

THE Afghanistan war the other day cost the British taxpayers \$120,000,000. Careful statisticians estimate the cost of the six great wars among the so-called Christian nations, within the last twenty-five years, at \$15,000,000,000, to say nothing of the 2,000,000 of men whose lives were a part of the price. There are now in Europe nearly 13,000,000 of trained soldiers. Between four and five millions of these are actually under arms, and cost something like \$2,500,000,000 per year. These figures make no allowance for ammunition, arms, etc., and ironclads. The cost of one of the latter would start five and twenty large factories. Nor is there anything added for the enormous loss of the productive labour of all these millions of able-bodied men. Such are a few of the facts mentioned by Mr. Henry Richard, in a recent speech at Leeds, in connection with a Peace and Arbitration Congress.

ANOTHER of the old residents of this city has passed away. Henry James Grasett, D.D., Rector of St. James' Cathedral and Anglican Dean of Toronto, died peacefully, aged seventy-three, on the 20th March last. For forty-seven years he had ministered to the congregation in whose service he died. We have heard it stated that since his pastorate began, every church building in the city has been erected. Evangelical, firm, peaceful, he won the esteem of all, and "reaped the harvest of the quiet eye, doing his duty without parade, and entering into rest." All classes and orders joined in paying the last tribute of respect to the departed friend. He was buried in the chancel of the cathedral, near to his venerated friend, the late Bishop Strachan.

IN the year A.D. 1500, Protestantism was not as an organized power. March 16th, 1517, the closing session of the last Lateran Council, the closing bull announcing the accomplishment of every object. Schism had been healed, peace restored to the Christian world, which all lay humble at the foot of the Papal throne, awaiting its blessing! On the 31st October, that same year, Luther's hammer rang upon the nails which fastened to the church door of Wittenberg his challenge to the Papal power. At that time, of the 100,000,000 who owed allegiance to Chris-

tian rulers, 80,000,000 were under the Papal rule; the remainder chiefly owned the Patriarch of the Greek Church. In A.D. 1700, the Roman Catholic peoples had increased to 90,000,000, the Eastern Christians to 33,000,000; whilst owning Protestant supremacy were numbered 32,000,000, or about one-fifth of nominal Christian people. In 1800, there were under Protestant Governments, 194,000,000; under Papal, 134,000,000; and under Governments owning the Greek Church, 60,000,000. In 1876 the record stands as follows:—Under Governments professedly Roman Catholic, 181,000,000; Greek Church, 96,000,000; and under rule professedly Protestant, 408,000,000. It need not be explained that these numbers are far from representing the truly religious conviction of the many; but they manifest the unmistakable drift of progress, and should act as incentives to Christian zeal. State Churches are fast becoming facts of history. None the less need, however, is there that the Free Churches should make manifest the blessings of freedom by using their liberty to evangelize the world—preaching the Gospel to every creature. Government is given not for self-aggrandizement, but that all may be brought to His feet whom believers delight to own as Lord of all:—

"Gar field is the world, whether sowing or reaping,  
Or gleaning the handfuls that others have passed.  
Or waiting the growth of the seed that with weeping,  
On rocky and desolate plains we have cast;  
Yet each for his toiling, and each for his mourning,  
Shall some time rejoice when the harvest is won,  
And know, in the flush of eternity's morning,  
That the toil, the reward, and the glory are one."

THE subject of the non-church-going population is eliciting considerable discussion and deepening interest among Christian workers in the old land, and will be for us a rapidly pressing question. Dr. Thain Davidson, in an article in the *London Christian Monthly*, draws attention to a fact which is deeply suggestive, and which may well startle some of us as we ponder. We constantly hear the expression regarding the Sabbath-school, "the nursery of the Church." Let us hear what Dr. Davidson says: "I do not think that the Church of Christ in this country sufficiently realizes the signal failure, *as regards one point*, of our whole Sabbath-school organization. When we compare the published statistics as to the proportion of the population