

THE PROGRESS OF RELIGION.
The Louisville Courier-Journal has been compiling statistics on the progress of religion throughout the world which are of interest and value. They show a growth which is most encouraging to the friends of religion of every creed and faith. In our own country this growth has been quite marvelous. The increase in population of the United States in the last hundred years was about thirteenfold, while the church membership has increased almost four times as fast as our rapidly growing population.

Not alone in membership, but in the benevolences which are the fruit of religious faith, has there been marked advancement. While no figures can be made to describe the growth of the church in spirituality there is recognized a commendable advance in moral standards both among ministers and Christian people generally and an increased activity in many directions. This may be noted in the matter of giving. The following summary of the sums spent by the churches of the world furnishes interesting food for thought:

United States—Maintenance of all churches, \$137,661,200; education and literature, \$35,728,000; hospitals and orphanages, \$28,300,000; improvements and missions, \$43,000,000; miscellaneous, \$45,466,100.

England—Church of England offerings, \$87,225,170; Church of England revenues, \$28,772,782; Free church, \$25,822,500; Catholic churches, \$11,411,282; education and literature, \$49,445,662; hospitals and orphanages, \$29,121,200; improvements and missions, \$18,500,765.

Scotland—All religious purposes, \$11,061,400.

Western and Northern Europe—Roman Catholic, \$102,138,300; Protestant, \$97,330,400; other Christian purposes, \$34,500,000; Russia and Siberia, \$51,255,000; Greek Church, Patriarch of Constantinople, \$6,225,000; Australia Federation, \$6,000,000; Pacific Islands and Madagascar, \$462,500; South Africa, \$2,500,000; West Indies, \$225,000; foreign missions not given before, \$2,000,000; constitutions on the mission field, \$701,000; Roman Catholic orders, \$21,480,000; Roman Catholic missions, \$6,400,000; literature and education not given before, \$30,440,000; orphanages not included above, \$16,000,000; Sunday schools, lesson papers and libraries, \$6,500,000; improvements and repairs, \$25,000,000; percentage estimate for supporting, \$60,800,000; miscellaneous, \$2,500,000.

The annual expenditure for the churches and benevolent work of the world is estimated at \$1,000,300,404. These would seem to furnish an all sufficient answer to the statement of the unbeliever that religion is losing its hold on the world.

In the death of Judge Wilson in Washington not only Admiral Schley, but the whole country, suffered a great loss. Judge Wilson was an eminently learned lawyer, but more than that he was a man of the broadest views and the highest principles. He was as remarkable for his kindness of manner and his kindness of heart as he was for his intellectual endowments. He first went to Washington as a representative in congress from the state of Indiana, but after two terms in the house he began the practice of law in the District of Columbia, where he was soon the acknowledged leader of the bar. He conducted many celebrated cases during his long practice, but none of them perhaps brought him into more prominence than that in which he was engaged at the time of his death, the defense of Admiral Schley before the naval court of inquiry.

New Mexico presents a most striking illustration of the fact that illiteracy is not necessarily a matter that is dependent upon a large "foreign element" in the population. Only about one-eighth of the men in that territory were born in other countries, while the proportion exceeds one-third in New York, and yet less than 6 per cent of males above the age of twenty-one in New York are unable to read and write, while they constitute over 28 per cent in New Mexico. The explanation of this anomaly is that the children of ignorant European parents who come to New York have to attend good schools, while New Mexico has an inferior system of public education, and generation after generation of people of Mexican descent grow up without being able to read the ballots which they cast.

James J. Corbett has been up on supplementary proceedings in New York. In the course of his examination he said that he did not own any personal property, had no diamonds—he considered them vulgar—owned no real property and had no money. He was asked what he did with \$24,000 which he obtained from the sale of certain property in which he was interested. He replied: "I live a pretty fast clip. I lived like a king. I gambled. I played the races. I entertained my friends. What's \$24,000! I have spent ten times \$24,000 in a short time. Why, \$24,000 don't last me six months. It's a mere bagatelle to me." Can any one now question Mr. Corbett's right to the sobriquet of "Gentleman"?

A prominent southern newspaper informs an anxious correspondent that Yale college is in Hartford, Conn. Its editor may expect a visit from the Yale vigilance committee.

Our pugnacious friends in Colombia and Venezuela have dropped out of sight for the time, but they are being watched by United States warships.

A special series of stamps to commemorate the life of President McKinley is under consideration in the post office department.

President Roosevelt has disappointed some people by not appointing a cabinet of popular men.

Our Trade with the Tropics.
According to figures just prepared by the treasury bureau of statistics at Washington, the imports of tropical and subtropical products into the United States continue to increase.

The demand of the temperate zones upon the tropics for articles of daily use as foodstuffs or for use in manufacturing seems to increase with each year and with the increase of facilities for interchange between the tropics and the temperate zones. Coffee, sugar, india rubber, fibers, cotton, spices, cabinet woods, indigo, cork, dye woods, sponges, barks for the manufacture of quinine and numerous other articles from the tropics now form a large proportion of the exports of the United States, and despite the reduction in prices in many cases the total values are steadily increasing. Add to this the subtropical products, such as unmanufactured silk, tea, rice and other articles of this class, and the grand total aggregates more than a million dollars for each business day of imports of a character which cannot be or at least is not at present produced in the United States in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of our population.

In sugar and coffee the United States is the largest consumer of the world, and in many other of the tropical products, such as unmanufactured silk, india rubber, fruits and nuts and spices, we are among the largest importing nations. In coffee, owing to the reduction in price, the figures of 1901 are not as large as those of some earlier years, notably 1894 and 1895, though the quantity imported exceeds that of earlier years with possibly one or two exceptions.

How much of this class of our importations may be in the future supplied by the tropical territory which has recently come under the control of the United States is a matter for future development, but it is at least interesting to know that nearly one-half of the importations of the present time are tropical and subtropical in character and that nearly all are of a class which is produced in greater or less extent in those islands or territory adjacent to them.

Mortality Among Great Men.
The mortality attending the presidents and vice presidents of the United States reminds us rather forcibly that "the paths of glory lead but to the grave." The citizens whom the American people have chosen for the presidential and vice presidential offices have mainly been, except in a few cases, vigorous men not much beyond the meridian of life, yet but few of them have long survived the completion of their terms, while a considerable number have died in office. At present there is but one living ex-president, Grover Cleveland, and two living ex-vice presidents, Levi P. Morton and Adlai E. Stevenson.

Of the presidents who followed Lincoln, Johnson survived his retirement five years, Grant lived nine years after he left office, Hayes thirteen years, Garfield died in office, Arthur survived a year, Harrison seven years and McKinley died in office. Of the vice presidents since Johnson held that office, Colfax and Wilson survived their chief, Hendricks and Hobart died in office, Wheeler preceded Hayes to the other shore, and Morton and Stevenson are still living, Roosevelt being taken out of the list of ex-vice presidents by succession to the post of his lamented predecessor.

The Massachusetts bureau of labor statistics has issued an interesting bulletin concerning the strikes in that state last year. Of the whole number were occasioned by questions relating to hours of labor alone; twenty-eight to hours of labor and wages taken together; ninety related to wages alone. The remaining sixty-one were occasioned by a variety of causes. Fifty-three succeeded, ten partially succeeded, twenty-five were compromised, fourteen were satisfactorily adjusted, seventy-four failed and four were pending at the close of the year. With reference to nine the result of the contest was not stated. There was more trouble in the boot and shoe industry than in any other trade, the number of strikes being forty.

The Jackson (Mich.) citizen who supervised the execution of the death sentence upon Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Harold and Atzerodt, conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln, and who wishes to act in the same capacity in the case of Czolgosz is, appropriately enough, named Christian Rath.

Governor Otero of New Mexico has issued a call for a convention to be held at Albuquerque on Oct. 15 to take action to promote the territory's claim to statehood.

One of the principal things thus far developed by the naval court of inquiry at Washington is that sailors as well as doctors can occasionally disagree.

General Kitchener's provocation for regretting to report has lately received several formidable additions.

Some sort of bush or shrub on which fall crocodones grow would be immensely popular these days.

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