

year's fruits, and the plans and estimates for the current year, was really sublime. The policy of enlargement, of increased resources, and fresh hope and courage and resolve, was everywhere adopted. Gloomy-minded believers would have found very little sympathy in these great assemblies of the very *elite* of the church—not visionary enthusiasts, but the great lights of the ministry, and the solid, thinking, business men of the land—animated by one spirit, devoted to one cause, and aiming at one and the same end—the conquest of the world to Christianity. Had the apostles of unbelief witnessed some of these thrill-

ing scenes, and mingled with the enthusiastic crowds that gathered day after day to the centers of attraction, they must have confessed that Christianity is not yet an effete system of faith; that the Name and the Personality of Jesus Christ are still potent factors in the life of the world.

But let us come to the statistics referred to.

Let us first present a summary of the present strength of each branch of the nominal church and of the aggregate in the United States. We do not claim absolute accuracy in all these figures, but they are substantially reliable, and are as follows:

GENERAL SUMMARY BY FAMILIES.

	1883			1887		
	<i>Chs.</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Com.</i>	<i>Chs.</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Com.</i>
Adventists.....	1,344	775	91,796	1,472	821	97,711
Baptists.....	37,156	26,545	3,336,553	40,847	27,889	3,727,207
Christian Union.....				1,500	500	120,000
Congregationalists.....	3,936	3,723	387,619	4,277	4,090	436,379
Friends.....	392	200	96,000	700	500	165,000
German Evangelical Ch.....	550	430	80,000	675	560	125,000
Lutherans.....	6,130	3,429	785,987	7,573	3,990	930,830
Menmonites.....	500	450	80,000	550	500	100,000
Methodists.....	41,271	24,485	3,943,875	47,302	29,493	4,532,658
Moravians.....	84	70	9,928	83	64	10,686
New Jerusalem.....	87	92	3,994	80	78	5,015
Presbyterians.....	11,783	8,834	966,437	12,868	9,429	1,082,436
Episcopalians.....	3,109	3,664	351,699	4,524	3,865	430,531
Reformed.....	1,942	1,320	343,825	2,004	1,342	259,974
Roman Catholics.....	6,241	6,546	6,832,364	6,910	7,658	7,000,000
Unitarians.....	362	434	20,000	365	459	20,000
Universalists.....	719	713	36,238	665	673	35,550
Grand Total.....	115,610	81,717	17,267,178	132,435	91,911	19,018,977

More than 132,000 churches, nearly 92,000 ministers, and over 19,000,000 members in a population of about sixty millions! The Mormons, the Jews, several denominational fragments, and some independent congregations, are not included. This is certainly a marvelous showing. The total of communicants, deducting the Roman Catholic population, 7,000,000, is 12,018,977, which represents the Protestantism of our country.

The above table enables us to see not only our present status, but our *growth* during the last four years. It thus appears that four years ago the total strength of the Christian Church in the United States was

as follows: 81,717 ministers, 115,610 churches, and 17,267,178 members. The same churches have now 91,911 ministers, 132,435 churches, and 19,018,977 members. The net total gains in these four years, according to these tables, were 9,694 ministers, 15,325 churches, and 1,618,799 members. This is a remarkable increase, especially when we consider that it is a *net* increase, and that to show a net increase the accessions must be in excess of the deaths, which in the aggregate is large, and the loss by apostasy and discipline. This applies both to ministers and members, and also to churches, because a considerable number of them become extinct every year from a variety of causes.