

Items of Interest.

Thirty manufacturers of gasoline lamps have organized a trust.

More than 400 British soldiers fell fighting Boers during the month of March.

Rev. William M. Mese, of Auburn, Ind., has officiated at 1,500 marriage ceremonies.

The statue of General John A. Logan in Washington city was formally unveiled on April 9.

Grace church in New York city realized \$107,000 on Easter Sunday in the passing of the collection plates.

Philander C. Knox, attorney for the steel trust, has taken up his duties as attorney general for the United States.

Rev. Jacob Schlegel of New York city has been a clergyman for 24 years and in that time has officiated at 3,000 marriage ceremonies.

Louis Voilland died in New York recently at the age of 102 years. He had lived in three centuries and was well acquainted with Napoleon Bonaparte.

The machinery and stationary engine plants of the country have formed a combination which will have a capital stock of \$50,000,000 and will include forty plants.

The New York World is authority for the statement that General McArthur has been instructed to discourage any inclination on Aguinaldo's part to visit the United States.

Mrs. M. A. Ratcliffe of Denver is the first woman to be arrested on the charge of fraud in politics. Mrs. Ratcliffe is charged with voting in a precinct in which she was not entitled to vote.

The Wisconsin legislature has refused to pass a bill providing for a physician's certificate of freedom from insanity in certain diseases before a marriage license would be granted in Wisconsin.

Rudolph E. Smyser of the 47th regiment, U. S. V., and a resident of York, Pa., has recently been appointed a first lieutenant by the president. Smyser is 18 years old and is the youngest lieutenant in the army.

John P. Madden, who recently died in New York city, left a will, in which after disposing of his property, he said: "It is my earnest wish that when my widow shall meet someone deserving of her high character and loving disposition, that she shall re-marry."

A bill has been introduced in the Connecticut legislature providing for a tax commissioner who shall have power to go into any town and examine suspected tax dodgers. The bill provides a penalty of \$100 fine and 25 per cent additional to the tax list where anyone refuses to submit his tax list.

Charles T. Elles of Belleville, Ill., recently retired from the office of treasurer of the Presbyterian Sunday school at Belleville. He had held that office for 61 years. Mr. Elles organized the first Presbyterian Sunday school in Belleville in 1839. He is now 91 years old and retires because of his advanced age.

The one hundredth anniversary of Daniel Webster's graduation from Dartmouth college is to be celebrated at that institution on September 24 and 25 next. The exercises will include speech-making on Webster's college life, and his character—notably an address by Representative S. W. McCall of Massachusetts.

James P. Witherow began suit in the United States circuit court in New York against the Carnegie Steel company for damages amounting to between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000 for an alleged infringement of a patent held by him. Mr. Witherow was a builder of blast furnaces in 1884, when he obtained his patent. He constructed many large

furnaces all over the country. He claims that a patent secured by one Jones and used by Carnegie is an infringement of his patent and was so declared by the United States circuit court of appeals. Thomas B. Reed has been engaged by the Carnegie company to defend the suit.

The United States court of claims has rendered a judgment in favor of Admiral Sampson for \$3,330 as a bounty growing out of the engagements at Manzanillo and Nipa Bay, in Cuba, during the Spanish war. The court also rendered a judgment in favor of Fleet Captain Chadwick, who participated in these engagements.

Professor Joseph Henry Thayer has resigned his chair in the Harvard Divinity School because of old age. He was graduated from Harvard in 1850, received his degree from Andover Theological Seminary in 1857, and was professor of Sacred Literature at the Andover Seminary for eighteen years. Since 1884 he has been professor of New Testament criticism and interpretation at the Harvard Divinity school.

The first United States coaling station to be located on foreign soil has just been completed at Pichaliqui, on the west coast of Mexico, and the collier Alexander is now taking on 5,000 tons of coal at Baltimore to stock this latest acquisition of the navy. The station is on California bay, at the extreme end of the long peninsula which juts from California and is known as Lower California, although it is an integral part of Mexico.

The Turkish Free Masons have sent to King Edward a curious appeal on behalf of the unfortunate Mourad, elder brother of Abdul Hamid, who resigned as sultan under the name of Amurath V. for three months and was then deposed on the ground of insanity. The appeal refers to him as "one who for the last quarter of a century has been imprisoned on the pretext of a mental malady," and begs King Edward to use his influence to secure the freedom of a brother Mason.

The London Chronicle publishes a dispatch from Tangier regarding a new Franco-Italian entente in north Africa. "This is likely to have great consequences," says the correspondent, "Italy ceasing her opposition to French designs in Morocco in return for permission to occupy Tripoli. It is suggested that Great Britain would welcome the creation of a friendly state between Tunis and Egypt. A big move is expected after M. Delcasse's interview with Count Lambsdorff in St. Petersburg."

On April 1st, 1851, at Newburg, New York, Edward Watkins and a young woman whom he had known but a short time attended an April fool party. The young couple were bantered to be married as an April fool joke. They accepted the banter and were united in marriage. On April 1 1901, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Watkins at their home in Williamsport, Pa., celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding, thus disappointing the prophets that declared that no good could come from an April fool joke.

The secretary of the treasury has approved a design for the new \$10 legal tender United States note. Prominent in the center of the face of the note is the picture of an American buffalo taken from a photograph of a fine mounted specimen in the National museum. On the right and left ends are the portraits of Lewis and Clark, the noted explorers of the far northwest. By the side of each is a youthful figure extending a palm over the pictures. The figures and letters denoting the denomination are quite large and conspicuous.

In the state senate of Minnesota a resolution was adopted directing the attorney general to inquire into the reported operations of the United States Steel corporation in Minnesota and take steps to forfeit certain railroad franchises or prevent consolidation by injunction if he finds the law is being violated. The resolution recites that the Duluth and Iron Range and Duluth, Missabe

and Northern railways have consolidated, or are about to consolidate, and become merged into the United States Steel corporation; that dispatches from New York report the formation of a great trust to consolidate and control the stock property, and franchises of other great railways of this state, all of which is declared to be in violation of the state laws.

The people of New Orleans are preparing some odd gifts to President McKinley when he visits that city. Among the list of gifts which will be offered him, are a large alligator, a tame pelican, the emblem of the state of Louisiana; an immense black swamp rabbit, revered by the negro believers in voodooism; one or two odd-colored swamp snakes, also considered significant of the voodoo; an Indian crane from the Bayou Teche, the country of Evangeline; a curiously wrought memorial from the Creole Catholics of New Orleans; a transcript of the original cession of the province of Louisiana from France to the United States; a relic of the barbarism of the Spanish inquisition in Louisiana; and a complete voodoo outfit from Marie Lacart, the present voodoo "queen" of New Orleans.

The Pennsylvania Steel company has bought the entire stock of the Spanish-American Iron company, and thus became the owner on April 1 of the iron mines at Baiquiri, Santiago de Cuba. The Pennsylvania Steel company is now in course of reorganization, and is to have a capital stock of \$24,000,000. The price paid for the concern is reported to have been between \$1,500,000 and \$2,600,000. The Pennsylvania is one of the companies that has not gone into the United States steel corporation, and there was talk today that by this purchase the company fortifies itself, as there are unworked ore bodies in the Spanish-American property which it is thought are ample to supply the entire 1,000,000 tons of ore required annually by the company. The Pennsylvania Steel company is also interested in the Auburn Steel Ore company, with iron mines west of Santiago. These purchases mean that the Pennsylvania Steel company has come into control of all the iron mines in the Province of Santiago.

The Chicago Tribune attributes an interesting idea to William T. Stead, the English editor. This is called "International flirtation." Primarily the scheme is intended to promote correspondence between the school children of all nations. He would have a German school girl write a faulty letter in English to an English school boy, who in turn will send back an answer written in more or less faulty German. In the same way French and American pupils may correspond, or any two pupils who speak and write different languages. So far as he has already gone Mr. Stead has succeeded in getting more than 9,000 school children—English, French and German—busy in murdering each other's languages on paper. He works through the school teachers. For instance, he finds a school teacher in England who has a dozen pupils who would like German correspondents, and he puts him in communication with a German teacher who wants an equal number of English correspondents for his children. "There is nothing so likely to promote and cement the friendliness of nations," says Mr. Stead in his enthusiastic way, "as this plan of international correspondence. Often the young people become warm personal friends. My son, for instance, went over and visited the boy in Germany with whom he had corresponded, and later the young German returned the visit. In addition, there is no other way in which a foreign language can be so quickly and so easily learned. It makes it pleasant from the first, and the children learn German and French without ever realizing that they are studying at all. The children write to each other about postage stamps, botanical specimens, and all sorts of things. We find that sex has little to do with it. Boys would often rather write to other boys and girls to other girls."