

ing upon this subject, it is impossible altogether to pass over what we know and what we are told respecting the relative numbers in this country of those who are separated from our community. In the first place, taking the Census returns and the statistics, as they are pleased to call them, which are said to have been derived therefrom, I have here a pamphlet by the Rev. George Venables upon this and other subjects, and from it I learn that under any circumstances, the majority in attendance upon divine worship in the churches and chapels of England, exclusive of the principality of Wales, was much in favour of the Established Church over all other sects whatever, who were present on the day the census was taken. But not only was this the fact; but taking, as we ought to do, England and Wales together, there was a large majority of the Church of England at the morning services. There was also a majority of the Church of England in attendance at the afternoon service, and the alleged minority is made out on the other side merely by taking those who attended at the evening service, when it is perfectly well known that in a large proportion of our churches in country places there is no evening service at all. Perhaps, Mr. Prolocutor, I had better mention what the figures are. The total number of attendants in the Church of England at the morning service was 2,541,244; the total of all other sects was 2,106,233, giving a majority in favour of the Church of 435,006. The total afternoon attendance at church was 1,890,764; the total of all other sects was 1,293,371, giving a majority of 597,393 in favour of the Church. At the evening service there was a different result. The total number in attendance at church was 860,543, against 2,203,906 from all other sects, giving a preponderance of 1,343,363 in favour of the latter. But when we know, as I know, and as all must know who live in those parts of the country where the Wesleyans prevail, how very large a proportion of those who attend the chapel service where no evening service is provided by the Church of England, are those who most undoubtedly would have attended the morning service of the Church, I would ask how we can fairly reckon them among the Dissenters, being in point of fact the same persons who were in attendance at the church in the early part of the day? They may be wrong in claiming for themselves the privilege of attending these places of worship as well as the church; but the fact is notorious, as we all have reason to know. I come now to the relative number of the different bodies, which I will state, in order to show how great a matter it would be if even one of these bodies should in any respect be induced to return into any state in which they might be recognized as members of the Church. The number of congregations of the Church of England was, according to the Census returns, 14,077. The number of congregations of all branches of Wesleyan Methodists—I believe there are nine branches in all—was 11,944, making altogether 26,021 between the Church of England and the Wesleyan Methodists, who are an offset from the Church of England. Now, what is the number of the congregations of all other sects whatsoever? According to the returns it was—Independents, 3,244; of Baptists, 2,789; and of all other sects, including Roman Catholics, about 1,000; making a total of 7,033 congregations of all other sects whatsoever, against 26,021 of the Church of England. I have derived this information from a lecture delivered before the Blackburn Protestant Association by the Rev. C. Robinson, LL.D., Incumbent of Holy Trinity Church, Blackburn, upon "A Scheme for the Restoration of Dissenters to the Church." This pamphlet is altogether a valuable one, and I would recommend it to any one who wishes to inquire more minutely into these details. Let me, however, impress upon you the fact I have just stated to you, that there are 26,021 congregations of members of the Church of England and Wesleyan Methodists against 7,033 congregations of all other sects whatever, including Roman Catholics. Of this latter number there are