

numbers of human kind are given, it is to be remembered that outside of North America, Europe, and India, and a few smaller regions, all conclusions are based only upon estimates—that is, guesses. Africa used to contain 200,000,000 and upward to even 300,000,000, but now statisticians name 165,000,000, or even 130,000,000, as probably nearer the truth; while a recent writer would leave to the Congo Free State but 8,000,000 out of the 40,000,000 who have been supposed to dwell therein; and, finally, along comes the Chinese ambassador and declares that the population of his country is grossly overestimated, and instead of 400,000,000 there are but 125,000,000! Calculations, he says, have been based upon the number found to the square mile in the vicinity of the seaboard, while further back, over the bulk of the area of the empire, the density of population is much less.

—Mr. Moody finds young Irishmen from the old country so especially valuable, when trained for evangelistic toil, that in closing his work in that island recently he offered to depart from his usual rule of requiring candidates to bear a portion of the expense of their training, and if 25 young men were sent from Ireland, he would put them through their course in the Chicago Institute without any charge.

—Though not a few Episcopalians have strong convictions against sending "missionaries to Roman Catholic countries, because they are already under the jurisdiction of bishops who are in the line of the apostolical succession," the *Evangelical Churchman* of Toronto does not in the least share such strange scruples, and makes bold to affirm: "It is the duty of Protestants to carry the Gospel to Romanists, who in some countries—Spain, Mexico, and Brazil, for instance—need it almost as much as the heathen."

—The Presbyterian Synod of Oregon, at its last meeting, adopted an overture

to the next Assembly looking toward a more economical expenditure of mission funds. After expressing its confidence in the unity of the Church, and its belief in co-operation as a practical method of expressing that unity, it expressed the desire to co-operate with other churches in bringing about this reform in the missionary field of the West.

#### WOMAN'S WORK.

*Past and Present.*—It marked the beginning of a new and important stage in the growth of Christian missions when, in 1861, and largely through Mrs. Doremus, in New York City, was formed the Union Missionary Society, the first of its kind, at least in the United States, and by the co-operation of women from six denominations. The need of the new movement was so great, and the call was so evidently from on high, that presently the idea was taken up and acted upon by others, and now it has come to this, that any church which is not supplied with a Woman's Board is counted singular and far behind the times.

Not less than 75 such organizations can now be named, of which 50 are in the United States and Canada, and the rest mainly in Great Britain, with an aggregate income approaching near to \$2,000,000, and upward of 5000 representatives in the foreign field, of whom nearly 2000 have gone out from Christian lands. These four denominations stand at the front with respect to the extent of their work, though various others, according to their numbers and ability, have done just as well or even better: the Presbyterians, \$316,734; the Methodist Episcopalians, \$265,342; the Congregationalists, \$218,935; and the Baptists, \$213,658. As a manifestation of zeal coupled with energy and skill, the society first named reported receipts last year less than those of the entire great Church by only \$16,226, a phenomenon strange, if not serious; and while the Methodist Church South has been for some years struggling with a debt, the women