

as to usurp the place of the first. In China they count by generations, and the 81st generation of Confucius is still found in the place where he lived. This is undoubtedly the highest descent in the world. This person is supported at the public expense. The tablets of ancestors are in every house. In these tablets one of the three souls of the person whose name is on it, resides. At parting they present food to their ancestors, who are invoked to come and partake of the spiritual parts of the food. Sometimes a hog is dressed whole and offered, and after the ancestor's soul has eaten the spiritual part, the family take it away and eat the temporal parts. The Roman Catholics have allowed their converts to go on with the worship of ancestors, so that they differed but little from the heathen Chinese. Protestant missionaries explained the idolatrous character of the worship, and showed that it was inconsistent with the worship owed to God alone. The Roman Catholic missionaries had conformed largely to Chinese superstitions and idolatries; and not having circulated the Bible, very little result of their labors remained after they were driven out. By the recent treaty with the French, all the property formerly owned by the Church of Rome was to be restored, and it was believed the priests would claim under it to the value of ten millions sterling.—*Montreal Witness*.

TURKEY.—THE DECLINE OF ISLAMISM.

The following is an abstract of the address delivered by Rev. Mr. Marsh, of Mosul, Missionary of the American Board, at the Montreal Union Missionary Meeting held on Friday evening of the Anniversary Week. Mr. Marsh said:—There is an almost universal feeling in the minds of the Moslems that their day is past, and that Christianity is to take possession of the earth for a thousand years. If you ask any intelligent Moslem anywhere, whether Mahomet or Jesus Christ is the greater, he will say Christ. We also find in the Word of God, that two great powers are to disappear at this time—the false prophet and the beast. The Moslems have an idea of the same kind. There are more idolaters under Queen Victoria than any other class, and there are more Moslems than Christians. England did not take India from the idolaters, but from the Moslems. At the great Indian Rebellion it was the Moslems again that were the leaders, and they were subdued. This victory gave joy and safety for the time to every Christian in the Turkish Empire. Abd-el-Kader has written that the conduct of the Moslems in Syria was so atrocious that the power must pass out of their hands. This man, the greatest hero that the present generation of Moslems, or perhaps any other, has produced, was conquered and led captive by France. Schamyl, too, who professed to be a prophet of God, was subdued by Russia, another proof to the whole Moslem world that they were powerless. When England was at war with Persia, it was like a man fighting with a fly. The war was over before England knew she was at war at all. This made little impression on the English mind, but made a great impression on the Mahommedans. The same result was seen in the contest of Spain with Morocco, and in every case where Christians and Moslems came in contact, so that the latter were convinced that their strength had departed from them. The Apostate Churches of the East were not fit to convert the Moslems, or they would have