

WORLD DOMINION

tion to bring because of the richness of their sacred tradition. A real difficulty, however, appears here : while we Protestants claim to recognize the Gospel as the only fount from which all Christian and church life has to be drawn, the Orthodox Church, as the one body interpreting the ideal of an undivided Christian Church and drawing its inspiration from its continuous historical past, necessarily thinks that it must work in such a way as to make itself both the uniting force and the central point of unity.

In face of the ecclesiastical situation in the Near East as it impresses an impartial observer, the question presents itself whether these churches will continue to maintain their position as outposts over against the non-Christian East. Do they not need the protection of another church or political power? Are they inwardly strong enough to meet the dangers which always arise from a close connection of religion and politics?

All work in the Near East and for the Near East, and all efforts towards Christian unity, whether the Roman efforts at reunion or the work of Protestant missions, or the œcumenical co-operation of all churches, present to-day a situation of the deepest significance and greatest difficulty.

Some Statistics

Showing the Number of Christians in the different Churches mentioned in the foregoing article.

In the Patriarchates of the *Greek Orthodox Church* there are : Constantinople, 250,000 ; Antioch, 150,000 ; Jerusalem, 42,000 ; Alexandria, 120,000 ; Sinai, 100 ; and a Uniat group in Antioch of 125,000. The *Armenians (Gregorians)* have 3,000,000, and there is a Uniat group of 132,000. In the *West Syrian (Jacobite) Church* there are 120,000 in the Patriarchate of Antioch, and a Uniat group of 65,000. In the *East Syrian (Nestorian) Church* there are 80,000, and a Uniat group of 71,500 (not including those in Malabar). The *Maronites* (all Uniats) have a Church of 260,000, plus 100,000 who are scattered. The *Coptic Church* of Egypt has 960,000 in the Patriarchate of Alexandria, and there is a Uniat group of 32,500 ; and in the *Abyssinian Church* there are 4,000,000, and a Uniat group of 30,500.

In the Near East the proportion of Uniats is about 10 per cent. In all the Eastern Churches the proportion is 4.6 per cent.

According to the statistics given by R. Janin in *Les Eglises Orientales et les Rites Orientaux*. Paris, 1925.