

There are little sects with 200 and 300 and 600 communicants. We note one denomination with twenty-five communicants and another with eight. The River Brethren number 4,339, and are divided into three bodies. The Communistic Societies, with a following of 3,084, have six divisions. These divisions among people who believe in a community of interests. There are sects of which most of us have never heard, as the "Old Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists," and the Schwenkfeldians.

Here is surely diversity enough to fire the zeal of those who demand such stimulus. It should be time not only to broach and discuss the matter of union, but to push it and push it through.

The most numerous body are the Roman Catholics, returned as 10,905,251, with an increase of 192,272. But they claim a great many who are no credit to any church, and of their large gains by immigration many soon lapse. Next come the Methodists, with 6,429,815 actual communicants, an increase of 101,892, or about 2,000 a week. They have 40,278 ministers and 58,659 churches. Next come the Baptists, with 4,974,047 communicants, 37,061 ministers and 52,919 churches. The Presbyterians number 1,723,871 members, with 12,650 ministers and 15,702 churches. The Protestant Episcopal, the oldest and most "fashionable" church, numbers 827,127 members. 5,209 ministers and 7,224 churches. The Unitarians report a decrease of eight ministers, and the Universalists a decrease of 359 members.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR ANNIVERSARY.

The Christian Endeavor Society celebrated in February its twenty-fifth anniversary. From one Endeavorer, the zealous young pastor, Francis Edward Clark, the fruitage is now a membership of more than 3,000,000. From the one society he launched twenty-five years ago have grown 67,213 of them. Surely when Dr. Clark sat beneath that scrubby pine in Maine and wrote out the Christian Endeavor pledge, surely the Lord was with him to establish the work of his hands.

The society has become a world-girdling movement, adapted to all nations. It flourishes in China, India, Japan, Hawaii, New Zealand, Bulgaria, Egypt, Switzerland, Madagascar, Italy, Norway, Sweden, France, Russia—everywhere, in fact, one finds the young Endeavorer. It was the Spanish Endeavor girls who

were the first of their sex to enter the national university. In India the work especially flourishes. The Hindu Endeavorers on their journeys change from car to car at the stations, till they have preached to a long train full. The pioneer society in Samoa has formed sixteen other societies and sent from its membership more than one hundred missionaries.

"The Endeavorers of Turkey (chiefly Armenians) suffered heroically during the horrible massacres. The Turks do not allow them to sign a constitution or pledge, or use the terms "society" or "union," or to wear a Christian Endeavor badge, or meet except in single societies. Yet everywhere are these half-hidden bands of faithful workers—in Jerusalem and other sacred places—ready again, if necessary, to seal their devotion with their lives.

"In China during the Boxer massacres one Endeavorer was slain on his wedding day, just after his lips had repeated the solemn words, "Till death do us part." Another Endeavorer, a girl, when summoned by the Boxers, dressed herself in her best and took her Bible in her hands. "I am ready," she said. Another Endeavorer was a man of fifty, a converted opium-eater. The Boxers summoned him, and he also arrayed himself in his finest robe. "Why did you put on your best clothes?" they asked him. "Because I expected to be taken to the palace of my King." They cut off his head and then tore out his heart, to get at the secret of his courage; but they did not discover it. A day was set for the killing of all the native Christians in Foochow that did not recant, but the next Sunday ninety Endeavorers came together in a single society."

The great conventions of this society, bringing together twenty, forty and sometimes sixty thousand young Christians in the spirit of prayer—who shall say what this means to the Church as a whole? Already sixty denominations are federated in this movement.

A MYTH DISOWNED.

Several years ago when on our way from Bologna to Venice, we travelled with four Roman Catholic priests from Baltimore. They had chosen to forego the glories of Florence in order to visit the Holy House of Loretto at Arcona. They repeated with enthusiasm the story, in which they avowed their faith, that it had been brought by the angels