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MISCELLANEOUS.

A Bible 248 years old was recently found in an ancient building in New London, Conn. It was printed in Cambridge in 1648.

An embroidered tablecloth, which was a wedding gift to Miss Florence Pullman, employed ninety Bohemian peasant women for their evenings for three years.

Lieutenant Peary, the Arctic explorer, has arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland, and has there chartered a steamer to convey him and his party to Greenland.

Parrots have been introduced at the railway stations in Germany, and trained to call out the name while the train stands there, thus saving the people the trouble of making inquiries.

A Bill before the Belgian Parliament, and which is declared to be urgent, seeks to increase the duty on alcoholic liquors with a view to arrest the spread of alcoholism.

The first public library known to have existed was founded at Athens about 540 B.C., by Pisistratus. The Alexandria Library contained 400,000 books, and was burned in 47 B.C.

The death rate in London is 21 per 1,000 of population; in Paris, 28, and in New York, 21. The number of deaths in New York City last year was 41,000; in Paris 67,500, and in London, 89,000.

A lady in Chicago, fired with enthusiasm for the new offshoot from the Salvation Army, has given to Mr. Ballington Booth real estate valued at \$10,000 to use as he chooses for the furtherance of his religious work.

A meeting of old Rugbeians was held the other day in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, for the purpose of starting a movement for raising a memorial to the late Judge Hughes, author of "Tom Brown's School Days."

Most of the ivory that comes to the market is "dead," that is, ivory taken from animals long since dead, and which has been stored away by the natives for years. There is no danger in Africa of the supply being exhausted for several generations, at least.

Seventy-two hours previous to a recent earthquake in the Italian Riviera, the horses of that region began to be very restless, showing that they were sensible thus early of subterranean noises unheard by the inhabitants until a few moments before the first shock.

Mr. R. D. Blackmore, the novelist, has just celebrated his seventy-first birthday. Mr. Blackmore's classic, "Lorna Doone," made its author famous many years ago, yet he is still actively engaged in book-making. He combines the calling of letters with that of amateur gardening.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt, it is said, is a total abstainer; has, in fact, never used wine or other intoxicants. Nor is this abstinence purely accidental. The great actress regards it as absolutely essential to the preservation of that intellectual vigour, which is so indispensable to a woman of her age who has to live by such an exacting profession.

Cardinal Vaughan, since his appointment as Cardinal Manning's successor in London, has employed a number of laymen as lecturers in the public parks and open spaces. The new movement is under the direction of the Cardinal's brother. The lecturers are men of education, and are for the most part drawn from the ranks of the legal and other professions.

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The delegate was approached by a newspaper representative. He was a breezy, enthusiastic delegate; one who seemed to be fairly bubbling over with good material for an interview. "What do you think of the situation?" the reporter asked. "What do I think? Young man, you utterly mistake the nature of my employment. I'm not here to think. I'm here to holler."—*Washington Star.*

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Rustics in the villages of Greece cross themselves devoutly whenever a cyclist passes them. The bicycle was regarded as something supernatural and uncanny even in Athens until a few years ago. The Royal Family and the leading diplomatists have now taken up the wheel enthusiastically. It was the King of Greece, by the way, who brought the first bicycle to Greece many years ago.

"Scotland's first missionary to the Jews," Rev. Daniel Edward, of Breslau, died in Edinburgh recently, in his eighty-first year. When in 1840 the Established Church first addressed itself to mission work among the Jews, Mr. Edward, who had just completed his studies, placed himself at the disposal of the committee. He began his work at Jassi in 1841, passed thence to Lemberg, and finally settled at Breslau 1852. A year ago declining health compelled his resignation, but he addressed the recent General Assembly on Jewish missions.

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