

monastic vows may be taken, for enabling nuns to quit a conventual life, and for protecting and securing their property to their own use." The *Weekly Review* says,—"The state of conventual institutions in Britain is an anomaly. To immure English women, guilty of no criminal offence, in buildings provided with bolts, bars, high walls, and every precaution of a gaol, in order to maintain their safe custody, is contrary to the principles of the Constitution, and is a condition that requires the active interference of the law, and demands that protection should be given, such as has been afforded to lunatics in asylums, to women and children in our factories, and even to felons in our gaols."

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The falling off in the attendance at religious services in both Britain and America, is exciting the anxious attention of earnest men in both countries. In *England* the Bishop of Manchester details some painful facts in regard to his own diocese. One parish has a population of eight thousand, but only *five per cent.* of the people attend any church service. In another Parish there is a population of ten thousand, whilst the ordinary Sabbath congregation is only about *one hundred*. In London and throughout England generally, church attendance statistics present some equally painful facts in regard to the indifference of the masses to divine ordinances. In *America* the condition of things is no better. Dr. Cuyler presents a gloomy picture of the state of matters in New York. Writing in the *Congregationalist*, he says, "It requires but half an eye to discover the alarming fact that this attendance is falling off, both in the cities and in the country, both at the east and in the west. Forty years ago it was claimed that one-half of the population of the city of New York was either wholly or partially connected with some Protestant congregation. Now only *one-fourth* of the population are ever seen in any Protestant place of worship." The reports from other cities, and even from country districts, are as gloomy as those from New York. In one large district of country, where able ministers had long laboured, the proportion in attendance on ordinances had fallen from *four-fifths* to less than *one-half* of the population. Dr. Cuyler concludes his statement with these words, "Let us face the terrible fact that while the population of our beloved land is rapidly increasing, there is a lamentable falling off in attendance upon the public worship of Jehovah, and in listening to the great truths of salvation."

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The devoted French evangelist, M. Revillaud, affirms that "*not one-tenth* of the French people are really Roman Catholic: that the peasantry are not in sympathy with the Romish church, and that France is now open to the Gospel, and will welcome it every where."

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The Bible production in our time is equal to more than a million copies a year, or say more than nineteen thousand every week, more than three thousand every day, three hundred every hour, or five every minute of working time. At this rate the press is producing an English Bible or New Testament every twelve seconds.