

supported, the difference is immensely in favor of the Chinese province. Illinois has over 4,000,000—in 1890 3,826,351, with an increase of 748,480 from 1880 to 1890, — while the province of Shantung had in 1882 a population of 36,247,835 and there has been a large increase in fifteen years. Hence, the population of Shantung, smaller than the state of Illinois, is at least ten times as large as ours.

The states bordering on the Mississippi river in 1890 had a population of 18,568,862 or a little over one half the population supported by the province of Shantung. As Shantung has now a population ten times as large as Illinois, multiply the population of these Mississippi river states by ten and we have a total of over 185,000,000 inhabitants according to the Chinese ratio: our ten year ago estimate was only for 70,000,000 and that was thought a reckless statement.

Of course we do not expect our American people to live as do the Chinese, but as a rule, two or three average western farmers, waste enough to support one extra family comfortably. And then, as yet we have no idea of the capabilities of our soil. The population of Shantung is 557 per square mile, a trifle less than the average of Belgium, and in some sections of that little European kingdom the population is 924 per mile; that is, the Chinese province is not the only place where a dense population is sustained. China has 18 provinces only 5 smaller than Shantung and some of them double its size, so that 300,000,000 to 350,000,000 of people are possible in that empire. In the light of these facts what will the future see in our own land, to say nothing of all Canada and the northwestern provinces, the finest wheat fields in the world. The providential purpose in the Klondyke gold fields may be to open up the wonderful resources and secure the settlement of those vast regions, just as the gold fever in California fifty years ago added one of the finest agricultural states in the world to our country. Uncle Sam has and will continue to have these many scores of years, bread enough

and to spare, and if people starve it will be their own fault. Surely we have something to be thankful for in view of present facts and future possibilities.

**A NEEDED REFORM.**

It must be the world is growing worse. At a recent ministers' meeting in Chicago, Dr. Gray, editor of the Interior, in discussing the need of a revision of the creed, said, "I say evangelize our theological seminaries." Well, well, Doctor what next? Is the staunch McCormick swinging clear of her moorings? We had not heard of it. We know Dr. Briggs of Union is an advanced thinker and something of a higher critic, and Professor Shields, the venerable teacher in Princeton has been driven from the seminary and the church of his life-long love and service. Come to think of it, Dr. Gray, we more than half believe you are right. The theological seminaries, and too many of the churches are paying a deal of attention to mint, anise and cummin, while the weightier matters of judgment, mercy and faith, that is practical piety, evangelical godliness with its life-giving and saving power, goes by the board. All declines of piety and decay of civilization are from the top downward. You are right, Doctor, begin at the top in the work of reform; evangelize the theological seminaries.

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