

Or taking the principal denominations, we have:—

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.	Number of Places of Worship and sittings.		Number of Attendants at Public Worship on Sabbath March 30, 1861.		
	Places of Worship.	Sittings.	Morning.	Afternoon.	Evening.
Established Church,.....	1183	767088	351454	184192	30768
Free Church,.....	889	495335	292308	198583	64811
U. P. Church,.....	465	288100	159191	146411	30810
Other Churches,.....	858	284282	140998	90677	62490
Total,.....	3395	1834805	943951	619863	188874

Since the date of the census, about one-half of the "Original Secession" have joined the Free Church, adding probably 8000 sittings to the accommodation, and from 3000 to 4000 to the attendants, in the latter.

It is to be remarked, however, that from very many congregations returns were not received; and that an average attendance had to be struck, and allowed to non-return congregations, in making up the above returns. According to a statement of Lord Elcho in the House of Commons, the returns, as *actually received*, stand thus,—the largest attendance at Established Church, 288,757; at Free Church, 255,482; United Presbyterian, 143,443.

The population of Scotland being 2,886,742, it is plain that a very large number of the people are non-church-going.

To secure more perfect accuracy on future occasions, and render the returns valuable, not merely as approximations but realities, two things occur to us as indispensable:—1st, That the filling up of schedules be made compulsory; and 2nd, That the *attendance* be stated not for one Sunday only, which may be affected by weather and other causes, but for two or three,—the average of the whole being taken to express the ordinary church attendance of the whole country.—*News of the Church.*

[To the above suggestions for securing accuracy we beg to add a third to which we attach great importance, viz: that the attendance be not estimated, but actually counted by competent, reliable persons. When the Religious Instruction Commission was conducting its inquiries in Scotland, attendance was, in many cases, reported, both as estimated and as counted, by different persons of course, and the difference, in not a few instances, was marvellous, not to say scandalous.]