

strong his faith was to endure all, when any day he might have got his freedom by denying his faith. In April, 1893, when he was testifying for Christ in the lower prison, about a dozen outlaws fell upon him: they beat and kicked him, and finally, taking their turns in choking him, asked him repeatedly, "Who is true, Ali or Jesus?" With his breath almost gone, and his eyes almost out of their sockets, he answered, "Jesus—though you kill me." Dr. Venureman, of the American Mission, visited him on May 14, and found him at death's door. He could only say, "All is well; tell the Church to pray for me, and commend me to Jesus. I knew when I became a Christian that I was putting a knife to my throat." He died the same day.

THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

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WHEN celebrating the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, many articles were written to show the vast material progress of Great Britain during the fifty years of her reign—progress, that is, in population, wealth, manufactures, as well as in preparation for war in army and navy.

It is hard to realize that at the beginning of the present century the population of England and Wales was not quite double that of Canada to-day, whilst at the last census it was nearly six times as great—twenty-nine millions; and to-day probably it may be stated as follows: In 1800, nearly nine millions; in 1840, nearly sixteen millions; in 1893, nearly thirty millions. In the last fifty years, or during the reign of Queen Victoria, the actual population, in spite of the emigration of many millions, has almost doubled.

As regards the numbers belonging to the Church, it is difficult to obtain exact information. A religious census has been opposed each time by Nonconformists, so that it is only possible roughly to estimate the number on such available data as school, marriage, burial, army and navy returns. It has been variously set down as from fifty to seventy-two per cent. Probably the truth will be found to lie between these two assumptions; that is, a little over sixty per cent. of the population. In that case eighteen millions would represent the number of Churchfolk at the present time.

The "Official Year Book of the Church of England for 1894" gives the following statistics in regard to Church Sunday-schools:—Scholars, 2,205,549; Bible classes, 401,291; teachers, 188,011.

Church building and restoration has been very general during the last fifty years, and the figures are so vast as to scarcely give one an

idea of the amount expended. To say that two hundred and fifty million dollars have been employed for this alone during the last half century is about as clear to the ordinary mind as to say that the revenue from sugar duties is so many thousands when we purchase a dollar's worth.

The Incorporated Church Building Society was formed in 1818; since then it has aided about eight thousand places (more than half the parishes in England) with grants amounting to five million dollars, thus contributing to the erection of 2,132 additional churches, and the rebuilding and enlarging of 5,816 others, whereby upwards of 1,750,000 additional seats have been provided. This work alone has called forth a further expenditure on the part of Churchfolk of \$66,000,000.

Take the diocese of Canterbury, as quiet and slow a diocese as can perhaps be found in England. Returns show that from 1873 to 1891 (18 years) in church building over \$1,000,000, and in church restoration over \$2,000,000, were spent in this one diocese out of the thirty-two. In the dioceses of London and Manchester, the amount expended was three or four times as great. In one year direct application for returns was made to every incumbent in England and Wales, and the voluntary offerings for all Church purposes were found to amount to \$8,669,500, and it is calculated that for twenty-five years (1860 to 1884) over \$410,000,000 have been contributed by Churchpeople, and that for the half century we may safely estimate the total to be not far short of a thousand million of dollars.

The latest returns, published in the Year Book of 1894, show that the total voluntary contributions for Church work during 1893 in the Church of England, including Wales, amounted to more than twenty-seven million dollars. Three million dollars were contributed to the support of Church Sunday-schools, and over two and a half millions given for the support of the poor.

A very notable feature is the number of churches built and restored by individual gifts of noblemen, country gentlemen, and wealthy merchants. In London, St. Philip's was built in 1888 as a free and open church for the poor at a cost of \$50,000—one-half of which was given by the Duke of Westminster, as well as the site, valued at \$25,000. In the diocese of Lincoln, one lady gave \$60,000 and another \$80,000 for the erection of churches. At St. Alban's, Teddington, \$150,000 were raised by donations and offertories; the parish church of St. Mary, Hornsey, was recently built at a cost of \$85,000, supplied by voluntary gifts; and St. Matthias', Bayswater, was erected at a cost of \$150,000, defrayed by the subscriptions of the congregation. In Cornwall, \$565,000 were raised by voluntary subscriptions from the people