

RELIGION.

THE progress of all matters relating to denominational Religion since the early years of Australasian settlement has been steady and remarkable. For the first fifteen years after the foundation of the colony of New South Wales only a single denomination was recognised by Government or possessed either minister or organisation—the Established Church of England. In those days the whole of Australasia was ecclesiastically within the diocese of the Bishop of Calcutta, of which it formed an Archdeaconry; this continued until 1836, when the bishopric of Australia was constituted, and the Rev. William Grant Broughton, D.D. (formerly Archdeacon), was consecrated the first Bishop. In 1841 the bishopric of New Zealand was established, and in 1842 that of Tasmania. Considerable changes took place in 1847, when the dioceses of Melbourne, Adelaide (including South Australia and Western Australia), and Newcastle (including the northern portion of what is now New South Wales, and the whole of Queensland) were established, and the Bishop of Australia was styled Bishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of Australia and Tasmania. In 1857 the diocese of Perth was formed out of that of Adelaide, and in 1859 the diocese of Brisbane out of that of Newcastle; in 1863 the bishopric of Goulburn was separated from Sydney; in 1867 the bishopric of Grafton and Armidale was formed out of part of the diocese of Newcastle; in 1869 Bathurst was separated from Sydney; in 1875 Victoria was divided into the two dioceses of Melbourne and Ballarat; in 1878 the bishopric of Northern Queensland was established, with Townsville as seat of its Bishop; in 1884 the diocese of Riverina was formed out of parts of the dioceses of Bathurst and Goulburn; and in 1892 parts of the bishoprics of Brisbane and Northern Queensland were formed into the new diocese of Rockhampton.

Each colony preserves its autonomy in church matters, but the Bishop of Sydney is nominal head or Primate within the boundaries of Australia and Tasmania. In 1872 the ties between the churches in the various colonies under the jurisdiction of the Primacy were strengthened by the adoption of one common constitution. A general synod of representatives of each of these colonies meets in Sydney every five years to discuss church affairs in general. New Zealand is excluded from this amalgamation, and possesses a Primacy of its own. As already stated, a Bishop of New Zealand was appointed in 1841. After various changes the constitution of the church in New Zealand

was finally settled in 1874, when the whole colony was divided into the six dioceses of Auckland, Waiapu (Napier), Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, and Dunedin. After the departure of Bishop Selwyn, who had been the only Bishop of New Zealand, the Primacy was transferred to the see of Christchurch, where it remained until 1895. In that year the Bishop of Auckland was elected Primate of New Zealand. The missionary Bishop of Melanesia, whose head-quarters are at Norfolk Island, is under the jurisdiction of the New Zealand primacy. At present, therefore, there are twenty-one bishops in the colonies, including the Bishop of Melanesia, but excluding assistant bishops. The Synodical system of Church Government, by means of a legislative body, consisting of the clergy and representatives of the laity, prevails throughout Australasia, whether as individual colonies or collectively as a group.

In 1803 a grudging recognition was extended to Roman Catholics, one of whose chaplains was then placed on the Government establishment; but it was not until 1820 that any regular provision was made for an adequate staff of clergy. Until 1834 the Roman Catholics of Australia and Tasmania were under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Mauritius (the Rev. Dr. Ullathorne being Vicar-General from 1830 to 1834), but in that year Sydney was constituted a see, and the Rev. John Bede Polding, D.D., was consecrated Bishop, with jurisdiction over the whole of the Continent and Tasmania. In 1842 Hobart was established as a separate diocese, and Sydney became an archiepiscopal see. The diocese of Adelaide dates from 1843, that of Perth from 1845, and those of Melbourne, Maitland, Bathurst, Auckland, and Wellington from 1848. During this year a second diocese was established in Western Australia, which since 1888 has been designated the diocese of Port Victoria and Palmerston. The bishopric of Brisbane was founded in 1859, and that of Goulburn in 1864. In 1867 the Abbey-nullius of New Norcia (Western Australia) was established. The dioceses of Armidale and Auckland date from 1869, and those of Ballarat and Sandhurst from 1874. In 1876 Melbourne became an archdiocese, and Cooktown was formed into a Vicariate-Apostolic. Other changes took place in Queensland in 1882, when the diocese of Rockhampton was founded, and in 1884, when the Vicariate-Apostolic of British New Guinea (with residence at Thursday Island) was established. In 1885 the Archbishop of Sydney was created a cardinal, and placed at the head of the Roman Catholic Church throughout Australasia. Following upon this appointment great alterations took place in the arrangement of dioceses in 1887, when the new dioceses of Grafton, Wilcannia, Sale, Port Augusta, and Christchurch, and the Vicariates-Apostolic of Kimberley and Queensland (the latter with jurisdiction over all the aborigines of the colony) were established, and Adelaide, Brisbane, and Wellington became archdioceses. In 1888 Hobart was also made an archiepiscopal see. There are at the present time six archbishops, fifteen bishops, three vicars-apostolic, and one abbot-nullius, or in all twenty-five heads of the

church with episcopal jurisdiction, irrespective of the Vicariate-Apostolic of British New Guinea and of several auxiliary and coadjutor-bishops.

Amongst the earliest free colonists who settled in the Hawkesbury district of New South Wales was a small party of Presbyterians, and one of the first places of worship erected in the colony was put up in 1810 at Portland Head by their voluntary exertions. Services were conducted there for years before any ordained minister of the denomination reached New South Wales ; indeed, it was not until 1823 that the Rev. Dr. Lang and the Rev. Archibald Macarthur, the first Presbyterian ministers in Australasia, arrived in Sydney and Hobart respectively. The Presbyterian Churches of New South Wales, Victoria (with which the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia is connected), Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, and the Free Church of Scotland in Tasmania, are united in a Federal Assembly which meets every year in rotation in the capital cities of the colonies mentioned. . New Zealand is not included in this federation, and the Presbyterian Church in that colony is divided into the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and the Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland. Besides the churches mentioned, there are several small bodies of Presbyterians unconnected with the larger churches, such as the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in New South Wales, and the Free Church in Victoria. The church in each colony, however, acts independently as regards local ecclesiastical administration, and preserves its autonomy in respect to funds and property.

The first Wesleyan minister came to New South Wales in 1815, but it was not until 1821 that a Wesleyan place of worship was erected in Sydney, and it was even later before the denomination was allowed to share in the Government provision for religion. The first Wesleyan Church in Hobart was established in 1820. From 1815 to 1855 the Wesleyan Church in the colonies was regarded as a mission of the British Wesleyan Church, and from 1855 to 1873 it was affiliated to the British Wesleyan Conference ; but in the latter year it was constituted into a separate and independent conference as the Australasian Wesleyan Church. At present the church is divided into five conferences, viz., New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, and New Zealand. These conferences meet annually, while a general conference is held at triennial periods in each of the capital cities in rotation.

A Congregational minister arrived in Sydney as early as 1798 ; and in Hobart the Congregational Church was established in 1830. At present there exists a separate Congregational Mission in each of the seven colonies. Federal meetings have been held, notably in 1887, but since that year little appears to have been done in the matter of the federation of the church in Australasia.

The Baptist Church in the colonies dates from a much later period, the establishment of the first four Baptist Churches being as follows :— Sydney, 1834 ; Launceston, 1839 ; Adelaide, 1840 ; and Melbourne, 1841.

Leaving out of consideration some churches with but a small number of adherents, the Salvation Army may be said to be the youngest of the denominations in Australasia. It commenced operations in South Australia towards the close of the year 1880, and in 1882 officers were despatched from Adelaide to Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, for the purpose of organising corps in those colonies. New Zealand was invaded in 1883, Queensland in 1886, and Western Australia in 1891. The head-quarters of the Army are in Melbourne, and its head in Australasia ranks as a Commissioner. He is directly responsible to General Booth, and controls the officers commanding in each of the seven colonies, who bear the rank of colonel or brigadier. Each colony is divided into districts, which are placed in the charge of superior officers; and each of these districts is subdivided into local corps under subaltern officers, assisted by secretaries, etc. These subaltern officers are responsible to the officers commanding their division, and the latter to the colonel or brigadier in charge of the Army of the whole colony.

In the eyes of the State all religions are equal in Australasia. State aid to all denominations has for many years been practically abolished in all the colonies except Western Australia. South Australia, in 1851, was the first colony to withdraw such aid, after it had been in force only three years; and Queensland, in 1860, shortly after the assembling of the first Parliament, abolished the system inherited from the mother colony, and limited future payments to the clergy then actually in receipt of State aid. Only one of these now survives, and he is in receipt of £100 per annum. New South Wales passed a similar Act in 1862, and the expenditure on this account, which in that year was over £32,000, had fallen in 1894 to £7,511. The other colonies of the group, with the exception previously mentioned, subsequently abolished State aid, Victoria being the last to withdraw denominational grants, namely, in 1875.

The only denominations which ever received State aid were the Church of England, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and Wesleyans; other denominations to which it was tendered refusing to accept it. The greater portion of the inhabitants belonged to these four persuasions, and the enormous increase of population during the last forty-five years has not in any considerable degree altered this condition of things, though in some colonies different bodies of Christians have represented a larger proportion of the people than in others. Thus, in New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria the proportion of Roman Catholics has been, and still is, larger than in the other colonies, while in New Zealand it is much smaller. Presbyterians bear a greater proportion to the population in New Zealand than in any other colony, while Wesleyans and Lutherans are more numerous in South Australia than elsewhere. The adherents of the Church of England predominate numerically in all the colonies.

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The following tables show the number of adherents to the principal denominations in each colony at the census enumerations of 1871, 1881, and 1891 :—

Religious Denominations.	Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
Church of England	1871	229,243	251,838	43,764	50,236	14,955	54,404	107,241	751,731
	1881	342,359	299,652	73,920	75,812	16,263	59,785	203,333	1,071,124
	1891	502,983	401,375	142,555	89,271	24,768	73,169	250,946	1,485,006
Roman Catholics.	1871	147,627	170,620	31,822	28,271	7,282	22,657	35,608	443,887
	1881	207,606	203,480	54,376	42,628	8,413	23,055	68,984	608,542
	1891	286,915	248,585	92,765	47,170	12,602	25,800	87,272	801,118
Presbyterians	1871	49,122	112,983	15,373	11,880	541	9,296	63,624	262,819
	1881	72,545	132,591	22,609	17,917	1,004	9,133	113,108	368,907
	1891	109,383	166,911	45,639	18,206	1,997	9,756	141,477	493,369
Wesleyan and other Methodists	1871	39,566	90,026	7,206	35,009	1,405	7,371	22,004	202,587
	1881	64,352	108,393	14,351	52,788	2,084	10,955	6,282	209,205
	1891	110,110	148,429	30,868	60,857	4,695	17,150	62,346	434,355
Congregationalists.	1871	9,253	18,191	2,647	6,571	902	4,031	3,941	45,536
	1881	14,328	19,878	4,764	9,908	1,262	4,066	6,099	60,905
	1891	24,112	22,090	8,571	11,832	1,573	4,501	6,035	79,423
Baptists	1871	4,151	16,311	2,897	9,263	55	955	4,732	38,364
	1881	7,307	20,373	5,583	13,979	†....	1,836	11,476	60,554
	1891	13,102	27,878	10,256	17,547	283	3,235	14,825	87,176
Lutherans	1871	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....
	1881	4,836	11,153	16,889	19,617	†....	†....	5,773	53,268
	1891	7,940	15,535	23,333	23,328	216	421	5,616	76,439
Salvation Army..	1871
	1881	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....	†....
	1891	10,312	13,519	4,021	4,356	4	1,216	9,383	42,811
Hebrews	1871	2,395	3,571	291	501	63	238	1,202	8,321
	1881	3,266	4,330	457	762	†....	†....	1,536	10,351
	1891	5,484	6,450	809	840	129	84	1,403	15,268
Mahometans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	1871	7,455	17,775	3,188	2,747	†....	4	2,612	33,731
	1881	9,345	11,292	16,871	4,151	145	†....	4,936	46,740
	1891	10,790	6,987	17,434	4,255	1,804	968	3,928	46,166
All other Religions.	1871	9,223	34,688	10,215	31,645	150	2,829	5,877	94,627
	1881	11,827	36,149	2,347	23,061	184	6,875	12,499	97,942
	1891	28,730	59,249	12,906	27,724	1,215	5,143	26,088	161,055
Object to state Religion and Unspecified	1871	5,946	15,525	2,701	9,453	†....	†....	9,492	43,117
	1881	13,697	15,055	1,358	14,242	353	†....	15,307	60,012
	1891	14,093	22,314	4,511	14,980	596	5,174	10,030	78,804
Total	1871	503,981	731,528	120,104	185,626	25,353	101,785	256,393	1,924,770
	1881	751,468	862,346	213,525	279,865	29,703	115,705	489,933	2,742,550
	1891	1,123,954	1,139,840	393,718	320,431	49,782	146,667	620,658	3,901,050

* As religions were not enumerated at the Tasmanian Census of 1881, the figures given for that year have been estimated. † Included in "All other Religions."

STRENGTH OF PRINCIPAL DENOMINATIONS.

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The figures for 1891 are exclusive of aborigines, while in 1871 and 1881 a few civilized aborigines were included in the returns for New South Wales and Victoria.

The following table shows the proportions held by the principal denominations to the total population of each colony at the enumerations of 1871, 1881, and 1891:—

Colony.		Church of England.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyan and other Methodists.	Congregationalists.	Baptists.	All Others.
		% cent.	% cent.	% cent.	% cent.	% cent.	% cent.	% cent.
1871	New South Wales.....	45.5	29.3	9.7	7.9	1.8	0.8	5.0
	Victoria	34.4	23.3	15.5	12.3	2.5	2.2	9.8
	Queensland	36.5	26.5	12.8	6.0	2.2	2.4	13.6
	South Australia	27.1	15.2	6.4	18.9	3.5	5.0	23.9
	Western Australia	59.0	28.7	2.1	5.6	3.6	0.2	0.8
	Tasmania	53.5	22.3	9.1	7.2	4.0	0.9	3.0
	New Zealand	41.8	13.9	24.8	8.6	1.5	1.9	7.5
Australasia		39.1	23.1	13.6	10.5	2.4	2.0	9.3
1881	New South Wales.....	45.6	27.6	9.6	8.6	1.9	1.0	5.7
	Victoria	34.7	23.6	15.4	12.6	2.3	2.4	9.0
	Queensland	34.6	25.5	10.6	6.7	2.2	2.6	17.8
	South Australia	27.1	15.2	6.4	18.9	3.5	5.0	23.9
	Western Australia	54.7	28.3	3.4	7.0	4.3	...	2.3
	Tasmania	51.7	19.9	7.9	9.5	3.5	1.6	5.9
	New Zealand	41.5	14.1	23.1	9.4	1.4	2.3	8.2
Australasia		39.1	22.2	13.4	10.9	2.2	2.2	10.0
1891	New South Wales.....	44.8	25.5	9.7	9.8	2.1	1.2	6.9
	Victoria	35.2	21.8	14.7	13.0	1.9	2.5	10.9
	Queensland	36.2	23.6	11.6	7.8	2.2	2.6	16.0
	South Australia	27.9	14.7	5.7	19.0	3.7	5.5	23.5
	Western Australia	49.7	25.3	4.0	9.2	3.2	0.6	8.0
	Tasmania	49.9	17.6	6.6	11.7	3.1	2.2	8.9
	New Zealand	40.0	13.9	22.6	9.9	1.1	2.4	10.1
Australasia		39.1	21.1	13.0	11.4	2.1	2.3	11.0

From the foregoing tables it will be seen that while there have been fluctuations in individual colonies, the relative strength of the principal denominations in the whole of Australasia has undergone but little alteration during the last twenty years. The Church of England at each census embraced 39·1 per cent. of the population, while the Roman Catholic Church receded from 23·1 per cent. in 1871 to 22·2 per cent. in 1881, and still farther to 21·1 per cent. in 1891. The Presbyterian Church also receded from 13·6 per cent. in 1871 to 13·4 per cent. in 1881 and 13·0 in 1891; while the various Methodist bodies, which have been classed together, increased from 10·5 per cent. in 1871 to 10·9 per cent. in 1881 and 11·4 per cent. in 1891. Congregationalists and Baptists taken together were equal at the three enumerations, but the former show a slight decrease during the twenty years, while the latter show a corresponding increase. The column headed "All others" also shows an increase from 9·3 per cent. to 11·0 per cent. during the period. This column contains all the minor denominations, of which none are at all numerous except Lutherans in Queensland and South Australia; those whose denomination could hardly be classed as a religion; and all those who, from conscientious scruples, took advantage of the clauses of the Census Acts by which the filling in of the column "Religious Denomination" was left optional.

In 1871 the relative strength of the Church of England was greatest in the colonies in the following order:—Western Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia; but in 1891 the order had changed to Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia. The Roman Catholic Church in 1871 was relatively strongest in New South Wales; in 1881, in Western Australia; and in 1891, again in New South Wales, with Western Australia and Queensland following closely, and South Australia and New Zealand last on the list. The Presbyterian Church has always been most numerous in New Zealand and Victoria, and weakest in Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania. The various Methodist denominations were at each enumeration strongest in South Australia, where they numbered close upon one-fifth of the total population. They were also considerably above the average strength in Victoria, while the only colony in which they fell much below the average was Queensland. Congregationalists and Baptists were also relatively most powerful in the southern colonies. The percentages shown in the column "All others" are unduly swollen in the case of Queensland and South Australia by the inclusion of Lutherans; were these omitted the figures for 1891 would be fairly equal for all the colonies.

In the table showing the actual number of adherents of each of the principal denominations for 1891, the Salvation Army is a new element. Any adherents to this persuasion who may have existed in 1881 were grouped with "All other Religions."

THE DENOMINATIONS IN 1895.

It is estimated that at the end of 1895 the number of adherents to each denomination was as follows :—

Religious Denomination.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
Church of England	571,862	416,139	166,754	99,572	50,359	80,235	279,796	1,664,717
Roman Catholics	320,206	257,729	108,512	52,623	25,623	28,291	97,306	896,290
Presbyterians	124,363	173,051	53,386	20,307	4,059	10,698	157,743	543,607
Wesleyan and other Methodists.	125,188	153,889	30,108	67,878	9,341	18,810	69,514	480,728
Congregationalists	27,414	22,012	10,026	13,253	3,198	4,936	7,454	89,103
Baptists	14,896	28,904	11,996	19,572	576	3,002	16,529	90,075
Lutherans	9,927	16,106	27,352	26,020	439	462	6,262	85,068
Salvation Army	11,724	14,016	4,704	4,859	3	1,333	10,462	47,100
Hebrews	6,235	6,697	946	937	283	92	1,631	16,821
Mahometans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	12,268	7,244	20,393	4,746	3,667	1,061	4,380	53,759
Others	48,687	85,082	20,373	47,638	3,682	11,314	47,629	264,405
Total	1,277,870	1,181,769	460,550	357,405	101,235	100,834	698,706	4,238,369