

decrease was greater in Ulster than elsewhere, and was greatest of all in Monaghan. The three counties which did not decline increased. They were—Antrim, in which the increase was 4·7 per cent.; Dublin, in which there was 3·2 per cent., owing to the growth of the townships; and, strange as it appears, Kerry, one of the poorest and most remote localities, in which there was a trifling increase of 2 per cent. In all the others the decrease went on varying from 10·8, or in round numbers 11 per cent., in Monaghan, to 10·1 per cent. in Tipperary, 10 exactly in Carlow, 3·2 in Galway, 1·7 in Cork, and 0·7 in Mayo. It is remarkable that Carlow, the garden of Ireland, and all the other richest tracts of soil, should have suffered most from depopulation. Taken all round, they lost about a tenth of their numbers, while the bleakest spot in the island, Mayo—boggy, barren, and rocky—lost only about one person in 200, and Kerry, equally rugged, actually gained two in the hundred. The religious distribution of the population was made up of 3,951,888 Catholics, 635,670 Church of Ireland, 485,503 Presbyterians, 47,669 Methodists, and the small balance was made up of other denominations. In 1861 there were 4,505,265 Catholics, 693,357 Protestants, and 523,291 Presbyterians. In 1871 the Catholics were 4,150,867, the Protestants 667,998, and the Presbyterians 497,648, so that all three of the principal denominations in the country have been diminishing in pretty nearly the same proportion. The Methodists—who are most active of the sects in missionary work—have alone increased. The increase is probably due to the acquisition a little time ago of members of the Church of Ireland going over to the Primitive Methodists, who differ little in ritual from the Established Church. The increase was 4,228, or 9·7 per cent. The Jews have nearly doubled in the same period, having risen from 385 in 1871 to 453 in 1881, but this does little more than compensate for the loss which they suffered in the previous decade, when they fell from 393 in 1861 to 285 in 1871. Other denominations have also increased, but they may be said to have come into existence in the interval, and consist chiefly of members of the Irish Church, who, anxious for a more severe doctrinal rule of life, formed themselves into a community of their own without claiming to hold to any special creed.

The decrease of the Roman Catholics in the 10 years was 198,979, or 4·8 per cent.; of the Protestants 32,323, or exactly the same 4·8 per cent.; and of the Presbyterians, 12,145, or just one-half, or 2·4 per cent. There were 1,144 persons who refused to assign themselves as belonging to any form of religious belief. Of the other population of the country 76·6 are now Roman Catholics, 12·3 are Episcopal Protestants, 9·4 Presbyterians, and 0·9 Methodists; while the Baptists, Quakers, and other denominations make up between them 37,515 individuals. Nearly 10,000 Protestants have disappeared out of Connaught in the last 20 years. In 1861 the number of Protestant Episcopal churches were 40,600. In 1871 there were 35,931. Now there are only 31,760.

Looking at the social life of the nation, there are now 994,579 families in Ireland—a decrease of 73,019 whole families since 1871; or nearly 7 per cent. Very curiously, however, the families are larger now than they were ten years ago, having an average of 5·19 persons each, whereas in 1871 the average was 5·07. Coming to the dwellings of the people, the decay for the last forty years is shown with melancholy persistency. In 1841 there were 1,328,839 inhabited houses in Ireland; in 1851, 1,046,223; in 1861, 995,156; in 1871, 961,380; and now, in 1881, there are only 912,761. During the last ten years the dwellinghouses have totally disappeared to the number of 48,619, or 5·1 per cent, while buildings used as accessories to farms and for business pursuits in towns have increased in the decade to the number of 15,223, or 48·3 per cent. Such non-dwellinghouses have, however, decreased in Connaught, which makes the rate of increase for that part of the kingdom the greater.

Looking at the city of Dublin, as separate from the county and its suburbs, the population has been almost stationary, having varied but 1·3 per cent. in ten years, and that as an increase. Taking the surrounding townships into account, however, the increase has been very swift. Clontarf has grown in population 22·3 per cent. in the decennial period. Rathmines and Rathgar, 17·9 per cent.; Kingstown, 11·3 per cent.; Blackrock, 11 per cent.; Kilmainham, 8·7 per cent. Amalgamating these so as to merge them in the general population of the city, the total collective increase is only just 4 per cent.

The natural as contrasted with the actual increase of the population during the past ten years was satisfactory. The births were 1,392,113; the deaths 969,110, showing an increase of 423,003. Emigration, however, so much more than absorbed the increase that it amounted to 622,686, showing a net decrease of 199,683. This, it is true, is even less than the actual difference in the population by as much as 52,850, compared with 1871, but the loss is accounted for by defective registration.

It is interesting to look at the want of balance of the population in other respects, and the great excess of women over men. The Catholics have but 1,936,058 males, and over 2,015,833 females; the Church of Ireland 275,608 males, and 302,885 females; the Presbyterians 234,951 males, and 250,552 females; the Methodists 22,792 males, and 24,877 females; the Independents, 2,835 males, and 3,179 females. Even that small community, Society of Friends, which is little exposed to the train of emigration, or to loss in war, or by the accidents of mechanical labour, as to its mankind has still more women than men—1,982 of the former to 1,714 of the latter. The Jews are the only people in Ireland who seem to make the old matrimonial creed of King Solomon impossible to themselves, for there were men in Ireland who could never hope to marry without going outside their own community, the country in which they live, or outside. Their numbers are at present 250 males and only 203 females. Of the persons who refused to give any information about their religious opinions 627 were men and 517 were women.

The total population of Dublin city is 249,486, compared with 246,326 in 1871, or, taking in the suburbs, it shows an increase of 12,979 since 1871, being 338,579 now, as compared with 320,735 then. The number of inhabited houses in Dublin and the suburbs is 38,588. In 1871 the number was 35,285.

The total number of holdings of land, large and small, in 1841, in the whole of Ireland, was 691,202. In 1851 it was 570,338; now it is 523,609. The decrease of 167,533 taken on the whole country since 1841 is, however, only about $\frac{1}{4}$ or 24·2 per cent.

The Census of Ireland in 1881.

(FROM THE IRISH TIMES.)

The Irish census for 1881 will show that on the night of the 3rd of April last there were 5,159,849 souls in that country. Since 1871 the population has further fallen off by 252,538, or 4·7 per cent. The population on the night of the late census was composed of 2,522,804 males and 2,637,035 females, showing a large preponderance of the latter, though not so large a preponderance as in the preceding decade. The diminution of more than a quarter of a million in the total population was made up of a decrease amounting to 4·4 of the male population and 4·9 of the females. Of this section falling off, 60,261 persons disappeared from Leinster, being equal to a decline of 4·5 per cent.; 69,575 from Munster, or a decline of 5 per cent.; 93,686 from Ulster, or 5·1 per cent.; and 59,016 from Connaught, or 3·4 per cent., so that, although all the four provinces lost instead of gained population, the poorest province is really the one which has lost least in the 10 years. The inhabitants of Ireland numbered 8,196,597 in 1841, and from that day to this a perpetual drain has been going on, and is still in progress. In 1851 the inhabitants had, by reason of famine, fever, and emigration, disappeared by nearly two millions, having been reduced from 8,200,000 to 6,574,278. In 1861 there were only 5,798,957; in 1871 they declined to 5,412,377, and now there are but 5,159,849. The decrease, however, in the last decade is not quite so great as in the decade preceding it, being only 4·7 per cent., whereas from '61 to '71 it was 6·7 per cent. But the decline of the last ten years was not confined to one portion of the kingdom. It was spread over every one of the thirty-two counties, with three exceptions, and, as the figures show, the