

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XII.—No. 2.

TORONTO, JULY 18, 1895.

\$1.50 per Annum

The Ninety and Nine.

There are ninety and nine that work and die
In hunger and want and cold,
That one may live in luxury,
And be lapped in the silken fold!
And ninety and nine in their hovels bare,
And one in a palace of riches rare.

From the sweat of their brows the desert blooms,
And the forest before them falls;
Their labor has builded humble homes,
And the cities with lofty halls;
And the one owns cities and houses and lands,
And the ninety and nine have empty hands.

But the night, so dreary and dark and long,
At last shall the morning bring;
And over the land the victors' song
Of the ninety and nine shall ring.
And echo afar, from zone to zone.
"Rejoice for Labor shall have its own!"

In the Free Church Assembly, several important debates took place—one on a motion in favor of administering Communion to aged and sick persons in their own homes, carried by 230 to 203 votes; another on Professor Drummond's book, "The Ascent of Man," the Assembly declining by a majority of 123 to admonish the author for his theory of evolution views; Principal Rainy's disestablishment motion being carried by 365 to 42 votes.

The *Deutsche Kirchenzeitung* of Berlin has computed, on the basis of the latest scientific and statistical sources accessible, a suggestive table of the distribution of the people of the globe according to their religions. The population of the earth is estimated at fifteen hundred millions, distributed as follows: Europe, 381,200,000; Africa, 127,000,000; Asia, 354,000,000; Australia, 4,730,000; America, 133,670,000; Total 1,500,000,000.

The leading religions are represented by the following figures: Protestant Christians, 200,000,000; Roman Catholic Christians, 195,000,000; Greek Catholic Christians, 105,000,000; Total Christians, 500,000,000.

Jews, 8,000,000; Mohammedans, 180,000,000; Heathens, 812,000,000; Total non-Christians, 1,000,000,000.

According to these data, one-third of the population of the globe is Christian—that is to say, nationally and nominally Christian. This differs largely from statistical estimates heretofore made. The most remarkable feature of this exhibit is, that Protestants have surpassed the Catholics in numbers by more than 4,000,000. This is surprising, and a striking advance over former estimates.

But the preponderance of Protestantism is far greater in other respects than in numbers only, for it exercises a controlling influence on the government and destinies of the leading nations of the earth. England, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United States are predominantly Protestant countries, and these, together with their colonies, control nearly one-

half the population of the globe. One-third of all Mohammedans are under the Protestant government of England, and the Hinduism of India is entirely under British domination. The English Educational System is slowly but surely changing the customs and opening a new world of thought for these people; and the German writer in *Kirchenzeitung* thinks that even the Buddhism of Borneo, Siam, and Thibet will not be able to maintain its own supremacy against the onward march of Christian civilization. In the great Buddhist countries of China and Japan, Buddhism is little more than an external decoration of public life and customs, and not a spiritual power controlling and directing the hearts and minds of the people. Its cloisters and monasteries are the seats of moral and spiritual starvation. These conditions are highly favorable for a rapid spread of Christianity in Pagan lands, and its onward march is largely facilitated by railroads, telegraphs, and steamers, opening the way for the introduction of modern improvements, and for the entrance of Christian missionaries to evangelize the people.

At a monthly meeting of the Western Board, held in Glasgow, there was presented a specimen copy of the society's new Wenli Reference Testament, printed in large type specially cut by native workmen in the society's employment at Hankow. This book, unique in China, with two maps, is produced at the price of one shilling. The Chinese issues for the quarter ending 31st January had been 1,043 Testaments and 64,572 portions. Up to 31st December last 16,700 Testaments and gospels had been distributed among the soldiers of the Japanese army and Chinese prisoners at Hiroshima. The Evangelical Society of Geneva reported sales on the Bible Society's account last winter of 11,503 Bibles and Testaments and 6,698 portions. Among the grants of the month were a number of Scriptures at nominal rates for the benefit of poor children in the West Highlands and 100 Bibles free to the Western Infirmary. One exceptionally interesting donation was reported. In 1887 a young manufacturer sent the secretary a donation of £55, being £1 for each year of his life. As each successive birthday has come round he has kept up the good custom, the cheque growing with his growing years, till the latest represents the sum of £45.

Mrs Caroline H. Polhemus, of Brooklyn, widow of Henry D. Polhemus, has announced her purpose to build a dispensary for the Long Island Hospital, to cost \$250,000, and to endow it with another \$250,000 as a memorial to her late husband. The announcement came as a surprise to the friends of the hospital, who are very jubilant over the matter. Mr. Polhemus was the last male in the seventh generation from the Rev. Thomas F. Polhemus, who established the first Dutch Church in the old town of Flatbush.