

It would seem that such calculations might be relegated to the curious, but when a sober Christian paper like the *Bombay Guardian* is misled by it to make mischievous comment like the following, the time has come to call a halt on such indiscriminate ciphering. That paper complemented the above quotation thus :

“A decennial augment of 7 per cent. on the population of India (250,000,000) would be 17,500,000, or 1,750,000 annually. But it would be thought a marvelous thing if our converts reached 100,000 in one year. If the addition of one to our converts implies the addition of 17 to the number of the unevangelized in this land, it certainly does not look as though we were subduing the world to Christ.”

Both these quotations illustrate afresh the habit which has become common among too many well-intentioned writers on missionary progress, of singularly ignoring true *ratios*. Archdeacon Farrar is reported as stating that a century ago, in a procession of the inhabitants of the globe, only one in five would have been Christians; to-day, in a similar procession, the Christians would be nearly one in two, while the Christian population of the globe is increasing at the rate of 86 per cent. each decade. We do not know his basis of calculation, though the last remark comes within touch of modern statistics, and is susceptible of proof or refutation. But we do know that a pre-eminently important factor in all these comparisons is, that among Christian populations and notably among Christian converts from non-Christian populations, there is a remarkable *increase of the ratio of increase*. Christlieb says that in 1800 there were 1:70 Protestant missionaries in the whole heathen world, with 50,000 converts. George Smith, Esq., says there are now roundly three millions, of whom 802,028 are communicants, an increase of sixfold within the century. India furnishes a more definite illustration of our point. A writer (“R. H.”) in the *British and Foreign Evangelical Review*, Oct. 1870, said the progress of Christianity in India was as great as that of early Christianity in the Roman Empire, it being popularly estimated that there were eight millions of Christians in that empire after 300 years; but if the rate of increase of the India native Christian community between 1832 and 1862 were maintained for 300 years, it would give 200,000,000 of converts. Making his calculations on that ratio, he anticipated that there would be in India in 1882, 273,000 Christians, but four years earlier than the date of his estimate (1878) Christlieb gave the numbers as 460,000! And Christlieb further says that the ratio of increase between 1852 and 1862 would give in A. D. 2002 a Christian population to India alone of 138,000,000; or two hundred years after Carey’s first baptism, a victory seventeen times greater than that of the early church in the Roman Empire. If it be urged that such estimates are speculative and untrustworthy, it is to be borne in mind that the above calculations are made on the rate of increase between 1852 and 1862, and that each decade since has not only sustained that, but has shown an *increase of the rate of increase*.