

communicants 3,143,408. The growth in the two decades, 1850-1880 and 1880-1870, is remarkable because in the first of them the effect of the Millerite excitement was felt, which led to unbelief and to numerous withdrawals from the churches. In the second of these decades the demoralizing results of the civil war were felt, and have not ceased to be felt at the present time. The degenerating influences of immigration, the dangers of luxury and material prosperity were encountered; Spiritualism and English philosophic materialism modified or destroyed the faith of many, withholding them from entrance into the churches, leading some members to withdraw. Has there been a decline in the last

decade, 1870-1880, or in the seven years of the present decade? The watchword is "progress" in nearly every particular—great progress in many directions. The gain from 1870 to 1880, with the exception of the increase of churches, was equal to that from 1800 to 1850; in other words, the churches increased 26,042, the ministers 22,201, and the members 3,392,667. The number of communicants increased 27-fold from 1800 to 1880, making a round 10,000,000 in 1880, or one communicant to every five of population. The returns for 1887 are not in. If they were they would be the reports for 1886, and in some instances of 1885. The advancement during the century admits of the following:

RECAPITULATION.

Year.	Evangelical churches or congregations.	Ministers.	Communicants.
1800	3,030	2,651	364,672
1850	43,072	25,655	3,521,988
1870	70,145	47,009	6,673,396
1880	97,000	69,870	10,065,963
1886	112,744	83,854	12,182,051

NOTE.—Local preachers and licentiates are not included in the ministerial column. The reference there is to ordained ministers.

The increase of churches during the century is.....	109,714
The increase of ministers during the century is.....	81,203
The increase of communicants during the century is.....	11,767,770
The increase of communicants during the century is.....	35-fold +
The increase of population during the century is.....	only 11-fold +

The increase of communicants during the century is equal to 23 times as many as existed at the end of the first century, or 23 times 600,000.

MEMBERSHIP BY PERIODS.

		Yearly average.
The increase of membership from 1800-1850, 50 years, is.....	3,165,116	63,302
The increase of membership from 1850-1870, 20 years, is.....	3,143,403	157,170
The increase of membership from 1870-1880, 10 years, is.....	3,392,637	339,263
The increase of membership from 1880-1886, 6 years, is.....	2,666,693	324,440
The increase of membership from 1850-1886, 36 years, is.....	3,602,063	238,962

The last period given, 1850-1886, allows for losses and hindrances by Millerism, war, immigration, luxury and materialism, and Spiritualism.

Notice that the increase of three millions (pln.) in a diminishing period of two-fifths and one-fifth as many years as in the first 50, or in 1850-70 and 1870-80 as compared with 1800-50, is an enormous growth; that the annual average is a constantly increasing quantity in each period, and that the annual average thus far in the present decade carried through will make the decade's growth to be 3,444,490. The average itself, as tested by the estimated growth of the last two years, will extend the total for the decade beyond four millions, because the annual average thus far for the century is a constantly increasing quantity.

Moreover, this is good reading if compared with the boasts of infidelity—ancient and modern, Roman, French, English and American. Diocletian and Galerius, in the fourth century, thinking that Christianity was dying, symbolized its death on their medals as a strangled hydra with the haughty inscription, "Deleta Christiana Religione." Voltaire boasted that, if it had taken twelve men to found Christianity, he would show that only one man was needed to destroy it. David Hume in 1740 confidently predicted the downfall of Christianity in the nineteenth century. Tom Paine boasted that he had cut down every tree in Paradise. False prophets,

every one of them! Disappointed! The most recent and competent historians and statisticians assure us that the exhibit for the century and for the last decades and fractions of the century is unparalleled "in any land or age," notwithstanding an increase of population more remarkable than in any country, in ancient or modern times. The annual increase of population in the United States has been five and a half times that of Great Britain, more than eleven times that of France. The evangelical adherents of Christianity in 1886, the figures being obtained by multiplying the number of communicants (12,182,561) by three and a half, a smaller multiple than is usually allowed, number 42,564,278, or more than the estimated number of nominal Christians (40,000,000) at the close of the ninth century.

Advancement in New England.

New England is the most interesting section of the United States to study, because of its religious history and its subjection all the time to emigration and immigration. As regards emigration and immigration, New England is the greatest possible contrast to the Southern States.

In 1880 there were 600,000 New Englanders