

New York is reported to be but one hundred and fifteen thousand, and the enrolment of the Protestant schools but eighty-nine thousand.

Such a showing in regard to the churches and Sunday-schools of the metropolis is simply amazing and startling, and what is true of New York City is also true, to a large degree, of many of our other large cities. But what do we find in these large cities instead of the churches and Sunday-schools? We find (a) that the foreign population, and the very worst of it, is largely centred there. While those who were either foreign-born or born of foreign parentage, according to the tenth census, were less than one third of the entire population of the country, this class of persons formed 62 per cent of the population of Cincinnati, 63 per cent of that of Boston, 83 per cent of that of Cleveland, 88 per cent of that of New York, and 91 per cent of that of Chicago, and I suppose these figures will not be materially altered by the eleventh census.

We find (b) that the stronghold of the saloon power is most mightily entrenched in these cities. King Alcohol has his throne there. We find (c) that anarchism, socialism, atheism, infidelity, and everything that makes against righteousness and truth have their seat there. We find (d) that monopolies of all kinds begin and thrive there.

Very few persons seem really to realize the tremendous influence that these great cities will necessarily exert upon the history of our country. The history of the world is largely the history of great cities. The history of Nineveh, of Babylon, of Tyre, of Athens, of Sparta, of Carthage, of Thebes, of Rome is largely the history of their respective countries. Large cities, said Professor Rümelin, ex-Chancellor of Tübingen University, "are the bony framework of the body politic." But he was thinking of cities as the seat of learning, of government, of the arts and sciences. But Bismarck said, "All great cities ought to be swept from off

the face of the earth." He was thinking of them as the breeders of the revolutionary bacillus, which they must inevitably be unless they are permeated by the purifying influences of the Gospel. These large cities of ours will be no exceptions to the rule of large cities. They will largely write the history of our country. What will that history be? That depends on what the churches make of these large cities. Looking at it from this light, of what immense importance to the future of our country home missionary work is.

2. In our Western States and Territories. These are yet in their plastic state, in their formative period. They are now being moulded and given their permanent character. This character will depend largely on their first population. The first settlers always leave their impress upon a community for years, if not forever. So did the Puritans upon New England, the Germans upon Pennsylvania, the Dutch upon New York, and the aristocratic families from England upon many parts of the South. Now, what is the character of the population of many of these Western States and Territories? It is Roman Catholic, Mormon, atheistic, anarchic to a great degree. It appears as though the devil was making a special effort to mass all of his forces in these great empires of the new West, for empires they certainly are in possibility. The Protestant church-membership in some of these States is almost insignificant when compared with the population—as, for example, in Utah, where it was, in 1880, one in two hundred and twenty-four, or as in New Mexico, where it was one in six hundred and fifty-seven; and the character of this population is not likely to change very rapidly for the better, for 70 per cent of the emigration is pouring into these States, and the saloon is three times stronger there, according to population, than east of the Mississippi. What will be the history of this great West beyond the Mississippi, that contains nearly two thirds of our territory? It will de-