

THE UNITED STATES.

The rapidity with which the church has increased in numbers and membership throughout the United States within the last few years, has not escaped the notice of its denominational brethren, and from time to time various reasons have been assigned for its phenomenal growth, other than that of its Apostolical character and historical claims. Perhaps in no one city has this been more marked than in the great commercial metropolis of New York, and indeed on the whole of Manhattan Island. The matter has lately engaged the attention of the Rev. Dr. Shauffler, of New York, who, in an article contributed to the *Treasury* for April, gives the result of his deliberations thereon, and points out what he considers to be the most potent of all the causes which brought about such rapid increase. He attributes this to the doubling of the ordained working force which the Church has thought wise to inaugurate in that city. He compares the membership of the Episcopal and and Presbyterian bodies respectively. He says that in 1872 there were in New York city 19,672 communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church; in 1882, 25,733; in 1890, 36,135. In 1872 there were 18,773 Presbyterian church members; in 1882, 25,120; in 1890 24,230; showing that the Episcopal communicant membership increased from 19,650 to 36,135, whilst the Presbyterians only grew from 18,773 to 24,430. Dr. Shauffler adds "the other bodies have not grown with anything like the same rapidity."

Dr. Shauffler points out that according to the year book of the P.E.

Church for 1890, there were 22 out of 75 churches in New York city that had more than one ordained minister in each, these 22 having 53 clergy, and the churches pretty well distributed throughout the city, and "not massed in aristocratic parts alone." He then proceeds to give the names and church membership of these several parishes for 1872, '82 and '90, premising "that this dual force of ordained men did not begin as far back as 1872, but has only been in force a few years." The result of his examination is that the 53 churches, with one man each, in 1872 had 11,121 members, communicants, and in 1890, 18,755; whilst the 22 churches alone had, in 1872, 8,529 members, and in 1890, 17,280, showing that the former had much less than doubled, and the latter much more than doubled their strength.

This is certainly a most remarkable growth. These churches now have nearly one half of the entire membership of all the Episcopal churches in this city. They number 17,280 members, to 18,855 for all the other 53 Episcopal Churches of our metropolis. That is to say, 22 churches, which eighteen years ago had nothing like half of the membership of the combined Episcopal Churches of the city, have so gained on their sister churches that now they almost equal the other fifty-three. These figures are full of food for thought, nor will it do any longer to say that the denomination in question grows because of its superior attractiveness in its ritual, or because of its doctrinal looseness, or for any other reason. If that were the true reason for the remarkable increase of membership, then all the churches.