

gain of about seventy per cent.; but meanwhile the number of our communicants has risen from 146,000 to 423,000, or a gain of nearly 200 per cent. In other words the Church has grown three times as fast as the nation.

Moreover this increase is not confined to *any one* section. Some religious bodies are very strong in certain localities, but are simply insignificant or utterly unknown elsewhere. The Unitarians in Massachusetts and the Campbellites in the West are illustrations of this. It is not so with the Church. Her growth is even more marked in the *older communities at the East*, than in the newer settlements at the West. A few months ago there was a good-natured dispute between our missionary jurisdictions and some of our organized western dioceses, as to where the most work had been done and where there was the largest return for the help so generously given. There are, however, dioceses, on the Atlantic coast, which can point with just pride to the mission work done within their borders, and challenge a comparison of results.

Take Massachusetts and Connecticut for instance. Here the increased influence of the Church is even more marked than her material growth. Yet how great the latter has been. It was once said that the Church in New England could never be anything but an exotic, and must depend on outside help for support. When we run our eyes down the long list of parishes, and foot up the thousands given by them for the work of the Gospel in more distant fields, such predictions seem absurd.

Turn from these two States to New York. Fifty years ago the Empire State was a single Diocese with about 200 clergy and about 10,000 communicants. Now there are within its borders, *five* Dioceses with nearly 700 clergy and 100,000 communicants. Though New York has been the port where most of our immigrants have landed, and though the Irishman loves the city far better than the country, yet, *in spite of all this*, the Church has made a marvellous growth. How marvellous that growth has been, can best be shown by one statement. If the State had grown as fast, there would now be a population of *twenty-five millions* within her borders instead of *five*. Fifty years ago we had only five communicants in every 1,000 of the population, but to-day we have twenty. In other words the Church in New York has grown four times as fast as the State.—*Rev. Thomas Harrison, in the Churchman.*