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STATISTICS OF WORLD'S RELIGIONS.

Students of comparative religion will be interested in some statistics which have been published in the *Katholischen Missionen,* taken from an article by Father Krose, entitled "The Most Important Systems of Religion at the End of the Nineteenth Cenury." According to these statistics, there are in the five continents 549,017,341 Christians, of whom 264,505,922 are Catholics and 166,627,109 are classed as Protestants, under this designation being included all the adherents of the various Christian denominations in Western Christendom, varying in number from 500 to 700. The total of non-Christian peoples is put down at 1,005,093,238. Of the total population of the world, which (according to Yuraschke) amounts to 1,539,000,000, 762,102,000 are Monotheists, against 776,000,000 who are Polytheists, that is, nearly half the population of the world believes in one God. The Catholic church, with 264,505,922 members, is the largest in extent and in numbers. Nearly half the Christians of the world—48.2 per cent.—and more than one-sixth part of its entire population, is of the Catholic persuasion. But to be a Catholic not much is required save a perfunctory adherence to a few outward ceremonies of the Romish Church.

CHINA'S POPULATION.

The latest census of China, taken by the Treasury Department of Peking, give the total population of the Empire as 426,447,325. This includes Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet, and Turkestan.

Excluding these, and reckoning only the eighteen provinces of China proper, the figures are 407,737,305.

The province with the largest population is Sz'chuen, with 68,724,890 souls —*more than twice the population of England and Wales.* The province with the *densest* population is Shantung, with 263 persons to every square kilometre; the least thickly populated being Kuang-si, with only twenty-six to the square kilometre.

It should, perhaps, be added that these figures cannot be regarded as attaining the same degree of accuracy as a European census. Many competent authorities regard them as somewhat over the mark. But a million more or less makes little difference in such a total. . . . . The number of Protestant Christian communicants in China, according to the latest figures, is 112,808. Does faith falter at the magnitude of the task that lies before us?

—There are to be counted, even in this country, no less than nineteen different kinds of Lutherans, all claiming Luther as their father, yet having very little sympathy with each other. All came from one common stock, and they claim to have been the "original Protestants." Yet they cannot agree far enough to work under one standard, nor along the same lines.

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ENGLISH NAMES OF TOWNS.

Many names of towns in England have appropriated for a similar use in this country. These names frequently indicate in themselves the origin of the towns. For instance, names ending in "chester" or "cester" or "caster," such as Dorchester, Worcester and Lancaster, undoubtedly apply to sites of old military settlements or camps, and the termination is derived from "castra," the Latin word for camp. If the name of a place ends in "coln," like Lincoln, then it, too, is of Roman origin, because the Latin word for colony is colonia. When the syllable "by" ends the word, like Rugby, then we know that the Danes are responsible for the name, for the Danish word for town is "by."

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