

It is hoped that the present year will witness the consummation of the long-desired union.

The mission work at home and abroad in connection with the great Presbyterian family has been as successful as usual. Many of our churches have been awakened from spiritual torpor to a state of healthful activity. Let us pray that the year on which we have entered may be a year of unprecedented blessing to our own branch and to all the branches of the Church of Christ.

THE "RECORD."

We are glad to say that many orders received for the present year show an advance on previous years. This is encouraging to us, and it augurs well for the Church. But much remains to be done. Many places there still are within the bounds of our Church where the RECORD is scarcely seen at all. Surely this is not right. Some large congregations could take just double the number they now order. We again solicit the aid of ministers, elders, and all our present readers.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The field is the world; but alas how small a portion of the world owns the sway of the Lord Jesus! At the beginning of a new year let us survey the field. The population of the globe may be stated with confidence to be about as follows:

Europe.....	250,000,000
Asia.....	700,000,000
Africa.....	200,000,000
America.....	90,000,000
Islands.....	30,000,000

Population of the earth.....1,300,000,000

Some statisticians bring the population up to 1,400,000,000, but the above aggregate is four hundred millions above the tables of Hassell, a German statistician forty years ago. Since we have the statistics of Europe, America, China, Hindoostan quite accurately, the above statement is believed to be nearly correct. China, Hindoostan and Japan contain 610,000,000, and, therefore, the allowance for Asia is not too large. The earth, we may therefore state, contains in round numbers, at least thirteen hundred millions of people.

Then the question arises, How are they divided by religions? There are three great religions in the world; and under three heads are contained three-fourths of mankind. These are Christianity, Buddhism and Mohammedanism. Buddhism originated among the Brahmins about five hundred years before Christ, but it entered China about the Christian era. Mohammedanism began about six hundred years after Christ. The best computations give the following proportions of these religions, namely:

Christians.....	360,000,000
Buddhism.....	300,000,000
Mohammedans.....	160,000,000

To these should be added, however, the adherents of Brahma who are supposed to number 110,000,000. Then we have 930,000,000 who are members of the old and great religions of the world—*independent* of the Jews who are so small a body as to be unimportant at this point of view. There are then remaining 370,000,000, who are either the disciples of Confucius, or Pagans of some sort.

It, now, we would learn the attitude of the Church toward false religions and Paganism, and see where the work of conversion and restoration is to be done, we must look to another table, showing, as near as we can, the distribution of these bodies. This is, in general terms, as follows:

	Christians.	Buddhists and Brahmins.	Mohammedans.	Pagans.
Europe.....	230,000,000	.....	10,000,000	.....
America.....	80,000,000	.....	50,000,000	1,000,000
Asia.....	5,000,000	410,000,000	.....	240,000,000
Africa.....	1,000,000	.....	100,000,000	.....
Islands.....	2,000,000	.....	.....	30,000,000
The earth.....	360,000,000	410,000,000	160,000,000	380,000,000

This table is a little different from the one above, in giving something more to Christians and Pagans, but is substantially correct. There are in India and in Africa a large body of Christians not included in the preceding table, but still quite small in comparison with the whole population. Almost the whole of Northern