GROWTH AND STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH IN 1898

An important table showing the numerical strength of the Catholic religious bodies of the United States and their gain during the last year is published in the

It shows that the church membership of the United States is at least 4,700,000, that at the end of 1897, there were included in forty-seven deconecessions, 77,731, which has been increased by new memberships with 825,000 in the course of the year added. The four bodies of the Catholic Church are the strongest denomination with the Methodist who are 7,500,000, of 2,500,000, The Bishops have 4,413,675 in the Pennsylvania, 900,000 and the Deans of Christ a drive over a million. The

The Roman Catholic Church is the only one which is charged with a loss, its numerical gains are 472,700. The Methodist body has increased by 192,191, the Bishops have increased by 256,267, the Congregationalists are virtually stationary, while the Congregationalists are practically in the same position with no growth at all for the year 1898, and as of this number at the end of 1897.

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