

On a Sabbath evening in November last, at Kilburn, a district of London, a census was taken by fifty-seven enumerators, who ascertained that there were 5,570 worshippers in the twenty-five churches; but that thirty-five public houses were visited by 5,591 persons between the hours of six and eight o'clock. The Moloch of Drink gathered to his shrine more worshippers than were to be found in all the sanctuaries of the district to worship God!—nor is that particular district an exception to the state of things uniformly prevailing.

Is it not true also in regard to more secluded and rural communities, that the great majority of the people are living in utter forgetfulness of God, and in rejection of the Saviour? What millions to-day in heathendom are untouched by the Gospel of Jesus! Countless myriads are devoted followers of Confucius—or Brahma—or Mahommed—or are sunk in barbarism and grossest idolatry. How many parts of the earth are still full of the habitations of cruelty, and unilluminated by the light of the Gospel. It is computed that in India there are 120,000,000 women and girls, and not more than one in every twelve hundred has yet been placed under any kind of Christian instruction. The fact is forced upon the thoughtful mind that the progress which is being made toward the salvation of the world is lamentably slow, notwithstanding the multiplied agencies employed by the Churches of Christendom. How many each year are converted to the faith? Would it be a false estimate, or an exaggeration, to conclude that two millions were annually brought to a saving knowledge of the truth? Yet even then the conversions are not keeping pace with the world's population for statisticians make it evident that the world's annual increase of population is about three millions! If no greater progress shall result from the labours of the organized forces of the Christian Church in the future to convert mankind than has been made in the past, then centuries must come and go before the earth is filled with the knowledge of God, and all shall know the Lord.

The Rev. W. Booth, formerly a Methodist minister, and the originator of the "Salvation Army," from a personal knowledge of the spiritually-destitute condition of the masses, their woeful degradation and contempt of religion, and perceiving that the ordinary appliances for reaching and rescuing these perishing