

that too, in a separate treatise. In other words, he has given us only a fragment of the total argument, while the whole is essential to the reaching a conclusion about the reasonable probability that the world is to become Christian. Besides, if even the fact of comparatively greater increase by birth-rate were established in favor of heathen nations, that is certainly no more than the early church must have experienced, if not within the Roman Empire alone, then over the world at large. Mr. Johnston singularly enough, thinks there was no increase throughout the Roman Empire by birth-rate through the three hundred years in which the early church rose to supremacy therein. That in this his view will be challenged, is a matter of course.

While we doubt if any argument or compilation of facts can at all remove the question of the comparative world population of 1786 with that of 1886, out of the realm of pure speculation, and hence doubt if any practical value is to be got from its discussion, we beg that the Christian public will not overlook the masterly array of other statistics, facts and stirring appeals of this extraordinarily thoughtful pamphlet. And we caution them against ill-considered statements and influences which Mr. Johnston's pamphlet would not warrant, but may incite.

A STUDY OF RATIOS.

The *Bombay Guardian* some time since furnished an illustration of this heedless use of figures. It quoted the *Independent* as follows:

"In round numbers the non-Christian population of the world is generally estimated as a thousand millions, leaving a Christian population of four hundred millions. Now the natural increase of a thousand millions, though it may not, because of the conditions of population in crowded countries like China and India and among uncivilized hordes like those of Africa, be quite as large in proportion as that of the four hundred millions of Christians living under the highest forms of civilization, it must be vastly larger in bulk. The rate of natural increase in India, in the last decade, [was seven per cent. If that rate were applied to the whole of the thousand millions of pagans we should have a gain of 70,000,000 every ten years. In Europe (exclusive of Turkey) and the United States, the increase in the decade was something under ten per cent. Apply that to the 400,000,000 Christian population and we have a gain of 40,000,000. In other words, the natural increase of the heathen world is thirty millions greater every decade than that of the Christian world. Thirty millions in a decade is three millions a year, and this three millions a year must be overcome by *propagandism among non-Christian peoples* before it can be said that Christianity, by which we mean the whole Christian population, is increasing as rapidly as Paganism. This is a fact which we need to look at steadily, in order to *understand the vastness of the work before us.*"

Just why the *Independent* should assume that the increase by birth-rate in India, which it puts at seven per cent., is the rate of natural increase of the world for the last decade, is not very apparent. It singularly overlooks the emigration from Christian Europe to other places than the United States, though its colonies have overrun British America, Mexico, South America, and Australia. It places the heathen rate ridiculously high and that of Christian Europe fallaciously low.