

The Astors, of New York, will not rent any of their five hundred houses to a liquor dealer.

A society has been formed in Ceylon which has for its object the propagation of Buddhism throughout the world.

The recently-published catalogue of the Christian Endeavor Society states that two hundred and fifty societies are now in existence.

The New York Senate has, by unanimous vote, passed a bill prohibiting the sale of cigarettes, cigars or tobacco to minors.

There is a man in New York who recently boasted that he never was inside a church in his life. He was in jail when he said it.

Drink costs the American people three times as much as they pay for clothes, and fourteen times as much as they spend on their public schools.

Two million and a half is said to be the number of persons who are slaves to Sabbath toil in America, and they generally receive no more than six days' wages for seven days' work.

There were more than thirty murders in San Francisco last year and only one hanging, the condemned man in that case being a Chinaman. About the same proportion holds in another city,—sixty murders and two executions.

It was a noticeable fact that throughout France there was no marked enthusiasm manifest over the Pope's Jubilee. There were no festive meetings or processions, and only in a few cities was there any attempt at special services.

The "National Drink Bill" of Great Britain is again on the increase, the returns for 1887 being greater by £2,047,895 than the year previous, which year and several preceding had registered a decline. The increase is chiefly on beer, wine coming next.

The four leading Dissenting denominations of Wales alone number 871,082 on their rolls of communicants, while the Established Church can only muster 74,778. An Established Church in such a case, is an established wrong. No wonder that Wales is agitating for disestablishment.

Latest advices from China say that the crisis in Ho-Nan is past, but the distress of the people is appalling, two million persons being utterly destitute. The nearest towns are invaded by hordes of naked and starving refugees from the flooded districts who, like swarms of locusts, are devouring everything.

The ancient and famous city of Damascus, which was a place of importance 1,900 years B. C., is busy with plans for laying railroad lines through the streets. Street cars in a city said by Josephus to have been founded by the great grandson of Noah would be a startling novelty. The place has one hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants.

Two American ladies Mrs. Chase and Miss Lea, upon their return from a recent visit to the McAll mission work in France, to which they have consecrated their lives, report that the work far surpassed even their expectations. Ten new mission stations have been opened during the year, the whole work in which is done by resident French pastors and Christians who desire to lead their neighbours to the Saviour.

It is estimated that 106,000,000 persons speak the English language, 76,000,000 German, 70,000,000 Russian and 48,000,000 French. This disparity between English and other leading languages widens every time the language census is taken. English bids fair to become in time the universal language. It is a fitting thing, and a blessing to the world, that the tongue spoken by the leading Christian peoples of the world should thus prevail.

To-day thirty-four missionary societies are at work in Africa and all its 200,000,000 souls are practically within the reach of Christian missions; thirty-three societies have begun work in China, and all its 360,000,000 souls may be visited with the message of the gospel; more than fifty societies have entered India, and the light is dawning upon its 250,000,000; Turkey and Persia and Japan are filling with mission churches and mission schools; practically, the whole world is open, and the grandest day of opportunity for the kingdom of God that the earth has ever seen has fully dawned.