

others. The gain of churches—1,261—does not speak of decline in popular interest. The inference often drawn from reports of church attendance, that the church service is losing its attractiveness for the people, is hardly borne out by the fact of continued enterprise in building houses of worship. Many of the new structures are finer and costlier than those they replace. Rarely or never does one hear of congregations building cheaper edifices for the sake of economy, or smaller edifices because of decreasing attendance. Every year the enormous value represented by church property increases. If the heart of the people is not in the Church, who do they put their treasure there?—Christian Advocate.

THE CENTURY OF MISSIONS.

Here are a few of the more important figures, says *The Independent*: Societies engaged in Foreign Missions, 558; income, \$20,079,698; missionaries, 18,682; native workers, 79,396; stations occupied, 30,536; churches, 14,364; communicants, 1,550,729; Christian community, 4,523,564. There are 94 universities and colleges, with 35,539 pupils; theological and training schools, 375, with 11,965 pupils; industrial schools, 179, with 9,074 pupils; elementary schools, 18,742, with 904,442 pupils, showing a total of 20,458 schools and 1,051,466 scholars. The mission presses and publishing houses number 159, and there are 379 magazines and papers, with a circulation of over 250,000 copies. The medical record shows 11 physicians, 379 hospitals, 783 dispensaries, and 2,347,780 patients. When we come to the general reformatory work the figures are smaller, but no less significant; 247 orphanages, 100 leper homes; 30 schools for the blind and for deaf mutes; 156 refuges for the victims of vice, opium, the insane, etc.; 118 societies for social reform, etc.

THE ST. LOUIS CAMPAIGN.

Rev. G. Campbell Morgan has decided not to undertake the special evangelistic campaign at St. Louis in connection with the World's Fair, as was formerly intimated. This is due not to lack of interest, but to a friendly disagreement. At the final arrangements, Mr. Campbell discovered that the committee wished to confine the work to the churches, while he desired a great auditorium to be erected at some central point. The commit-

tee also expected him to undertake the responsibility of raising the \$100,000 essential as a solid basis of the work. He was unwilling to thus do the preaching and serve tables at the same time.

The St. Louis committee will, however, carry on the campaign under another leader or leaders. It will need a large financial outlay, and the strongest men the pulpit affords, to cope with the forces of evil that will be rampant in that city for the six months of the fair.

THE AMBITIONS OF THE VATICAN.

The beginning of a new reign in the Vatican has naturally directed the eyes of the world to that clutching after temporal power and temporal things that has ever marred and materialized the Roman Catholic Church. The reason for self-imprisonment in the Vatican, as asserted by the last two popes, is that as human affairs are constituted, the preservation of their temporal independency is necessary to the free and full exercise of their spiritual authority.

But the result of a temporal sway even in Rome itself would be more serious than might at first sight be supposed. If such a temporal power existed it would be in a position to meddle with every government on earth. As a temporal kingdom it could demand recognition that it would be difficult to refuse. Its representative would take his seat with the other diplomatic representatives in London, Washington, and every other capital. The ideal of Roman Catholicism would be "a Rome purged," as they would call it, of every trace of Protestant sects. But we rejoice that in the very shadow of the Vatican the voice of Methodism is heard unto salvation. A Church, in so far as it would prop itself on temporal things, must needs see its support crumble.

A JOINT HYMNAL IN JAPAN.

The first edition of the new Japanese hymn-book goes on sale this month. For the past three years a commission representing Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Disciples has been at work preparing a joint hymn-book which may be used by these various denominations. The new book contains 450 hymns and is being issued from the Methodist Mission Press and a Japanese press in Yokohama.