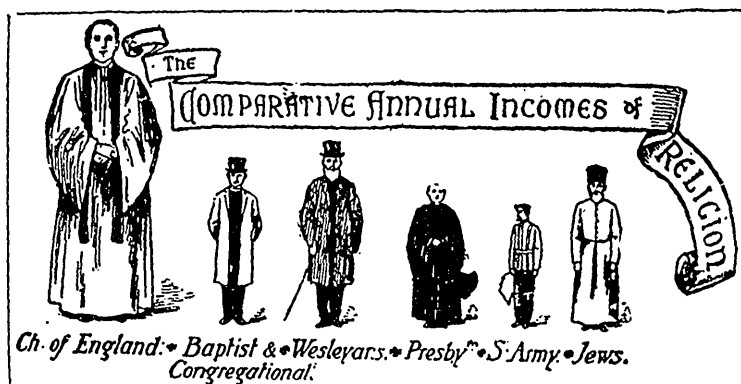


Religious Intelligence.



THE INCOME OF THE CHURCHES.

The accompanying diagram from *The Sunday Strand* gives, in a very graphic way, the relative income of the leading religious bodies of Great Britain. Of course, the dominant Church is that established by law—the Church of the King and the aristocracy, the Church endowed with the wealth of bygone generations, which has its rectories and vicarages in every parish in the kingdom, its minsters and cathedrals in its chief cities, and which still largely controls the educational policy of the country. In this free land of ours we have scant conception of the disabilities under which “Dissent” labours in that old land.

Thanks to the growing liberality of the Church, as expressed by Canon Henson, Dean Farrar, Bishop Wilberforce, and other noble men, the arrogance and exclusivism of the former times is giving place to a broader catholicity and Christian brotherhood. This old historic Church—with its Christian scholarship, its saintly lives, its noble missions—has rendered invaluable service to the kingdom of Christ. The great revival begun by John Wesley and other influences, have greatly contributed to the purifying and ennobling, as its own writers thankfully acknowledge, of this historic Church.

The Nonconformist Churches of Great Britain, though possibly all of them together not possessing the wealth of the Established Church, yet outnumber it in membership, in influence, in church buildings, and institutions created by voluntary contribution. At the very head of these

is the Methodist Church, nobly led by that branch planted by John Wesley himself—the youngest of the Churches of Christendom, but in Great and Greater Britain the largest and most influential.

Following the Wesleyans, in income, according to this diagram, is the Jewish religion. Though its numbers are comparatively insignificant, yet their dominance in finance and banking makes it the wealthiest of its size in the world. It is also very liberal to its poor, of whom it has very many and very abject refugees from Continental oppression, especially from Russia. What a contrast from the bad old days when wealthy Jews had their teeth extracted to extort their gold (not that of their teeth, but of their coffers).

The old historic Baptist and Congregational Churches, which have stood so valiantly for civil and religious liberty through stormy days, follow next, dowered with some of the most conspicuous men of light and leading in the realm.

The Presbyterian Church, which is all-powerful north of the Tweed, in England is relatively much less so, yet contributes greatly to the moral and intellectual weal of the nation.

The Salvation Army, the youngest of the religious organizations, sprung from the poor, and devoted chiefly to social and religious work among the poor, has reached a notable development. It controls—largely through the self-denial of its lowly and devoted members, and largely through the sympathy of those outside its pale—great amounts of money,