

and she threw her glasses away. Since then she has had no use for them. So excellent is her eyesight, indeed, that she has just completed a large bedquilt composed of nine stars, each star containing the enormous number of 278 diamonds."

MISS PERKINS is just as lively as her appearance indicates, according to this writer, and he adds: "If Miss Perkins does not find old age the toothless, miserable existence it is reputed to be, neither does she find it a period of superfluity. She is "smart," as they say in New England, about the house, aids materially in the housework and delights in reading and sewing. She attends church with a regularity that is enough to shame the younger generation, walks about town on little shopping expeditions, visits her neighbors, and is as cheerful and lighthearted as a girl of 16. Indeed, she says she feels as if her girlhood were returning to her, but supposes it is only that second childhood people talk so much about. Her mind is perfectly clear and her memory is good. She not only recollects events of her girlhood days, but keeps well in mind the more recent events. Instead of living in the past she takes an intense interest in the present, and she is an entertaining talker."

FEARFUL of the effects of a northern winter, the relatives of Ira D. Sankey, the famous gospel singer, are preparing to take him south in the hope that his life may be prolonged. The New York World says: "The day of the sweet singer who has stirred multitudes in many lands is practically done. 'I have just had a letter from mother,' said Mr. I. Allen Sankey, of No. 369 Park place, Brooklyn, son of the singer, yesterday, 'and we have decided to send father south. We hope that the warmer breezes may preserve him to us. He is now up-state, just where I do not care to have published, because he is so sensitive. We have had hopes that his eyes would improve, but I may now say that he is totally blind and will never see again.' In his decline Mr. Sankey is still the sweet soul of the old days when he was with Moody, but the knowledge that he is blind forever bears hard on him. He who sang in front of thousands now shrinks from the presence of sympathetic friends. In seclusion he spends his days waiting his end. Once in a while in the evening the wandering rustic hears again the song of the "Ninety and Nine," the famous hymn that has infused spiritual life into many vast assemblies. It Sankey singing his old favorite. Then the venerable singer seems to forget his blindness. He has, as it were, retired within himself, living over again in memory the splendid scenes of his prime. 'Father does not complain,' said the son, 'but he has grown very sensitive and retiring in his misfortune.'"

THE old idea of a Panama railway to connect Valparaiso and New York is not dead and according to a writer in the New York World, the Panama canal has made this railroad's early completion likely. This writer adds: "Of course it will be done in links here and there, finally connected. Already one can go far down into Mexico without a break. There are bits of railways in the Andes that would be useful as portions of a 10,000-mile scenic railway that would cast the Siberian line wholly into the shade. Peru has issued a ministerial decree regarding the possibility of finding a suitable point for the terminus of a proposed railway in the eastern regions of Peru, a link of the Pan-American project. The decree provides for a commission of engineers to make preliminary surveys."

ANDREW CARNEGIE, in discussing with a New York World reporter international peace, said he hoped to see a compact between the great world powers that would form "an arbitration trust." Mr. Carnegie said: "May I live to see the day when Great Britain, America, Germany, France and Russia will form a compact to settle all disputes by arbitration. In such a company as that I would like to be a large stockholder. I do not think it would be advisable for any of the powers to intervene in the far eastern question at this time, as it would only aggravate the combatants. I regard the decision to refer the settlement of the North-Sea incident to a commission as one of the greatest triumphs ever dreamt of by man. I have never said anything in favor of Canadian annexation, but I do favor a union of interests between the United States and Great Britain and Canada. The Anglo-Saxon people should be brought closer together than they now are. I do

not, however, advocate entangling alliances for this country."

SIMON NEWCOMBE, writing in Harper's Magazine, says: "Speaking roughly, we have reason, from the data so far available, to believe that the stars of the milky way are situated at a distance between 100,000,000 and 200,000,000 times the distance from the sun. At distances less than this it seems likely that the stars are distributed through space with some approach to uniformity. We may state as a general conclusion, indicated by several methods of making the estimate, that nearly all the stars are contained within a sphere not likely to be much more than 200,000,000 times the distance of the sun. The inquiring reader may here ask another question. Granting that all the stars we can see are contained within this limit, may there not be any number of stars without the limit which are invisible only because they are too far away to be seen."

ON MARCH 31, 1897, just before the republican party took possession of the government, and when there was no steel trust, according to the New York World, American steel rails were selling in this market at \$18 to \$20 per ton. Foreigners can still get them for that, but Americans have to pay the trust \$28—an increase of from 40 to 55 per cent. The trust has maintained the \$28 rate for home customers without variation since it was organized, representing a net increase of profits of over \$70,000,000 above a normal amount for that time.

D. H. WALTER THORNER of the University Eye Clinic of Berlin, has devised an apparatus to obtain good photographs of the background of the eye. The New York World explains: "Dr. Thorner's contrivance constitutes an improvement of the ophthalmoscope invented by Helmholtz in 1850, which only admits of looking at the background of the eye. It has been impossible heretofore to photograph the interior. It is difficult to illuminate it sufficiently, and even if strong light were used the exposure would last too long. Dr. Thorner first obtained photographs of the eyes of cats, but the interior of the human eye being much darker it required many improvements before good photographs could be taken. With a soft light the eye is first so focused that its back yields a clear image on the photographic plate. The plate put in, the camera is opened by a special lever, and a flashlight composition is ignited by an electric spark. The background of the eye is lighted for a moment sufficiently to produce a good image on the plate. It is possible to distinguish healthy eyes readily from sick ones, the eye of a strongly short-sighted person being, for instance, characterized by a peculiar ring around the illuminated centre. Oculists may now watch the progress of eye diseases step by step."

A WRITER in World's Work says: "Although the population of Russia is nearly three and a half times as great as the population of Japan, and its area nearly six times as great, the Japanese have a million more pupils in their schools than the Russians. They publish more periodicals and books. Although Russia has nearly nine times as many miles of railroad, the Japanese roads carry more passengers, though less freight. They send half as many again letters by post as the Russians send. With only about one-fourth as many miles of telegraph wires, they send nearly as many messages. Their trade per capita is greater than the Russians both in imports and in exports, although the total trade of the Russians, of course, is very much greater. The apparent financial and military strength of the Russians is incomparably the greater. Yet so cheaply does the Japanese soldier live that Japan may do more with little money than Russia with more."

THE number of immigrants entering the United States in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, was 812,870. This is a larger record than that of any year except 1903, when the total was nearly 55,000 greater. Of Austro-Hungarians there was a decrease of 28,855, of Italians 37,326, of Swedes 18,265, and of Japanese 5,704, while there was an increase of Germans 6,294, of Russians and Finns 9,048, of English 12,407, and of Scotch 4,949. Italy sent over 193,296, Austria-Hungary 177,156, Russian empire and Finland 145,141, Germany 46,280, and England and Ireland 74,768.

UNALLOYED joy reigns in the home of Frederick Elenbrok of Baltimore. The Baltimore correspondent for the New York World says: "On Sunday Mr. Elenbrok will celebrate the eighty-third anniversary of his life, and his wife, who is over fifty years his junior, presented him today with a daughter. Mr. Elenbrok is a good exemplification of Senator Davis' theory that a man is young at eighty. He is a member of several German societies and much beloved for the interest he takes in the aged people's home. About a year ago Mr. Elenbrok surprised his friends by taking unto himself a wife. To their bantering Mr. Elenbrok answered by asserting his right as a free American citizen to fall in love, even though he was an octogenarian. Mr. Elenbrok was born in Lippe Detmold. At the outbreak of the civil war he organized a cavalry company for the confederacy. He was arrested and spent a year in the federal prison at Fort McHenry."

A NOVEL demonstration of generosity was given by Captain M. B. Lloyd of Fort Worth, Tex., a short time ago. The New York Sun tells this story: "Captain M. B. Lloyd of this place has won the gratitude of many poor children by saving the lives of their pet dogs which had been condemned to death for failure to be tagged. An ordinance of Fort Worth requires that a tax of \$1 a head shall be paid on all dogs and that each animal shall wear a tag showing that the tax has been paid. Untagged dogs are taken to the dog pound, where they are kept 48 hours, and if the tax is not paid they are killed. Many poor people were unable to pay the tax on their dogs, and when the dog catching season opened a few days ago the dog catcher reaped a rich harvest of untagged dogs. It was a dismal day for the poor children who saw their pets carried off. The next day after the season opened Captain Lloyd learned that the pound was filled with dogs condemned to death. He went to the city collector's office and inquired how many dogs were in the pound. The collector called in the dog catcher and repeated the question. When informed that there were seventy-one of them, the captain placed as many dollars on the counter and had the animals all released and announced in the papers that all the dogs in the pound would be tagged and released at a certain hour of the next day, and that their owners should be on hand to claim them."

A PAYMASTER for an eastern iron company, according to a dispatch printed in the Des Moines Daily News, recently lost a satchel containing \$16,000 in cash. Louis Fry, a poor boy, found the satchel in the road. Discovering the value of its contents, he took it home to his parents. The paymaster did not miss the satchel until he had arrived at the furnaces. He rushed back immediately to look for it. As he passed the house the boy hailed him, and inquired if he had lost anything. The paymaster said he was looking for a satchel. "Well, I guess I found it, mister," said the boy. The money was found undisturbed. The paymaster rewarded young Fry by giving him 35 cents.

A VERY valuable book is to be sold shortly and if reports concerning it are true, deep interest will attach to the sale. It is designated as "Shakespeare's Own Bible," and is a copy of the sacred book in which the great bard wrote his own signature. The London Telegraph, referring to this book, says: "There are extant only two or three signatures of the bard that are unquestionably his, and to possess the Book of Books, with his name written by his own hand, would be a treasure indeed. It is certain that the Bible to be offered is not that from which Shakespeare learnt his Scripture knowledge. It was apparently printed in 1613, and bears the imprint of the second edition of King James's Bible, our authorized version, the first issue of which was in 1611. In 1611 Shakespeare's dramatic work was done. It is doubtful if anything proceeded from his pen after that date except, perhaps, "Henry VIII," which is only in part his, "The Tempest," and "Cymbeline." But, apart from this consideration, there is now little if any doubt that the Bible of the poet's youth and manhood was the Geneva version turned into English by the reformers, first smuggled into this country in 1557, and afterward freely and widely distributed."