

7,361,279, 50,000 ministers, and a total numerical strength of about 35,000,500, in all probability the largest denomination in the English-speaking world. In Canada alone, there are over 280,000 members, making a total numerical strength of about 1,400,000 souls, the largest denomination, we may rightly claim, in the Dominion.

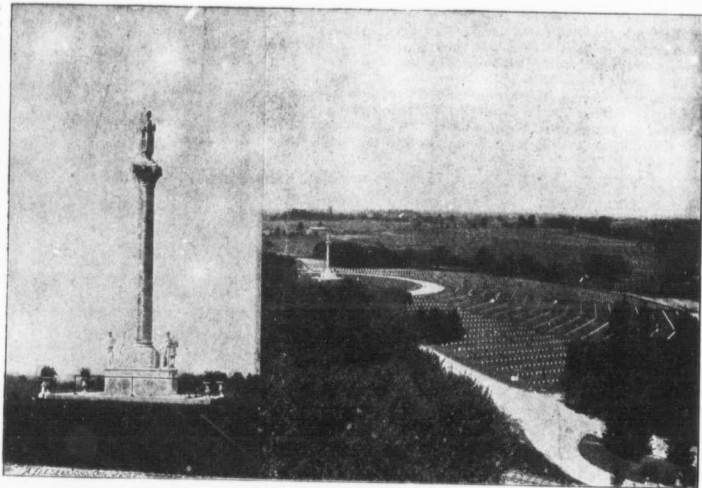
Sunday School Progress.—The Sunday-school with its beneficent work among the children has attained its great growth and widespread influence in the nineteenth century. While there are records of Sunday-school instruction in the Jewish and early Christian church and in later times, yet Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, England, is the virtual founder of the modern Sunday-school system in 1781. Wesley and his workers adopted the system, and Methodism became historically connected with both the initiation and development of this modern religious university. Sunday-schools rapidly multiplied notwithstanding much opposition. Note the progress! In 1781 four female teachers were employed to instruct a few scholars. In 1827, the number of scholars enrolled throughout the world was 1,350,000. In 1851 the number had increased to six millions. In 1880 that number had reached over fifteen millions. And in 1899 over twenty-five millions of scholars and over two millions of teachers constitute the mighty army for God and the truth among the Sunday-schools of Christendom. This is undoubtedly one of the most potent influences for good which this century bequeaths to the next.

Bible Societies.—Religious literature almost knee deep has been scattered in the hundred years just closing. The Bible especially has been circulated in enormous quantities through the instrumentality chiefly of Bible Societies. Work of this kind has been done before this century, but the greatest institution for the circulation of the Bible throughout the world was organized in 1807 in London, and called the British and Foreign Bible Society. It has not only circulated the Bible in English but has aided the publication of the Scriptures in many lands and many tongues.

During the nineteenth century 280,000,000 copies of the Bible have been printed by seventy-three Bible Societies. The Bible is now translated into at least 381 languages, and over fifty versions have been added during the last six or seven years. The Gospel is printed in a sufficient number of languages to-day so as to be read by three-fourths of the world's population.

Religious Tract Societies.—Great has been the good accomplished by the circulation in myriads of copies of religious tracts. The most successful of all the tract societies is the London Religious Tract Society, founded at the close of the last century and doing its best work in this. The work of the Society extends beyond the circulation of tracts. The publication of books and periodicals was introduced and millions

Mr. George Williams, now Sir George Williams, born in England in 1821. Going to London to push his fortune, he saw that the temptations for young men to drink, gamble, and ruin body and soul were very great. He, with other kindred spirits, organized a society in 1844 "for the improvement of the spiritual condition of young men," which resulted finally in the establishment of these worthy associations like trees of life in almost



MONUMENT AND CEMETERY, NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME, DAYTON, OHIO.

of copies of the safest literature has been issued to bless the youth of the Christian world. The Religious Tract Society publishes or aids the publication of tracts, books and periodicals in nearly two hundred languages and dialects, and its total circulation in all languages is thirty-three thousand millions. Thus it seems that in the nineteenth century the heavens have opened and scattered their celestial messages to all mankind.

Salvation Army.—The evangelistic movement known as "The Salvation Army" took its rise towards the close of the present century. 1878 was the year which stamped the movement with its definite character. Founded by Rev. Wm. Booth, a minister of the Wesleyan Church in England, it has gone into all English-speaking lands, and into many foreign countries with its proclamation of "free salvation" to all, and especially to the lowest classes of society. Its social schemes, as the army workshops and army farms, have rescued many a one back to good citizenship. Millions in all parts of the world can testify to the immense good accomplished by this latest organization for the evangelization of the masses.

Young Men's Christian Associations.—The growth during the last half century, both in numbers and in moral influence of Young Men's Christian Associations, is a marked religious feature of the times. The originator of these associations was

every part of the world. In December, 1851, the first Young Men's Christian Association was established in Montreal, Canada, and later in the same month, the first in the United States in the city of Boston. Associations since then have multiplied, not only in Great Britain and North America, but in Holland, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Algiers, Alexandria, India, Australia, South Africa, China, and Japan; and there are, it is estimated, a million young men who are thus "bound together in a blessed brotherhood to toil in the service of the Divine Master for their own spiritual welfare and that of their fellowmen." The formation of similar associations for young women, railroad men, and college students are a later development of this splendid movement.

Young Peoples' Organizations.—In the last twenty years of this century has originated one of the greatest religious movements of modern times—Young Peoples' Societies. The first distinctive organization owes its origin to Rev. Francis E. Clark, D.D., of Williston Church, Portland, Maine. On February 2nd, 1881, Dr. Clark formed in his own study the first Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the membership being forty-eight. The first convention was held in June, 1882, when only six societies were recorded. Now Christian Endeavor Societies have been organized