

5 $\frac{1}{4}$; and in 1880, one to every 5. Even during the period since 1850, in which materialism and rationalism have been subjecting Protestantism to so severe a strain, while the increase in population has been 116 per cent., the increase in communicants of Protestant evangelical churches in the United States has been 185 per cent.

“The same pronounced drift Christianwards evinces itself if we consider the matter of American colleges and college students. Writing in 1810, Bishop Meade, of Virginia, said: ‘I can truly say that in every educated young man in Virginia whom I met I expected to find a skeptic, if not an avowed infidel.’ When Dr. Dwight became president of Yale College in 1745, only five of the students were church members. In the early part of Dr. Appleton’s presidency of Bowdoin, only one student was a professing Christian. In 1830, according to returns obtained from American colleges, 26 per cent. of the students were professing Christians; in 1850, 38 per cent.; in 1865, 46 per cent.; and in 1880, according to the year-book of the Young Men’s Christian Association, out of 12,063 students in 65 colleges, 6,081, or a little more than half, were professors of religion. . . .

“So far from Christianity betraying the first symptoms of exhaustion, there has been no time since the Jordan baptism of Jesus when Christianity has moved with such gigantic strides and put forth efforts so vigorous and herculean, as during these years of our own century when the disciples of Voltaire and the imitators of Paine have been most active. . . . It is during this time, in fact within the last forty years of it, that there have sprung up all our Young Men’s Christian Associations, with organizations extending north and south, east and west, in North America and South, Europe, Asia, the Sand-