

exceptions, and there are no others to record, at least among the great parties, until after the civil war. Even Lincoln did not get such an absolute approval in 1864, when the Missouri delegates to the republican convention were forced by instructions to give a formal vote for Grant. And although General Fremont was nominated by acclamation that same year by a mass convention of dissatisfied republicans he subsequently withdrew from the contest."

IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT BY THIS same authority that General Grant broke the record in his two unopposed nominations in 1868 and 1872, and Cleveland was unopposed in 1888 and McKinley and Bryan in 1900. But most of the conventions of this period have been distinguished by lively struggles between numerous "favorite sons." Of vice presidents who have succeeded on the death of presidents none has been fortunate enough to secure a nomination at the following convention of his party. Tyler was hated by the whigs and discarded as a traitor. Fillmore was beaten by Scott, Johnson was persona non grata, and although Arthur had a pretty long list of delegates he had to succumb to Blaine. The Record-Herald writer thinks that Mr. Roosevelt has little to fear in the precedent established in the cases of these men. He thinks moreover that there appears to be a tendency in recent years toward a narrowing of the field and that neither republicans nor democrats seem to have such an abundance of presidential timber as they did when the names of Blaine, Sherman, Edwards, and Allison were kept permanently before one party, and those of Tilden, Hendricks, Bayard, and Thurman before the other.

FORTY YEARS AGO A CERTAIN MAN MADE some purchases in the store of A. F. Root on Schroon river, Oregon. In figuring up the amount of the purchases, the storekeeper cheated himself out of 5 cents. Mr. Root now lives at Glen Falls, N. Y., and the Glen Falls correspondent of the New York World says that he recently received a letter from his old customer in which the writer recounts the circumstances and says that it has troubled him all these years and that it was the one dishonest act of his life. He enclosed a money order for 75 cents, being principal and interest.

THE CANNIBAL TREE OF AUSTRALIA IS said to be the most wonderful tree in existence. A writer in the New York World refers to this tree as "the most wonderful of God's many wonders in vegetable life." According to this writer, the cannibal tree grows up in the shape of a huge pineapple, and seldom attains a height of more than 11 feet. It has a series of broad, beardlike leaves, growing in a fringe at the apex, which reminds one of a gigantic Central American apex. When standing erect these broad, thick leaves hide a curious looking arrangement which appears to perform the same functions as those of the pistils in flowers. Naturally, these beardlike leaves, which are from 10 to 12 feet long in the smaller specimens, are from 15 to 20 in the larger, hang to the ground and are strong enough to bear a man's weight. In aboriginal times in the antipodean wilds the natives worshipped the cannibal tree under the name of the "devil tree," the chief part of the ceremony consisting of driving one of their numbers up the leaves of the tree to the apex. The instant the victim would touch the so-called "pistils" of the monster the leaves would instantly fly together like a trap, squeezing the life out of the intruder. Early travelers declared that the tree held its victim until every particle of flesh disappeared. On this account it is called the "cannibal tree."

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RECENTLY given out at Washington, the number of immigrants arriving in this country continues to increase. During the twelve months ending April 30, 803,272 immigrants arrived. Of this number Austria-Hungary contributed 189,789, Italy 227,463, the Russian empire 128,482, the German empire 36,920, the United Kingdom 59,856, other countries 160,762. During this period there were 74,530 Hebrews, 41 per cent of whom came from Russia, 25 per cent from Austria-Hungary, 10 per cent from Roumania, 12 per cent from Germany, and 12 per cent from other countries. The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says that it is believed by the official bureau of immigration that it will be shown that the number of aliens arriving in May was close to 75,000. The same authority expresses the opinion that by July 1 not fewer than 850,000

aliens will have been admitted to this country during a twelve-month period.

AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD the Swiss are alone in having no language they can call their own. A writer in the Chicago Chronicle says that about three-fourths of the people of Switzerland speak German, while the remainder divide four other languages among them, mainly French and Italian, the languages varying as a rule according to the proximity of the people to each country whose tongue they speak. Public documents and notices are printed in both French and German. In the Swiss congress or national parliament the members make their speeches either in French or German, for nearly all the members understand both languages. The orders of the president are translated by an official interpreter and furnished to the newspapers in both languages. Probably it would puzzle even Macaulay's learned schoolboy to name the president of the Swiss republic. He is M. Adolf Deucher, a name that will be strange to many even of those who are familiar with the names and titles of every other European ruler.

IT IS PROPOSED TO EXHUME THE REMAINS of James Smithson at Genoa where they were interred in 1820 and transport them to Washington for sepulchre in the grounds of the Smithsonian institution. A writer in the New York Mail and Express says that if this project be carried out a very interesting international romance will be provided with its proper climax. According to this writer: "Not long before he died Smithson wrote—altogether mysteriously at that time, for he was an obscure scientist: 'My name shall live in the memory of man when the titles of the Northumberland and Percys are extinct and forgotten.' He spoke the truth when he said that. The titles of the Northumberland and Percys are not yet extinct, but they are of exceedingly little consequence now to either Britain or the world and have not the slightest ground to hope for such immortality as the founder of the great scientific institution connected with the United States government at Washington has already bestowed on the first duke of Northumberland's illegitimate son."

ACCORDING TO THE WRITER IN THE Mail and Express, James Smithson, at first and properly called James Macle, had no right to the name or title of the first Duke of Northumberland which descended to the duke's lawful son. Nevertheless, says this writer, James Macle was of the best blood of England on both sides. His character was excellent, his aspect noble. He was singularly proud of the blood which ran in his veins, though it came to him by no lawful inheritance, and his position became to him one of such bitterness that he resolved to establish his name, in a manner as useful as it was brilliant, in the free land beyond the seas. The fact that he had never seen America and had no tie whatever with this country did not deter him from sending hither all his wealth—though in the main it had come from the British nobility to whom by blood he was allied. His bequest of his fortune after the death of a nephew, who died without an heir, to establish at Washington an institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men was an astonishment to the world, and particularly to the Americans, who took several years to accustom themselves to the notion and provide for the foundation of the institution he had decreed. There was nothing, however, really astonishing in the bequest. Smithson cared more for science than he did for anything else. He was a passionate investigator and a really great collector. He knew that the terms of his bequest, which had in view nothing less than universal enlightenment, could be carried out in this country in a manner more sincere and untrammelled than in Europe. So he sent his money here and good use has surely been made of it.

A STRANGE REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE OF the United States government by the Spanish authorities. The Spanish government has entered a protest against the proposed sale of Spanish copper coins now in circulation in the Philippine islands upon the ground that the coins are the property of Spain and that under the peace treaty that government is entitled to them. The Spanish authorities intimate, however, that if this plan be not agreeable to the United States, Spain should be given the first right of purchase at a fair price. Director of the Mint Roberts, speaking to the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle, says that the position taken by Spain is most unusual, inasmuch as the coins

are in general circulation in the Philippines at their money value and apparently no consideration has been given to the rights of the holders of the money. The Spanish coins now circulating in the Philippines are to be retired January 1, 1904, under the provisions of the Philippine coinage act. The United States government must retain the coppers and dispose of them to the best advantage. It is believed that the anxiety of the Spanish authorities grows out of the fear that these coins will be purchased by speculators at less than their face value and sent to Spain for circulation.

RECENT EXPOSURES OF NATURALIZATION frauds in Philadelphia have prompted the suggestion by Assistant United States District Attorney Thompson that hereafter the photograph of the newly made citizen be attached to the certificate, thus establishing the question of identity beyond doubt. The Philadelphia correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says: "Outside of New York the frauds perpetrated in Philadelphia and Wilmington about a year ago were the most extensive. The great majority of those who received bogus evidence of citizenship by fraud are Italians and Armenians. It has been established that the same gang worked Philadelphia and Wilmington. Men were taken from Philadelphia to Wilmington to get their papers and returned to Philadelphia to vote. Several hundred certificates obtained in this way have been picked up and destroyed and more are coming to light every day. About twenty-five arrests have been made, but some of the men were released when it was proved that they were only dupes of the men who had sold their votes. John Dilemma, alias Lemon, the alleged head of the gang, and twelve others are under indictment and more arrests are in sight."

THE PUBLIC ATTENTION IS ONCE MORE directed to the story of the abduction of Ellen M. Stone, the missionary, by brigands in Turkey. The state department has requested Miss Stone to furnish information upon which the department may present a claim against Turkey. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says that Miss Stone has so far neglected to supply the facts desired and adds: "Correspondence between Miss Stone and the department has been unsatisfactory, as the department has been unable to obtain from her anything tangible upon which to base a claim for damages. The missionary has written a letter of excessive length in which she tells the story of her capture, but not one of her statements is substantiated by affidavits or other proofs upon which action could be taken. The affair has a number of singular features. It is known, for example, that Miss Stone was in full sympathy with the Macedonian committee, which eventually received the \$70,000 that was paid for her ransom, and that the money was used to purchase arms and ammunition with which to fight the Turks. This fact was made plain to the state department by Spencer Eddy, the secretary of the American legation in Constantinople, when he was here several weeks ago. Miss Stone herself admits that she was well treated by her captors; also that they were Christians like herself and fighting against the Turks, who are Mohammedans. Much doubt exists whether Miss Stone can establish a valid claim against Turkey or justly demand an apology from the sultan. The state department believes Miss Stone is in possession of facts which she has not yet made known."

THE PERMANENT TREATY BETWEEN THE United States and Cuba in which are incorporated the provisions of the Platt amendment, has been signed by the representatives of the two governments. An Associated press dispatch says: "The treaty contains no provision for its abrogation, and no extraneous conditions. It simply incorporates the entire Platt amendment into the form of a treaty. It is expected that an agreement covering the details of the United States naval stations will be reached by President Palma and Minister Squiers within three weeks. While the permanent treaty contains the provisions of the Platt amendment regarding the Isle of Pines and the acquisition of coaling stations by the United States, the final settlement of these questions will be made the subject of special treaties. Cuba agrees never to enter into any treaty or other compact with any foreign power which will impair or tend to impair its independence. Cuba consents that the United States may intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence. Cuba ratifies all acts of the United States in Cuba done during the military occupation."