergymen. There are also about 550 convents for men and women. The total number of established clergy, of all ranks and orders, is stated at 254,000. No Jews are allowed to settle in Russia proper; but all other persuasions are free. No member of the State Church, however, is allowed to change his religion, and children must be brought up in the established religion. Catholics are very numerous in the Polish provinces, there being a total in European Russia of 7,209,464.

The national Church of Spain is the Catholic, and the whole population, with the exception of about 60,000 persons, belong to the Church. Complete religious freedom is guaranteed by the Constitution.

The national Church of Sweden is Lutheran. There were only 573 Catholics in the country in 1872. The population of Sweden is more than a million less than that of Ireland; but the kingdom is respected and prosperous.

In Norway with a population of less than 2,000,000, there are no Catholics, 5000 persons of various faiths, and the remainder Lutheran.

In Switzerland, which is now so unhappily disturbed by anti-religious agitation, the population is divided into 59 per cent. of Catholics, and 42 per cent. of Protestants. There are 6000 priests in Switzerland; and while the 44th article of the Constitution declares that "all Christian sects are tolerated," the 58th article declares that "the order of Jesuits is rigorously excluded from every part of the Republic."

The Turkish Government guarantees religious liberty. The whole dominion in Europe Asia, and Africa, contains 17,300,000 Mussulmans, 11,000,000 Greeks and Armenians, 900,000 Catholics, 150,000 Jews, and 800,000 of other sects. Owing to the fact that the Koran constitutes the code of law and charter of rights, as well as the religious guide of the Mahomedans, there is a close connection between Church and State.

The State religion of the Brazilian Empire is Catholic, but all other sects are tolerated and assisted by the Government. The Bishops and all other ecclesiastical officers are, depending the confirmation of the Holy See, appointed by the Emperor. Brazil constitutes an ecclesiastical province, with an archbishop, 11 bishops, and 1,300 priests. Brazil is beginning to suffer from the irreligious epidemic of modern times. Last week a Catholic Bishop, because he had the courage to denounce secret societies, was arrested, tried and sentenced to four years' imprisonment with hard labor. The Bishop made no defence, but only said that civil tribunals had no right to interfere in matters of conscience.

Canada has no State Church. There are 4 Catholic Archbishops and 14 Bishops; and there are 9 Bishops of the Church of England. In 1871, the population of the Dominion was 3,433,761, of whom 1,492,029 were Catholics, and the remainder Protestants of various sects. Catholicity prevails most extensively in Quebec, formerly Lower Canada, amounting there to 85 per cent. of the population. In the province of Ontario the Catholics in 1871 numbered 274,162, while the Protestants were about 800,000. The school laws of Quebec and Ontario are adapted to the religious elements of the population.

The Australian Colonies have no State religion. In the colony of New South Wales, the population in 1871, exclusive of aborigines, was 503,981, of whom 147,567 were Catholics, and the remainder Protestants, Jews, and Buddhists. In Tasmania the population in 1872, was estimated at 102,925, of whom 23 per cent. were Catholics. In 1871, the population of Victoria was 731,523, of whom 178,620 were Catholics, 19,200 Chinese and aborigines, and the remainder Protestants. Western Australia had 24,785 people in 1871, of whom 7,118 were Catholics, and the remainder Protestants with, 62 Jews.