



THE

NORTHERN COUNTIES'

ILLUSTRATED

FAMILY ALMANAC,

AND *Ephemerides*

GENERAL ADVERTISER,

FOR

1864.

Nov. 15 1864

WICK: W. RAE.

PRICE TWOPENCE

Postal Regulations.

LETTERS.

ALL Inland Letters must be prepaid at the following rates:—

Under 4 oz.	1d.
" 8 oz.	2d.
" 16 oz.	3d.

and so on, 2d. for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. No limit exists to the weight of paid letters; but no Inland Letter must exceed 24 inches any way.

UNPAID LETTERS.—Persons sending Letters by Post unpaid, which from any cause cannot be delivered, are liable to pay the Postage so charged, under the 3 and 4 of Victoria, cap. 96, and the 10 and 11 of Victoria, cap. 85; and under the 1 of Victoria, cap. 36, may be recovered with costs, by summary process before a Magistrate.

Letters re-directed are subject to a second Postage, at the rate charged for Prepaid Letters.

SOLDIERS' OR SEAMEN'S LETTERS are subject to a Postage of 1d., if prepaid and under 4 oz.; by private ship, 1d., the gratuity in addition must be paid. Letters from Abroad, sent by or addressed to Soldiers or Seamen, when unpaid, are charged 2d. If sent to or through a Foreign country, they are liable to Foreign rates in addition, but to no further charge upon re-direction. Letters from Soldiers or Seamen to the United States are subject to the United States' rate of 2d. in addition to the usual reduced rate, the whole to be paid in advance when posted in this country.

REGISTERED LETTERS.—Inland, Colonial, and Ship Letters can be registered upon payment of 4d. for Inland, and 6d. for Colonial and Ship Letters, beyond the Postage.

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS.

NEWSPAPERS (Stamped) sent by Post, must be made up in covers open at the sides, and have the Impressed Stamp visible, and no marks or writing (besides the address) thereon, or anything inclosed, or it subjects them to Letter Postage. British Newspapers, when duly stamped, are forwarded free throughout the United Kingdom (except those delivered within three miles of the place where posted, which are charged 1d.). Unstamped Newspapers, if weighing under 4 oz., may be forwarded between places in the United Kingdom by affixing 1d. Postage Stamp. For places Abroad, the Impressed Stamp is valueless, as the Postage must be prepaid by Postage Labels. Newspapers for Foreign parts and Colonies, if posted later than 15 days after date of publication, are charged Letter Postage.

BOOKS, &c.—Printed Books, Pamphlets, Magazines, &c., whether British, Foreign, or Colonial, may be forwarded by Post between places in the United Kingdom (made up in the same manner as Newspapers), if prepaid in stamps, at the following rates:—

Under 4 oz.	1d.
" 8 oz.	2d.
" 16 oz.	4d.
" 24 oz.	6d.
" 32 oz.	8d.

and 2d. for every additional 8 oz., or any less weight; no Parcel to exceed 24 inches any way, but may contain more than one book, &c.

A Book Packet may contain any writing not of the nature of a Letter, any number of separate Books or other Publications, Prints, or Maps, and any quantity of Paper, Parchment, or Vellum.

COLONIAL BOOK POST.—Books, if prepaid in Stamps, are forwarded to the under-mentioned BRITISH POSSESSIONS and FOREIGN

HINTS TO LETTER WRITERS.

1. A clear, well-written communication will invariably receive more attention than a slovenly letter. Business letters especially should therefore be carefully indited.

2. Business letters should be so explicit that, upon being read, no other interpretation than that intended can be placed upon their meaning.

3. The stamp should be thoroughly dampened, and placed at the right-hand top corner of the envelope. Some thousands of letters annually arrive at their destination minus the stamp, from want of this precaution.

4. Always retain a copy of business letters, in case of dispute, or need of future reference.

5. Letters that contain anything valuable should be registered, as they are then more easily traced. The extra charge for this is 4d.

6. The address of the sender should always be written inside, as in case of misdirection or removal, the Post Office authorities will return it.

COUNTRIES, at the following rates:—

Under 4 oz.	6s. 3d.
" 8 oz.	6s. 6d.
" 16 oz.	1s. 6d.
" 24 oz.	1s. 6d.
" 32 oz.	2s. 0d.

and so on, increasing by 6d. for every additional ½ lb. or fraction of ½ lb.:

British West Indies, Turk's Islands, Honduras, Bermuda, Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Buenos Ayres, Monte Video, Hayti, St. Juan de Nicaragua, Mosquito Territory, Alexandria, Cairo, Suez,

Malta, Gibraltar, Ionian Islands, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Gold Coast, St. Helena, Ascension, Cape Town, Natal, Heligoland, Hamburg, Bremen, Gottenburg, Lubeck, Sweden, Vancouver's Island, Falkland Islands, Liberia and Africa, West Coast.

Book Packets for Ceylon, East Indies, Hong Kong, Mauritius, New Zealand, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, and Labuan, are forwarded at the following rates:—

	Via South- ampton.	Via Mar- seilles.
Under 4 oz.	0s. 4d. ..	0s. 6d.
" 8 oz.	0s. 8d. ..	1s. 0d.
" 16 oz.	1s. 4d. ..	2s. 0d.
" 24 oz.	2s. 0d. ..	2s. 6d.
" 32 oz.	2s. 8d. ..	3s. 0d.

and so on, increasing 8d. via Southampton, 1s. via Marseilles, for each additional ½ lb. or fraction of ½ lb.

No Book Packet must exceed 2 feet in length, width, or depth; and Book Packets sent to the East Indies, or to New South Wales, must not exceed 3 lbs. in weight.

The following Rates of Postage (paid in advance) are chargeable upon Newspapers, Books, and other Printed Papers to BELGIUM, FRANCE, ALGERIA, or the French Offices in TURKEY, SYRIA, and EGYPT.

REGISTERED NEWSPAPERS.

Under 4 oz.	1d.
" 8 oz.	2d.
" 16 oz.	4d.
" 24 oz.	6d.
" 32 oz.	8d.

and so on, 2d. additional for every subsequent 8 oz. or fraction of 8 oz.

UNREGISTERED PRINTED PAPERS.

Manuscript not of the nature of a Letter, Photographs, and Patterns of Merchandise of no intrinsic value, for France and Algeria:—

Under 4 oz.	6s. 3d.
" 8 oz.	6s. 6d.
" 16 oz.	1s. 6d.
" 24 oz.	1s. 6d.
" 32 oz.	2s. 0d.

and so on, 6d. additional for every subsequent 8 oz. or fraction of 8 oz.

MONEY ORDERS.

MONEY ORDERS are granted and paid at every Post Town in the United Kingdom, at a charge of 3d. for sums not above £2; 6d. not above £5; 9d. not above £7; and 1s. not above £10, which is the highest sum for which a single Order is granted.

Money Orders drawn on London are payable only at the Chief Office, between 10 and 4, except on Saturdays, and then between 10 and 1.

Payment of a Money Order must be obtained before the end of the third month from the date when issued, or a fresh commission is charged, and no Order is paid after twelve clear months.

Money Orders are granted and paid in London, within the Town limits, between 10 and 4, and in the Suburban districts, from 9 till 6 daily.

The Receivers are not obliged to sell Stamps, or receive Registered Letters, or attend to any other official business, after 8 p.m.

Foreign Postage Stamps.



The collection of Postage Stamps of all Nations has for some time been among the favourite amusements of the young people of England; it has recently also spread to the Continent, where the same

amount of interest is evinced in endeavouring to make perfect collections. Although at first sight the practice may appear juvenile, much may be said in its favour. While obtaining and arranging the 1,400 different postage stamps that must be found before the collection is perfect, opportunity is afforded of acquiring a knowledge of geography and foreign currency, or at all events an interest in these subjects is excited, which cannot prove otherwise than beneficial.

To Sir Rowland Hill is due the credit of introducing this simple contrivance for facilitating the postal business. The Penny Post, which has rendered his name famous, came into operation on the 10th of January, 1840, and the use of stamps, which formed one of the means suggested by him for carrying out the system, commenced on the 6th of the following May. No better proof of the utility of the postage stamp can be adduced than the fact of its being now used by every state and colony, large or small, that enters into commercial transactions with Europe.

The collection of rare stamps is every day becoming more expensive and more difficult. A complete set of stamps represents a sum of more than six-and-twenty pounds; but as many of these stamps are out of date, their conventional value is considerably greater than that which they bore at the period of their original issue. An old postage stamp will

sometimes fetch more than a hundred times the price for which it was originally sold. We give fac-similes of several foreign stamps which appeared in *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*, in connection with a series of illustrated articles on the subject. The most interesting is the new American five-cent stamp, used as currency in the United States. This postage currency consists of labels printed on both sides, and especially prepared for circulation. They are, in fact, bank-



notes, of the value of from two-pence-halfpenny to two shillings and a penny. The five-cent label bears the portrait of Franklin; it is printed in brown, on a yellow tinted paper. The reverse is printed in black ink. The fifty-cent note bears the portrait of Washington five times repeated, on medallions surrounded by the emblematic stars



of the Union. As a work of art, it is exceedingly well executed. The reverse bears the number "50," with an inscription explanatory of the law affecting the postal circulation. The obverse is printed in green, the reverse in black ink.

Art is not uninterested in the collection of foreign stamps. They bear the effigy of a sovereign, the arms of a nation, or some allegorical figure. Typography, engraving, and lithography are employed in their preparation; eminent men are engaged in their design and execution. Most of the stamps issued are marked by great excellence

of workmanship. Simply, then, as works of art—as representatives of the progress in our own and foreign countries, of design, engraving, and printing—these postage stamps deserve attention.



Post Office Savings Banks, Assessed Taxes, &c.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Deposits of not less than one shilling are received from any depositor at the post office savings banks, provided the deposits made by such depositor in any year, ending on the 31st day of December, do not exceed £50, and provided the total amount standing in such depositor's name in the books of the Postmaster-General do not exceed £150, exclusive of interest. When the principal and interest together, standing to the credit of any one depositor, amount to the sum of £200, all interest will cease so long as the same funds continue to amount to the said sum of £200.

Every depositor is required to specify his Christian name and surname, occupation and residence, and sign a declaration that he is not directly or indirectly entitled to any deposit in or benefit from the funds of that or any other savings bank in Great Britain or Ireland, except such benefit as he may be entitled to from being a member of a friendly society.

Every deposit is entered by the receiver at the time in a numbered book, and the entry is attested by him, and stamped; the said book being given to the depositor, and retained by him as primary evidence of the receipt of the deposit. The amount of each deposit is reported to the Postmaster-General on the same day, and the acknowledgment of the Postmaster-General for each deposit is forthwith transmitted by post to the depositor, as the conclusive evidence of its receipt.

If the depositor does not receive the said acknowledgment within ten days from the day on which he made the deposit, he should apply for the same to the Postmaster-General, by letter, and if necessary renew his application until he receives the acknowledgment.

Interest, calculated yearly, at the rate of two pounds ten shillings per cent. per annum, is allowed on every complete pound deposited, computed from the first day of the calendar month next following the day on which a complete pound is deposited, or on which deposits of a less amount have made up a pound, up to the first day of the calendar month in which moneys are withdrawn. The interest thus

calculated is at the rate of one halfpenny per calendar month for every complete pound.

The interest is calculated to the 31st December in every year, and is then added to and becomes part of the principal.

Deposits may be made by a trustee on behalf of another person, in the joint names of such trustee and the person on whose account such money is to be deposited.

Deposits may be made by or for the benefit of any person under twenty-one years of age, and re-payment will be made to such minor, above the age of seven years, in the same manner as if he were of full age. In case of minors under the age of seven years, the declaration must be made by one of the parents or a friend, on behalf of the minor.

Deposits may be made by married women, and deposits so made, or made by women who shall afterwards marry, will be repaid to any such woman, unless her husband shall give notice in writing of such marriage to the Postmaster-General, and shall require payment to be made to him.

The trustees of any friendly society, the rules of which have been certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, or of any charitable or provident society, approved of by the National Debt Commissioners, may deposit their funds, without restriction as to amount, in post office savings banks; provided that the rights be forwarded by post to the Postmaster-General, with the names and addresses of the trustees, who will then be furnished with the necessary instructions.

No charge is made upon depositors for the books at first supplied; but if any depositor loses his book, application must be made by him to the Postmaster-General, by letter, stating the circumstances, and enclosing one shilling in postage stamps to pay for the new book.

No charge for postage is made upon the depositors for any applications they may have to make for acknowledgments of deposits, or for any necessary letter of inquiry respecting the sums deposited by them.

Further information may be obtained at any post office where money is appointed to be received.