

Oran. They must be, in equal number, Reformed and Lutherans. Where there is a necessity in one town of two ministers, one must be taken from each of the two state churches. As the largest number of the Protestants are Germans and German-Swiss, the Gustavus Adolphus Society has taken a great interest in their churches and schools, and makes annually liberal grants for the support of the old ones and the establishment of new ones. But active missionary operations are also carried on among the other nationalities. Those among the Spaniards are in particular very interesting, as the formation of a numerous Spanish Protestant Church would have a considerable influence on the spreading of Protestantism in Spain.

According to the "Annuaire Protestant" for 1862, the Consistory of Algeria counted 12 parishes, 30 stations, 42 places of worship, 12 schools, 15 pastors, recognized and paid by the state. It mentions one station (Oran) supported by the Evangelical Society of Geneva, and one independent church at Algiers. A few interesting items on the progress of Protestantism were given in the last number of *The Independent*. The papers of Algeria attest the material, intellectual, and moral superiority of those colonies in which the Protestant element prevails. A missionary has spread in a single province, 1,350 Bibles among the Arabic or Mozabite Jews, and translated the Gospel of St. Matthew into modern Arabic.

Religion in Jerusalem and Palestine.

The ancient metropolis of Judea contains about 20,000 inhabitants. This is a very small number if we compare it with its former greatness, but we must not forget that Jerusalem has been often devastated, ruined, burnt, and that it is now under a cruel and servile despotism. How long will it be before the day of deliverance shall dawn on this city where the Son of God was crucified?

Among the 20,000 inhabitants, 10,000 are Jews—a degraded and unfortunate race, who are strongly attached to the walls of this city, rendered sacred by the memories of their fathers. The Polish or German Jews are a little better educated and more moral than the Spanish Jews; but both are for the most part grossly ignorant. They read the Talmud a great deal more than the Old Testament, and imagine that they are performing a meritorious work before God by studying the rabbinical traditions. They live principally on the alms which they receive from the Jews in Europe, Asia and America; for they believe that the prayers and reading of the Talmud, performed in the city of David, help to atone for the sins

committed by Abraham's posterity throughout the rest of the world.

The Greeks, or Christians of the Eastern Church, number 4,500 to 5,000 within Jerusalem.

The Latins or Roman Catholics in Jerusalem compose a congregation numbering about 900. Their patriarch, named Valerga, displays great pomposity in his dress as well as in his pastoral duties, and pretends to control the Christians of other denominations. These Papists, who are mostly priests or monks, have frequently quarrels among themselves. The Franciscans possess large revenues and are not disposed to obey the orders of the patriarch Valerga and the Italian priests.

The Protestants compose a small community of from 250 to 500 souls. They belong to various nations—Germans, English, Swiss, etc. Several are converted Greeks or Jews. They enjoy full liberty in the exercise of their religion.

Lastly, the Mussulmans, 3,000 to 4,000 in number, constitute the remainder of the population of Jerusalem. They make up for their numerical inferiority by their military and social prerogatives. The governor of the city must be Mahometan. He has under his command an armed force which maintains public order. The judges and other magistrates are also chosen among the disciples of the false prophet. These Mussulmans respect the life and property of the Christians, because they fear the great powers of Europe. But their hatred towards the disciples of Christ is always the same; and if any calamity should come upon them, they would be ready to imitate the horrible massacres of Damascus and Mount Lebanon.

In the other provinces of Palestine, the Mussulmans are more numerous. There are, however, Christians and Jews at Nazareth, Bethlehem, in the remote mountains, etc. There are thirty Samaritan families living at Nablous, the ancient capital of Samaria. They persist in believing that Mount Gerizim is the most acceptable spot to the Lord for sacrifices. Their priest, or spiritual leader, is a well-meaning man, who has consented to read the Bible through attentively; but his hereditary prejudices have as yet prevented him from accepting the Gospel.

The Religious Reformation in New Granada.

New Granada is a country less generally known to North American Christians than it deserves to be, on account of its proximity and intimate commercial relations with our own, the peculiar respect and admiration in which the people hold our institutions, the progress which civil and religious liberty