

THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD.

Drs. BEHN and Wagner have recently issued a new edition of their well-known collection of statistics. "Die Bevölkerung der Erde." They give the total as 1,433,637,500, which is about 22,000,000 less than their estimate of two years ago. They have concluded that China, including Corea, has 379,500,000 which is 55,000,000 less than formerly supposed. There has thus been an actual increase of about 33,000,000 in the population of the globe—an increase, however, which must be spread over ten years, as many of the recent censuses are decennial. For Europe; the present population is rated at 327,793,209, showing an increase of about 12,000,000 over the previous figures by the operation of the censuses. In Asia, making allowance for the readjustment of the population of China, there has been an increase of 20,000,000, the present population being set down at 795,591,639. In Africa, the population is 205,823,200. In America, 100,415,400. In Australia and Polynesia, 4,532,000. In the Polar Regions, 82,500.

WE SEEK A CITY.

We seek a city, where each quiet dwelling

Stands fast upon the everlasting hills;
Where in the song of praises loudly swelling,

Comes not a discord of our earthly ills.

Some of our loved have passed within the portals,

From out whose pearly gate they go no more;

Nor wait a note celestial down to mortals,
To guide unto that further shore;

We know that in that city life abideth;

Nor tears—nor death can ever enter there;

And One with nail-pierced hands our way still guideth,

Until we come unto the city fair.

We seek a city—pilgrim feet grow weary,
But we press on; beyond still lies our home,

Though days be dark, and ways are often dreary,

We seek, we seek a city yet to come!

Lucy Randolph Fleming.

THE POPULATION OF CHINA.

The Chinese Empire consists of five countries: China proper, Mantohuria, Mongolia, Thibet, and Eastern Turkestan.

China proper consists of eighteen provinces, and is supposed to contain a population of from about 360,000,000 to 400,000,000.

There are three great religions, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. The Emperor is Kwang Su. The inhabitants of the four countries outside of China proper, are chiefly, Buddhists.

Each province in China is about as large as Great Britain: so that China proper may be compared to eighteen Great Britains placed side by side. But when we include Mongolia, Manchuria, Thibet, and other dependencies, we find that the vermilion pencil lays down the law for a territory as large as Europe and about one third more.

The letter of M. Fulton, in the January number FOREIGN MISSIONARY, calls attention to Hoonan, one of the great provinces, with a population of 15,000,000. When we reflect that there are eighteen, of these vast provinces or states, crowded with cities, towns, villages, covering in all an area of 1,248,370 square miles, with an average of 238 persons to every square mile (according to the estimate of Dr. S. Wells Williams, following the census of 1812), we can gain some idea of the vast population to be reached by the missionaries now labouring in that colossal Empire.

There are fourteen British, thirteen American, and two European Societies labouring in China.

The three missions; under the care of the Presbyterian Board, are the Canton Mission, the Ningpo or Central China Mission and the Shantung and Peking Mission.

—Bishop Bedell, of Ohio, has written an article on DECLINE and REVIVAL, the "Decline of Religion," which he admits, and gives some weighty counsels as to its recovery. The methods he suggests are "renewed confidence in revelation as the absolute source of eternal verities; revived confidence in the apostles; and outspoken reverence for them as the embodiment of saving truth; revived confidence in the sacraments, in their simple, eternal purity, as spiritual realities; revived faith in the divine personality of the Holy Spirit; and a revival of confidence in prayer and in the use of constant, earnest believing prayers as the means that will bring the answer men need."