

RECENT PROGRESS.

But within a tenmonth, merely as one amongst the daily mass of general telegraphic messages, we read: 'The first through train reached Khartoum to-day.' This word, so romantic and momentous, received hardly a passing public notice. The Soudan open, every other land is expected to be open.

"*Politically*, Christianity has woven its ideas into the web of national life with an ever-wider woof. The test of national integrity, in rulers and in people alike, is conformity to Christian principles. The criticisms passed by John Stuart Mill on the state are criticisms suggested to him by the essential teachings of Christianity. The 'civic conscience' of Christendom has become a factor to be primarily reckoned with by all legislators; the inspirer of that conscience is Christianity. The nations thus influenced are becoming the world-rulers. They practically divide the earth between them, either in the form of colonies, suzerainties, or 'spheres of influence.' The population of those countries whose accepted ideals and standards of moral conduct are Christian is placed at almost 500,000,000. These govern, or help to shape, the political action of almost 900,000,000 of the world's inhabitants.

"The achievements wrought by Christianity in the *social* conditions of the world are luminous. To-day the results wrought by Christianity in ameliorating or destroying vicious social customs roll up such returns as pronounce Christianity a blessing to the home and to the individual from Natal to Point Barrow. The number of its adherents does not necessarily indicate the condition of a cause. But when one feature of a cause is its 150 societies in the heathen world, whose missionaries count 6,000, and whose native preachers, teachers, and helpers are 68,500, and whose converts are over 4,000,000, the capabilities and aggressive nature of the cause become apparent. This one arm of the service has put the Bible, in part or as a whole, into over 350 languages, which nine-tenths of the human race can read, has established schools, colleges, printing-presses, hospitals, asylums, churches, has sought out the famished, the leprous, the outcast, has aimed to exemplify honesty, industry, purity, self-control, and self-dignity—and has seen its ideas assume larger