

Greatest Attempt Ever Made At Prison Reform

France Has Just Started a Large Institution on an Entirely New Line.

THE greatest attempt at prison reform ever made in the history of the world has just been started by the agency of the new penal institution at Fresnes, France.

Briefly, the work expected to be accomplished here is to prevent prisoners, by keeping them isolated, from contaminating one another.

The most prominent students of penology have generally agreed that the average modern prison is simply a school for crime. Incarcerate a young man who is foolishly, perhaps unknowingly, made the serious mistake of breaking the law, and after a year he will come out a confirmed criminal through association with the hardened creatures confined with him.

It is to prevent this that the prison at Fresnes has been started. The plan is certainly a unique one, but what the results will be can only be told after a trial of at least a year. Certain it is that if a man does not reform here he is bad because he wishes to be. Inducements to be good surround the new prison, but no attempt is to be made to force a prisoner to be "good." He simply takes his choice and it is certainly philosophical to conclude that a man not thoroughly bad will take advantage of them. Certain it is that a man will not come out worse than when he went in.

Terms in the new prison are to be much shorter than under the old system, because the punishment in a way is more severe, if the culprit wishes to make it so. A man with a good, healthy mind could pass a year in the new prison and not be any the worse for it. But to an idle vagabond the same punishment would prove most severe.

Here again is displayed the philosophy of the prison directors who hold that if a man is not thoroughly bad, but has only made a mistake, he does not deserve to be severely punished. To the other the more severe the punishment the better, because it will deter him from committing crime and going back again after his discharge.

To accomplish the desired results the French Government has spent several million francs. The new prison is more like a big hotel than a penal institution. It has room for 1000 prisoners and each convict is to have a cell to himself. Every cell is on the ground floor and there is a small exercise yard attached to each one. Sunlight from a high window comes into every cell. The cells are furnished with folding beds made of iron, a table, a chair, shelf, stationary washstand and other necessities. There is an electric light in every cell and a man rises and goes to bed at any time he pleases. In fact, a prisoner is left to do as he pleases except to have liberty and companionship.

It might be thought that such a prison would prove more of an inducement to crime than otherwise, but the authorities think not. There will be no cases of old cronies in crime sitting and smoking together and possibly plotting what they will do when they are discharged.

Each prisoner will live in solitude from the day he enters the prison until he leaves. He can speak only to the guard who brings his meals, but rebates are big an if he behaves himself he can cut his sentence down at least half.

This wonderful new prison is situated in the Renard Valley, seven miles from Paris.

The entrance of the prisons is upon

the national road. An avenue bordered with trees leads to the main entrance, which in no respect resembles that of the old prisons. The walls are of tufa, rough-coated with rose-colored cement.

There are several buildings, the principal ones being a group including, in addition to the general services (such as kitchen, bakery, laundry and food storehouses, common to the entire group of structures), cell buildings for

prison, and let us see how a person is received here.

As soon as the heavy iron barred door closes upon the prisoner he is led to a waiting room, a sort of cage, whence he passes to a hall of inquiry and mensuration. Note is here taken, also, of his physical condition. After these preliminaries, he is taken to the barber shop. The barber of the establishment cuts the hair of the prisoners and shaves them at the rate of forty an hour. In the searching room the convict is relieved of every object that he possesses, and after being stripped as naked as a new-born babe, is covered with soft soap and submitted to a shower bath, which cleans him as thor-

oughly as it is possible. During this indispensable operation, the civil clothing of the convict is sent down through a tube to the disinfecting stove. Upon leaving the bath hall the prisoner, shaved, cropped, combed, scoured and clad in prison garb, is taken to the cell to which he has been assigned.

Once in his cell the prisoner's future

and are able to converse only the keeper or the instructor. The punishment cell has with it like those of a stable. Things are so arranged that the temporary occupant may receive more or less light or be immersed in complete darkness according to his behavior. The walls of this cell are covered with gray paint and the sole furniture that it contains is a camp cot sealed to the floor.

Since the convicts are not allowed to hold any communication with one another, under any pretext whatever, the administration has provided isolated chambers for those who are selected for kitchen duty, preparing vegetables or washing dishes.

Penologists the world over have been watching the progress of this novel prison, and the results will be anxiously awaited by all who have any interest in the betterment of the criminal classes.

I and I began to wonder how I could get out.

But at that moment there was a sudden glare all around me. It was so bright and startling it seemed to me for an instant that there had been an explosion. I soon recovered from this effect and looked about me. There were hundreds of electric lights fixed to the walls of the cabinet and just in front of me was a mirror so arranged that it reflected them all over again.

After a moment they all began to swim around and I felt a dizzy feeling creep over me. Then I began to get warm, and it was such a delightful warmth. Not the moist, clammy heat of a summer day, but just the warmth of the electric light bath. There is nothing like it. It permeated every part of my body. My hands were warm and dry but I felt no impression when I put them onto the iron arm of the chair. A perfect equilibrium was established.

I felt as if I could stay in the cabinet forever. I seemed to be swaying back and forth. The electric lights got brighter and brighter and I was perfectly happy.

Then the lights went out and the doctor opened the door. I stepped out, and, strange to say, felt no sensation of cold. This was, of course, due to the fact that my skin was perfectly dry.

Then I put on my clothes and went out feeling as if I were walking on air.

The icebergs of the two hemispheres are entirely different in shape. The Arctic bergs are irregular in form, with lofty pinnacles and glittering domes, while the Antarctic bergs are flat topped and solid looking.

If lakes have no overflow to the sea the water always becomes salty, particularly if there is small rainfall and much evaporation. The Caspian Sea is properly a salt lake. So is the Dead Sea. There are several lakes of considerable size in Canada which have no visible inlets, being fed entirely from subterranean sources.

The first attempt at scientific forecasting of the weather was the result of a storm which, during the Crimean war, November 4, 1854, almost destroyed the fleets of France and England. As a great storm had raged several days earlier in France, Valiant, the French Minister of War, directed that investigations be made to see if the two storms were the same, and if the progress of the disturbances could have been foretold. It was then demonstrated that the two were in reality one storm, and that its path could have been ascertained and the fleet forewarned in ample time to reach safety.

patient sits in among them and absorbs the light, heat and electricity, and in this way many deep seated diseases are reached. It is claimed that the effect of the electric light rays are of greater benefit than the sun's rays, and that sick people quickly recover under the radiant warmth.

At one time the electric light bath promised to become a fad in New York. Many women got into the habit of taking a daily exposure, and could not be induced to stop until it became only too apparent to some of them that they were rapidly losing in weight.

Of the actual benefit of the electric light bath there is still a big difference of opinion. Many physicians claim that it is all bosh, and that the only benefit derived is from the heat and a little psychic effect.

The advocates of the treatment point to numerous "cures" and also the indisputable fact that those who subject themselves to the baths are sure to lose in weight. The treatment is said to be absolutely harmless, no matter what the patient's condition.

Be all this as it may, there is no denying the fact that a man feels different after an electric light bath than he ever felt before in his life. The dry heat that permeates the body is not possible and practicable by any other means. Water heated to the same temperature as the interior of the cabinet is while a patient is being treated would instantly scald off all the skin. It is only reasonable to suppose that such an atmosphere must have a strong absorptive quality and should draw some, if not all, impurities out of the body.

"It won't hurt you at all," said the physician in charge of one of these electric light baths, "and it may do you a great deal of good. If there is any diseased part in your body it will be located in a very few moments after you get into the cabinet. That spot will feel a little warmer than the rest of your body."

The apparatus in front of me looked a good deal like one of the old-fashioned wardrobes that stood in our grandmother's room. There was a good deal of carved, polished woodwork, a good deal of glass and a little brass finish.

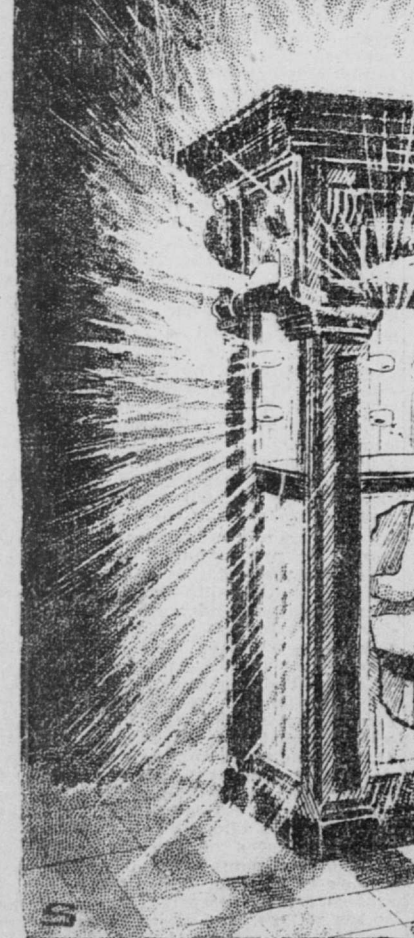
"How do I get it?" I asked.

"I'll show you," answered the doctor. "Just take off your clothes and put on this thin linen gown."

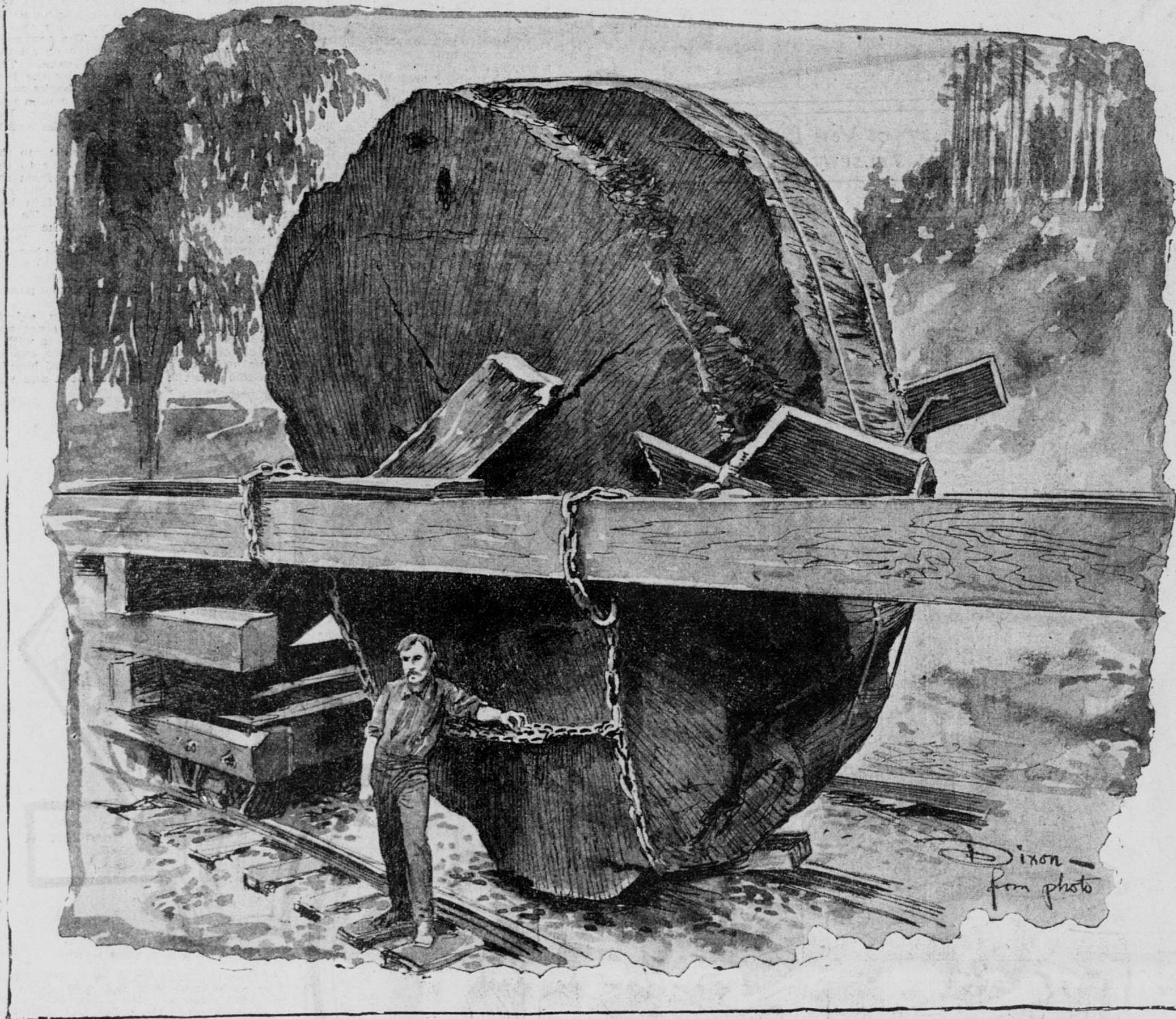
I did as requested. The doctor then opened one side of the cabinet and pointed to a chair on the inside.

When I was seated he put a screen with a hole in it, to let my head go through, over my shoulders. This touched all four sides of the cabinet and was in reality a sort of diaphragm, intended to separate two different temperatures.

Up to this moment the cabinet was almost in darkness and felt a little cold. When the doctor closed the door and heard the lock "click" it felt colder



NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT BATH IN OPERATION.



Cut of Redwood, 15x4 Feet, Sent From Vance's Wood, Humboldt County, to London, England.

From a Photograph.

Millionaire Astor Explains About His Famous Redwood

Brought It From California to London as an Object of Interest.

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR is going about London with fire in his eye.

All of his attorneys have been called in consultation, and he has decided to make an example of a newspaper, some newspaper, any old newspaper.

And it is all on account of a piece of our California redwood tree.

How could a piece of California redwood make a member of the aristocratic house of Astor mad? Ah, that's it. And thereby hangs a tale.

Everybody wanted to know what Mr. Astor wanted with such a lump of timber. The captain of the British ship that was to transport it around the Horn and across to England was asked, whether he intended it as a joke on Mr. Astor cannot be stated, but he told the reporters that the block was being

taken to England to decide a wager of \$50,000. Mr. Astor had laid this amount that he could find a tree, a cross section of which would be large enough to serve as a dining table for fifty guests. He was to win his bet by bringing a piece of the tree to England and inviting forty-nine persons to dangle their legs with his two under its spacious circle.

The captain of the ship who carried the redwood to England is entirely responsible. The San Francisco papers printed the story and gave pictures of the immense section of tree.

In time the San Francisco papers reached New York and there the stories and pictures were improved upon. One picture showed the block of redwood as having arrived at Cliveden with the crowd of diners seated around it—all sorts of noble folk, from princes to Mr. Astor. All were enjoying themselves, and imbibing of sundry sparkling fluids. Mr. Astor was the best man, was pictured as holding aloft a glass and proposing a toast to California.

Although the picture was printed about a year ago, Mr. Astor did not see it until last week. That's when he got mad and sent for his attorneys and threatened to do all sorts of things.

As far as known he has really done only one thing. That was to take the following letter to the London Times office and get it inserted:

"Editor of the Times—Sir: Will you allow me to publish in your columns a contradiction of the reports that have been circulated about a section of California redwood recently brought to Cliveden? The section referred to has been placed on the ground as an object of interest, but it has never been intended to use it as a dining table, nor has any bet been made as to the number of persons who could be seated around it. The report repeating these details, and purporting to give an account of a banquet, is a deliberate and mischievous fabrication. I have given instructions to my solicitor, Sir George Lewis, to commence proceedings against the newspaper which has published the false statements in question. Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR.
Cliveden, October 25."

In the meantime the section of the noble California tree has been permanently located in Mr. Astor's garden, where thousands have gone to look at it and marvel at its enormous size.

If there has been any banquet it has been kept mighty quiet.

The captain of the ship who is responsible for the story that has pained Mr. Astor is taking a vacation—but just where is not known.

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WHAT FOREIGN MISSIONS ARE DOING ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT MOON

THE Gospel "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." To the church the Savior said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." The promise of his presence is on condition that his people engage in the work of carrying out the commission.

So long as more than half the people of the world have never heard the Gospel, the church cannot be excused for inactivity. Nor can it expect to retain the presence of Christ and spiritual power while it goes on in neglect of the commission conferred on it by the head of the church. Never before in the history of the world were conditions so favorable to the preaching of the Gospel to every creature as now. Turn almost where you will—to continent, nation or island—the gates are open, and the truth may be given to the millions of earth's inhabitants. It is little wonder that the church is shorn of its power, when under these circumstances nine-tenths of all the contributions for foreign missions are given by one-tenth of the church membership, and further, the members of the evangelical churches in the United States contribute for the conversion of a thousand million heathens less than one penny a week each, and 98 per cent of all the contributions of the church for religious purposes is spent at home, and only 2 per cent is devoted to the foreign mission field.

It is estimated that if evangelical church members would devote a tithe of their increase of wealth to the work of foreign missions it would amount to the sum of \$4,347,900 annually, whereas the contributions to foreign work amount to less than one-thirty-second of one per cent on the valuation of the property held by them at the present time.

There is no lack of means in the hands of the church. If this was consecrated, the Gospel could be given to the heathen quickly; but if held, even to be devoted to the home field, on which so much labor has been bestowed, the church certainly can not expect God's approval.

It is evident from such Scriptures as Revelation, xiv: 6, and Matthew, xxiv: 14, that the heathens are to have the Gospel. The Lord has waited for the church to use the means he has placed within its reach, and it has not as yet accepted the blessing in store for the faithful. Will he continue to wait for me and for you? or will he find other agencies and means to accomplish his work? It will be done.

If a man is lucky he never speaks of the proverbial luck of fools.

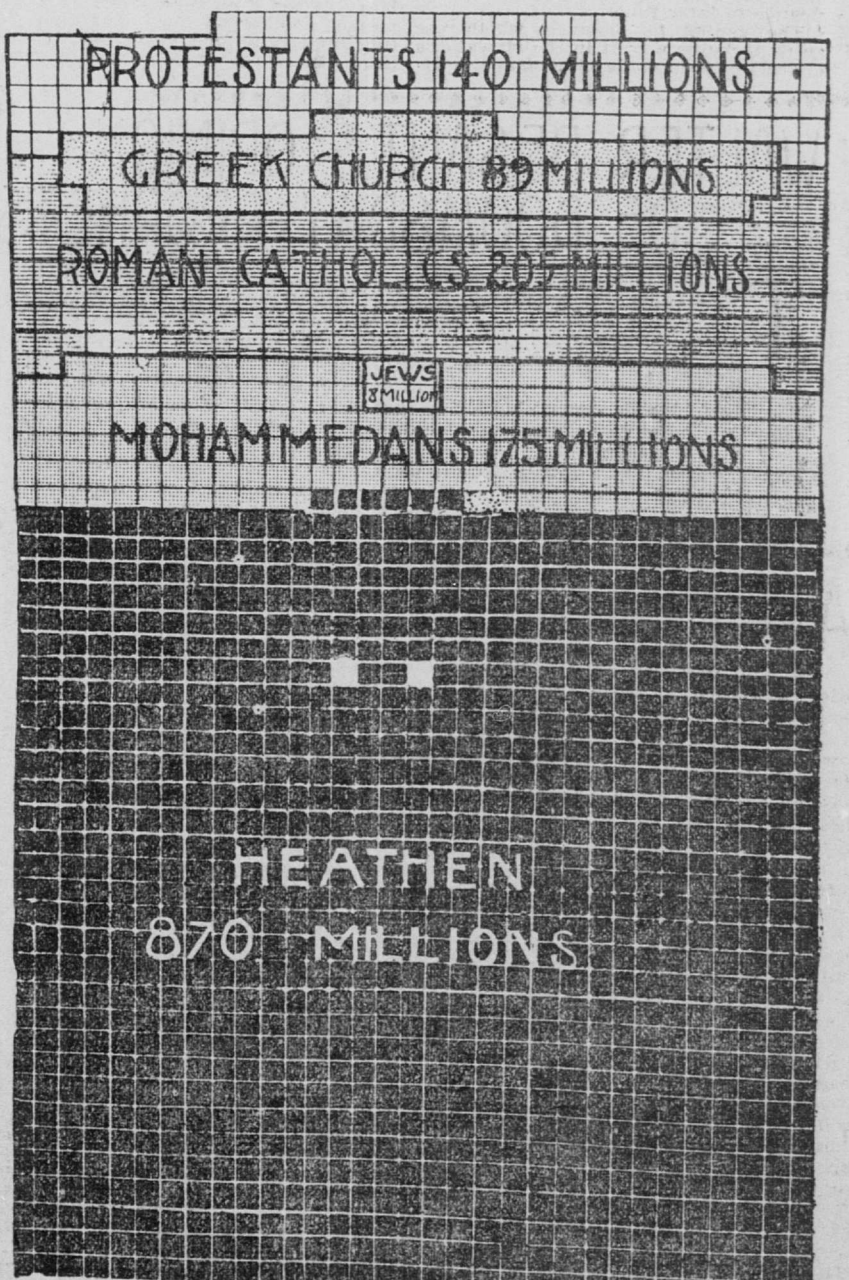


Diagram Showing the Proportion of Heathens to the Followers of the Great Religions.