

ACCORDING to the Sun, however, General Scott holds the palm for being the "worst defeated." The Sun says: "A worse beaten candidate for the presidency than Horace Greeley, everything considered, was General Scott, the nominee of the whig party in 1852. His military achievements, it was thought, would assure him a large popular vote, but he actually received only 42 electoral votes out of a total of 256, and most of these came to him by slender majorities. The four states he carried were Kentucky and Tennessee, Massachusetts and Vermont. He had 1,800 plurality in Tennessee and 500 in Vermont. The candidate for the presidency who had what would now be called a clean sweep, or almost a clean sweep, was James Monroe, in the election of 1820. There were 232 electoral votes in that year, and James Monroe received 231 of them. This was before the choice of presidential electors by popular vote, which was begun four years later."

MODERN curio-hunters stop at nothing in order to secure coveted articles. Speaking of the prices paid in endeavoring to secure these articles, a writer in the Pittsburg Dispatch says: "A hundred years ago the manuscript of Milton's 'Paradise Lost' was worth about \$100. Today it is priceless and Mr. Morgan, the present owner, is said to have paid a quarter of a million for it. There are pieces of tapestry in the possession of rich New Yorkers for which they have paid \$100 a square inch. Millet's 'The Angelus' is said to be worth \$150,000 and there are hundreds of pieces of canvas scattered over Europe and America worth quite as much. A Venetian Stradivarius violin is sold at public auction in London for so great a sum as \$3,500 the fact is deemed worthy to be cabled to the ends of the earth. A railroad is sold for a billion or a corner lot in Manhattan for the revenues of a principality and nothing is said. These baubles, though of great price, are common enough. But a Strad! In all the world there are scarcely a dozen of the precious old fiddles and all the cunning of modern invention can not add to their number."

TO LITTLE concern is being manifested by the British government on account of the uninterrupted exodus of Irish and Cornish peasants to America. Writing from Plymouth, England, United States Consul Stephens says: "The British press has called special attention during the last month to the continued, and what they term alarming, flight of the Irish and Cornish to America. Over 22,000 have gone from Ireland alone during the present year, and the exodus, which has received an impetus from the cheap fares, goes on without interruption. There is, it is asserted, no greater menace to Ireland's future than this appalling drain of immigration. It is drawing out of the country the best of its peasant class for America, and leaving the undesirables behind. Never before have the Irish people manifested such a determination to leave their country. At present they are leaving at the rate of 2,000 per week, and no argument advanced to keep them in their island has the slightest effect. The same conditions, thought in a modified form, apply to Cornwall. The mining industry at home is dead. In the British colonies conditions are not at all favorable, hence the speedy exodus to America. Those already in the United States send home money as rapidly as possible to assist their relatives and companions in Cornwall to follow."

A BACTERIA-CRUSHING machine is the latest thing for preserving milk. Describing the process by which this machine does its work, a writer in the Newark, N. J., News, says: "This machine is capable of putting forth a hydrostatic pressure of 450,000 pounds to the square inch. Milk has been squeezed under it till the bacteria howled for mercy. Seriously, milk has received at the hands of this machine a pressure of ninety tons. The effect of a pressure so enormous was to make the milk keep longer—it kept for five, six and seven days. This showed that some of its bacteria, the fermenting bacteria, at least, had been killed. But, though the milk remained sweet, it began to emit finally a strange new odor, and it had a strange new taste. This showed that other bacteria in it had not been harmed. Professor Wiley's poison squad's tests have proved that preservatives in milk are harmful. A pressure of seventy tons preserves milk for three or four days, and there is no strange odor or strange taste. Maybe, before long, chemicals as a preservative of milk will be succeeded by pressure."

THE Kansas City Journal gives the following statistics on the population of Spain: "According to the census of 1900, the population of Spain was 18,891,574, of which 9,087,821 were males and 9,803,753 females. The number unable to read and write, including children, is given at 11,000,000. That the number of illiterates is being slowly reduced is evidenced by the facts that in 1860 only 19.97 per cent of the population could read and write; in 1877 the proportion had increased to 24.48 per cent, ten years later to 28.49 per cent, and in 1903 to 33.45 per cent. The populations of the largest cities are given as follows: Madrid, 539,825; Barcelona, 533,000; Valencia, 213,550; Seville, 148,315."

"BLACK FRIDAYS" have played important parts in the histories of some nations. The Kansas City Journal says: "The American Black Friday was September 24, 1869, when Jay Gould and James Fiske, Jr., attempted to create a corner in the gold market. The whole country was in a ferment for several days, but the day was saved by the report that Secretary Boutwell had thrown \$4,000,000 on the market. The English Black Fridays are two—one the Friday on which the news reached London that the young pretender, Charles Edward, had arrived at Derby; the second, May 11, 1868, when the failure of Overend, Gurney & Co., London, the day before was followed by widespread financial ruin."

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW recently stated that there were 100,000 millionaires in the United States. His statement seems to meet controversy from a great many sources, however, for the Financial Red Book, a most carefully compiled publication, gives the names of practically all the persons in the United States who are supposed to be worth more than \$300,000. And there are only 15,000 names on the list. No claim is made that the name of every person worth that amount or more is given, but the proportion of those left out is extremely small, for a most exhaustive investigation has been made.

ONE of the most peculiar strikes ever brought to public attention recently occurred in New York city. The cause of the strike and the remarkable incident that caused the strikers to lose is told by the New York correspondent of the Chicago Tribune. The strike occurred among the tenants of a new department house. A dozen families who had moved in on the promise that certain improvements, which had not been made for want of time, would be made at once, had waited as long as they could. When Agent Craven called for the rents on the first of the month they all refused to pay him a penny. "O," the agent promised, "it will all be done before the month is out." The tenants were obdurate, however, to all appeals, and finally the agent began dispossession proceedings against them all. They renewed their agreement to stand together and move out in a body. This they would have done if the stork had not dropped in on the family of one of them, that of Clark Flanagan of the board of finance. The call of the bird made it decidedly inconvenient for Flanagan to move his family, so he paid his rent. The line is broken and other tenants are giving in one after the other, but they say they will renew the strike next month unless the promised improvements are made.

THE employes at the Kentucky building on the Louisiana Purchase exposition grounds feel that they have a right to make complaints. Stephen Collins rosters' famous song, "My Old Kentucky Home," is a favorite the world over, and especially in the Blue Grass state. There is a piano in the Kentucky building. Everybody—almost—knows Foster's song. The result was a combination that has resulted in grief to the employes at the building. The St. Louis correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean tells the story in this way: "Upon the very conservative estimate of three times every hour it is stated that 'My Old Kentucky Home' has been played on the piano at the Kentucky building at the World's fair nearly 8,000 times since the opening of the exposition. Nearly every visitor who knows how to play the piano rattles off that familiar tune, until now those connected with the building have almost become unsentimental enough to wish that Stephen Collins Foster had never written that song. The estimate is that about forty different musicians try their hand at 'My Old Kentucky

Home' on the piano in the pavilion of the blue grass state daily, or 7,280 times since the opening of the exposition. Kentuckians at the building have heard that popular air rendered with all of its different variations. Sometimes it has been played with feeling, other times mechanically. Those at the building were delighted at first at the interest shown in the Kentucky air, and, while as yet no objection has been raised, they are not now so joyful when they hear the first strains coming from the piano as they used to be. An interesting feature of the Kentucky building is the furniture of the room, including the table, where Foster wrote 'My Old Kentucky Home.' As souvenirs of the building copies of the song have been given and more than 20,000 copies have thus been distributed."

IRA D. SANKEY, the world-renowned singing evangelist, is confined to his home in Brooklyn, waiting patiently and serenely for the final summons. Several years ago he was compelled by failing health and approaching blindness to retire from active work. The death of his famous colleague, Mr. Moody, was a blow from which he never recovered. Moody and Sankey traveled around the world, the former preaching and the latter singing. Through their ministry hundreds of thousands of men and women were led into better lives. Mr. Sankey's songs are sung in every land and in every known tongue. Perhaps his best known song is "The Ninety and Nine." He is now only 64 years of age—a comparatively young man to have accomplished so much good for his fellow man. Never before in any land did such a combination as Moody and Sankey exist. Its potentialities were tremendous. The Brooklyn singer wasn't the leading man, but he was essential to the triumph that the men attained together.

THE Canadian Harness and Carriage Journal gives the interesting information that many varieties of leather are made from fish. An extremely fine quality of green leather manufactured in Turkey is manufactured from the skin of an ugly fish called the angel fish. This is a kind of shark—a shark with thick, wing-like fins that have earned for him the name of angel, though he doesn't look a bit like an angel, but rather the opposite. The sword grips of the officers of the German army are made from shark leather too. They are beautiful in pattern, being marked with dark, diamond-shaped figures. This skin comes from a North sea shark known as the diamond shark. The sturgeon, despite his lumpy armor, furnishes a valuable and attractive leather. When the bony plates are taken off their pattern remains on the skin just as the pattern of alligator scales remains on alligator leather. The Pacific coast sturgeon and the sturgeon of the great lakes produce a tough leather belting for machinery, and the laces often outwear the belting. The strange garfish, an American fresh water fish with long-toothed jaws like those of the crocodile, has a skin that can be polished smooth until it has a finish like ivory. It makes beautiful jewel caskets and picture frames. In Gloucester, the "king town" of fish, the humble cod has been utilized with success for making leather for shoes and gloves. In Egypt men walk on sandals made from the skins of Red sea fish. In Russia certain peasant costumes are beautifully trimmed with the skins of a fine food fish, the turbot. Bookbinders in Europe are binding books with eel-skin. The eel-skin serves another and less pleasant purpose. It is braided into whips. Along the big salmon river in Siberia the natives often wear brilliant leather garments dyed red and yellow. They are made from salmon skins. In Alaska beautiful waterproof bags are made from all sorts of fish skins. The queerest use is that to which the intestines of the sea lions are put. They are slit and stitched together to form hooded coats, which are superior to India rubber as waterproof garments. Walrus intestines are made into sails for boats by the Eskimos of northwestern America. Even the frog does not escape. Several factories in France and a few in America make card cases and other small leather articles from his skin.

Governor-elect Johnson of Minnesota is a country newspaper editor. He was elected as a democrat in a state that gave a republican plurality of 100,000. The country newspaper man should be sought out hereafter and given a chance to show his sprinting ability.