

so many Christian organizations of great power were at work for the evangelization of the world ; never a time in which so much money was contributed to Christian objects of all kinds.

While in all these respects there has been a great increase in the religious activity, and religious attainments generally, of the old churches, the number of new and powerful organizations which have sprung up with like objects is most remarkable. Some of these are independent of particular churches, and others are in close connection with existing churches. It is only about 150 years since the Methodists came into existence as a separate organization, and they have now become one of the greatest Protestant denominations in Christendom. Sunday-schools for religious training are of still more modern origin ; and it is estimated that the number of scholars now receiving instruction in them is nearly twenty-three millions ; a most significant fact, seeing that Sunday-schools are amongst the most powerful agencies of the Christian faith. The Religious Tract Society was formed in London less than a century ago, and its issues since are counted in millions, and comprise translations into almost all the languages spoken in the world. The British and Foreign Bible Society has been said to be the greatest agency ever devised for the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures,