

authorities in Parliament and Lombard for the introduction of the Scriptures, and upwards of 1,500 copies have been dispersed, principally through the medium of the book-sellers, who, it appears, obtain for them a very rapid sale. This has awakened alarm among the popish hierarchy of Lombardy, who, on the 1st of December last, issued a circular from Milan, signed by the archbishop and seven bishops addressed to the parish ministers and clergy, warning them of the danger with which the political disturbances of the country had afforded opportunity for the enemies of their common faith to invade the land, by introducing among them a host of corrupt Bibles, "with a view to undermine the faith of the simple, and to carry on, even among ourselves, the work of darkness, of corrupting sound doctrine. Nor have they left any artifice untried, whether in the form of elegance in printing and binding, or in the looseness of their charges, to put them into circulation, and so gain their own ends. Verily, it is afflicting to us to own, that perhaps in order to prove the constancy of our faith, or perhaps as a punishment for our book-sellers, the Lord has suffered their attempts to be not altogether in vain, inasmuch as in various catholic families, not only in our city, but in our market-towns and villages, their bibles, as above described, are circulated with impunity, even among females and the youth of both sexes. It is unnecessary to remind you how repeatedly the Church, by the mouth of the Roman Pontiff, has forbidden her children to read the bible in any vulgar tongue whatsoever, and has never sanctioned even the versions of Catholic authors, though free from all errors, and approved by the Roman See, and the approbation of the apostolic see, and were furnished with annotations taken from the works of the holy fathers, or learned or catholic writers. His Holiness Pope Clement VIII. has moreover declared, that all liberty to permit bibles of the above description to be kept and read, is taken away from the bishops. It is further well known to you how rigorous have been the measures at all times adopted by the Roman Pontiff, to prevent bibles of any kind that may issue from the presses of heretics, from falling into the hands of the faithful. Let the faithful read the Holy Scriptures; but let them be in such form as they are furnished by the Church, which is the sole depository and interpreter of the sacred volume." In Switzerland, the Bible collectors are carrying the Scriptures over even the highest Alpine valleys, where there are any sequestered families to read them. In Austria and Hungary there is ground of hope that the Protestants will be allowed to have free access to the records of salvation. In Belgium, although a Roman Catholic country, the Scriptures are year by year largely distributed. The English Bible Society has been forwarding supplies of Bibles and Malay Scriptures to Java and other colonial possessions of Holland, besides large issues of Dutch Scriptures. In the vast empire of Russia very little, as usual, has been done in giving the Bible to the millions of its population. Its ecclesiastical system is too stagnant a perversion of the ordinances and the Gospel of Christ, to bear the light of inspired truth. They must suppress the Bible, if they are not to relinquish their anti-christian superstitions. Mr. McVieille, of Odessa, a Scotch gentleman, has continued his indefatigable labors in a private way; and has put in circulation 2652 copies during the year. In the other countries of the Baltic, and over Germany, more or less of successful activity in spreading the Scriptures is reported.

ROMANISM AND BUDDHISM IN CHINA.—The similarity of these religions to each other is striking. It is thus described by the Rev. G. Smith, D. D. English Bishop in China: "An honest Romanist priest must often be stumbled at the similarity between the religious forms of Popery and those of Buddhism. The existence of monasteries and nunneries; the celibacy, the tonsure, the flowing robes, and the peculiar caps of the priesthood; the burning of incense, the tinkling of bells, the rosaries of beads, the intonation of verses, the prayers in an unknown tongue, pictures and the offerings for the dead in their temples; and above all, the titles of their principal goddesses, 'the Queen of Heaven,' and 'Holy Mother,' represented by the image of a woman with a male child in her arms, present features of mutual resemblance, which must strike every candid mind. Such a remarkable similarity of details, although it may facilitate a transition from Buddhism to Popery, must occasionally give rise to perplexing comparisons. This subject is sometimes regarded as one of the difficulties that in former times a Romanist Missionary declared, in the distress of his mind, that Buddhism must have been the rival system, and master-plot of Satan, to hinder the progress of the Christian faith.—Narrative of a visit to the Consular Cities of China.

RELIGIOUS STATISTICS OF IRELAND.—There are in Ireland the following: Roman Catholic priests, 2,645; Prelates and arch-priests, 28; parish priests, 989; curates, 1430; other ecclesiastics, 322; total, 2763; that is one Roman Catholic priest to every 1765 Roman Catholics. With regard to the Episcopal Church in Ireland, there are 2261 clergymen, supported by what is called "Church property." There are 652 Presbyterian, and 238 Methodist ministers. The total number of Protestant ministers, exclusive of Unitarians, is 364. Thus it will be seen that the Protestant ministers outnumber the Roman Catholic priests by 465. In the year 1850, there were no accessions from Roman Catholicism, his grace the Bishop of Tuam, has stated, that during the past year no fewer than 10,000 persons had forsaken the Roman Catholic communion in his diocese alone! There is no visible manifestation of Puseyism in the Established Church of Ireland.—Dr. Ureick at the Evan. Alliance.

COST OF RELIGION IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

We find in an English paper the following table, showing the expense of the various Christian Churches in different countries of the world. The figures may, we think, be relied on, as offering at least a fair approximation to the truth—

| Name of Nation. | Number of Members. | Expenditure per million of Members. | Total Expenditure in each Nation. |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| France | 30,000,000 | \$175,000 | \$5,250,000 |
| United States | 9,600,000 | 200,000 | 2,800,000 |
| Spain | 11,000,000 | 500,000 | 5,500,000 |
| Hungary | 3,000,000 | 500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Hungary—Catholics | 1,000,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Calcutta | 1,050,000 | 300,000 | 315,000 |
| Lutherans | 560,000 | 200,000 | 112,000 |
| Italy | 19,200,000 | 230,000 | 3,800,000 |
| Austria | 19,200,000 | 250,000 | 4,750,000 |
| Switzerland | 1,720,000 | 250,000 | 435,000 |
| Prussia | 10,536,000 | 250,000 | 2,635,000 |
| Germany small States | 15,753,000 | 300,000 | 3,825,000 |
| Holland | 2,400,000 | 400,000 | 960,000 |
| Netherlands | 6,800,000 | 210,000 | 1,260,000 |
| Denmark | 1,700,000 | 250,000 | 595,000 |
| Sweden | 3,400,000 | 351,500 | 1,140,000 |
| Russia, Greek Church | 34,000,000 | 75,000 | 2,550,000 |
| Russia, Catholics and Lutherans | 8,000,000 | 250,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Christians in Turkey | 6,000,000 | 150,000 | 900,000 |
| South America | 15,000,000 | 120,000 | 1,800,000 |
| Christians elsewhere | 3,000,000 | 250,000 | 750,000 |
| Total | 201,728,000 | | \$44,995,000 |
| England and Wales, (Ch. of Eng. 6,500,000) | | 7,276,500 | 47,297,225 |

Thus it appears that Church Expenditure are smallest in Russia, (though we distrust all statistics from this country), where the average is 73 cents to each person who goes to church, and greatest in England, where every church-goer pays, or has paid for him, the enormous average of \$7-27 a-year, and where the aggregate yearly outlay must exceed that of all the rest of Christendom together. Even in Italy, with its priests so numerous, and churches so abundant, and so richly decorated, the support of the whole establishment costs but 20 cents a-year to each attendant on the worship. In the United States it is 174 cents; in Spain and Portugal 50 cents. In Hungary the Catholic worship costs 40 cents a head, the Calvinist 30, and the Lutheran 20. In Catholic Austria and Protestant Prussia, the cost is alike 25 cents.

The reason why, in England, the Church cost so exorbitantly, must be found in all the rest of Christendom, in the Archbishops, Bishops, and other great men. The entire annual sum is \$1,219,752; out of this, twenty-five Archbishops and Bishops pouch \$1,485,575, or an average of \$59,123 a piece; twenty-eight Deans get \$221,250, or \$7200 a piece; sixty-one Archdeacons \$235,730, or \$3700 a piece; twenty-eight Chancellors \$64,220, or \$2170 a piece; five hundred and fourteen Prelates and Canons \$1,400,650, or \$2685 a piece; three hundred and thirty Proctors, Succutors, and other members of Collegiate and Cathedral Churches (sinceres), \$35,250, or \$115 each; two thousand eight hundred and eighty-six stipendiary parsons, men who hold from two to four livings, but perhaps discharge the clerical office in none of them, get \$26,597,150, or \$39250 each; and there are eight thousand five hundred and fifty-nine parochial clergy and curates who receive \$16,445,100, or \$1120 each on the average. They are, however, by no means paid on so fair a principle, for there are many poor curates in the country who receive no more than \$150, or \$200 a-year, and discharge their duties in apostolic poverty. This is a matter of course, for where there are so many great men who shine in purple and fine linen, there must be thousands of poor ones that go in rags. "How long, O Lord, how long!"—Presbyterian.

EXTENSIVE CONVERSIONS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND.

A passing remark was made in our last Number on the large conversions from Romanism, which are now taking place in the West of Ireland. Since then, the fact thus generally stated has received ample confirmation. There no longer remains any doubt, that extensive changes are now being effected, and that thousands of the adherents of the Papacy have thrown off the yoke of the sacerdotal system, and have embraced scriptural reasons for abandoning the church of their fathers. Our faith in the sincerity of these conversions is very much strengthened by the circumstances, that they have occurred in districts which are superintended by bishops of evangelical principles, and that the Bible appears everywhere as the divine instrument which, through the blessing of God, has opened the eyes of these poor Irishmen, and led them to renounce the errors of Romanism. Three letters, which were published in the Times by a person who is evidently not a clergyman, and whose editorials the editor assures us may be "implicitly relied upon for strict accuracy and thorough impartiality." This gentleman having heard, on his arrival in Galway, that the Bishop of Tuam was about to visit and hold conferences at several missionary stations in Connemara, where numbers of