

such like powers, are directly under the influence or control of the British, French or Chinese governments; and even the last is monotheistic in its national worship. Thibet, the one apparent exception, is under Chinese protection. The tribes under the yoke of naked savages we do not reckon among the nations and kingdoms of the world.

This overthrow of idolatrous rulers is not the work of Christian missions; but it has been chiefly brought about by Christian powers, and is surely a part of the Divine purpose for preparing the way of the Lord. That the rulers of all civilized or semi-civilized nations—in fact, all nations with anything corresponding to or resembling civil government—are *monotheists*, is well fitted to encourage the missionary spirit, and the hopes of the Church. He who has put down the idolatrous power will fulfill His prophetic word, “the idols he will utterly abolish.”

III.—THE ENLARGEMENT AND INCREASED RESOURCES OF THE CHURCH.

The altered position of the church in relation to the heathen world, is a cheering fact, and should be a powerful factor in the future. A hundred years ago the numbers of professing Christians of all the three great sections of the Christian Church, were less than 200 millions, now they are over 430 millions; and of this great increase in a hundred years, by far the larger share falls to the Protestant Church. While the Roman Catholic and Greek churches only doubled their numbers, the Protestants multiplied nearly four fold. The numbers, as given in our “Century of Christian Progress,” stand thus :

	1786.	1886.		
Protestants.....	37,700,000	137,000,000	Increase	4 fold.
Roman Catholics.....	117,000,000	205,000,000	less than	2 fold.
Greek Church.....	46,000,000	89,000,000	“ “	2 fold.
	<u>200,700,000</u>	<u>431,000,000</u>		

In our brochure, “A Century of Protestant Missions,” we called attention to the fact, that while Protestant missions had gathered three millions into the fold of Christ in a hundred years, the heathen had increased, by the ordinary birth rate, by 200 millions, in the same time. But if we take the entire increase in the nominally Christian population, which was in the same period 230 millions, we alter most materially the relative numbers, and find that the Christian is rapidly overtaking the heathen and Mohammedan population of the world.

In 1786 the entire population of the world was probably about 1,000 millions, of which professing Christians were 200 millions, forming 20 per cent. of the whole, and 25 per cent. of the 800 millions of heathens and Mohammedans. In other words, the Christians were 1 in 4 of the heathen and Mohammedans. In 1886 the population of the world was estimated at 1450 millions, but the Christians of all