

there were 100,000,000. In 1800 they had doubled again, and there were 480,000,000. More converts have been made and more members added to Christian Churches in the last eighty years than in the eighteen centuries that preceeded! And yet some people think Christianity is losing its hold upon the world! Dr. Dorchester also calls attention to the fact that one-half of the earth's, 1,400,000,000 are to-day controlled by "Christian governments," thus opening the door for the Gospel as never before.

But some say this great increase has been among the densely ignorant, while in civilized lands the Church is really losing ground. Not so; more than ninety per cent. of this increase has been made in civilized countries. It is a striking fact, too, that the census reports of countries supposed to be full of infidelity show that the number who declare a disbelief in Christianity is comparatively small. In Canada, there are about 3,500 disbelievers out of 3,500,000. In Germany, supposed by some to be the very head-quarters of infidelity, the declared Atheists and Free Religionists were but 7000 out of 24,500,000. In France, which ninety years ago obliterated religion by law, abolished the Sabbath and exalted a courtesan to receive the homage due to GOD, there are now but 82,000 out of 36,000,000 who declare that they have no religion. A blatant minority in these countries, as in our own, need not make us shrink from calling them Christian countries.—*New York Guardian.*

### AN HISTORIC CHURCH.

THE thousandth anniversary of the Church of Chester-le-Street, Durham, has been commemorated by special service. In A. D. 883 the mitred Abbot and the Monks of Lindisfarne were driven from Holy Island on the coast of Northumberland by an invasion of the Danes, and located themselves at Chester-le-Street. The original fabric erected by these monks was for 113 years the seat of the Bishopric of Lindisfarne, until after the second era of wandering through another inroad of the Danes, in 996 the Bishop and Monks finally settled at Durham, as the destined resting-place of St. Cuthbert. A certain degree of reverence ever subsequently appertained to Chester-le-Street, as the asylum for upwards of a century of the sacred relics of St. Cuthbert; and animated by this spirit of respect, the famous Bishop Beale, about 1385, built the present imposing Church, and founded in it a collegiate establishment of Dean, Prebendaries, and Deacons. In the reign of Henry VIII. these were removed, and the noble fabric lapsed to its former position, as a Parish Church, the perfect restoration of which has now been commemorated. The first prominent feature in the day's proceedings was the solemn consecration of the new bells by a special service of prayer and praise, conducted by the Bishop of the Diocese. This ceremony alone is worthy of record, as evidencing the great advance in the National Church towards the prior customs of an earlier age, and of its increasing regard to all the accessor-

Always set a watch on your words.