

restoration of 1888 he became Government Medical Director and organized the first hospital service.

—The Empress has established a college for women, to be superintended by a committee of foreign ladies. Two are Americans, two English, and the other two French and German respectively.

Madagascar.—After 15 years' labor the printing of the Malagase bible is complete.

Mexico.—Progress in Mexico, thinks Dr. J. Milton Greene, is marked not so much by statistics, as by the changing attitude of the people toward the Protestant missionaries. Sixteen years ago the printing-offices of the city could not be induced to print copies of the Decalogue. Now thousands of pages of religious literature are issued yearly. So, too, the drift of the popular mind is shown by the lessening respect for, and fear of, the priesthood, and by the greatly diminished attendance at the idolatrous feasts.

Scotland.—The Sum Total of our National Drink Bill is this year a little larger than it was last, but, considering the increase of our population, the average expenditure per person is less. The amount is portentous—£124,603,639—which gives £3 6s. 10d. for every man, woman, and child in the kingdom.—*Church of Scotland Monthly.*

South America.—In Ecuador none but Roman Catholics are allowed to preach to the people. The Custom-houses are watched by the Jesuits to prevent the importation of Bibles and other prohibited books. Persons who do not confess to the priests are objects of popular hatred and violence.

Sweden.—A mission house for Laplanders has been founded in North Sweden by Empress Eugenie, the noble giver.

Thibet is the only known country on earth not open to missions. It has an area of 750,000 square miles, about as large as all the territory in the United States east of the Mississippi River. The greatest length from east to west, is 1,500 miles, and the population is estimated at 8,000,000. It is the stronghold of Buddhism. Lhasa, the capital, is the "Rome" of the Buddhists, and the Dalai Lama the Buddhist pope. He is supreme in both temporal and spiritual things. One monastery has about 5,000 Buddhist priests, and there are about 60,000 in the country. Thibet is virgin soil for missions. The country is tributary to China.—*Baptist Miss.*

—The Roman Catholic missions in Thibet have been broken up by the violence of the natives. The *Missions Catholiques*, of Lyons, states that the stations have been utterly destroyed, except one establishment, which is on the Chinese side of the great Thibetan declivity. Last autumn the mission houses and buildings were one by one burned or

thrown down; the houses of the congregations met with the same fate, and priests and people were hunted out of the town. No massacres took place. The persecution began in June and continued until October, when it ceased, because there was nothing more to destroy, and all those who would not apostatize were in flight. The acts of violence took place under the eyes of the Chinese authorities, who did nothing to punish the offenders.—*The Missionary.*

Turkey.—Minister Strauss, at Constantinople, has rendered another useful service to the American missionaries in the Turkish empire. The local authorities closed the mission school at Istubigo, in the province of Beirut, and other officials elsewhere were about to follow their example, but Mr. Strauss at once secured from the Grand Vizier at Constantinople an order to the governors-general of the provinces of Beirut and Damascus to reopen the school, which had been closed, and not to interfere in any manner with any American schools. This is the more satisfactory because one reason given for the closing of the school was the fact that the managers refused to reject Mohammedan children applying for admission. This refusal was maintained firmly and, in spite of it, the desired support of the Constantinople authorities was granted. Good sense and tact are as important to a diplomatist, and often are equally effective, as support by a military or naval force.—*Congregationalist.*

United States.—Women's Organizations. There are in this country 48 national societies of women, with a direct membership of 500,000. The largest is the W. C. T. U., with 210,000. Then follow the missionary, peace, suffrage, philanthropic and educational organizations. Twelve of these have joined with the National Council, formed to unite all the women societies into one great league.

—The following act of Christian comity on the part of the Protestant Episcopal Church Missionary Society, passed January 29th, will commend itself to our readers:

"Resolved, That in sending missionaries to Brazil it is our purpose to occupy such points as are not now under the care of any other Protestant missionaries."

—Zenana Work. The Church of Scotland Ladies' Association for Foreign Missions, including zenana work, has just completed its 50th year. The income of the society has shown a considerable increase on the previous year, and the committee have never presented a more hopeful report.

—At a late gathering in the Midway Conference Hall, the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society bade "God-speed" to nineteen ladies who will shortly be aiding in the noble work of the society among the women of India and China.