

VOL. VI.

JANUARY * 1891.

NO. 5.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL

THE FRIEND OF THE POSTMASTERS.



UNCLE SAM ON THE FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

Instruction.

Amusement.

An Expounder of
Postal Laws and Regulations.

Untrammelled.

Fearless.

BOYLSTON BUILDING
269 DEARBORN ST.

John H. Patterson
PUBLISHER

CHICAGO

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - -	\$1.50
SIX MONTHS, - - - - -	.75
Single Copies, - - - - -	15 Cents.

JOHN H. PATTERSON,

PROPRIETOR.

CHICAGO OFFICE, 269 Dearborn St.
Boylston Building, Room 420.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.

Entered as second-class matter at the Chicago Post Office.

DISSATISFACTION—WHY?

THE DISSATISFACTION that has sprung up in postal circles with regard to the pay of postmasters is not of recent origin. It began when third-class offices were deprived of their income from box rents, and when the rate of postage on first-class matter was reduced from 3 to 2 cents and the unit of weight increased from a half ounce to an ounce, while the pay was computed upon the same basis as before the change took place. Anybody with a thimbleful of brains can easily see that if the gross receipts of an office were \$4,000 per annum when postage was 3 cents per half ounce, that it must transact one-third more business under the present law if its receipts remain the same; and if they do, then one-third more labor must be performed by the postmaster, while there is not a dollar of an increase of compensation. But the injustice of this feature of the law cuts even deeper than the outside public is aware of, for there are many postmasters who were compelled to employ a certain amount of clerk hire when the business of their offices aggregated a certain sum, who were compelled to secure additional help when postage was reduced, while the volume of their business in dollars and cents was not as much as before, and all because the number of pieces of mail matter dispatched and received increased so much under the lower rate of postage that the old force could not handle it and new help had to be introduced.

There are, of course, third and fourth-class offices where an allowance is made for "clerk hire," but it is only where there is a large amount of outside mail to handle, or, in other

words, for "distributing" offices, but we doubt whether there is an office in the country where the "allowance" is equal to the expenditure. We could name many where the postmaster is compelled to pay out of his own salary from \$150 to \$700 a year more than is allotted by the government for that specific purpose.

If the handling of all "through" mail was added to the business of the "distributing" office, and, incidentally, to the income of the postmaster, it would not be a matter of such serious import as to the extra outlay for necessary clerk hire; but when it is all outgo and no income, then it can only be characterized as a bare-faced robbery. There are no other words that will so perfectly express the real meaning of this species of iniquity practiced by the government than those we employ. Is there any reason under heaven why a postmaster whose office happens to be so located, geographically, that he must handle from two to forty mails per week for connecting offices that he shall take any sum of money from his already too meager salary and pay it out to clerks to handle the mails coming from and going to those offices? Their establishment was ordered by the department for the benefit of a certain section or community, and contracts are let for the carrying of the mails to and from those points. If it cost \$500 a year to carry those mails, every nickel of that expense should be borne by the government, and adequate appropriations made by congress to meet all such expenditures; but the labor of receiving them *in transit*, falls upon the "distributing" office, and as before said, whatever of expense there is attending it *in transit*, or at least three quarters of it, falls upon the postmasters at "distributing" points. Seven-eighths of all the clerical labor at that class of offices relates to the handling of "through" mails. If the department is inclined to grant mail facilities to the public, then the expense attending it should be borne by the government of the United States and *not* by its postmasters.

These wrongs, however, should not be laid at the door of the post-office department, for congress alone is to blame for not making adequate appropriations. The remedy lies altogether with it, and unless the postmasters come forward like men and show the injustice of such a course, then there will be no end to it. It will continue!

What will you do?

Are you prepared to continue to liquidate the expenses of the government out of your own pockets?

A REFORM NEEDED.

ONE day not long since there were deposited in a certain large post office, 1,600 drop-letters on which one full rate of postage had not been paid. Under the regulations of the post-office department that mail was not deliverable because there was one cent due on each letter.

Now what do you suppose was to be done in order to get that mail into the hands of the persons to whom it was addressed?

This is what was done:

Here were sixteen hundred letters, each bearing a one cent stamp. The addresses were all plain and easily understood, and in the majority of cases the street and number were given. Three clerks were set to work to copy off all the addresses into a record book for preservation. Then when that was accomplished, a card, something on the order of a postal, was sent to each person informing them that there was a letter bearing their address detained at the post office on account of the non-payment of postage, and that unless they called and paid the same within a specified date, they would be sent to the dead-letter office. That card was given to the carriers for delivery. Then the persons addressed were compelled to walk way down to the post office, fork over the *one cent* due, get their letters and depart.

The clerical work to enter all these names and send the card of notification, was equal to three thousand two hundred addresses, and three days were required to perform the labor. The amount of money involved was \$16.00 while the salary paid the three clerks for the time consumed was \$17.50, or just \$1.50 more than the government would have received in case the entire sixteen hundred letters had been called for and the deficient postage paid. But in this instance only twelve hundred were called for, leaving the government short \$5.50 in the transaction, to say nothing of the time and labor consumed in the delivery of the "notifications" by the carriers, and the waiting upon the twelve hundred who called to pay the postage and take out their mail.

Now would it not have been very much better for all concerned, for the persons addressed and for the post-office authorities, to have put all that short-paid mail right into the hands of the carriers on the day it was deposited in the office and had them deliver it and collect the one cent due, and by that means saved the loss the post office sustained, besides all the clerical labor spent upon it, to

say nothing of the delay sustained in the *delivery* of the mail? Some of it may have been very important and speedy delivery might have been very desirable, but as it was, there was a loss of time and money to all concerned.

Here is a useless waste. There is ample room for reform, and the attention of the department is respectfully called to the matter. We cannot understand why such a ridiculous regulation was ever introduced.

THEY have a queer way of distributing the American mail in Constantinople. A sovereign citizen sojourning in that city says that the first intimation he had of the presence of a postman was a voice calling him, "Sir, come here!" As he approached the postman that functionary held a bag bottom up over the top of a hogshead and poured out its contents, which included pamphlets, papers and letters, in an indiscriminate mass. After the bag was emptied the postman called to the bystanders, most of whom were Americans, to look over the pile and take out what belonged to them, while he visited a neighboring cafe and refreshed himself. The Turkish government evidently presumes that all men are honest; but whatever may be the success of this method of delivering the mail in Turkey, most other nations could not safely adopt it.

CREDIT for postage stamps in country offices should be discarded. When a postmaster is told to "charge them to my box," he should most respectfully decline. Some new postmasters, in order to be excessively accommodating to the public, often disregard the postal laws, and not only give credit for stamps, but also for quarterly postage and for box rent, and often go so far as to "lick" the stamps, and do not see how foolish they have been until they get swindled out of a few hundred dollars.

"POKER Made Plain," the "Life of Bill Sykes," "Nancy Jane's Darling" and the "Rogues of New York," being standard publications and edifying to the youth of this country, are sent through the mails at one cent for two ounces, while a package of letter-heads or bill-heads must be paid for at the rate of one cent an ounce. The man who is responsible for such discriminations should have a monument of putty made of him and placed at the lowest point on the Potomac flats.

SAMPLE COPIES OF NEWSPAPERS.

SAMPLE copies of newspapers of the second class are defined to be copies sent to persons *not subscribers*, for the purpose of inducing them either to subscribe or advertise, or to persons whom the publisher may desire to secure as agents of his paper. Any number of copies of any number of different editions of a second-class paper may be sent at any one time as sample copies. The primary design of a publisher in sending out sample copies is to increase his subscription list and advertising patronage, and the law permits him to send such copies at the rate of one cent per pound. This was enacted in expectation that such free circulation of sample copies of his paper would induce subscriptions thereto, and, therefore, augment the postal revenues.

But such exceptional advantages as are extended by the law to publishers in circulating their papers to induce *legitimate* returns, must *not* be regarded as embracing papers *sent out for advertisers*, or by campaign committees or for other persons to be sent to specified addresses, and apparently intended, from the nature of the contents, or of marked portions of them, to serve the business, political or personal interests of the person or persons ordering them. Such copies are third-class matter, and should be prepaid by stamps at the rate of one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

For example: No paper of the second class can contain a "write-up" of a business house, with the article marked and the papers paid for by such concern, and then mail them at second-class rates under the plea that they are "sample copies."

Political speeches or documents of any kind published in a newspaper, to be used for campaign purposes, can not be purchased by campaign committees, or other interested parties, in large or small quantities, and then sent out by the publisher at second-class rates, no matter whether they go in single wrappers or in bundles to their own agents or to other persons.

A publisher in sending out sample copies of his paper, must limit the sphere of his purpose to *his own benefit*, either in advertising or subscriptions, and to mail papers with a certain business advertisement, be it marked or unmarked, to addresses furnished by *outside parties*, is a clear violation of the law.

We must insist that every postmaster who writes to this office for information shall furnish an addressed envelope, *fully stamped*.

WHAT IS A LEGAL NEWSPAPER?

THERE has always been a disposition on the part of the general government to favor the cheap circulation of legitimate newspapers. Every facility has been extended to publishers and the postage rates have been placed at a figure which entailed an annual loss upon the department for transportation.

As will always happen, however, under such circumstances, certain abuses have grown up which impose upon federal generosity and demand attention. There has been a gradual tendency on the part of advertisers to encroach upon the legitimate field of the newspaper, and the department has issued so many rulings governing the treatment of second-class matter that it now becomes a matter of frequent difficulty to decide as to what is or what is not a legal newspaper. Such a paper is thus defined:

It must be originated and published for the dissemination of news of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts or some special industry, and having a legitimate list of subscribers; providing, however, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to admit to the second-class rate regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation at nominal rates.

Notwithstanding the very manifest intention of the foregoing section, a host of publications of most doubtful character are now admitted to the second-class rates at every large post office. In order to secure the cheaper rate of transportation, advertisers manage in some way to satisfy the letter of the law while they violate its spirit, and the mails are daily flooded with tons of stuff which nobody reads but the patrons of the advertising agents, and which are in no true sense newspapers, under the meaning of the statute. It is apparent that Ex-Postmaster-General VILAS recognized this evil and that he was animated by a desire to correct it. His order, excluding such publications as the Seaside Library and continued novels from the second-class rates, was a step in the right direction. Such publications are in no sense newspapers. There is another and more difficult class of publications to which Mr. WANAMAKER will probably soon turn his attention. We refer to the so-called newspapers published by firms and corporations for the purpose of advertising their own private business. A thorough sifting and investigation would show that the government is burdened with the transportation of matter of this kind, which does not come under the law. The matter demands correction, not only because it is an imposition upon the government, but because it invades the field of the true newspaper and lessens its power for good in the community.

THE SANCTITY OF THE SEAL.

THE seal of the letter intrusted to the mails is sacred. It is a little bit of wax or strip of mucilage. A touch of the finger can break it, yet the law gives it the strength of locks and bars of steel. The man who unlawfully breaks it is a felon, and the felon's fate awaits him if he be convicted.

And this should be so. The postal service is intrusted with the dearest secrets of mankind—the secrets of love, of domestic affection, of business, of politics; in short, of human experience. The officers and employes of the postal service are trusted as no other officials are. More reliance is placed on their fidelity than on any other people in the world. Basest and meanest of men are they who betray this sacred charge. False to their oaths, false to the sacred trust reposed in them, false to the confidence bestowed upon their fidelity, the wretches who violate the sanctity of the seal, or commit depredations upon the mails, are monsters of depravity, and entitled to less of human charity than any other class of malefactors.

The law throws around the private papers of an individual, when under seal in the mails, the same constitutional safeguards that are thrown around them in his own home. They are exempt from search and seizure. Officers of the law cannot open them in search of evidence of crime. Oftentimes green and inexperienced sheriffs, or constables, or detectives, when on the trail of suspected guilt, think they can open letters, or pry into the secrets of the post office, for links in a chain of evidence. The postmaster is frequently importuned by such officials to violate the law, to commit or allow one crime to be committed with a view to detecting another. Fortunately, but few postmasters are ever verdant enough to permit such tampering with sealed letters.

The regulations are full of commandment and warning against tampering with sealed mail matter. (See P. L. & R., § 506.) The laws visit upon the unlawful opening of letters by employes of the postal service the most rigorous punishment (P. L. & R., § 1447), even when the letters contain no valuable inclosure.

To guard against the unlawful obstruction of correspondence or prying into the secrets of another, the statutes of the United States provide:

"That any person who shall take any letter, postal card or packet, although it does not contain any article of value or evidence thereof, out of a post office or branch post office, or from a letter or mail carrier, or which has been in any post office or branch post office, or in the custody of any letter or mail carrier, before it has been delivered to the person to whom it was directed,

with a design to obstruct the correspondence or pry into the business or secrets of another, or who shall secrete, embezzle or destroy the same, shall, for every such offense, be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than one year, or by both."

It was at one time doubted whether this statute could protect a letter which had been in the mail, after it had been lawfully delivered by the postal authorities to some one entitled to take it, but not entitled to open it. In other words, it was questionable whether A could be punished under this statute if he should receive the letter of B from a post office or letter or mail carrier, to deliver it to B, and should open it before delivery to B, without authority from B so to do. The courts have found considerable difficulty in construing and applying this statute, and their decisions are not uniform or entirely harmonious.

In the case of the *United States vs. Parsons*, 2 Blatchf. 104, decided in 1849, a letter carrier, having a letter for delivery to C. H. P., gave it to A, in the defendant's house, in the absence of the defendant. A afterward gave it to the defendant. The defendant's name was the same as that on the letter, although the letter was not intended for him. He opened the letter and embezzled its contents. The court, in construing this statute, held this language:

"We think that the object of this section does not look beyond a possession of letters obtained wrongfully from the post office or from a letter carrier. Its design is to guard the post office and its legitimate agents in the execution of their duties in the safekeeping and delivery of letters. After the voluntary termination of the custody of a letter by the post office or its agents, the property in and right of possession to it being wholly to its real proprietor, and his rights are under the guardianship of the local law, and not that of the United States. All action and authority of the post-office department, in respect to the letter, terminated on its delivery to that third person, and, in our opinion, it was not intended that the act of congress should apply any longer than while the letter should be within the power and control of that department."

In the case of the *United States vs. Sanders*, 6 McLean, 598, the letter had been delivered to one who was the agent of the addressee. The defense was that a delivery to the agent was such a delivery to the addressee, that the functions of the government over the letter had terminated. The court so held, saying:

"A letter having been committed to the post-office department for carriage and delivery, if once parted with by the postmaster to a person authorized to receive it, from that moment ceases alike to be under the control of the department and the power and authority of the general government. . . . When the functions of the department are exhausted by the proper delivery of mail matter (once placed in its charge), such mail matter is then beyond the reach and authority of the legislation of congress."

But, in charging the jury, the judge further instructed them that, if they found that the defendant was the authorized agent of the addressee, and received the letter with the intent of opening it with the design specified in the statute, that then the offense was complete. This instruction has been criticised. It recognizes what the logic of the court does not admit, namely, that the protection of the statute extends to the letter after it has passed, by a lawful delivery, out of the custody of the postal officials.

POSTMASTERS AS AGENTS FOR PUBLISHERS.

It has long since come to be understood that postmasters are the only valuable agents for publishers in extending the circulation of their papers, especially of the great weeklies. They know just who among their patrons are subscribers to outside journals, and they know, too, just what papers they take, whether religious, political or agricultural. This information gives them an advantage possessed by no other persons. They have a better opportunity to canvas for subscribers than anybody else, for there is no person, old or young, rich or poor, who does visit the post-office at stated times. Besides all that, postmasters are *responsible*. The people are not afraid to trust them with their money, whereas, with strangers, they would not be willing to put up a penny in advance.

To the bulk of all fourth-class postmasters in the United States, the subscription business yields a greater revenue than the emoluments of their offices. It is a part of the legitimate business of the postoffice.

The thousands of new postmasters who have gone into office during the past few months, and the thousands who will soon enter, may not understand this feature of their business fully. To such we would say, there is no objection to their performing this character of service for publishers, either for Democratic or Republican papers, and the more subscribers they take, the better for all concerned. The government recognizes newspapers as an educating force, and, as such, extends to them special privileges and advantages in the way of securing circulation.

Many publishers, however, are wasting their money and their time by undertaking to reach postmasters by circular, by postal card and by posters, and the result is that tons upon tons of that sort of stuff finds a home only in the postmaster's waste pile.

The UNITED STATES MAIL is not only the *best* but the *cheapest* medium by which publishers can reach postmasters. The circulation is large and constantly growing. This is a class of patronage we want, and we *can give value received*.

Publishers can get better results from the UNITED STATES MAIL than from any other publication, for postmasters are interested in its prosperity. Among its stockholders are 753 postmasters, who virtually own it.

FUN WITH NAMES OF POSTMASTERS.

The President appointed FRED AXE as postmaster at Eureka, Cal., thus using him to cut the head off his predecessor, and it didn't dull his edge a bit, either. In fact, he worked for *gore*. Eureka's AXE is keen and cuts well.

MISS JESSIE BAKER "cooked the goose" of her opponent in the late contest for the post-office at La Grande, Oregon, and places P. M. after her name. She is one *La Grande* sweet little lady. And this reminds us that among the candidates for the post-office at Kirwin, Kan., was a man named DAVE BLACK and a woman named Miss MARY WHITE, and the result is that MARY gave DAVE a black eye and secured the commission, and now the office will be white instead of black.

MISS JOSEPHINE REID is the new postmistress at Connellsville, Pa. She can now read her title clear to a four years' clutch on the mails in that city. Hope she will handle them tenderly. Be careful, JOSIE.

GEO. F. POOLE has taken upon himself the labors of the postmastership at Orange, Tex. We know him well, and any one who attempts to play POOLE for a sucker will make a mistake. He reads the U. S. MAIL.

Two men met one day in Rome, N. Y., and entered into conversation concerning the appointment of the new postmaster, when one remarked dryly: "Well, any of our citizens who don't read the Bible at home can go to the post-office and *look at it*, anyhow. The Postmaster's name is WM. E. SCRIPTURE.

MR. E. J. LOCKE has been commissioned to carry the keys to the post-office at Eufaula, Ala., for four years, and LOCKE is happy.

The new postmaster at Tallahassee, Fla., is named WEEKES. He waited many months to get there but finally made it in good shape.

The name of the new postmaster at Park River, Dak., is HONEY. He was sweet on the President.

The lines of SIMON D. B. LINES, postmaster at Braidwood, Ills., have fallen in a pleasant place. If the length of time which his lines continue may be measured by his name, SIMON will bid *fare well*, not to his office but to dull care.

When the Hon. J. L. GRUBB, postmaster at Columbus Junction, Ia., started in to get the post-office he was fighting for GRUBB in more ways than one.

MAIL BOX NO. 5, THE LATEST AND BEST.

Almost every postmaster has calls now and then from private parties for a letter box. Some want one for their homes, some for their stores and some for their offices. Every country hotel should have one for the benefit of their guests who write letters during the day and hand them to the clerk or to the proprietor to keep until it is time to carry them to the postoffice. If this mail box was put up in the hotel office so that anybody could step in and deposit



their mail as well as the guests of the house, it would relieve the landlord of all anxiety and responsibility as to the safety of the mail and at the same time be of benefit to the general public. The mail could be taken therefrom by the proprietor or his clerk and taken to the postoffice; or, if the postmaster desired to be specially accommodating as a public official, he could furnish the box free of charge to the hotel, carry the key himself and go after or send for the mail in time before closing. A box could also be placed in one or more drug stores. It is this ac-

commodating, progressive spirit that makes a man popular as a postmaster and renders his administration of the office all and more than the people expect, besides being specially pleasing to the department.

This box is undoubtedly the finest ever made, as well as the handsomest. It has a spring tumbler lock; a glass covered sight hole; fastening screws covered inside the box; the back piece of solid cast iron; ample capacity and is strong and durable. The price complete with lock and two keys, \$2.00, delivered to any express office. The box and THE UNITED STATES MAIL for one year, \$2.50.

One of these boxes would pay for itself in four weeks by inducing the writing of letters that would not otherwise be written. Expressage paid by postmaster.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA POSTMASTER.

POST OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA., Jan. 3, 1888.
THE UNITED STATES MAIL, Chicago, Ill.

Your paper contains so much that is interesting and valuable to those employed in the postal service that I feel that it would be an advantage to the executive division of this office to have it on file here, and I therefore beg that you consider me a subscriber for the current year of 1888. Upon receipt of bill for a year's subscription I will promptly remit.

Wishing you compliments of the season, I am

Yours very respectfully,

WM. F. HARRITY, Postmaster.

RESOLUTIONS FROM COOK CO. POSTMASTERS.

The following resolutions of fourth-class postmasters in Cook county, Illinois, have no uncertain sound, and they are commended to all who are interested:

Whereas, the present law governing the compensation of fourth-class postmasters is so flagrantly unjust as to render it a hardship to maintain their office with that degree of efficiency necessary to satisfy the demands of the public and at the same time give them even a reasonable equivalent for the expense and responsibility incurred, to say nothing of the time employed, the postmasters of Cook County, Illinois, hereby declare as follows:

Resolved, FIRST, that they give the most emphatic approval of House Bill 10,757 introduced by the Hon. R. P. Kennedy, of Ohio, and indorse it as a measure calculated to afford ample relief;

Resolved, SECOND, that we commend the said bill to the earnest support of all fourth-class postmasters in the United States and ask their co-operation in order to secure its passage;

Resolved, THIRD, that we suggest earnest work among Congressmen by postmasters between now and the 1st of December, and in every case to see them if possible, but if that cannot be done, then to address them letters upon the importance of the enactment into law of the bill representing our interests.

Resolved, FOURTH, that we heartily indorse and approve of the efforts of MR. JOHN H. PATTERSON, editor of the *United States Mail*, to inaugurate this movement in our behalf, and ask for him and his able journal the support and encouragement so richly deserved;

Resolved, FIFTH, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to every fourth-class postmaster in Cook County for his personal indorsement and return to the Editor of the *United States Mail*.

CHAS. H. SMITH, P.M., Parkside, Ill.
C. C. HUDSON, P.M., Hegewisch, Ill.
J. W. HALLENBECK, P.M., Auburn Park, Ill.
FRED. ULRICH, P.M., Dunning, Ill.
W. H. COLEHOUS, P.M., Colehour, Ill.
R. A. VANDENBERG, P.M., Fernwood, Ill.
S. J. BARTLETT, P.M., Glencoe, Ill.
P. J. CONWAY, P.M., Cummings, Ill.
J. H. BANKS, P.M., Willow Springs.
F. D. BRACKETT, P.M., Riverdale.
HENRY BOLTE, P.M., Arlington Heights.
W. M. GAGER, P.M., Irving Park.
CHAS. GRAPHER, P.M., Alpine.
S. E. ROBERTS, P.M., Chicago Lawn.
H. E. KINGSLAND, P.M., Central Park.
THOS. SALE, P.M., Moreland.
L. H. WATSON, P.M., Western Springs.
CHAS. W. MERKLEY, P.M., Richton.
JOHN MADDREN, P.M., Rosalind.
JACOB T. MOSS, P.M., Rogers Park.
CHAS. H. FRANK, P.M., Washington Heights.
JOHN H. CURTIS, P.M., Desplaines, Ill.
H. A. DONALDSON, P.M., Norwood Park.

FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS POSTMASTER.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Sept. 12, 1887.
PUBLISHERS U. S. MAIL.

Gentlemen—Yes, I want the MAIL for another year and, in fact, as long as I am postmaster. *Could not keep house without it!* Enclosed please find my renewal for another year. Wish every postmaster in the United States would take it. I receive much valuable information from it. Success to you.

Yours very truly,

JOHN J. ANKENY, P.M.

KISSES BY MAIL.

A young postmaster of a village postoffice was hard at work when a gentle tap was heard upon the door, and in stepped a beautiful maiden of sixteen with a money-order, which she desired cashed. She handed it to the official with a bashful smile, who, after closely examining it, handed her the money it called for. At the same time he asked her if she had read what was written on the margin of the order.

"No, I have not," she replied, "for I cannot make it out. Will you please read it for me?"

The young postmaster read as follows: "I send you three dollars and a dozen kisses."

Glancing at the bashful girl, he said: "Now, I have paid you the money and I suppose you want the kisses."

"Yes," she said, "if he sent me any kisses I want them, too."

It is hardly necessary to say that the balance of the order was promptly paid, and in a scientific manner at that and eminently satisfactory to the country maiden, for she went out of the office smacking her lips as if there was a taste upon them she had never encountered before.

After she arrived home she remarked to her mother: "Eh, mother, but this post-office system of ours is a great thing, developing more and more every year, and each new feature added seems to be the best. JIMMIE sent me a dozen kisses along with the money order and the postmaster gave me twenty. It beats the special delivery system all hollow."

"I SEE that an Ohio postmistress has resigned her position to get married," remarked an old Benedict to his wife.

"Poor thing! I pity her!"

"Why so?"

"Because, after the honeymoon is over, she'll have to sit up every night and wait till the *male* comes in."

WE desire every person in the postal service who may read this to consider himself or herself a committee of one to cut out of the newspapers anything they see, of a postal character, and send it to us.

If all our *old* subscribers will come to the rescue and send us in *one* new subscriber each, we shall be happy

A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.

"I see that the mail-car along with several passenger coaches was burned up the other night on the Milwaukee road at a little station called Rio, and all the mail destroyed."

"You don't tell me! Where was it bound?"

"Going north to Minneapolis and St. Paul."

"To Minneapolis! Good! good!"

"Good? What on earth is there *good* about it?"

"Why, you see, I owe a man in Minneapolis a little amount, and I've promised to send it to him till he won't take promises any longer."

"What's that got to do with it?"

"Everything, everything. I'll go right off now and write, asking him why in tunket he doesn't send a receipt for that money that I sent him last—last— what day did you say that mail-car was burned?"

Every postmaster in the United States should send \$1.50 for the U. S. MAIL for one year, and thereby keep thoroughly informed in postal matters. It will save you much trouble and annoyance.

THE following is a superscription on a letter mailed at Evansville, Ind., lately:

Give this a start and send it straight
To Corydon City, in the Hoosier State,
Where Miss ADDIE HATTIE may be found
Gallaunting some young man around.
Hand her this and tell her beware
Of dark mustache and auburn hair.

THE RESIGNATION ACT.

When SAM A RISLEY, ex-postmaster at West Plains, Mo., resigned, he did so in the following extatic manner:

Farewell, old friend, who scans these statements o'er,
You'll see my straggling pot hooks here no more;
Another man these statements now may make,
And for the task his Sunday evenings take.

I have resigned, I was resigned to do
The resignation act. Twixt me and you,
This money order business makes me sick,
Since Doctor "Mac" has piled it on so thick.

And so—Ta ta!—So long!—adieu!—farewell!
I hope you'll live a thousand years—and—well,
I trust the dear old Doctor, too, may live
Yet long enough the poor P. M.'s to give
A beggar's wages for the work they do.
Give him my love, my friend, and same to you.

SPECIAL.

Any postmaster or clerk in a post office who may desire five or ten copies of this issue of THE UNITED STATES MAIL to give to their friends can have them at ten cents per copy. Every newspaper of every kind in every city, town or village should have one. It would enlighten them upon topics of which they now know but little.

AT THE POST OFFICE.

Gayly she skipped,
Lightly she tripped
Up the big post office stair,
Sure she should find
A note, interlined,
From her dear "Chawley" in there.



Now blank is her look,
As she scours her book,
Seeking the post office key;
Finds it at last,
Grips it quite fast,
Inserts it in "two forty-three."

Then, in goes her fist,
Clear up to the wrist;
Quickly the mail's brought to view;
Seraphic her smile,
But it soon turns to bile;
For the note bears the legend—
"Your box rent is due!"



THE new postmasters should remember that *coöperation* is the only way to win when making a fight before congress. This journal is your standard bearer. Will you stand by it?

THERE is a postmaster over in Ohio by the name of B. MEEK. It is a very funny name for a postmaster, but still it is quite appropriate, for all postmasters are very meek and humble, so to speak.

MRS. ANNA W. JENKS has been appointed postmaster at Newport, Ky. This was a wise selection. There was no more competent lady in the state for the position, and she will manage the office to perfection.

A most daring robbery was lately committed at the Suspension Bridge post-office. GEORGE LAMMERT, a clerk, went to the office safe to get a supply of stamps for the tray at the stamp-window, which was empty. He was alone in the office, and while getting the stamps he was seized from behind by an unknown man and a cloth, supposed to be saturated with chloroform, thrown about his head and he was thrown on the floor, where he was found later. The money order tray is missing, but the loss is not as yet known. Lammert has no idea who his assailants were.

If the next House of Congress is to be democratic, as it will, then let P. M's make a dive for House Bill 10,757 during the short session.



THE reduction of postage to one cent means another reduction of your salaries. Are you ready for the change, or will you join us in the fight against it?

THEY say the *males* are always late in some towns; that they never arrive until near morning, and then appear as if they had been ditched.

MR. CHARLES HAPPY is the name of the new postmaster at Maybee, Mich. Well, he *may be* happy and *maybe* he won't. We hope he *maybe*.

MRS. LOVINIA HADNOT is the postmistress at Hadnot, Louisiana. She recently subscribed for the UNITED STATES MAIL, and is sorry she *had not* subscribed before.

A NEW post office in Virginia has been named "Malaria." It is to be hoped that the post office department won't catch it. The public is interested in its health.

"HERE I'll raise my Ebenezer," is what a post office inspector said when he gave that name to a post office in Darlington county, S. C., and he raised it. "It's a darling."

THE mission of THE UNITED STATES MAIL will not have been ended until the fourth-class postmasters shall have obtained substantial relief. Then it could succumb with some sort of comfort and satisfaction.

As the journals on the wheels of a railroad car require *lubrication* in the way of grease or oil in order to preserve them and keep them in running order, so it is with a journal devoted to the postmasters, only its lubrication must needs be in the form of "*soup*" to pay the printer.

BURNING OLD LOVE-LETTERS.

I take them with reverent fingers,
These tokens of passion now dead;
The lines full of tenderest yearning,
Through which your love seemed to be burning,
Can move me as when first I read.

I know love is now stranger to us,
Our paths in the world ne'er will meet,
And yet as I burn these old letters

I wish once again for the fetters
You broke, though I thought them so sweet.

And now nothing's left to remind me
Of the days when our love was so true,
But still as I gaze through wet lashes
At the fire, where smolder the ashes,
I sigh for the past—and for you.

YOU'VE ALL HEARD IT.

Said a man out at Kalamazoo
To the postmaster, "This you must do—
You get me a letter,
Or we'll have a better
Postmaster at Kalamazoo."

WE received a subscription the other day from a postmaster named B. WRIGHT. He evidently goes upon the principle that it is better to BE WRIGHT than ALL WRONG, hence he subscribes. See?

THE editor of THE UNITED STATES MAIL is the happy possessor of a half-dozen large albums containing photographs of his friends among the postmasters, but he is willing to make further investments in the way of more albums if additional photographs are furnished. Next!

Wife (to husband)—Mother wants to come and make us a visit, John; but I have written her that just at present, while baby is teething, it wouldn't be convenient. If I give you the letter will you think to mail it?

Husband (with an air of perfect confidence)—Well, I should say I would!

Jake—Say, Jim, I hear that they are going to put ladies into the post office.

Jim—What do they want to do that for?

Jake—Why, don't you see, the ladies are so expert in handling the males.

Jim—That's all right, but they only handle those that have lots of stamps.

"Anything in the drug line this mornin'?" he answered.

"No, I believe not."

"Jes' got in some new blood-pur'fyer that's going off like icicles in August—only dollar bottle."

"No, don't think we need any."

"Better have some condition powders for your off-mule."

"No."

"Jes' got in two new kinds of chewin'."

"No—nothing but some stamps to-day."

"All right, then. Kid," he continued, and a small boy made a mysterious appearance in the post office, "give this cuss a quarter's worth stamps—he ain't paid for em!"

THERE are still a few of our old-time subscribers who have not as yet renewed, but we hope that ere the lights and shades of many days shall have elapsed they will come in.

TO THIRD-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

The following letter from a third-class postmaster is an appreciated testimonial in regard to our services in behalf of that grade of offices. It is true, as he states, that we were the first to espouse their cause and make a fight for them for rent, light and fuel. Two national conventions were necessary to bring it about, but we never ceased in our work until victory came. Obstacles and discouragements arose on every hand, the principal of which was the indifference of postmasters themselves to their own interests. It was a hard struggle from first to last, and not many would have stuck to their mission when the fates seemed against them, as they appeared to be against us. There were brave and true men to stand by us and uphold our hands, but they did not exceed five thousand.

The letter of Mr. AXT suggests a question as to the support we are receiving from *third-class postmasters now in office*, who are reaping the reward of our labor, and those who labored with us. Well, *it is not what it should be*, and it is disheartening to think that there are 2,000 of them who are receiving allowances of from \$200 to \$400 for light and fuel entirely through our individual efforts, *who have not* as yet sent us \$1.50 for the UNITED STATES MAIL for a year. Just how they can see their way clear to do so is the question Mr. AXT suggests. But here is his letter:

U. S. POST-OFFICE.

OBELL, ILL., Oct. 15, 1890.

My Dear Patterson:

I am glad to know that you are still in the field. If there is anything I can do for you to stir up *third-class postmasters to a sense of their duty in subscribing for the UNITED STATES MAIL*, let me know, for if there is a man on earth to whom they are indebted, for every dollar of their allowance for rent, light and fuel, it is to JOHN H. PATTERSON.

It was you who started the agitation of the subject five years ago, and it was due entirely to your constant and unceasing labors in connection with your two Postmasters' National Conventions that Congress finally succumbed and granted us an allowance for these expenses.

It is absolutely base ingratitude for any third-class postmaster to fail to send you \$1.50 for your bright and able paper.

Having been associated with you in your former work, and a delegate to both conventions, I know whereof I speak, and being still a postmaster, I wish to renew my subscription, and enclose you a money order for \$1.50.

I shall be pleased to call upon you when in Chicago. With kind regards I am, as ever,

Your sincere friend,

CHAS. E. AXT.

Letters like the above go far to remove impressions that men are ungrateful for favors bestowed, and it encourages one to press on in what they regard as a line of duty. We have believed, however, that our present third-class postmasters have not fully understood the real situation in the matter of their obligations to the UNITED STATES MAIL, or they would all subscribe to a man.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POSTAGE

FOUR YEARS AGO we first published a pamphlet on *Domestic and Foreign Postage* designed specially for the use of business men, but it was arranged in such clear, concise, easy form for reference, that postmasters took to it quicker than the public, principally, perhaps, because they could find anything they desired to know so much more readily than in any publication issued by the Government. Four editions have been printed and another is now on the press. We gave one to General BINGHAM, the distinguished chairman of the House Post Office Committee, who was postmaster at Philadelphia for five years, and has since been a Member of Congress for twelve years, and received the following letter concerning it:

COMMITTEE ON POST-OFFICES AND POST-ROADS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24, 1890.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, Esq.,

Editor *United States Mail*.

MY DEAR SIR: Your publication entitled "*Domestic Postage*" received. I have examined it with great care and have verified its references. It is correct, reliable, and arranged in such sequence and clearness as to make it authority.

As a legislator in special relation to postal questions, I regard it as invaluable because of its convenience. To the officials of the Post-Office Department and the business community, it is truly "*multum in parvo*."

Very truly yours,

HENRY H. BINGHAM.

Single copies, 25 cents; 8 for \$1.00.

There is a large photograph in existence, 19x34, of a group of two hundred of the postmasters who attended the Postmasters' Convention held in Washington in December, 1887, and we are proud of the fact that our face appears among that gallant, brave, patriotic and determined group of men.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMUNICATIONS upon all questions pertaining to the Postal Service are invited and if worthy will be published. THE UNITED STATES MAIL covers the entire field of Postal literature. It has no rivals, and cannot have any. Our circulation covers the continent.

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY.

[See illustration below.]

No. III.

In October we saw the post office at Cloverfield closed. The postmaster had gone a mile in the country to deliver a circular having attached thereto a special delivery stamp. While he had gone on his journey, a crowd of customers surrounded the office and gave him "fits" for having gone off on such an errand leaving no one behind to deliver the mail or to sell them sugar, coffee, rice and beans. Indignation hardly expressed their disgust, both at him and the government. In November we saw the postmaster on his way to make the delivery. He was weary and foot-sore, for each time he put his pedal extremities to the earth, they sunk into mud over ankle deep. He was a most woeful picture of distress.

But now we see that he has returned and is sadly contemplating his condition. Look at him, dear reader, and let your pity go out to him. We think we can hear his remarks as he sits there gazing upon the floor, and we'll venture the opinion that he is not delighted with the special delivery service, and we would like to have the name of the P. M. who is.

AN UNACCOMMODATING POST-MASTER.

"You seem unhappy," ventured a hotel loiterer to a glum-looking citizen of the woolly west, yesterday.

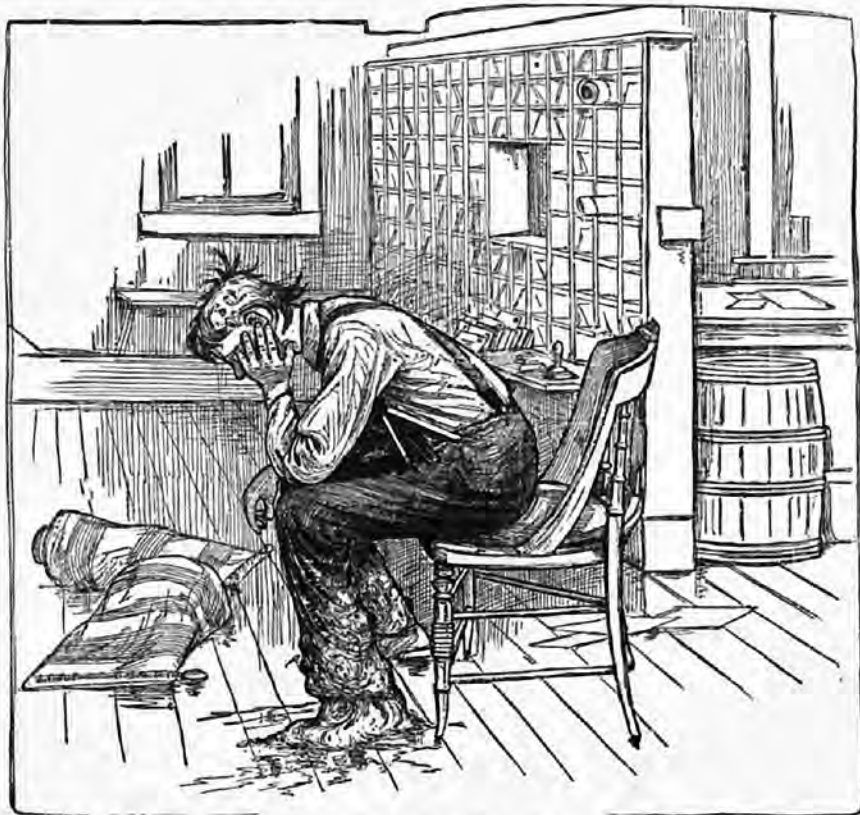
"Guess you'd be so, too, if you lived where I do. I'm going on to Washington to see the president."

"Political trouble?"

"National trouble, sir; international trouble. Don't letters come from all over the globe! Say, now!"

"Oh, I see; something wrong in the post-office department."

"Wrong! I should say there was. You see I live at Snag Forks, and Bill Wilkins, he's been postmaster for nigh on to six year. At first he done the square thing. When the letters come they was dumped in a candle-box on the bar-room floor, and the boys had no trouble a findin' their mail. But Bill ain't the man he used ter be. He's got as unaccommodatin' as a Texas steer. Fust he moved the box to the counter, and we had to nearly break our arms a divin' fer the letters. Then, if the durned coyote didn't get a new painted consarn with a glass front so we couldn't git at the mail at all, and, as if that weren't insult enough to honest men, he went to work, rigged up a lot of boxes, and hang me if he didn't put locks on to 'em and go to chargin' storage. I just tell you I'll git that Bill Wilkins out of that there place or die fer it, you bet."



THE RETURN OF THE P. M. FROM HIS SPECIAL DELIVERY.

HE WANTED A RAISE.

The present assistant postmaster at Cincinnati has no superior in the service in point of real genuine ability to perform the duties of his position. To start with, he is a man of strong physical capacity. He can *endure* the hard work of his office without any physical discomfort. Besides that, he possesses special qualifications for his position. There is no better-posted man in postal law or in the routine of postoffice work. He carries all the rulings and decisions of the department in his head, and can almost instantly decide any point that may come up for consideration. He is also polite, affable, genial and easy of access to all alike. He commenced in the Cincinnati post office as a clerk in the stamp department, some twenty years ago, and occupied his place there for twelve years, until appointed assistant postmaster. Some twelve years ago Mr. Müller, the gentleman to whom we refer, thought he would strike for a raise of salary. John P. Loge was the postmaster, and was no more competent to fill the position than he was to act as president of Yale college. He was made postmaster because he was a German, and because it was supposed his appointment would please the Germans. Well, to make a long story short, Mr. Müller braced himself up one day and asked Loge for \$1,600 a year. His salary was \$1,200.

"What for you ask dis?" inquired Loge.

"Because," said Mr. Müller, "the position is a very responsible one, and the Chicago office pays \$1,800, and the St. Louis office the same."

"What does you do down dare?" was his next inquiry.

"I am compelled," answered Mr. Müller, "to give a bond of \$30,000; I am responsible for all mistakes, for the mutilated, counterfeit and uncurrent money taken; I am compelled to keep thoroughly and accurately informed in postal laws and regulations and decisions of the department; I have to be competent to answer all questions in relation to foreign and domestic postage, and to meet the thousand and one inquiries upon postal matters made at my window; I come in contact with 500 people to one of any other clerk in the office. I have been there some years now, and am entitled to a raise."

Loge listened attentively to what Mr. Müller had to say, but after he delivered his little speech he looked at him sharply and said:

"Well, by Gott! does it require a *filasfer* to sell a *free-cent* stamp?"

The salary was not increased!

THE POSTMASTER AT ROUND HEAD.

The good people of Round Head, Arizona, found a great deal of fault with their postmaster because they never knew when he opened or closed the mails, as he did it only when it was convenient for him to do so. Sometimes, when business was good, he would throw the mail bags in the corner and let them lay there for a day or two before he would take the trouble to handle them, either to distribute what was received or dispatch that which was to be mailed. His idea of running the post-office was that the postal interests of Round Head were entirely secondary to that of selling tobacco and "mucilage" to his customers, and he would not think of sacrificing personal profit to that of handling letters, so he did it whenever he felt inclined. But that mode of running the post office did not suit some of the male members of the community of Round Head, so they entered a solemn protest that that sort of thing would have to cease or they would "thrash his insides out" and ask for his removal. The postmaster had to succumb to such an argument, and agreed that thereafter he would open all mails promptly on arrival and also dispatch them whenever the mail carrier called for them; and he even promised to do still better: *he would blow a horn thirty minutes before he closed the mails, and also immediately upon their reception.*



THE POSTMASTER AT ROUND HEAD, ARIZONA,
ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE MAILS.

SCENES IN RURAL POST OFFICES.

The country post office is a great place. It is visited daily by almost every inhabitant. The matter of getting a letter or a newspaper out of it never enters into their calculations, their one solitary idea being simply to go there and inquire and receive the same old answer, "No, nothing!" You see the post office belongs to the young and old, the rich and poor, the white and black, and to those who get mail and to those who don't, and those who average one letter a year think just as much of it as those who receive twenty a day.

Many postmasters are subjected to the annoyance of unruly crowds of boys who congregate in the post office in great throngs and cut up high shins. They claim to be waiting for the mails to be distributed, and while that is going on they whoop, yell and fight and play and drum on the doors and windows, and even on the boxes, and render themselves a general nuisance, not only to the postmaster but also the public.

We wish to say now to all who have written THE UNITED STATES MAIL for information touching their rights in such matters, that they should *first* notify the parents of such boys as to their bad conduct, and then if it is repeated, swear out a warrant for their arrest on the charge of disturbing the peace, and have them fined. If that don't break it up, slip out your back door and come in the front way and knock them right and left with a big stuffed club. As a last resort, report them to the chief post-office inspector, and by the time the boys are arrested and carried off one or two hundred miles to the nearest United States court, they will conclude that "raising the devil in the post office" is not a paying business.

RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS.

It will provoke no invidious distinction to say that of the several branches of the civil service no class incur so much risk nor endure more real labor and fatigue than railway postal clerks. In almost every branch of the service the employé has at least a limited control over his hours of labor. The postal clerk has none. A very high order of business qualifications has to be exercised in the discharge of the duties of postal clerks. The plans, or "schemes," as they are called, for distributing the mails on postal cars, require the exercise of a very high degree of care and precision; and hundreds and thousands who daily receive, and promptly receive, almost illegibly addressed letters are too apt to forget that these messages were accurately distributed and forwarded by men who have stood from eight to ten hours assorting the mails.

The physical hardships of this branch of the service are in excess of those pertaining to any other. The wear and tear of the nervous forces, consequent on having to brace one's self for several consecutive hours in a moving train, constitute a most serious objection to the service. Add to this the casualties incident to the service (and the postal clerk "takes his life in his hand" every trip), and we have an average of mortality far in excess of that pertaining to any class, save, perhaps, that of an army engaged in actual war.

In subscribing to the United States Mail postmasters are simply supplying the needful to carry on a contest in which each one has an individual interest.



WHEN SCHOOL IS OVER.

FATAL MISTAKE OF A POSTMASTER.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer.]

THE LIFE of a United States commissioner, especially if he be situated in Cincinnati, hath something of spice and variety in it. Commissioner Halliday, being vivacious and sprightly in his disposition, with a vein of poetry and romance in his nature, often has the tedium of his official life removed, sometimes by stirring scenes in court, and sometimes by things humorous and amusing. Our judicial friend had a case before him yesterday which gave full play to those mirthful faculties for which he is so celebrated, and in which a woman figured.

It seems a very well looking, sprightly young married lady by the name of Mary Turner, lives at Indian Hill, in Hamilton county, with her husband. Mrs. Turner is very respectable, social and full of innocent gaiety. In fact, she is quite a charming and attractive lady. Mrs. Mary Turner occasionally finds it necessary to visit the city on shopping excursions, and sometimes comes by railroad, unattended. Sometime since a letter was received by the postmaster at Indian Hill, for Mrs. Turner, written by some impudent fellow who probably rendered her some slight assistance with her packages on one of her lonely shopping expeditions, for which Mrs. Turner was doubtless duly grateful. Now, there would probably have been an end of the matter, but unfortunately another Mrs. Turner resides at or near Indian Hill, whose Christian appellation is Hannah; and the letter directed to "Mrs. Turner," the postmaster was in great perplexity as to who was the proper owner. Mrs. Hannah Turner first received the letter. Mrs. Hannah Turner is past the meridian of life, and has turned her back upon the frivolities of the world. Mrs. Hannah Turner was thrown into a spasm of virtuous indignation. The secret of the letter was too much for her to keep alone, and accordingly she got the assistance of some forty or fifty of her acquaintances to help her. Among them was the husband of Mrs. Mary Turner, who, upon reading the letter addressed to his wife, became as jealous as Othello, and threatened to get a divorce.

When Mrs. Mary Turner learned what liberties had been taken with a missive addressed to her, he raised a breeze over the scandal, brought the case before Commissioner Halliday yesterday, and got Mrs. Hannah Turner bound over to answer to the charge of tampering with letters that did not belong to her, in the sum of \$500. The husband was appeased, and threatens to introduce a funeral into the Newton family.

The mischievous letter was copied by Mrs. Hannah Turner, and is as follows:

FRANKFORT, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO.

Mrs. Turner—You will pardon my boldness toward you. I must acknowledge that I am bought with your beauty. You will remember me that I came out from Cincinnati with you. I sat on the seat behind

you on Thanksgiving day. You stopped at Maderia. I never will forget the polite good-by you gave me when you stopped. You will remember that I gave you some peanuts, and we talked about Mr. Bramble. Now, Mrs. Turner, I will say to you that I never saw a woman that I loved before, and I want to come and see you, if it can be done. I have got plenty of money, and I will give you plenty if you will see me on the sly. I will come any time that you say and meet you. Don't take this as an insult. You told me that your husband got \$5 per day, and you could spend it as fast. I don't think I ever saw a woman that I wanted to see as bad as you. You told me that you was free in this world. Now, I will help you along, whenever you want money I will send it to you, if you will let me see you, if you are willing. You shant never lose nothing by me. I am your friend. I must acknowledge that I never saw a lady that I loved before as much as you. Collect your thoughts together and see if you can remember me, as we sat in the car together. You can get more money from me than any other woman I ever saw. In fact, I have thought of you more than any other woman. I will just say to you that I love you, and I can't help it. Now, if you can be true the same, all right. I want you to write to me, sure. If you can grant my request favor me with a line from your hand. If you do, set the time for me to come, and I will be there. I desire you to be alone, or I will meet you at the Loveland House, at Loveland, or I will go to Cincinnati, or any place, so I can see you alone. Don't take this as an insult, will you? You are married and so am I; it is no harm for us to see one another, if you act your part. Write right off, as soon as read; I am waiting anxiously. Direct to Frankfort post office.

T. T. NEWTON, Ross County, Ohio.

SUPPRESSING AN INSURRECTION.

In the early days of Michigan, when many of the post offices were carried in the hats of the postmasters, a postmaster in Livingston county was out in the woods one day and lost several letters from his hat. A day or two after that a pioneer named Bailey came to his house and inquired if there was any mail for him.

"There was a letter for you, Bill, but I've lost it," was the reply.

"When?"

"Tother day in the woods."

"Well, I want that letter."

"But ye can't git it. I'm sorry I lost it, but that's all I can do."

"Then I'll have you removed from office."

"Look a-here, Bill Bailey," said the official, as he began to skin off his coat, "I was appointed to hold this post office, and I'm bound to do it. As a private citizen I have no hard feelings agin you; as postmaster I lost a letter writ to you by your sister in York State; as a representative of this great and awful government, I want to say to you that if I hear two more words of sass from your throat I'll suppress the insurrection by hanging you to the nearest tree, so help me God, sir!"

Mr Bailey was, however, permitted to make a hunt in the woods for his letter, and he found it; and the insurrection was suppressed.—*Detroit Free Press.*

In subscribing to the United States Mail postmasters are simply supplying the needful to carry on a contest in which each one has an individual interest.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHY.

BY CYRUS W. FIELD.

IT APPEARS to me that the time has arrived when the government of the United States should purchase, in the interest of the people, all the telegraph lines in the country. There are many practical business reasons for such a course, a few of which I will specify.

Glancing, in the first place, at all the precedents, it must be remembered that all the telegraph lines of the old world belong to the governments of the countries in which they are located. Communication by telegraph has become almost as common, and quite as necessary, as communication by letter. Why should not the two branches of what is really one service to the public be brought together in this country, as in other countries, and placed under one management? It would certainly be a great convenience to the people if every telegraph office were a post office, and every post office a telegraph office. As letters are sent to all parts of the United States for two cents, and papers and magazines at one cent for every four ounces, so, I think, a telegraph message should be sent to any part of the United States at the lowest price at which experience has shown it possible that the transmission can be effected. The press, which sends long messages, and these partly for the general information of the people, if partly also for private business gain, should be charged half the usual rates.

In regard to the method of conveying the property of the telegraph companies to the government, a law should, in my judgment, be passed by congress, regulating all the purchases in such a way that every company should be bound by a principle. Each telegraph company should select an arbitrator, and the government should choose another. In case of disagreement between these two they should choose a third, who ought to be a man thoroughly experienced, and regarded as an expert in the business. These arbitrators should have power to examine all reports and accounts, so as to arrive at the fact as to the actual net profits which the line or lines had earned during any given year—say 1885, inasmuch as the transfer of the telegraph property from private hands to the public should be made at once—the sooner the better—if the public benefits to which I have pointed demand it. The government should then establish, as a principle, that the stock of a company which had earned five per cent., clear profit, must be rated at par in making the purchase, and rated in the same ratio if earning either more or less. Thus, if five per cent. gave par, four per cent. would give eighty, three per cent. sixty, and so on.

It will be asked, of course, where the United

States government is to procure the money to make the purchases. It can be done very easily and satisfactorily. Let there be, for the purpose, an issue of three per cent. bonds. The government will thus be enabled to reap the profit on the investment, as between three and five per cent., and also gain on the constantly increasing business and by the great saving in rent of offices. This two per cent. surplus would form a sinking-fund for the redemption and payment of the bonds. These bonds should have fifty years to run. No difficulty would be experienced in raising the money, as individuals and estates would be glad to invest in such securities. Under this arrangement, the United States government would, in much less than fifty years, own all the telegraph lines in the country, and actually without cost to the government or people. This principle was adopted by the English government, and was found to be just to all.

It is imagined by some persons that danger would arise from the ownership of the telegraph lines by the United States, on account of our frequent changes in the administration of the government. But I believe this apprehension is entirely without foundation. The measure would be for the good of all political parties, as well as of all the people. The government telegraph lines would be in no greater danger than the post office. The overturn or change in the government does not destroy the administration of the post office, but often helps to improve it.

Is it asked, how long a time would elapse before the people would enjoy the benefits of reduced telegraph rates? No doubt exists in my mind that if the United States government should enter into the business, the reduction of expense in running the telegraph lines would begin at once. There would be no necessity for so many telegraph offices—often in the same building—with their attendant expense for rent and *attaches*. The post office would also be the telegraph office. The reduction in cost alone would be one of the means of enabling messages to be sent at a far lower price than at the present time. It would, therefore, be only a short time before the public would be reaping the advantages of the change in the system. As I have already explained, the United States government would have possession and complete control over the telegraph systems of the country, and actually without cost to the people.

It may be objected, however, that not all telegraph companies are successful. Some of them do not pay. But why? For the simple reason that the expenses are too great in operating the lines. Often two or three offices belonging to different companies are located in a small place. There is not business enough for all of them to live upon. They contend with each other for business, and, in the strife, rates are cut so as not to pay operating expenses, in that district, for either of them. This result is of no permanent benefit to the public at large, and the companies are unable to maintain themselves during the conduct of the useless warfare.

THE ANSWERING OF LETTERS.

BY FANNIE M. BENSON.

OF all welcome tasks, surely that of answering letters ought to be most eagerly cherished. Nobody is waited for with more real anxiety than the postman. Though he comes ever so often, he never wearies. A delicious flavor of anticipation and a spice of uncertainty hang over his quick, imperative ring. What has he brought now? He is like a messenger of destiny, himself uninterested, void of speculation, unstirred by surprise, as he rapidly passes in his freight, addressed to people whom he does not know. In his mysterious repository, which after all is only a stout, black bag, he carries a whole world of conflicting hopes and fears. Here is a thin missive, directed in a tremulous, angular hand, and it has crossed the sea to tell, in a remote household, of the death of one whom the head of the house calls father, but from whom he parted so many years ago that he has come to be little more than a memory. Here is a schoolboy's jolly letter home. Here, a tender message from friend to friend, sweet and full in its outpouring of affection. Whatever the letter be about, it will be opened with expectation, and read with desire to take in its purport and intention. There is a divine quality of beneficence in the postal system, which annihilates distances, and brings the scattered members of a family close together, so that heart feels heart, and hands clasp, though miles lie between them. In the olden days, dim and beautiful through the shadows of the past, angels were wont to visit men, and often tent door and temple portico were thrilled with their flute-like voices. Now, though the golden-winged messengers come no more in visible shape, they have learned to fold themselves up, and to carry their words of cheer or of warning in four-square envelopes, borne far and near by steam.

Everybody is delighted to receive letters, but few are equally pleased with the work of answering them. The nature of a pleasant correspondence differs little from that of an agreeable conversation. It would be hard to keep up bright and cheery talk, if one party suffered hours of other occupations to drift between himself and his answer. The ordinary way with many people is to read and enjoy a letter, and then lay it away in desk or drawer until a convenient season comes for writing a

reply. So doing, the freshness and glow which it awakened have gone by the time that the pen and paper are taken for the return letter. The sense of nearness has receded. The duties of the days between and the pressure of home cares have laid a pile of accumulated materials, most of them alien, upon the feelings which the letter awakened. Instead of something vivid, descriptive, charming and natural, the effort to write a duty letter succeeds in producing that which is stiff and artificial as wax flower compared with a real one. If letters were, as a rule, answered on the day of their arrival, or shortly after, they would cease to be a task, and would be regarded as a diversion. Then, too, the thought of formality should be carefully eliminated from them. Certain conventionalities help us to carry on our life-work smoothly and pleasantly, and it is only the boor who thinks that time spent in courteous observances is time thrown away. Yet she, who in writing her letter to her friend, translates her thoughts out of colloquial English into the English of books, is very likely to take out of it the individuality of expression which would have made it beautiful. A home letter should tell all sorts of little things about home. The bits of fun which enliven the day, the domestic incidents, the droll sayings of children, and the small and trifling occurrences, which are undignified, but delightful, have their proper place in a letter.

Only one rule we would make about the answering of letters. If there has been that in the one you received which touched a painful chord in your breast, which awakened harsh, or regretful, or bitter feelings, then be slow with your reply. Do not hasten to send away the utterances of a morbid mood, the accents of impatience, or the upbraidings of anger. To overcast another's sky by your own transient petulance, or even by your just indignation, is not best. There is a permanence about that which is unfortunate to give to any but the sweeter and pure emotions of the heart.

No lovelier, and certainly no more desirable, accomplishment can be possessed by a lady than the faculty of writing happy, graceful and gracious letters. The good correspondent is sure of appreciation. As it is an accomplishment within the reach of all, it is worth taking a little pains to secure it. Next to writing one's self out in the best way, the study of such models as are afforded in the recently published lives of men like Lord Macaulay and Norman Macleod is the most practicable and easily available of help, by way of suggestion, of course, and not of servile imitation, which is always reprehensible.

DETECTION OF MAIL DEPREDATIONS.

BY L. A. NEWCOMB, LATE POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR.

No. I.

IN THE FALL of 1881 the postmaster of Jersey City, was greatly annoyed by receiving complaints from patrons of his office of the loss of ordinary mail matter addressed to them, and in many cases letters mailed at the Jersey City post office, addressed to different points throughout the country, had been reported as missing, and failed to reach their destination.

Mr. Gopsill, the postmaster, had been in the service but a short time, and as these complaints were so numerous and seemingly on the increase daily, he became very anxious about the matter; so much so, that he nearly worried himself into severe illness in consequence. About this time I had been operating in New York State and Connecticut, and had been very successful in my investigations, causing the arrest of some ten different persons in and out of the postal service for various depredations committed.

Mr. Gopsill had continually called the attention of the post-office department to the state of affairs in his office and demanded that an investigation be made. D. B. Parker, at that time our chief, detailed an inspector to examine into these cases, but for some reason unknown to me, this officer never discovered any trace of stealing, and no explanation of the great number of losses was given. Still they continued. The postmaster, feeling that he was receiving no satisfaction from the department, applied to the postmaster of New York for advice. I happened to be in the New York office when he called, and was introduced to him. He gave me full particulars as to these complaints of losses, and I determined to assist him.

I accordingly made arrangements with Chief Parker to have all the other inspectors withdrawn, as I preferred to work alone. The chief readily agreed to this, and as soon as I got his consent I commenced a thorough examination of all complaints. I was ably assisted in this by both Mr. Gopsill and the assistant postmaster, Mr. Henry Hellerman.

Five days' hard work convinced me beyond a doubt that the stealing was going on in the Jersey City office, but who the thief or thieves were was a matter I had to determine, and pick them out of the large number of employes

attached to the office. Continued surveillance of different clerks and carriers, both on the street while delivering their mail and in the office, soon directed my suspicion toward a carrier named Church.

This carrier had been in the service for some years, and was a general favorite all around his route. Everybody trusted him and seemed to have a kind word for Jerry Church, the letter-carrier. As he would pass through a street the children would all call out, "Hello, Jerry." "Give me some candy, Jerry." "Got a letter for me?" etc. He was a particular friend of the ladies and many a letter Jerry would have for some young lady from her lover, and as he handed the letter to her he would make some gay remark which would call forth a retort from the girl. Jerry would then go on his route with a good-natured smile to the next house. Notwithstanding that Church was so well liked and had so many friends, a few days devoted to him by myself convinced me that he was spending more money than he, as a carrier, could afford to do. I therefore determined to devote my whole attention to him and see where he was obtaining this surplus money from, and with which he bought his cigars and drinks (for Church never forgot to treat a friend, and I have known him to go into a saloon, take his letter-bag off, sometimes full of letters, leave it on a chair and enter into a game of pool or shake dice for drinks). With this in view, I waited for Church to leave the office, intending to follow him over his route. He had to ride in a horse-car to where his route commenced. I rode on the same car with him and noticed he looked at me very sharply as I boarded the car, but I pretended not to see him. After he left the car I rode a block further where I got off and then proceeded back to where I had seen him turn. Much to my astonishment Church was standing just around the corner. "Good morning," he said to me, as I approached. "Good morning," I replied. "Say, Mr. Newcomb," he continued, "you need not follow me. You have been given away to me and I know you. I ain't done any stealing and I don't intend to, either." During Church's little speech I had made up my mind just what to do and how to act. Extending my hand I said, "Well, Mr. Church, I have followed you, and am glad to say that I have found nothing out of the way as far as you are concerned, and now I want to request of you that you will help me catch the person who is committing these depredations."

As I said this I could notice an expression of relief come over the face of Carrier Church, and grasping my hand he readily agreed to help me. Making an appointment for him to

meet me after he had delivered his route, I let him go. Now, although I had told Church he was all right, and there was no suspicion against him, I was not really of that opinion, and in a few days I developed the fact that I was correct in my judgment and that he was a thief.

As soon as Church had delivered his route, I met him as agreed, had a talk with him, and requested him to watch another carrier in the office, and if he saw this man do anything wrong he was to report to me at once.

A few days after this I arranged with the postmaster to place some test letters containing marked money addressed to persons on Church's route in his letter case, and then to keep watch of said letters until he could swear that they were taken from the case by Church and were in his possession. This being done to my satisfaction, the next thing to do was to see if Church delivered these letters.

I, therefore, went to the houses where these letters were addressed, entering one myself and directing my assistant to go to another. Church went over his route, but he did not deliver either of the test letters. As soon as I was sure of this I proceeded to a saloon that I was certain he would stop at, and secreting myself behind a screen that was there, I waited patiently for Church to come in. At about 5.30 p. m. in he came, threw his bag on the chairs next the bar and called for a drink, at the same time looking around the room. He then proceeded into the wash-room and returned to the bar at about the time the drink was ready. At that moment I came from behind the screen, and walking up to the bar, I said, "Well, Jerry, have you finished your route?" "Yes," he replied, "delivered every letter I had. Have a drink, Mr. Newcomb?" "I won't drink, Jerry, but I'll take a cigar." "All right," he said, and at the same time he threw a two-dollar bill on the bar to pay for both the cigar and the drink. One glance at the bill was enough to satisfy me it was the bill that I had marked and placed in one of the test letters before mentioned. "Why, Jerry," I exclaimed, "how is it you are spending my money?" at the same time taking the bill from the bar. "What do you mean?" he replied, at the same time trying to smile, but it was the sickest smile I ever saw. "I mean this: that you are my prisoner, and I arrest you for stealing letters from the mail." Church made no reply, but taking his letter-bag from the chairs, and without touching his drink, left the saloon with me. Not a word was spoken by either of us until we got into the car.

On the way I purposely allowed Church to fall a little behind me, knowing full well that if he had any stolen property on his person he would take this opportunity of disposing of it. I will mention that I had previously stationed my assistant to cover the door of the saloon. In the event of Church dropping any letters or money on his way out he was to see the act and recover whatever was dropped. I pretended to take no notice of Church other than to see he did not leave me, although I saw him make a motion that to my mind was suggestive

that he had thrown something on the sidewalk. I said nothing about it.

After we got seated in the car Church turned to me and said: "Mr. Newcomb, you are doing me a great wrong. I got that two-dollar bill, not from any letter, but in change at a store where I got a five-dollar bill broke. I can bring the keeper of the store to prove this." "Well, Church," I said, "you keep right on lying to me. It would be better for you, perhaps, but I would advise you to say nothing." At this he got indignant, and told me he had the best of friends. He was innocent, and his friends would cause my dismissal from the service. To these words I made no reply. There were some passengers in the car, and they all knew Church, and he was not at all bashful, but talked in a loud voice, so that he could readily be heard by all.

At last we got to the street nearest the post office, and we left the car followed by my assistant. After we reached the office I placed Church in the postmaster's room, and then calling in my assistant, in presence of the postmaster and Mr. Hellerman, asked my assistant if he had seen Carrier Church throw away anything after he was arrested. He replied: "Yes, sir," and placed on the postmaster's desk three one-dollar bills. Turning to Mr. Hellerman, I then said: "Will you kindly examine and tell me, Mr. Hellerman, if you have ever seen any of those bills before; also, this one?" and I produced the two-dollar bill that I had taken from the bar. "Yes, sir, I have." "State where," I asked. "I placed those bills in two letters at your request. This afternoon I placed the letters in Carrier Church's case, and saw him take those letters out for delivery with other mail-matter." "You are sure of this, Mr. Hellerman?" I asked. "Yes, sree," he replied. "I can swear to it."

Turning to my assistant, I said: "Palmer, how came those bills in your possession?" referring to the three bills. Palmer stepped forward and said: "I saw Carrier Church throw them away in front of the saloon, and I picked them up and brought them here with me."

Church, as soon as he heard Palmer's statement, got up out of his chair, and walking up to me, said: "Mr. Newcomb, have no hard feelings toward me for what I said coming down on the car. I thought I could beat this, but I cannot. I am guilty, and am willing to take the consequences."

Church was then locked up, and at the trial he pleaded guilty, and his friends interceded for him, and on account of the illness of his wife he received a sentence of one year.

After the arrest of Carrier Church I expected the complaint of loss of letters to cease.

What was my surprise when, in about a month from the arrest of Church, to receive a call from Mr. Gopsill, who had the same story to tell. More stealing, and for God's sake would I come and help him out again? This was the last of December, 1881, and I could get no time to enter into the matter until January, 1882. I then took up the case as before.

A LITTLE POSTAL COMMON SENSE.

BY THEODORE TILTON.

WE received the other day, a letter which had been deposited in a western post office, addressed to us, but not prepaid by the person sending. The editor of that excellent postal paper, the Cincinnati *Post-Office Bulletin*, forwarded it to me and pasted on the following label:

THIS LETTER.

Was deposited in the Cincinnati post office without the proper stamp. Under the regulations it would have gone to the dead-letter office. Realizing the importance of its immediate transmission, the editor of the *Post-Office Bulletin* has supplied the proper postage. To repay him send ten cents for a copy of his paper.

Address: JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Box 3, 204. Cincinnati, Ohio.

It was a kind and generous act. The severe political economist would probably say that it was an unwise interference with that wholesome education of the dead-letter office, by which every man learns, sooner or later, that repayment is not optional. But this manner of reasoning is more apt to reach men's brains than their hearts.

At any rate, the incident affords a hint for a little common sense addressed to letter-writers, as to the use of a post office. For the want of any of these letters, some child may have died of starvation, or some woman of despair. The last hope quenched, the last opportunity of virtue or of life closed—that is what a dead letter may mean. They are well called by that name, for they may end in the death of more than one life.

What causes all the misery? Who is responsible for dead letters? Ask your postmaster, and he will prove to you that they are caused in more than nine cases out of ten, not by sheer ignorance or misfortune, but by the neglect of the writer to comply with the simple provisions made by the department for the security of letters.

The simple use of stamped envelopes, instead of stamps, would keep one-third of the letters out of the dead-letter office. The general use of what are called "request envelopes" would dispose of most of the remainder. Let us see.

Ask your postmaster to show you the twenty letters which he is to send to the dead-letter office to-day. Ten of these (you find to your surprise) were dropped into the post office only yesterday. Perhaps four of these were put in without stamps, or had the stamps rubbed off in mailing. Two of them bear two-cent stamps instead of three. One has a revenue stamp only. One has a stamp previously used, and put on perhaps accidentally. Eight letters have thus become "dead," all of which would have been saved by the use of stamped envelopes. An envelope can not lose its stamp, nor assume a wrong stamp. The

only possible chance is that the wrong envelope may be used; and the "request envelope," guards, as we shall see, against the consequence of that.

These are eight of the ten fresh letters. Then there is another with stamp and no address; and another with the name of John Smith, and no sign of a town, or county, or state, to distinguish John Smith from his numerous cousins. These are the new letters. Now look at the old ones. Some with addresses perfectly illegible, some clear, precise, accurate, looking so distinct and unmistakable, that you feel as if the very man must live just around the corner—yet he has never been heard of in these parts, and the letter has been waiting for weeks, unclaimed. Some bear the marks of hopeless experiments in penciled memoranda—"try New York," "try Newport," "try Newfane," but no spot on earth, new or old, can give this poor old letter any respite, till it finds at Washington the repose of death. Then the foreign letters—the Galway and Cork missives, the letters to Portuguese sailors, the big letters from the German *frau* and the coroneted and perfumed note from the French marchioness to her pet American fine lady—all gone hopelessly wrong, and drifting together into their morgue of stationery, the dead-letter office.

How to save these poor letters from their doom? One simple precaution would have saved every American letter from death. Had you written on your envelope the single words "If unclaimed in ten days return to"—giving your address, wherever it may be—then your letter would have borne a charmed life. It would have been like the "return balls" the children play with—if the ball does not hit the rubber string brings it back. Better still, buy of the ready postmaster the envelopes on which this request is already printed.

We err in supposing that dead letters are chiefly the result of ignorance. They chiefly proceed from sheer negligence in those who should know better. It is negligence to use a stamp when you might use a stamped envelope. It is negligence to use even this without a "request" on the outside. Let us close with a moral tale. It was once necessary that we who write this should enclose a \$20 bill to a particular person in Providence, R. I., to make sure of its identity, as it was suspected of being counterfeit, and we were charged with having passed it. The note never arrived. Servants were cross-examined, private inquiry made. No clue was found. Weeks after, the letter reappeared from the dead-letter office. We had addressed it to the right person, the right street, the right number—and the wrong city. In some moment of stupidity or hurry, it had been unconsciously addressed to New York, instead of Providence. What we thus did, any of our readers may do with his very next letter. But we, at least, learned by experience. From that day to this we have used "request envelopes," and have had no more dead letters.—*Cincinnati Post-Office Bulletin*, January, 1872.

THE POSTAL-CAR DOG "OWNIE."

"Ownie" is a dog—a mongrel evidently, and the homliest looking cur, probably, in the country. His hair is wiry and his color a dingy gray and dull white. He is between three and four years old, and eighteen inches high, and he makes his home at the post-office at Albany, N. Y. He is a great traveler, always riding in the cars—more particularly railway postal-cars; but if he gets too far from home he will occasionally get into a baggage-car.

While all railroad men centering at Albany are friends of Ownie's, still his choice of associates is railway postal-clerks, and he will follow them in preference to any one else. Many remarkable stories are told of his doings. One day he secreted himself in the Boston and Albany mail car at Albany, evidently intending to go to Boston. The clerk in charge discovered him and put him out, closing the door. The next day, on going to the car in Boston, Ownie was found sitting on the platform wagging his stubby tail, as if to show his gladness to meet the boys so far from home.

A few months ago he took a trip to Brattleboro', Vt., and evidently lost his bearing, as he was gone several weeks, and his friends gave him up. It appears that he went to sleep in the mail-car at night, and the telegraph operator fed him in the daytime. After a while a clerk of the Brattleboro' and Palmer route recognized him and remembered that a clerk at Palmer, Mass.,

was interested in him. He took the dog to Palmer, where he found the clerk playing tennis. Ownie recognized his friend at once, and was so glad to see him that with one bound he jumped clean through the netting.

A short time ago, on the arrival of the mail-wagon at the Albany post-office, a sack of mail was missing. The driver went back to look for it, and Ownie was discovered sitting on it in the gutter. The sack being light, the wind had blown it off, and Ownie had dragged it to the gutter and was watching it. All restaurant keepers around Albany know him, and he is never molested, but receives many good things from the hands of the waiters.

DRAW THE LINE ON FEBRUARY!

We have got on our books the names of some six hundred postmasters whose subscriptions expired with December, about one thousand three hundred whose time expires in January, and some eighteen hundred who fall by the wayside with February! Now do please remember this cold statement of fact and

Come, Open That Heart

Of yours and also your pocketbook, and *renew* your allegiance to the UNITED STATES MAIL! Give us your name for 1891 and get ready for the great campaign that is now in progress! Make haste! Make no delay!



THE POSTAL-CAR DOG "OWNIE."

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.



A SUBURBAN L

IN NEW OR

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL, Chicago.

STATES MAIL.



BETTER CARRIER
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

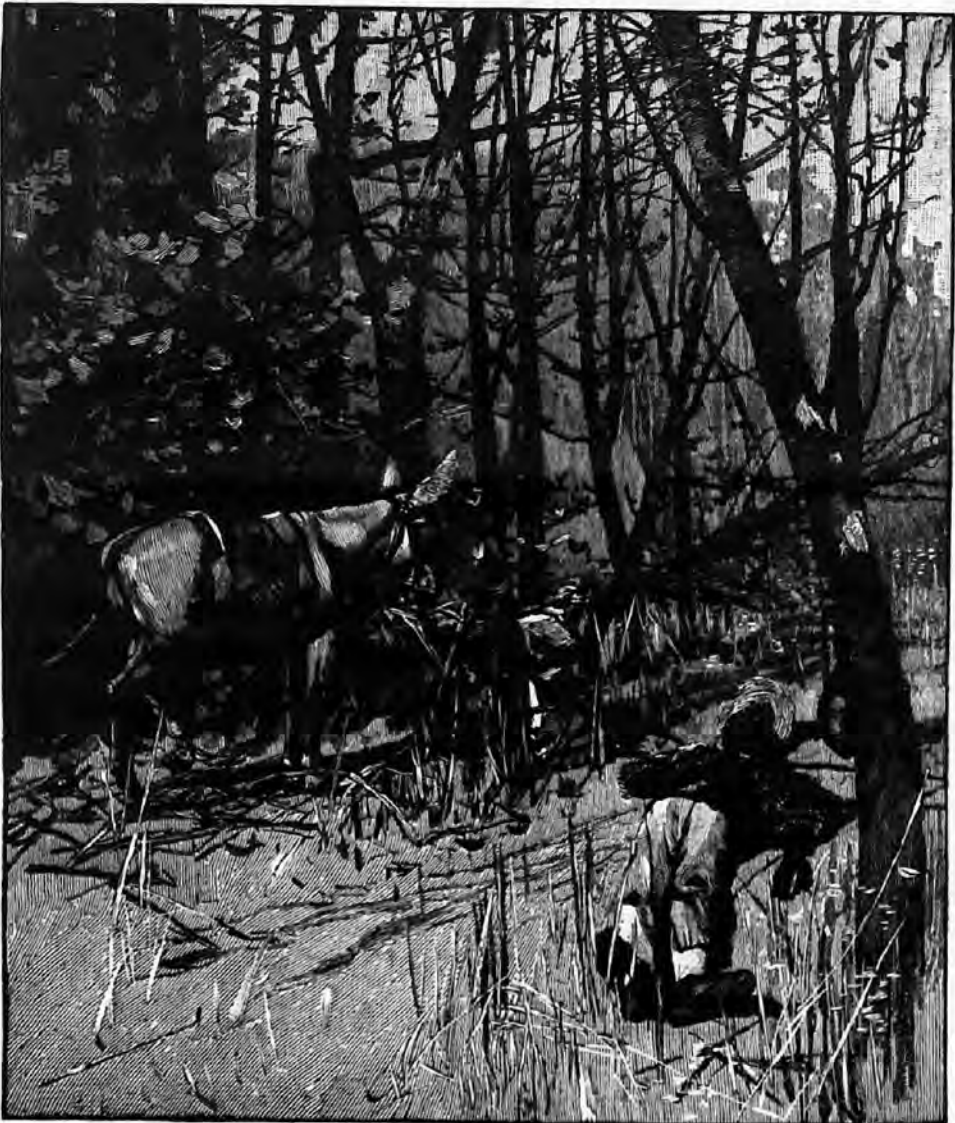
THE FAST MAIL IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The people of the old pine tree state may not feel greatly elated over our illustration of their fast mail facilities, but the fact remains that the picture represents more truth than poetry. As a class they are not up to the times and by far the largest majority of them would not care whether they possessed either post-offices or slow or fast mails. The mail carrier in the representation before us has dismounted from his mule and is taking a nap in the forest, totally oblivious to his responsibility as a messenger in the employ of the government. Whether his schedule time is made is of no concern to him. His slumber is peaceful and serene while his life

is far more happy than the postal clerks who man the postal cars on the Washington and Charlotte R. P. O., or on the New York Central fast mail. If this mail messenger is under the control of J. Lowrie Bell, the Lord help him, for he'll get the G. B. Sure.

BRACE UP,

Old man, and renew your subscription to the UNITED STATES MAIL. Can you afford to have your name stricken from our pages, wherein are inscribed the names of those who are "truly good," who are "registered" to inherit joy and peace here and bliss and sweetness in the world beyond?



"THE FAST MAIL IN NORTH CAROLINA."

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

A QUIET READING.

[See illustration below.]

HERE is a lovely maiden who has received a letter, and, lest anyone should interrupt her while delving into its contents, she has sought a safe and quiet retreat, where no eye can see nor ear hear what the contents of it may be as she murmurs the words in ecstasy of love. Oh, what treasures there are in letters where one soul pours out its incense to another, where heart and life and spirit are all

devotion, for they are too precious for the world to know their contents, and retreats far removed from intrusion are sought wherein they may find the consolation that only words of love can give. THE UNITED STATES MAIL commends this beautiful picture to its hundreds of lady readers as one worthy of imitation. We know our readers will thank us for this lovely conception. Beautiful in form, sweet and angelic in feature, she presents such an interesting ideal of womanhood that we love her even though a shadow.



A QUIET READING.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

A LETTER FROM THE GIRL THAT RAN AWAY.

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE UNITED STATES MAIL
BY RUTH STETSON.

The mail was tardy getting in—the creek has overflow'd,
A bridge is gone on Thatcher's pike, and one on Wil-
low road;
I waited at the office nearly half a working-day,
And all for this—a letter from the girl that ran away!

I knew it by the postmark, altho' they stamped it light,
A-thinking I would open it before I tried my sight;
But ah! they couldn't hoodwink me, whose heart is
made of steel;
So here's the letter, Hannah Jane, with its unbroken
seal.

I had a notion for to let it in the office stay,
For dead to me forever is the girl that ran away;
'Twas for your sake I brought it home over a storm-
cut track,
And it seemed to burn my pocket all the way a-coming
back!

Read it? No! That hated task to you I will consign
But keep its contents to yourself; don't read to me a
line!
I know 'tis full of pleading words to make my spirit
bend,
But no! The thorny path she made she keeps unto
the end!

Of all my children, Hannah Jane, I loved that girl the
most—
She was the sunshine of my life, my darling and my
boast;
I used to think she looked like you when you became
my bride,
And all my heart was cast in her; for her I would have
died!

We sent her off to school, you know, to learning's
richest feast—
They made her fit to reign as queen in the old storied
east;
How beautiful she could sing! how grandly she could
read!
Ah! when she saw the farm again she was a queen in-
deed.

The serpent came to blight our hearth; he wore his
blandest smile;
My seraph girl all innocence, and he all guilt and guile!
I told her not to love the man—that love like his would
kill—
But with him to the altar, wife, she went against my
will.

She left the old farm secretly to be a young "blood's"
wife,
And begs me in a letter now to smooth her wretched
life;
No! no! I never can forget the morn of that dark day,
When in blinding tears you told me that our child had
run away!

I sent her word that self-same day that home was hers
no more,
I told her with a father's curse, to darken not my door;
And to complete it, Hannah Jane, in binding black and
white,
Amid the silence of my room I made my will that night!

Gave the other children more than had been my in-
tent,
A thousand acres went to John, the old homestead to
Brent;
My money, twenty thousand cash, was all bestowed
on May,
And not a single dollar to the girl that ran away!

They told me afterwards that she laughed over what
I'd done,
And said that she was happy with the man her beauty
won;
He had some gold, and with it, like his class, was very
free,

For he took her to the countries lying far beyond the
sea.

He showed her the magnificence of Venice, Paris,
Rome;
I wonder if among their scenes she ever thought of
home?
How could she when she'd left it in her young and
guileless life,
Against her aged father's will, to be a gambler's wife?

And when they sought this land again, reverses thick
and fast
Came to her husband until he was poor as salt at
last;
Then he who had my bitter curse a letter sent one
day,
To ask if I'd take pity on the girl that ran away.

Now, here's another letter from the same place, Han-
nah Jane;
The same old story's in it, and the same old plea
again
You've opened it! I'll leave the room. Ha! What was
that you said?
"All's over?"—No! it can not be!—O God! Is Mary
dead?

Oh, let me see the letter! Dead! dead! and what is
worse,
I let the poor child die at last beneath a father's
curse;
And he who took her as his wife, across the ocean's
foam,
In sorrow writes to ask if we will let our child come
home.

I'm broken now! With love for her my inmost depths
are stirr'd,
I'll go to town this very day, and there I'll send him
word
To bring her back—that's all forgot, e'en to that dark
day;
I want to kiss once more, though dead, the girl that
ran away.

Her little child is our's now, and she shall have her
share;
I've dreamed that she had Mary's eyes and Mary's
golden hair;
She'll be the sunshine of our lives, now we are old and
gray,
And I will love the image of the girl that ran away!

I'M GOING TO WRITE A LETTER TO PAPA.

BY WILL S. HAYES.

I'm going to write a letter to papa
I guess he'd like to hear
What his little girl is doing
The same as when he's near.
I'll tell him how I missed him,
And how I wish he'd come,
And never, never leave us,
But always stay at home.

I'll tell him 'bout my dolly,
She's sleeping on the floor;
I fear that noise will wake her,
Oh, please don't slam the door,
"For I must not be bothered,"
That's what my ma would say
When she begins a letter,
And sends me off to play.

I'll send him lots of kisses
And one bright, shining curl.
I'll ask him to remember
His lonely little girl.
I want so much to see him,
But I won't cry a wink,
'Cause, when I write my letter
The tears would blot my ink.

I'm going to write to papa,
And oh, how glad he'll be
To get a little letter,
That's written all by me.

I'VE GOT THEM ON MY LIST.

BY M. J. DONNELLY.

As some day it may happen that a victim must be found,
I've got a little list, I've got a little list,
Of people whom you'll all admit might well be under ground,
And who never would be missed, who never would be missed.
There's the pestilential nuisances inquiring after stamps;
And the boys who stop the train so oft, those good-for-nothing tramps,
And the man who's always harping 'bout the latest change in schemes,
And the clerk in charge who frequently disturbs our pleasant dreams;
And the engineer who runs full speed 'round every curve and twist,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed.

There's the agent who throws in his pouch ere yet the train has stopped,
I've got him on my list, I've got him on my list,
And the other chap who holds for you a pile of stuff he's stopped,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed,
And the clerk who lays for you each month and "biffs" you in the neck,
With a little slip of paper that the service calls a "check,"
And the man who whistles "chestnut" tunes while standing at the rack,
And the funny man who now and then puts dead cats in your sack,
I don't think he'd be missed, quite sure he'd not be missed.

There's the life-insurance agent and others of his class,
I've got him on my list, I've got him on my list,
And the cunning "Con," who at the door inquires for your pass,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed,
And the fellow who to boycott brings his letters to the car,
And out of the little flapper on the side he knocks the tar,
And the transfer clerk who brings the mail at leaving time, you know,
And chucks it at you thro' the door with action that's not slow.

There's the man who threatens to resign, but ne'er turns in his key,
The festive "kickerist," I've got him on my list,
And the "crank" who's rather stuck on mailing sample copies free,
He'd surely not be missed, quite sure he'd not be missed,
And the fellow that's well posted—the Railway Mail "Galoot,"
Who springs the little Black Book whenever in dispute,
And the "prune" who cleans your car at night and collars all he finds,
Tho' dirt on floor or lamps untrimmed, such things he never minds.

There's the clerk who rushes to the door when'er he sees a girl,
The "la-de-da" artist, I've got him on my list,
And the boys who wear boiled shirts and such, while wrestling with the mail,
And the idiot always telling funny stories that are stale,
Nor the "greeny" at the "sweat-box," who takes off his coat and vest,
And says to Captain Perkins, "I'm going to do my best,"
Nor the fellow that's been bragging 'round of what he's going to do,
And on examination scores percentage forty-two,
I could mention many others who would swell my little list,
But who never would be missed, who never would be missed.

THE POSTAL CLERK

BY M. J. DONNELLY.

There's a wonderful machine,
That perhaps you've often seen,
Which toils from morn to e'en,
Like a Turk.

Wound up it's bound to go,
With an action that's not slow,
It is called, I'd have you know,
The Postal Clerk.

He stands there by the rack,
With a crook upon his back,
And papers by the sack,
Doth he work.

Or over at the case
His legs he'll firmly brace,
Piles of letters he will face,
The Postal Clerk.

While engaged in occupation,
Shrills the whistle for a station,
In his mind a profanation
Tall doth lurk.

To the door he'll nimbly rustle,
And the mail he'll quickly hustle,
This thing of brain and muscle,
The Postal Clerk.

He cuts up pranks and capers,
That astound the rustic gapers,
As they watch him throw the papers
With a jerk.

It's surprising, surely this is,
A sack he seldom misses,
As he makes up towns and "dises,"
The Postal Clerk.

To reach bottom oft contriving,
His nose thro' papers driving,
For a pamphlet he is diving
Or a "circ."

When secured, he sounds no praises,
But the air contains blue blazes,
This machine in faith a "daze" is,
The Postal Clerk.

Half asleep tho' sometimes seeming,
You'd imagine he was dreaming,
But he's not, he's deftly scheming
Out his work.

With his helper often "gassing,"
Thro' his brain whole states are passing,
On a crank he's fond of massing,
The Postal Clerk.

His clothes are black and sooty,
You'd scarce term him a beauty,
But his face when freed from duty
Wears a smirk.

When engaged his face in washing,
He'll indulge in harmless mashing,
With a maiden young and dashing,
The Postal Clerk.

A key he keeps suspended
From his trousers, which are mended,
And a knife, perhaps intended
For a dirk,
He keeps, the twine to sever,
In a manner that is clever,
He cuts and slashes ever,
The Postal Clerk.

When the cards he's quickly throwing,
And the sweat from him is flowing,
Oft a wink, perchance, bestowing
O'er at "Perk."

But the Chief ne'er smiles at all,
Vacant stares he at the wall,
Soon he'll wrestle for a fall,
The Postal Clerk.

DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

THE SALE of articles which have accumulated in the dead-letter office during the last year will commence December 13. The catalogue presents some curious features. It is a book of ninety-five closely printed pages. There are approximately 25,000 miscellaneous articles enumerated, which are separated into 4,500 packages. Besides these there are 2,600 books and 133 pieces of jewelry. The sale is conducted by an auctioneer and continues for several days. The packages are wrapped in paper, so that the only clue to what they contain is found in the catalogue. This often misleads because of its brevity in description, and the interest of the purchaser never flags in consequence. Among the contents of the packages, underwear for both sexes and of all sizes is most numerous. The following are specimens: Women's cheap hosiery, garters, corsets, chemises, bustles undershirts, shoulder-braces, men's underwear, cotton hose, suspenders, collar buttons, soiled linen, damaged hose, and damaged shoes. Smoking and plug tobacco and cotton hose are frequently in the same package. No. 164 contains a cheap

revolver, plug tobacco and a cheap watch. Another contains two pairs women's cotton hose, pair infant's socks, and some sheet wax. Steel pens, rosaries, razors, some of them badly damaged, galvanic girdles, mirrors, sewing-machine needles, playing cards, cigars, cigarettes, a rope halter, soap, women's back-combs, doll-corsets, egg-beaters, can-openers, dentophones, ear-muffs, electric batteries, cheese trier, abdominal supporters, dark lanterns, a seersucker suit, oil-paintings, music, boys' boots, women's shoes, Easter eggs, toys, men's slippers, sewing machines, Indian moccasins, tooth-brushes, bayonets, Turkish bath towels, violin strings, towel-racks, harmonicas, dentists' forceps, fifes, roller-skates, bow and arrows, pipes, artificial eyes, fish-hooks, demijohn, clinical thermometer, flour-sifters, and iron and metal castings.

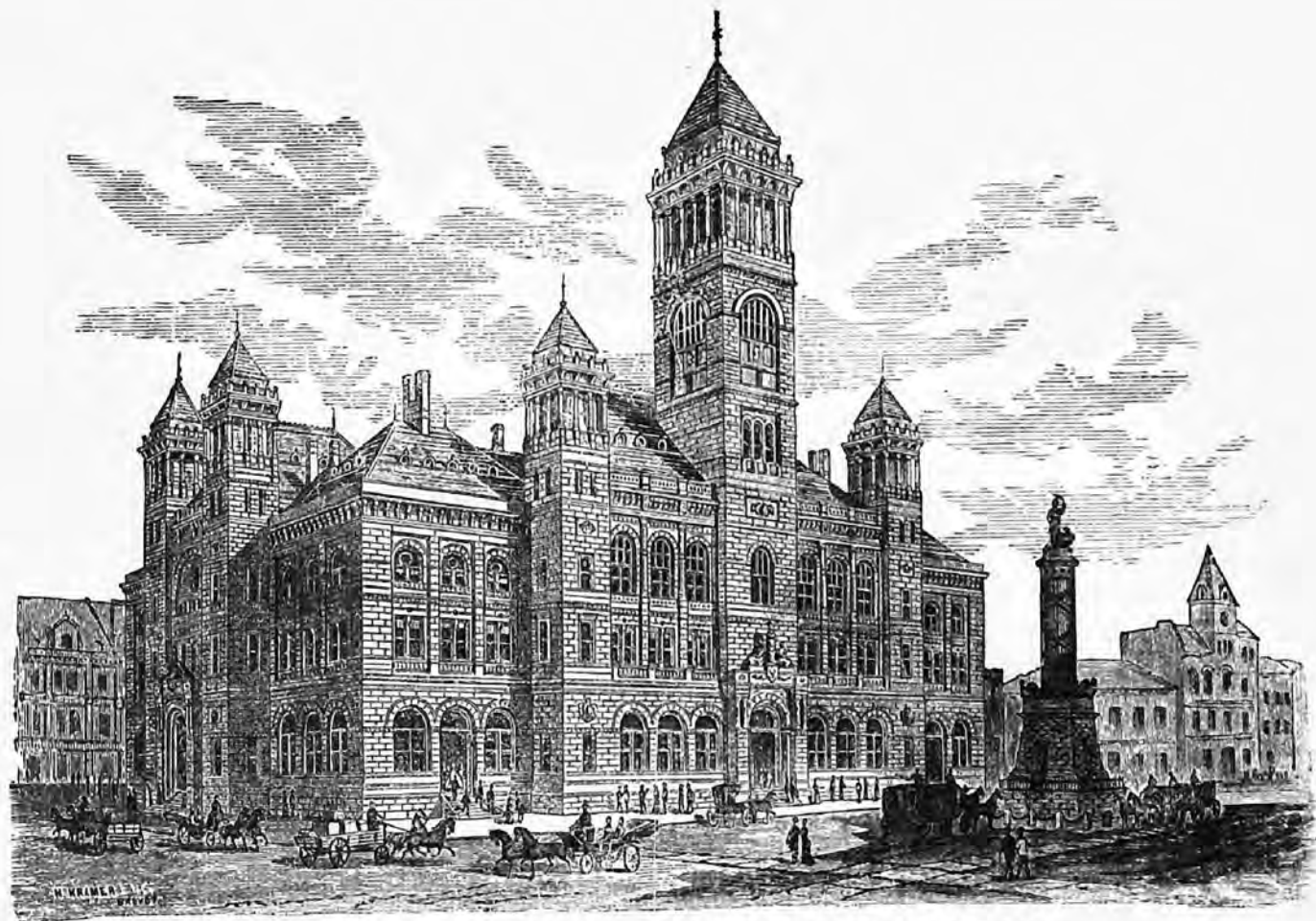
During the last year there was received at the office an average of nearly 15,000 letters daily, or a total of about 5,000,000. These have been handled by 120 employees, mostly women. The dead letters are classified as "ordinary" and "unmailable," the latter being such as do not have a sufficient address or which contain prohibitory matter. Mis-directed letters will average 1,000 a day,

and letters which have no address at all 1,000 a month. It is an astonishing fact that the greater per cent. of the latter contain money. Of the domestic letters opened the past year about 40,000 contained money, drafts, checks and money-orders amounting to about \$1,500,000. Nearly 70,000 contained postage stamps. Every opened letter containing an enclosure of value is carefully recorded, and those for which no owner can be found are filed away, subject to reclamation within four years. When the writer's name is attached to a valuable letter he is informed of the money being detained, and by the most satisfactory proof is enabled to secure it.



DEAD-LETTER OFFICE—INTERIOR.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.



THE NEW POST-OFFICE BUILDING AT BALTIMORE, MD.
Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

See page 3.



WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED:
\$450,000 for rent, light and fuel for third class offices.



WOMAN'S FAVORITE OCCUPATION—LETTER WRITING.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

A "FENSIVE" PARTISAN.

The Calamity which Befell the Postmaster at Red Robin.

OLD Andy Benchly is as dark as the hour which precedes the dawn. During several years Andy has been postmaster at Red Robin, a small village situated below Little Rock. During the campaign Andy was an uproarious supporter of Cleveland, but since the installation of Harrison he has been a violent republican. The other day he came to the city, and hurrying to the state house he presented himself to the governor.

"Come in, Andy."

"Yas, sah; thankee."



HON. ANDY BENCHLY, EX-POSTMASTER AT RED ROBIN, ARK.

"How are the crops down in your part of the country?"

"Doan know, sah. Been so mighty bodered dat I ain't noticed dem."

"What is the matter?"

"Wall, sah, er mighty k'lamity hab fell in our curmunity."

"That so?"

"It am, fur a fack."

"What is the nature of the calamity?"

"Ain't got no nater, sah. Too bad ter hab one."

"Well, tell me what the trouble is."

"Well, sah, dat man Harrison hab moved me from my office."

"That's hard on you, Andy."

"Yes; an' I'll make it hard on dis heah gubermint 'fore da gets done wid it, dat's whut I'll do. Fin' dat I ain't er pusson ter be snatched up an' be shuck like er rat. Da'll larn who blows de ho'n in dat neighborhood."

"What was the cause of the removal, Andy?"

"Da said dat I wuz er 'fensive partisan, sah."

"Well, did they prove it?"

"Didn't try ter prube it, sah. Prubin' it didn't 'pear to be no consarn er tall. I writ ter Mr. Wanimacker an' tole him ter go ober and sorter shake up der Preserdent, but de gennerman didn't answer de letter. He mus' tink dat I ain't got nuthin' ter do but ter write ter him. Sets back dar wid his slippers on, readin' my letter, an' den when he gits through wid it he flings it erside like I wan't anybody. I doan like dat way o' runnin' er gubermint, sah, 'clare to goodness I doan."

"Andy, were you not a democrat during the campaign?"

"Who, me?"

"Yes, you."

"Gub'ner, how awful cuis yesse'f ken talk when yer puts yer mind down ter hit. I never was er dimocrat. I was born'd er 'publican, sah."

"Didn't you make speeches in favor of Cleveland?"

"Who, me?"

"Yes."

"Now, dar yer goes ergin. I 'clar' ter goodness dar ain't no comfort in talkin' ter high officers no mo'. 'Twan't allus dat way. Uster come up heah when I wanted ter 'joy myse'f."

"You have not answered my question."

"Who hain't?"

"You."

"What wuz de question? I ain't heerd it."

"I asked if you did not make speeches in favor of Cleveland?"

"Dat's er fack; tibber sho yer did. No, sah, I neber said 'er word 'bout Clebelan, only ter skin him. De Lawd, how I did peel de bark offen dat man. I done de wust thing o' all; I skun him wid er dull knife. It doan hurt so much ter be skun wid er sharp, but when yer skins er man wid er ole case knife dat's been layin' out in de dew, massy sakes how it do make him flinch."

"Why, Andy, I understand that in your speeches you told the negroes that if Harrison were elected they would all be put back into slavery."

"Da tole yer er campaign lie, sah. I neber said no sich o'er thing. I said dat er fool nigger dat would vote fur Clebelan oughter be put back inter slabery, dat's what I said, an' now jes' look whut I gets fur it. 'Cuzed o' bein' er

'fensive partisan an' turned outen office. Ef I wa'n't in de presence o' de gub'ner, I would say dat it is a daim shame, sah, dat's whut I'd say. Now, gub'ner, I doan wanten 'tain yer, but I wants yer ter do me er little faber. Why, sah, I uster 'long to some o' yer kinfolks 'fore de wah, an' it's er mighty pleasant fack ter recollect, too, sho's yer bornd, it is. Didn' yer hab er uncle libin' in Tennessee?"

"Yes."

"Whut was his name, boss?"

"Hughes."

"Yas, sah, I uster 'long to dat man."

"I don't think you did, Andy. I knew all of his negroes."

"Wall, den, it mout uv been ernuder man by de same name; but dat doan make no difference. I wants yer ter do me er faber. Heah am er paper dat hab been drawed up. Lemme read it ter yer."

"Dis heah am to cercify dat Andy Benchly am de bes' postmaster dat we hab eber hab at Red Robin—dat's a fack, gub'ner, for I'se de fast; name o' de office wuz changed—'an' dat we de undersigned is greatly troubled in de flesh 'caze he hab been 'cuzed o' bein' er 'fensive partisan, an' hab on dat account been cheated outen his birfright an' his 'heritance, an' we ax yer, Mr. Preserdent, to put him back in de office.' Now, gub'ner, jes' lissen at de men whut hab signed dis paper: Lem Gardner, Peter Shaler, Bucksnot Gramley, Nat Packman, Brockey Alf an' Abe Coats. Now, dem's fine names, gub'ner, so jes' put yer own signeter down heah an' all will be squar."

"Andy, I have given you as much time as I can spare. Go on now."

"Whut, a'int yer gwine to sign dis paper?"

"No, I am not. Go on."

"All right, sah," he said, in a voice of deep disappointment, "all right. I hope it won't be long till da prubes dat yesse'f am er 'fensive partisan. Hope da'll boost you outen dis office. Voted ergin yer once an' ken ergin. Good day."—*Little Rock Journal*.

A POSTMISTRESS WHO WANTED THE NEWS.

For several months past irregularities have been reported at the Boring postoffice, Lower Milford township, Lehigh county. The people claimed time after time that their letters had been mysteriously opened and pasted shut again in a bungling manner. The postmistress was Miss Catherine Trump, an elderly lady, who had been highly recommended for the position. The irregularities at the post office became more and more frequent, and the post office authorities at Philadelphia were informed. A detective was given the case in charge, and he soon discovered that the old lady was the guilty party. When not otherwise engaged the letters were opened, their contents read and the envelopes resealed. In this way she said she got to know all the news of the neighborhood in advance, but she was emphatic in saying she meant no harm and did not know it was against the post office rules. She was required to enter bail to answer at the next term of the United States court at Philadelphia.

HE WAS WELL STAMPED.

THERE was a comical incident at the post office the other day that was directly due to the cold spell and which induced all but one of the parties concerned to almost excuse the blizzard that caused it. A man all muffled up presented himself before stamp-seller Basson's window, and handing out a silver dollar which he had conveniently in his hand he asked for fifty 2-cent stamps. Mr. Basson handed them out in a block. The purchaser paused a moment as though in contemplation, then took off his hat, a soft one, and putting his stamps in it, pulled it closely down on his head.

He thought to save himself the trouble of loosening his wraps. Mr. Basson noticed that the stranger was unusually bald, having but a little fringe of hair around the lower part of his head, and feared for the stamps; but concluded to let his customer order his own affairs without interference.

In about half an hour the man came back. He walked with a hurried step, and the gleam in his eye was not wholly caused by the frigid blast. He marched up to Mr. Basson, and, taking off his hat, bent down his head and in a tone of reproach said:

"Look there!"

Mr. Basson did look, and saw what he declares to be the funniest thing he ever saw. That man's head was plastered all over with 2-cent postage stamps, rimmed around with a little fringe of short, silky hair.

"He looked just like a Humpty-Dumpty clown," declared Mr. Basson, "and I had to bend myself over and laugh till the tears ran out of my eyes. I asked the man what he put the stamps in his hat for, and he said, as though he was very much surprised, that they had varnish on them."

The unfortunate fellow got mad at Mr. Basson's mirth, and angrily demanded what he should do.

"Ha! ha! You had better go to the next window and have them canceled," responded the stamp dealer.

Then the stranger threatened to interview the postmaster and have the unsympathetic clerk discharged at once, and the rumpus brought several other clerks to the scene, who kindly directed the victim to "soak his head." Finally such a crowd of people gathered around and the stranger was so unmercifully guyed that he left, and probably did as he was told, soaked his head.—*Cincinnati Times-Star*.

LETTER ADDRESSES.

"To GEORGE W. KNOWLES this letter is sent.
To the Town of Brighton, where the other one went;
No matter who wrote it, a friend or a foe,
To the State of New York I hope it will go."

The following is a superscription on a letter mailed at Evansville, Indiana, lately:

"Give this a start, and send it straight
To Corydon City, in the Hoosier State,
Where Miss ADDIE HATTIE may be found
Gallanting some young man around,
Hand her this, and tell her beware
Of dark mustache and auburn hair."



"BLACK BART."

The Career of the Most Noted Mail Robber of Modern Times.

THE career of Black Bart, the mail robber, has ended, so far as continuing his depredations is concerned, as he is now confined in the penitentiary on a sentence of six years' imprisonment. His depredations commenced August 3, 1877, when the stage from Fort Ross to Russian River was robbed by him, and the express-box and mails rifled. His other robberies cover a period of about six years, or until he was captured by Captain Harry Morse, in November, 1883. He is charged with robbing at least thirty stages, and the question of his guilt is so clearly defined that there is no possible doubt of his identity. He was probably the most adroit stage robber of his time, and certainly he was the most successful. He had no confederates. He laid all of his own plans, and executed them himself, and was successful in nearly every undertaking. He was not brutal or murderous, but he went well armed with a double-barreled shotgun. He was polite to passengers, and especially so to ladies. He went to and came from the scene of all his robberies on foot, and was a thorough mountaineer, as he sometimes covered long distances in a day and the routes he took were always difficult to traverse. He got food only from houses in out-of-the-way places, and was never known to remain over night in a house occupied by others. He was never seen in the vicinity of his robberies, and never showed up for food until

twenty or thirty miles away. The only baggage visible when traveling was a roll of blankets. He masked with a flour-sack over his face when committing his robberies, and had holes cut in it to see through. His person was always enveloped in a long linen duster, which completely concealed his identity. He carried an old ax in his expeditions, to open the express-boxes, but always left it behind when the job was completed. In opening mail-sacks he used a very sharp knife, and cut them like a **T**, thus. In attacking a stage he would jump out suddenly from his hiding-place to the front of the team, and in a stooping posture hide himself in front of the leading horses.

Of course, the name of "Black Bart" is assumed. His real name is Charles E. Bolles. That was ascertained from a family bible found in his room after his capture, and from a discharge from the regular army. He is an American, and is about fifty-five years of age. He is five feet ten inches in height, and will weigh about one hundred and sixty pounds. He has a high forehead, with points running well up into the hair, which is gray, as is also his mustache. He is a man of considerable information, well read in current events, and prides himself on his literary attainments, especially in a poetical way. Some of his verses are very good, while others are very poor; in fact, mere doggerel, as the sample sent in will show.

On July 25, 1878, he robbed the stage from Quincy to Orrville. In the express box, when found the next day, there was a verse of doggerel written on one of the express way-bills, commencing:

"Here I lay me down to sleep," etc.

I send you a *fac-simile*, which you can have reproduced for your columns.

He was not addicted to the use of liquor in any form, and was never a frequenter of saloons or places of questionable resort, but passed his time in reading-rooms and in the society of gentlemen. He was a good talker, and had many warm friends in San Francisco and Sacramento, who were completely surprised when his true character was revealed, as he was supposed to be a man of wealth, largely interested in mining speculations.

Occasionally he would absent himself from the city and be gone for one or two weeks, announcing to his friends that he had been on a visit to his mines. He dressed in style, and in every respect appeared to be a well-meaning, cordial, social, gentlemanly fellow.

The honor of "cornering" Black Bart belongs to Captain Harry Morse, of this city, and I cannot give your readers a more intelli-

gent account of how it was done than by doing so in the words of that gentleman himself, whom I have just seen. He said:

"Last June, a year ago, I was employed by Wells, Fargo & Co. to go to Calaveras county to see if I could get any clew to the person who had been robbing the stages. He had been plundering the company's treasure-boxes and the mails for years, and as yet there had been no clue whatever obtained. I spent three or four days up there making investigations, and came back and reported to the company my idea about the matter. A consultation was held between Captain J. B. Hume, Detectives Charles Aull and J. N. Thacker, in the employ of the express company, and Sheriff Ben Thorne, of Calaveras county, who determined upon a plan for capturing the man.

"Once we thought we had a clew to him, but it proved to be a mistake. We had all been diligently at work on it ever since the matter was placed in the hands of Hume, Thacker and myself. We often consulted and compared notes, and at length concluded that we would have to wait until another robbery had been committed by him, and then, with any clew we might obtain, act

quickly. We did not have to wait very long for the opportunity. On the 3d of last November the robbery of the Sonora and Milton stage was committed near Copperopolis. We fixed upon a plan by which we could get the man when he came to town. Thacker started immediately for the scene of the robbery, with Sheriff Thorne, and made diligent search for the robber, but failed to find any other clew than the things they found there, which he had left in his hurry to get away from the stage-driver, who was shooting at him.

"Among the articles he had left in his hiding-place behind the rocks by the roadside were a hat, three pairs of cuffs, an opera-glass case, and a silk crape handkerchief with the mark "F. K. O. 7" on it. On being notified of this, Mr. Hume telegraphed to Thacker and Thorne to send the things down to the office in San Francisco, which was done. Hume took the hat and opera-glass case to see if he could have them identified, placing the handkerchief in my hands, with instructions to find the owner of the mark, if possible. This was on Wednesday following the robbery, which was committed on Saturday. On his way down to San Francisco, Detective Thacker gave the mark to an officer

here I lay me down to sleep
to wait the coming morn
perhaps success perhaps defeat
And everlasting sorrow
I've labored long and hard for bread
for honor and for riches
But on my coons too long you've tread
You fine handed sons of Wanches
let em what will I'll try it on
My condition baut be worse
and 'if there's money in that Box
Tis manny in my purse
black baut
The. 508

who had been stationed at Lathrop by Chief Crowley, telling him all about the case. I left all other business and devoted myself exclusively to this. I knew I had a job before me, as there were ninety-one laundries in the city.

"After diligent search, I was, on Monday afternoon, the 12th instant, rewarded by finding on the books of a laundry agency, at No. 316 Bush street, kept by a Mr. Ware, the identical mark. The handkerchief had been left three times—the first time on Saturday, July 21, and the second time on Saturday, August 11. I found, also, on inquiring, that the washing belonged to C. E. Bolton. I made the most cautious inquiries at the laundry, and found that he was well known there. The laundryman said Bolton was a mining man, who often visited his mines, although he did not know where they were situated. Sometimes he would be gone a week or two, and sometimes a month.

"I assumed as a pretext that I wanted to consult with him on some mining matter, and not being sure he was the Bolton I was looking for, I wished he would describe him. The laundryman did so, and remarked that he had left the office but a few minutes before, and would be around again the next morning, if not that evening. I also learned that he roomed at No. 37 Second street, room 40. I at once placed a watch on this house, with instructions to keep a close eye and see if any person went in or out, and if anyone was seen, to send word immediately to me, taking care, in the meantime, not to lose sight of him.

"I then returned to the laundry office, and while I was talking to Mr. Ware Bolton came walking up the street toward us. Ware remarked: 'Why, here comes Bolton now. I'll introduce you to him.' This was about five o'clock in the afternoon, just two hours after I had got his name from the laundryman. I knew at once, from the description I had received, that he was the man. He was elegantly dressed, and came sauntering along, carrying a little cane. He wore a natty Derby hat, a diamond pin, a large diamond ring on his little finger and a heavy gold watch and chain. He was about 5 feet 8 inches in height, straight as an arrow, broad-shouldered, with deep-sunken, bright-blue eyes, high cheek bones, and a large, handsome gray mustache and imperial. The rest of the face was shaven clean. One would have taken him for a gentleman who had made a fortune and was enjoying it, rather than a highwayman. He looked anything but a stage-robber. He was quick in his movements, and had muscular and symmetrical limbs. Ware introduced me to him by the name of Hamilton, that being the name I gave him. I shook hands with Bolton, and asked him if he was Mr. Bolton, the mining man. He said, 'Yes, I am.' I then told him that I had a matter of importance relating to some mines which I wished to consult him about, and asked him if he would spare a few moments with me. He said, 'Certainly,' and we walked together down Bush to Montgomery street, then to California

and Sansome, bringing up at Wells, Fargo & Co's office.

"We went up-stairs to the superintendent's office. I introduced him to Mr. Hume, who requested him to be seated, saying that he wished to have a little talk with him. Mr. Hume commenced by inquiring about his business. Bolton said he was a mining man. Mr. Hume asked him where his mine was situated. He said in Nevada, on the California line.

"On being closely pressed, he was unable to give either the name of the mine or the exact locality. He then began to get a little excited, and great drops of perspiration stood out on his forehead and nose. Said he: 'I am a gentleman, and I don't know who you are. I want to know what all this inquiry is about.' Mr. Hume told him if he would answer his questions satisfactorily he would tell him his reasons for asking them.

"I will state here that when Black Bart committed the robbery he dropped a package that had a blood stain on it, and while we were in Mr. Hume's office I noticed that on Bolton's right hand there was a piece of skin knocked off, about the size of a ten-cent piece. I drew Mr. Hume's attention to this, and he asked Bolton how it occurred. He replied that he struck his hand against a car while he was getting off the train at Truckee. He was asked a great many questions, many of which he could not and others he would not answer, and at length grew indignant. He said it was the first time in his life that his character had been called in question; that he was a gentleman, and he would refuse to answer any more questions.

"Mr. Hume then sent to the city prison for Captain Stone, and upon his arrival a hack was summoned, and Captain Stone, Mr. Hume, Black Bart and myself proceeded to Bart's room, at No. 37 Second street, leaving Detective Thacker and Captain John Curtin, of Morse's agency, at Wells-Fargo's, to await our return. This was about eight o'clock in the evening. The interview at Mr. Hume's office lasted about three hours. Bolton said he was forty-seven years of age, and a native of Jefferson county, New York. On arriving at the room we immediately proceeded to search for evidence. We found a large trunk, two valises, three or four suits of clothes, among them a suit answering the description of those worn by the man who robbed the stage near Cop-peropolis. In one of the pockets I found another handkerchief bearing the same mark as that found at the scene of the robbery, and perfumed with evidently the same perfume.

"Upon opening the trunk they found a lot of shirts, cuffs and collars, all having the same laundry mark, and also a letter written by Bolton, the writing in which corresponded with the handwriting of the doggerel written by the robber on one of the express company's way-bills and left on the treasure box a year ago, and would leave no doubt in the mind of

[This interesting and thrilling story of a real mail robber now in prison, will be completed in the February issue. Though absolutely true in every particular still it reads like romance.]

A STAGE COACH IN A SNOW STORM.

Here is an exact representation of a stage coach in a snow storm in Dakota. It would have no particular significance except that it carries the United States mails and shows how uncertain the mails are in the country where stages are the only means for their transportation. During the winter season they are even more uncertain than the *fast males* in the large cities who stay out late at night and come "rollin' home in the mornin'." But it makes one shudder to look upon this picture and imagine the discomforts of stage travel in the far west.

THE Post-office Inspectors report a queer case up in Minnesota. The postmaster had a fine "burglar-proof" safe—that is, it was burglar-proof till a burglar came along and tackled it. The postmaster wanted his combination handy, so that he could not forget it, so he posted it up on a placard on the wall above the safe. The burglar came, saw and conquered. The combination was so handy that he read the placard, opened the safe and helped himself and went on his way rejoicing. The postmaster rejoices not, neither is his heart glad. Not much. There is a moral to this story unnecessary to relate.



A WESTERN MAIL COACH IN A SNOW STORM.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE POSTMASTER'S SOLILOQUY.

Shall I renew or shall I *not* renew? *That* is the question! Whether 'tis nobler in the mind of a postmaster to renew his subscription to his favorite paper—THE UNITED STATES MAIL—or basely and foolishly clinch on to his little dollar and a half, and thereafter depend upon his county paper for postal instruction and run the risk of finally landing the post-office in the street—or, to renew, and, *to renew at once*, by boldly inclosing a postal note for the amount due. *Renew!* Did I say, RENEW? and thus put my office in good shape for a visit from some post-office inspector when he comes smelling around to see whether I have given away all my postage stamps free gratis for nothing, or sold them for spot cash! I propose to be always on the safe side and look out for the interests of Uncle Sam and never do without that blessed paper, my counsellor, my benefactor and my friend, you bet.

CLEAR POSTMARKS.

Cannot somebody invent a machine for the use of postmasters that will always postmark a letter clearly and distinctly? There is not a day passes but we receive more or less badly postmarked letters, some so blurred that it is impossible to decipher the mark, and others where the postmarking clerk has only one-half done his duty, by striking but one-half or one-quarter upon the letter. The postmark is a matter of no small importance to business men, and we beg that every one connected with the post-offices whose eye this meets, especially in our great commercial cities, will keep this important fact in mind, and urge upon the stampers to do their work well.

THERE was a lunatic over in Ohio once—a harmless fellow—who persisted in putting P. M. after his name. When inquired of, one day, why he did so, he said in reply that it meant Powerful Mind.

THE STAMP CLERK.

"I SHOULD think you have a pretty easy time in here."

"Well, *pretty easy*."

"You don't have much to do. Just stand at the window, count out stamps, and take in the money."

"That's all, save the little item of making correct change every time."

"Oh, of course. But that isn't much."

"No, not much, though sometimes half-a-dozen people, all in a hurry, want stamps at the same moment."

"Yes, to be sure. You must be busy at times, say early in the day, or at Christmas and Easter. But most people could do the work, with a little practice."

"Yes, practice *is* a great thing, but I've been a stamp clerk for ten years, and yet yesterday I made a mistake in counting out a small number of one-cent stamps. Still, practice is a great thing."

"Well, I should like to have your place, that's all. It can't be very hard to sell postage-stamps."

"I wish you had it, as you think it is so easy. But, should you try it a day, you might think differently."

This conversation between two acquaintances occurred in a city post office a year ago. The change which has brought about a new administration removed, about a month ago, the old post-office clerk, and installed the other man in his place.

The new clerk entered upon his duties, the first day, with a feeling that selling stamps was a diversion suited to his genial temperament. He hadn't been at the window an hour before he was a sadder and a wiser man.

A woman came up and wanted thirteen cents' worth of twos and ones, half and half, seven postal cards, and a package of two-cent wrappers. She had nothing smaller than a five-dollar bill.

When the clerk had recovered from the temporary slow fever into which this episode threw him, there was a big crowd waiting outside, and all he could hear was:

"Twenty-five cents' worth of twos, please." "Package postal cards." "Dollar's worth stamps, quick." "How much'll that take? Goin' to Canady." "Nuff stamps on that, hey?" "Gimme two twos and three ones, will you? I'm in a hurry!"

The young man nervously counted out stamps, weighed packages, consulted the printed schedule for rates in foreign countries, and perspired freely. Cold chills ran down his back, for he had a vague idea of giving somebody seventy-five cents' worth of stamps for fifty cents, and of selling a package of postal cards for half-price.

The crowd at the window did not diminish, but grew.

A man finally came up in a great hurry, and threw down a handful of loose silver and nickels and coppers, and asked for,—

"Twenty-seven ones, sixteen cents' worth of twos, two and a half packages of postal cards, and the rest in twos and one-cent wrappers."

The new clerk choked down a big word or two, mopped his brow nervously with a sheet of stamps, and began counting out a package of stamped envelopes, government official size.

"How many did you say?"

"How many what?"

"Envelopes."

"Envelopes? I don't want any envelopes. Twenty-seven ones, sixteen cents' worth of twos, two and a half packages of postal cards, and the rest in twos and one-cent wrappers. That's what I want, and in a big hurry, too. Got to catch a train."

"Sixteen cents' worth of twos?"

"Yes, I said so."

"Oh, well, all—all right! There you are. And—and how many ones?"

"Twenty-seven. Come, hurry up!"

"Twenty-seven; twenty-seven. Five times five is twenty-five, and two is seven—twenty-seven. Twenty-seven. And now, the rest in envelopes, did you say?"

"Envelopes? I don't want any envelopes. One-cent wrappers is what I want."

"How many?"

"How many? Well, give me just one. Perhaps you can count that out straight" (sarcastically).

"A one-cent wrapper is two cents."

"All right! I can stand it if you can."

"How many packages of postal cards?"

"Never mind. I can't wait here all day. Besides, there's a crowd out here stretching way around the corner. Just give my change, and I'll get out of here."

When the clerk had recovered from the syncope into which this little transaction had cast him, he spied his old acquaintance, the former stamp clerk, at the window.

"Ah, you seem to be having a pleasant time in here. Please let me have two dollars' worth of twos and sixes, dollar's worth of each. And just weigh that little bundle. Going to Honduras. Needs two more stamps, I think. Should think you would have a good time in here. Not much to do but stand up and sell stamps, and give back the right change, hey? You must enjoy your place here. Of course, it will be a little busy early in the morning, or at Christmas and Easter times. Most people could do it, with a little practice!"

EMBEZZLEMENT OF LETTERS.

An interesting question was raised in the recent case of the United States *vs.* Badger, in the United States Circuit Court at Boston, namely, as to whether the United States government protects letters after they have been delivered into a private box which the person to whom they are directed has authorized. The court ruled in this case, in which the defendant was tried for embezzling letters, that the United States protects letters till they reach the person to whom they are addressed, and that a delivery into a box such as that described above is not a delivery to the person.

THE POST OFFICE INSPECTOR AND THE POSTMASTER.

A TRAVELING post office inspector went up into Scott county a few days ago for the purpose of investigating certain reported crookedness. One afternoon he reached a small cabin situated near a lonely road. He stopped, intending to get a drink of water, and as he drew near the house, was astonished at seeing a signboard bearing the following inscription: "Poost ofis." An old fellow with a grizzly beard and a hairy chest—displayed as his shirt was unbuttoned—came out and, merely nodding to the inspector, sat down on a stump.

"How are you?" said the inspector,

"Tol'ble."

"Have you some fresh water handy?"

"Plenty uv it down ther in the branch. One uv ther boys shot my bucket all ter pieces, an' sence then I hafter go ter ther branch wen I wanter drink."

Just then a man, mounted on a mule, rode up and asked: "Mr. Plummer, got any letters for me?"

"Yas, thar's one here, Bill Patterson, but you kain't get it. Go on away from here, or I'll make you wush you hadn't come."

"Wush yer would give it ter me."

"Yas, and the nigger wushed that ther coon would come down outer ther tree, but he didn't come."

"Say, Mr. Plummer——"

"Shut your mouth an' say nothin', an' mor'n that, you'd better mosey away from here."

The man rode away, and the inspector, addressing the postmaster, asked:

"Why didn't you give that man his letter?"

"Kase he worked ag'in me when I run fur jestic uv the peace."

"Yes, but the government doesn't care anything for that."

"Reckon not, but I do."

"But you were appointed to serve the people."

"Yas, an' I sarve 'em, too—sarve some uv them like old Nick."

"My friend, I am a traveling post office inspector, and——"

"All right, then, travel."

"If I report you to the post office department, which I shall be very apt to do, you'll travel."

"Reckon not. This establishment b'longs ter me, an' nobody's got a right ter tell me ter git out."

"How long have you had this office?"

"Ever since I built it."

"I mean how long have you been postmaster?"

"'Bout a year, I reckon."

At this juncture, an old fellow, cautiously picking his way among the bushes, approached the postmaster, who, upon seeing him, sprang to his feet and exclaimed:

"Whut in thunder do you want here, Abe Smith?"

"Come arter that paper."

"Didn't I tell yer that yer kain't git it?"

"Yas, but I 'lowed that yer mout change yer mind."

"Wall, I hain't. When yer refused ter lend me yer slide an' 'hoss tother week I told yer that yer couldn't git nothin' else outen this office."

"I'm er goin' ter git that paper."

"Not lessen yer are a better man than I be."

"An' that's erbout whut I think."

"Wall, help yerself."

With agility surprising for such old men, they grappled each other and began a desperate struggle. Abe Smith succeeded in throwing the postmaster.

"Now," said Smith, as he began to choke old Plummer, "goin' ter let me have that paper?"

A gurgled "yes" came from the postmaster's throat. Smith released his hold and suffered Plummer to get up.

"Wall," said the postmaster, as he stood brushing fragments of leaves and bark from his beard, "I reckon I wuz sorter mistaken in yer. I didn't know that yer wuz such a nice man. Come in, Abe, an' git yer paper, fur yer have earned it like a white man."

"Ain't thar a letter fur me, too?"

"Yas."

"Wall, I want it."

"Kain't git it, Abie. Yet fit fur ther paper an' not fur ther letter."

"Got ter have it Plummer."

"Not lessen yer whip me ergain."

"B'leve I ken do it."

"All right, Abie."

They went at it again; pranced around, striking at each other. Finally Plummer struck Abe a heavy blow and felled him, then seating himself on the prostrate man, he said:

"Don't want ther letter, do yer, Abie?"

"Reckon not, Plummer."

"All right, come erhead an' git yer paper." When Abe had gone, the postmaster turned to the inspector and said:

"Want anything outen me?"

"No, I believe not."

"Had er letter here on' I didn't want yer ter have it yer wouldn't argy ther p'int, would yer?"

"I don't think that I should."

"Don't want no truck with me?"

"None."

"Wall, then, good-by. Got ter go in now an' make up ther mail."

A REAL NICE MAN.

"He never posted a letter without calculating whether it would have to travel on Sunday to reach its place of destination, and if so he would not mail it till Monday morning. Still further did he carry his Puritanical observance. Unnumbered times have I known him to receive important letters so late on Saturday night that he would not break his fixed resolution never to use his eyes, which were very delicate, by artificial light; he would carry the letters in his pocket till Monday morning, then rise with the sun and read them."



SORROWFUL MORNING GREETING.

A LETTER OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

The difference between the two illustrations upon this page is simple enough. One represents beautiful maidenhood only a moment from her night's rest, while before her is a letter of disappointment and sorrow, so great, that in her grief she drops it upon the floor, the better to give way to the flood of tears that are falling. Sorrow comes to



MAILING A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS.

all hearts, with but slight intermissions, when youth has passed. It is no respecter of persons. And it comes too, by letter. Unkind words that have been penned, have sent many a tender heart to death. Words lightly written are far more dangerous in their effects then when idly spoken, and if we would save tears and griefs, let our missives be as tender as love, and as honest as the day.

The other illustration represents the exuberance of youth, and even the dog shares the joy of the little girl who is sending a letter to Santa Claus to remember her at Christmas. "Christmas comes but once a year", while the griefs of life seem to have no end.

The UNITED STATES MAIL sends its greetings to the little cherubs in the family of every postmaster who may read these lines.

NASBY TURNED MUGWUMP.

IN A BASTEEL (For takin possession uv the Post offis), CONFEDERIT X ROADS (Wich is in the State uv Kentucky), Dec. 7, 1885.—There is a depreshn in the Corners wich is suthin friteful. Ther is a feelin wich is gatherin strength and intensity, and wat the result will be the Lord only knows.

It wuz perposed in Bascom's yisterday that the citizens shood move onto the Basteel and releese me by force uv arms, but it wuz promptly votid down. Bascom sed that while my society wuz desirable, he cood hardly afford it. Wher I wuz I cood not run up my account. The heft uv the other citizens sed that so long ez I wuz incarcerated I could not be horrerin uv em, and it wood be well enuff to let me stay. I wuz bein supported at the expense uv the government, and the Corners hed that much out uv the administrashen wich hed betrayed em. We mite be thankful for that atleast.

Every citizen uv the Corners, however, wants me appinted, fur I owe every one uv em, I think, onless it may be Simeon Johnson, a pauper, wich is supported by the township. I shood hev owed him, only he never hed a dollar, and all I cood ever get out uv him wuz occasionally invitin myself to share his meels with him, wich, ez he is a cripple and coodent make fite, I succeeded alluz in compassin.

They spose that ef I git the place I wood pay em off in time, wich accounts for their solisitood. Alas! They don't know how much I owe Bascom, or how sekoor his hold is onto me, shood I ever git my rites.

I hev left Issaker Gavitt and Deekin Pogram to take keer of theirselves, and hev taken a new deparcher. Self-preservashun is hevin's fust law, and I must self-preserve.

I hev turned Mugwump.

I yisterday address the follerin letter to the tyrant Cleveland. It wint agin mi grane, but I hed to do it.

To His Eggsency the President: I beg yer attenshun to the follerin fax: I am at present incarcerated in a Basteel at the Corners, fur havin attempted to enforcem rites by pitchin the nigger wich now holds the postoffice here out onto his nose onto the sidewalk. Yoo will understand that I am a applicant for the post-office at this place, wich poshishun I adorned under the late lamented Johnson, wich was succeeded by the brootal Grant, wich histed me.

It hez bin generally sposed that I am a offensive partisan, but I make haste to deny it. I votid fur yoo fur President last fall. r. Becoz I admired your sterlin integrity, your firmiss and power uv will, and your ginerall

fitness for the exalted posishun, and 2. Becoz I fully coincided with yoo in yoor noshuns uv civil-srvis reform, and desired to do wat I cood to purify and bring about necessary reforms in Amerikin pollytix.

While I did all that a honest man cood do to bring about yoor electshun, and to block the unhallowed ambishn uv that politikle skeemer, Blane, I want it understood that I did not do it ez a partisan. I hev alluz bin a democrat, in a ginerall way, tho uv a very mild type. I hev bin hankerin fur yeers fur a oppotoonity to git rid even uv a semblance uv dimocrisy, and to that end, that I mite be a reformer and no democrat, the very mornin that I heerd the noose uv yoor nominashen I borrowed a cleen shirt, washed my feet, and otherwise disguised myself.

The only regret that I hed in votin the tikket wich you headid wuz that Hendrix, uv Injeany, a man wich beleaved in the etroshus maxim, "To the victors b'long the spoils," wuz on the tikket with yoo. However, I hed to swaller him in order to vote fur yoo, fur wich I entertane an esteem wich I havn't words to egsspress. The untimely death uv Hendrix leeves yoo free to do ez yoo please, onembarast by spoilsmen; unto wich, while regrettin his deth, I congratoolate yoo in the interest uv our common kentry.

In the intrest uv civil-servis reform I request the remove uv the gentleman now okkepyin the post offis at this place, and my appointment in his stead. Mr. Lubbock hez held the place 24 yeers, and, ez a matter uv course, in that time must hev become corrupt. It ain't in the nacher uv things that he cood be otherwise. He hev never bin uv any yoose to the Corners, ez the entire emolyooments uv the offis he hev selfishly put into a house into wich he lives, instead uv spendin it ez the rest uv the citizens do, in Bascom's.

I would say, in proof of my entire devoshun to the prinseples wich me and George Willyum Curtis hev alluz advokated, that after votin for you I immejitly whopped around and votid the entire republikin tikket last spring and this fall, ez I conceive a mugwump to be one wich never votes twict alike, so that he may be sure uv bein rite at leest half the time. When a mugwump holds to one party consecootively more than wunst, he becomes a offensive partisan and ceases to be a mugwump.

I trust yoo will make this appintment ez soon as possible, for the people are sendin money lively to the Loozeaner lottery, and every minnit I remain out uv the post offis is losin me heavily.

With sentimence uv profound respeck, &c.

* * * * *

I wept when I sent this letter. Things hez come to a purty pass when in order to get an appintment under a dimekratic president, one hez to speak uv a nigger ez a "gentleman," and otherwise apologize fur being a dimekrat. But I sent it, and await the result

PETROLEUM V. NASBY.

(Abashed, but hopeful.)

THE GREAT MAIL ROBBERY

**On the Northern Pacific When
\$8,000 Was Stolen in Re-
gistered Letters.**

The greatest mail robbery of modern times, where more booty was secured in the way of robbing mail pouches, occurred a little after 10 o'clock on Saturday night, June 7, 1890. It was on the Northern Pacific railroad and the next morning after the event the daily papers of the country were filled with an account of the daring deed of two bold and dashing robbers.

It was at ten o'clock, as before stated, when the St. Paul and Helena R. P. O., (railway postoffice) bound east, pulled out of New Salem, North Dakota. The train is known as the Northern Pacific express with



[From a photograph recently taken.]

CHAS. E. BAILEY.
**One of the Northern Pacific Mail
Robbers.**

Tacoma as its western and St. Paul its eastern terminal points. "Jimmy" Kilmartin was the engineer on the locomotive, which was No. 167, and George Simonson was the fireman.

Just as the train was about to start two masked men leaped into the cab and before Kilmartin knew what was up, the cold muz-

zles of a brace of Colt's navy revolvers were placed close to the faces of the fireman and engineer. Both were completely taken by surprise, still they never lost their presence of mind nor did they give way to bodily fear. The engineer appeared as calm as if their action was a joke and actually turned round smilingly to the robbers and asked them what in the devil they wanted. He was quickly informed to "pull out quick or mass would be celebrated over your remains within two days." Jimmy blessed himself and promptly obeyed. After running about three hundred yards the leader of the desperadoes ordered a halt. When the train came to a stand still the engineer and fireman were directed to cut loose from the train the express, baggage and mail cars and send them to a point about a quarter of a mile further down the track. This was quickly obeyed, and, with Kilmartin in the lead armed with a coal pick, the party filed off the engine and wended their way back to the express car, the main object of attack. Just as they were passing the mail car the postal clerk, Shurlock, a nervous youth of some twenty-four years, anxious to learn what was going on, thrust his head out the door, when he was immediately ordered to join the party and he did so without any ceremony.

On reaching the express car Kilmartin was commanded by the robbers to knock in the door with the pick and he at once commenced the work. The sounds made by his banging at the doors seemed to touch the sky above. The night was still and not a sound was heard anywhere except the noise made in the attempt to batter down door. The robbers stood behind with revolvers cocked ready for instant use should even a move be made to disobey their commands. The suspense of the captives was terrible. The poor mail clerk as well as the fireman almost fainted from fear and only brave Jimmy Kilmartin retained his coolness and presence of mind, though he has said since that he expected every moment to be shot to death. Over \$30,000 in paper and silver were in the safe in the car and the robbers were determined to possess it if bravery and determination would secure it.

Inside the car seated upon a box opposite the door at which Jimmy was whacking, sat Ed. Angevine, the messenger. In his hands he held a gun heavily charged with buck shot awaiting the appearance of the robbers determined to empty its contents into the face of the first one which appeared after the door fell. But judge of his chagrin when he recognized the voice of Kilmartin, who as he saw the door would soon give way, begged of Angevine not to shoot. "For heaven's sake, Eddy, don't shoot; it's me and I can't help it and the gentlemen here who are bossing the job say I must or die," said the engineer in pleading tones.

Angevine immediately dropped his gun and slipped out through the rear door and ran rapidly to New Salem, faster far than he ever got over ground before.

When the door was finally battered in, Kilmartin was ordered to enter first, and soon the postal clerk, the fireman and robbers were beside him. But Angevine had fled and the safe could not be opened. This angered the robbers intensely, but with terrible oaths swore they would not be baffled entirely and so headed the party to the mail car in which there was an exceedingly heavy registered mail. Postal Clerk Shurlock was commanded to enter with one of the robbers, while the remaining "Knight of the Road" held Kilmartin, the fireman and a brakeman, who had come to inquire what was going on—under cover on the outside. Shurlock was forced to unlock the cage in which was placed all the registered packages, cut open all the through pouches, and, with the local registers in the car, transfer their contents to a large tie sack. The number of registers filled the sack to the "neck," and that, too, after the clerk was compelled to bounce them up and down on the floor so as to make room for the entire lot.

The sack was then placed on the shoulders of the engineer, and with the balance of the party, he was marched down the track, over a bridge and round a curve, a half mile beyond the glare of the locomotive headlight. Fifty yards beyond the bridge a canoe was found tied up and into it was placed the great sack of mail.

Then the robbers gave the captives a warning in the manner of their return to the train and swore they would shoot them down if they even turned their heads backward. It is hardly necessary to state that they made all haste in their return trip and was only too glad to escape with their lives. They almost fell over each other in their eagerness to get back and it was a strange and most unusual flight of three men for their lives. Even when crossing the bridge, they ran with furious strides over its dangerous track, which one misstep would hurl them almost to instant death by concussion or by drowning. And when at last they arrived at the locomotive almost breathless, with the quickest possible action they mounted the cab and Kilmartin sounded the whistle making it screech as never before. The fireman rang the bell with all his might and the great iron horse was soon backing down to the train. The passengers had all been notified of what had happened and the twenty minutes consumed in the robbery seemed to them like twenty years. Some hid behind their seats for security while others left the train in their fright. The express messenger had notified everybody of the situation and the consternation of all on board may be imagined but never fully realized unless the same experience shall have been gone through.

This was one of the boldest and most audacious train robberies that ever occurred in this country, surpassing the most desperate known in the annals of crime. It was committed within thirty-five miles of the capital of North Dakota and a little less than one

mile from a village of three hundred people and the hour was not late. The train was made up of eight passenger coaches, three of which were sleepers, and not less than two hundred people were on board; and yet the deed was done by but two bold and determined men, neither of whom were twenty-eight years of age. It sounds like the exploits of a modern Jack Sheppard.

The booty secured by the robbers was very large, as something valuable was in every package. The amount of cold cash taken is estimated at about \$8,000. The exact amount will never be known until all complaints shall have been made of losses sustained. But the "divy" was large and had both the robbers escaped, the amount of their swag would have been quite satisfying to them.

The knowledge of the robbery was known before the train reached Mandan, only thirty-five miles distant, and the next morning it was spread all over the United States. In less than three hours after its occurrence many of the particulars had been wired to Captain Jim Stuart, the chief postoffice inspector in Chicago, and on the first train out in the morning the gallant captain, the hero of hundreds of important arrests of criminals charged with rifling the mails, had one of his most trusted lieutenants start on a journey to the scene of the robbery. It was William Watkins, one of the youngest members of Captain Stuart's inspecting force. He was not only ambitious but daring and skillful, and he left on his mission determined to succeed.

Watkins arrived at New Salem on the second morning after the robbery and lost no time arranging to commence his pursuit of the outlaws.

Himself and posse then started down along the track on well mounted and fleet footed horses to the place where the robbers crossed the river after they had ordered off the engineer, postal clerk and brakeman. Once over, the trail was easily caught and followed for a mile due south, leading to a secluded thicket in the rear of a steep hill, where it was found that two horses had been picketted within a very recent period, certainly not over two days before, and that one of the horses had no shoe on his left fore foot. This was conclusive evidence that they were on the right trail and they determined to follow it. From there for a distance of eight miles it was easily kept when it was suddenly lost owing to the peculiar condition of the soil they encountered. They decided to continue in the same direction, however, hoping to find it again before dark. Their course was southwesterly from New Salem and in the direction of the "Black Hills," for Watkins knew that it would be the aim of the robbers to get as far south of the railroad as possible into an almost inhabitable section of country. The inspector and his posse moved slowly, watching the ground in every direction. They kept up the same line of pursuit for a distance of fifteen miles, when, to the complete astonishment of the party,

they came to the place where the robbers had dismounted, rifled every registered letter and package, took the money and destroyed the remnants by fire. The money taken amounted to about \$8,000 and it was divided equally between them. The breech loading shotgun taken by them from the express car, was then broken and destroyed.

The trail from that point became visible again at times, run for an hour or two, then it would suddenly disappear, many times for five or ten miles. But Watkins had a theory in regard to the course of the robbers, and he determined to follow it to a logical sequence and therefore kept on in the same direction. He did this for a distance of seventy-five miles until he arrived at Cedar Creek. At that point he started one of his posse up the stream and another down. This was done to find the place at which the robbers crossed. All of the party dismounted and hitched their horses for a rest, but in less than twenty minutes one of them returned with the information that he had found the foot prints of the horses on the bank of the river not a quarter of a mile distant. That was glad tidings, and they quickly remounted and rode rapidly to the point indicated.

It appears, however, from subsequent developments that one of the robbers could not swim, and that the other, who proved to be Chas. E. Bailey, attempted to find a fording place for his accomplice by riding his horse up and down the river and cross and back, and that it was while in that act that his animal became bogged and sustained an injury in one of his limbs that afterwards led to the arrest of his rider.

Seeing the serious predicament in which Bailey had gotten into with his horse down in the mire and deep water on every side of him, the accomplice coolly mounted his horse and left his companion to his fate, and has never been seen or heard of from that time to the present, and will probably never be caught.

But Bailey and his horse finally extricated themselves and crossed the river in safety. His animal, however, was seriously crippled in one of his limbs by his terrible exertions to pull himself out of the mud in which he had become embedded to a depth of a foot or more. His journey from that onward was quite slow, little dreaming of the close proximity of the officers of the law.

In order to shorten a long story of details in regard to the pursuit and capture of Bailey, it is only necessary to say that Watkins and his party crossed the river and again found the trail and pursued it with all possible haste. For four days from the time the search began, with but little food and water and under a burning sun, the trail not not always visible, many times not at all, and often very uncertain, the officers pressed forward in pursuit of the fugitives.

On the morning of June 12th, when one hundred and fifty miles southwest from New Salem, Watkins and his party saw at a long

distance ahead of them a tall, athletic appearing person standing near a horse that was hobbled and grazing, and the solitary man was none other than the robber they had been striving so hard to capture. It was Chas. E. Bailey, who had stopped for an hour to rest his wearied horse.

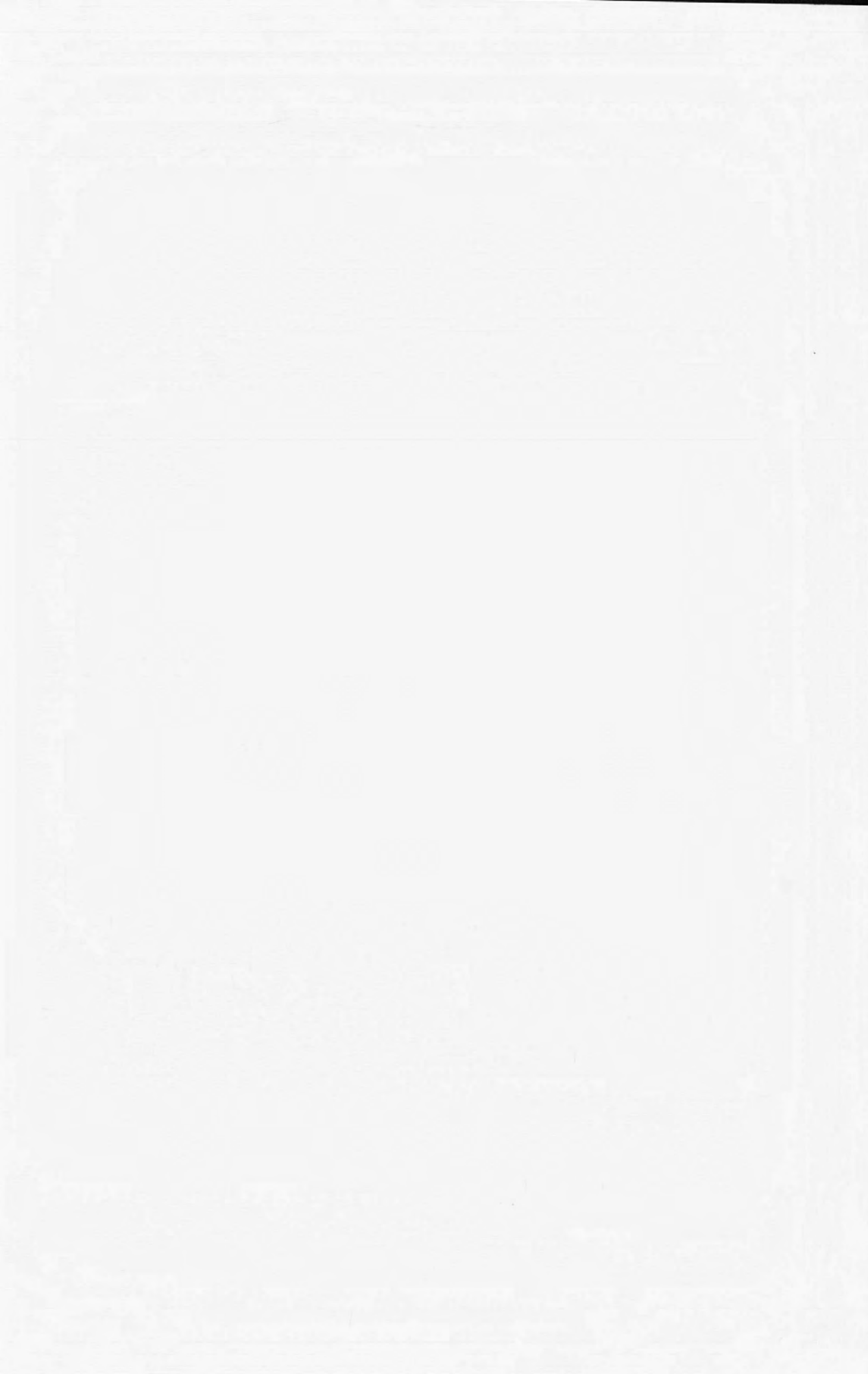
The moment Bailey saw the approaching party he quickly saddled his animal and made off as fast as he could carry him, but he was lame and rapidly lost ground, and Bailey soon saw that escape was impossible. He urged his faithful steed to the utmost, but it was an unequal race, and the distance between the pursuers and the pursued gradually diminished, when all of a sudden he stopped his horse and faced his captors. He quickly dropped a wad of something, which afterwards proved to be his share of the robbery. Then he raised his gun and took deliberate aim at one of his pursuers. Watkins and his assistants, who were riding rapidly, were unprepared for this display of bravery and mad desperation, and were not a little nonplussed at what seemed to sure death to one of the three; but they, too, were brave, and as quickly as possible raised their trusty Winchester rifles and prepared to send him to his reward beyond, when, as quickly as he raised his gun he as suddenly lowered it, and calmly awaited the approach of his captors, and in less than ten minutes from the time he was seen a mile distant he was under arrest. When taken he was found with a sorrel horse, with the shoe missing on his left fore foot, which confirmed the opinion of the officers when they first examined the trail.

The "wad" Bailey dropped was not found until four days after his capture, and it was not until then that it was ascertained that it was made up of bank bills. But little of the \$4 000 was ever recovered. Much of it was chewed into pulp by roving animals, and some of the bills were found torn, ragged and worthless from mutilation miles distant.

In order to absolutely fix the guilt upon Bailey, Inspector Carraway took the three remaining shoes from off the feet of the horse and fitted them in the tracks on the farm of a Mr. Gillis, where Bailey and his companion had camped for a week prior to the robbery. He also did the same with the boots owned by Bailey, thereby fixing upon him the perpetration of the robbery, so that there was no question as to his guilt.

Bailey was taken to Fargo and placed in jail until the 14th of October last, when he plead guilty, and was sentenced to eight years' confinement at the prison at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Capt. Jim Stuart, from whom the editor of the UNITED STATES MAIL learned the foregoing particulars, is very happy over its completeness, and Colonel Rathbone, the chief inspector of the United States, is proud of the achievement. We saw at Captain Stuart's office one of the shoes worn by Bailey's horse and also Bailey's boots.



VOL. VIII.

SEPTEMBER + 1892.

NO. 9.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

\$1.50 A YEAR.)

THE UNITED STATES MAIL

THE FRIEND OF THE POSTMASTERS.



UNCLE SAM ON THE FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

Instruction.

Amusement.

An Expounder of
Postal Laws and Regulations.
Untrammelled.
Fearless.

NEW YORK CITY,
280 BROADWAY,

E. C. BROWN, Editor and Publisher.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Everything that Pertains to the Trade. **22** Separate Departments.
Our No. 34 Catalogue Mailed free on receipt of Satisfactory Business Card.

ESTABLISHED 1863.



S. F. MYERS & CO., Manufacturing *and* Wholesale Jewelers.

WATCHES,	PENS, HOLDERS, &c.,	TOOLS AND MATERIALS.
DIAMONDS.	SOLID SILVER WARE,	OPTICAL GOODS, LAMPS,
GOLD JEWELRY,	CLOCKS, BRONZES, &c.,	CANES AND UMBRELLAS,
PLATED JEWELRY,	SILVER PLATED WARE,	JOBGING AND REPAIRS.

48 & 50 MAIDEN LANE, 33 & 35 LIBERTY ST., N. Y.

LARGEST ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS KIND.

MENTION THE UNITED STATES MAIL IN ANSWERING ABOVE

Claims Paid, over \$800,000.00.

THE HOME . . . BENEFIT . . . ASSOCIATION,

Offices: 135 and 137 Broadway, New York.

RESERVE FUND DIVIDENDS every year after the Fifth. Economical Life Insurance. Safe! Sure! Sound! The Company for active workers. General and Special Agents for Territory at present unoccupied will be given liberal compensation and will find our plan of insurance a good one to present. For terms, particulars and all information, address as above.

For those who buy Insurance.

For those who sell Insurance.

The net cost of twenty years' Accident Insurance in the **MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY** of Geneva, N. Y., is \$73.80, or an average of \$3.69 per year, under its "Return Premium" Policy.

Death Benefit, \$5,000. Other benefits same as in policies issued by other first-class Companies.

For particulars, address

WM. D. CHASE, Sec'y and Gen'l Manager.

**MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY,
GENEVA, N. Y.**

OUR PLAN IS ENTIRELY NEW

Assets over	-	-	-	-	-	\$100,000
Reserve Fund with the N. Y. State Ins. Department,	-	-	-	-	-	50,000

SPECIAL TERMS TO FIRST-CLASS SOLICITORS.

GOOD GOODS SOLD CHEAP, SELL EASILY.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Everything that Pertains to the Trade. 22 Separate Departments.
Our No. 34 Catalogue Mailed free on receipt of Satisfactory Business Card.

ESTABLISHED 1863.



S. F. MYERS & CO., Manufacturing and Wholesale Jewelers.

WATCHES,	PENS, HOLDERS, &c.,	TOOLS AND MATERIALS.
DIAMONDS,	SOLID SILVER WARE,	OPTICAL GOODS, LAMPS,
GOLD JEWELRY,	CLOCKS, BRONZES, &c.,	CANES AND UMBRELLAS,
PLATED JEWELRY,	SILVER PLATED WARE,	JOBGING AND REPAIRS.

48 & 50 MAIDEN LANE, 33 & 35 LIBERTY ST., N. Y.

LARGEST ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS KIND.

MENTION THE UNITED STATES MAIL IN ANSWERING ABOVE

Claims Paid, over \$800,000.00.

THE HOME ... BENEFIT ... ASSOCIATION,

Offices: 135 and 137 Broadway, New York.

RESERVE FUND DIVIDENDS every year after the Fifth. Economical Life Insurance. Safe! Sure! Sound! The Company for active workers. General and Special Agents for Territory at present unoccupied will be given liberal compensation and will find our plan of insurance a good one to present. For terms, particulars and all information, address as above.

For those who buy Insurance.

For those who sell Insurance.

The net cost of twenty years' Accident Insurance in the **MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY** of Geneva, N. Y., is \$73.80, or an average of \$3.69 per year, under its "Return Premium" Policy.

Death Benefit, \$5,000. Other benefits same as in policies issued by other first-class Companies.

For particulars, address

WM. D. CHASE, Sec'y and Gen'l Manager.

**MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY,
GENEVA, N. Y.**

OUR PLAN IS ENTIRELY NEW

Assets over	-	-	-	-	-	\$100,000
Reserve Fund with the N. Y. State Ins. Department,	-	-	-	-	-	50,000

SPECIAL TERMS TO FIRST-CLASS SOLICITORS.

GOOD GOODS SOLD CHEAP, SELL EASILY.

POSTMASTERS,
 SEND FOR CATALOGUE TO
THE SADLER CO. BALTIMORE, MD.
 KANSAS CITY, MO.



**Photograph of our "B-16" Post Office Cabinet
 WHICH CONTAINS**

48 Wire Bottom (Dustless) Call Boxes,
 16 Solid Bronze Lock Boxes (3 Keys),
 24 Wire Bottom Boxes for Letters,
 16 Wire Bottom Boxes for Newspapers,
 5 Boxes above Window for Envelopes, etc.,

Solid Bronze P. O. Sign over Window,
 Solid Bronze Letter Drop,
 Brass Rod Wicket with Folding Doors,
 Cash Drawer, Spring Lock, Coin Tray,
 Numbered Name Cards for each Box.

A Complete Working Post Office, 3 feet 8 inches high, by 4 feet 6 inches long, for

\$37.50 CASH, OR \$50.00 ON INSTALMENTS.

(Payable in five quarterly payments, without interest; first payment with order.)

Price, **WITH 8 LOCK BOXES**, \$27.50 Cash, or \$35.00 on Instalment.

WITHOUT LOCK BOXES, \$17.00 " " \$20.50 " "

We Pay the Freight to any R. R. Station in the United States.

EVERYTHING FOR POSTMASTERS

(See September No. Official Postal Guide.)

POSTMASTERS,

SEND FOR CATALOGUE TO

**THE SADLER CO. BALTIMORE, MD.
KANSAS CITY, MO.****RUBBER STAMPS FOR POST OFFICE USE.****SELF-INKING STAMP PADS.**COLORS: BLACK, RED, PURPLE, GREEN AND
BLUE

- No. 0— $2\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$. Price, 20 cents.
 No. 1— $2\frac{3}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$. Price, 35 cents.
 No. 2— $3\frac{1}{4}$ x $6\frac{1}{4}$. Price, 50 cents.

IMPROVED LINE DATERS.

Complete with box of dates for years, months and days, tweezers, etc. The holders are of metal, neatly finished, with enameled handle. They are made in five styles, as shown below.

**PRICES.**

- Nos. 1, 2 and 3, each, \$0.75
 No. 4..... 1.00
 No. 5..... 1.25

Postage paid.

No. 1.
MAY 20 1888
 No. 2.
MAY 20 1888
 No. 3.
SEP 24 1888
 No. 4.
OCT 25 1888
 No. 5.
JUN 23 1888

We furnish the entire set of Fifteen One-Line Stamps for Post Office use, as per samples below, postage paid, for

ONLY \$1.00.

The first three lines will be altered to suit the name of Postmaster, Assistant Postmaster, Town, etc.

J. I. NORRIS, P. M.
L. Kain, Asst. P. M.
Richmond, Va.

DUE 1 CENT.
DUE 2 CENTS.
REGISTERED NO.
CORRECT.
RETURN TO WRITER.
POSTAGE DUE.
ADVERTISED.
UNCLAIMED.
Third Class Matter.
MISSENT.
FORWARDED.
HELD FOR POSTAGE.

If less than 15 of these Stamps are wanted, the first 3 on the list will be 12 cents each, cash with order, the remainder 6 cents each as we have them in stock.



Price for this Hand, 15 cents.

Contractors to U.S. Post Office Department

(See September No. Official Postal Guide.)

The Ladies' Home Journal



will give

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

To the person sending in the largest list of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS

To the person sending in the second largest list of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

To the three persons sending in the next three largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

To the five persons sending in the next five largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

To the twenty persons sending in the next twenty largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

FIFTY DOLLARS EACH

To the twenty persons sending in the next twenty largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

This \$6,400 in cash will be divided as indicated among the 50 persons sending the largest clubs of Yearly subscribers at One Dollar each, between now and January 1st, in addition to the large cash commission which they earn (and retain) for every subscriber secured. For details concerning this cash commission write to us.

The following persons were the winners of the Cash Prizes offered in our subscription contest which closed June 1st, 1892:

500 DOLLARS Subs.	200 DOLLARS Subs.
C. O. T. Larson . Nebraska 678	W. H. Moore . New York 462

150 DOLLARS EACH

H. A. Kenyon . Illinois . 342	L. Conant . . Illinois . 261
-------------------------------	------------------------------

100 DOLLARS EACH

C. W. Bennett . Michigan 222	Rev. Jesse Brown New York 145
Miss C. M. Swan California 192	Cora Stoner . . Indiana 143
Rose Jones . . Iowa . . 177	

50 DOLLARS EACH

Mrs. F. T. Bidell . . . West Virginia . . . 140	Sarah Kittridge . . . Massachusetts . . . 67
Miss S. A. Turner . . . Vermont . . . 139	Miss E. C. Pope . . . Maryland . . . 64
Libbie Cassedy . . . New Jersey . . . 133	Clara Lanum . . . Ohio . . . 56
C. B. Tuttle . . . Kansas . . . 125	Flora Newly . . . Indiana . . . 52
Mrs. A. E. Hummel . . . Pennsylvania . . . 106	Chester Brown . . . Vermont . . . 52
E. R. Kelsey . . . Massachusetts . . . 103	Mrs. J. I. McCormick . . . Pennsylvania . . . 52
Miss H. I. Seeley . . . California . . . 100	Rev. E. W. Cummings . . . Vermont . . . 51
Edna Jones . . . Kansas . . . 83	Mrs. T. J. Sherk . . . Minnesota . . . 50
Miss S. A. Lacy . . . Connecticut . . . 81	Miss M. E. Terry . . . Connecticut . . . 50
Effie A. Pattie . . . Texas . . . 74	Mrs. M. A. Ratliff . . . Illinois . . . 45

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

433-435 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE FRIEND OF THE POSTMASTERS.

VOL. VIII.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1892.

No. 9.

OBITUARY.

Ex-Postmaster E. D. Hall, of Meriden, Conn., died on Sept. 10, aged 60, after an illness of a week. He was appointed postmaster by Mr. Hayes. He was in the insurance business. He leaves a wife and one daughter.

Colonel John F. Bates, of Dubuque, Iowa, who during President Cleveland's administration rendered official service as superintendent of the free delivery system in the post-office department, died suddenly in Washington on September 4, of asthma. Since his retirement from office Colonel Bates had been practicing law. He leaves a widow and one son.

ROBBERIES.

Numerous complaints having been made to the department this summer by the residents and visitors of Atlantic City, N. J., of the loss of special delivery letters, the government detectives were placed on the case, and on Sept. 10 arrested Holand Hewitt, who is chief clerk of the distributing department of the Atlantic City post-office, as the culprit. He has been connected with the department since 1887, and enjoyed the confidence of both a Democratic and Republican postmaster.

Decoy letters were used in detecting the thefts, and Inspector Griggs, who caused Hewitt's arrest, claims that the evidence is so convincing that there is no doubt of his guilt, though the latter states that he is able to

prove his innocence. He was taken to Camden, to be detained for a hearing the following week before a United States commissioner. Hewitt was to have been married next month. Up to this writing we are unable to give the result of his case.

The post-office at Wilmington, Del., was entered by burglars on Sept. 17. After carrying the safe out of the office they ransacked it of \$500 in money and carried off several valuable letters and papers.

A. B. Farrel, mail contractor on the route from Tallahassee, Fla., to Carrabelle, on the Gulf coast, was arrested on September 10, on the charge of robbing the mail. For three years past there have been reported losses on the route of registered letters and packages of great value, but suspicion had not been directed to Farrel until about three weeks ago, when Post-Office Inspector Fred D. Pees took the case up.

Farrel declares his entire innocence, but was committed to jail the next day in default of \$6,000 bail.

The loss of money on the Carrabelle route is estimated to be over \$10,000 in the past twenty-one months.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL. MONTHLY.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF FOURTH
CLASS POSTMASTERS.

ONE YEAR,	-	-	-	-	\$1.50
Eight Months,	-	-	-	-	1.00
Six Months,	-	-	-	-	.75
Four Months,	-	-	-	-	.50

E. C. BROWN, - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

NEW YORK, - 280 Broadway.

Rentittances for subscriptions or advertisements should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Entered at the Post Office in New York as second-class matter.

KEEP EVERLASTINGLY AT IT.

The great inpouring of letters from Fourth Class Postmasters in every section of the country in response to our editorial in the August number as to whether it was the wish and expectation of the Fourth Class Postmasters throughout the country for the UNITED STATES MAIL to again engage in its effort to secure increased compensation has assured us that it is the wish of a large majority of the Fourth Class Postmasters that the UNITED STATES MAIL should renew the fight this fall and attempt to see justice given the poorly paid Fourth Class Postmasters. Our duty, then, seems to be plain, and we have buckled on the armor, and we shall make a determined effort, leaving no stone unturned in the hope and expectation that Congress at its next session will see only too plainly the imperative necessity for granting immediate relief to the patient and long-suffering postmaster. We are well aware of the difficulties surrounding the case, but we now feel assured that we may count upon the earnest support, in every possible way, of a large number of incumbents of Fourth Class offices, and among them nearly every man who lent his aid last winter, that we feel the effort to be made this fall will not be so difficult, owing to the coöperation of the National Association of Fourth Class Postmasters.

Nevertheless it is highly necessary if success is to be won that a large accession of new recruits must be secured; therefore it stands in hand for every Fourth Class Postmaster to lend his aid and encouragement not only to the UNITED STATES MAIL but to the officers of their National Association. It is only too plain to us that in the event of Mr. Harrison's re-election—and who among the Fourth Class Postmasters does not believe that that result is a fixed fact—unless concerted action is taken and a new bill re-introduced at the very opening of the coming Congress, that they will run along another four years on their already too small stipend. It is time for action, and we hope this article will insure the receipt by us of a still further number of letters, whose writers will assure us of their hearty coöperation and determination to see justice dealt out, not only to themselves but to that great army of struggling veterans of the service.

FOURTH CLASS POSTMASTERS.

(From THE UNITED STATES MAIL of August, 1892.)

The bill introduced by Senator Brice and Congressman Cummings in the upper and lower houses of Congress never saw the light of day. This just and honorable prayer for the relief of thousands of honest and tireless governmental servants, who for the most part do not receive sufficient compensation to keep body and soul together, was simply ignored by the members of the National Legislature composing the committee on post-offices and post roads, and, in the language of one of the shrewdest of postmasters working for its passage:

* * * "It was the intention of the postal administration to kill our bill in committee." We incline to the same thought. Now shall we rest on our oars and make no further effort to secure from this government that measure of relief which constant toil and strict attention to the requirements of the office exact, or shall we move onward and forward and prepare for the meeting of the next Con-

gress, and in the mean time lay the ropes that will pull the latch that has always in the past opened for every class of government officials save only the fourth class postmaster.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is with the postmaster until the end, and here and now announces its steadfast intention to "keep everlastingly at it" until the right is made to prevail. Remember, there are many Congressmen between now and the ides of November who will sit on the steps of every post-office in this land of liberty and appeal for "help." Remember, then, the "Lord helps those who help themselves."

"Thrice armed is he that hath his quarrel just."

—*Shakespeare.*

"And four times he who gets his blow in fust."

—*Josh Billings.*

GIVE US THE FACTS, MR. CUSHING.

Marshall Cushing, in the *New York Press*, gives an exhaustive review of the work of the post-office department and he paints it in the most "roseate tints," the chief aim apparently being to show how the deficit in the department is being lessened by the present administration. But alas; we fail to find any account or comment of how thousands of fourth-class men are toiling for a miserable pittance, that the ends of the leading lights in the department may be served.

While you are talking on the subject, Mr. Cushing, give us both sides, and let the public see how these economies are in many instances almost keeping the bread out of the mouths of these poor, patient and patriotic public servants. We doubt very much if the common people would sanction any such course did they know the true facts in the case. Give it to us, Mr. Cushing, and in the language of the New York street urchin, "give it to us straight."

MAILS AT A DOG TROT.

IT TOOK TWENTY-FOUR DAYS FROM NEW YORK TO CINCINNATI.

It is hard to believe that only fifty-seven years ago, a time within the memory of many old residents of this city, a letter took twenty-four days in transit between New York and Cincinnati. Here is a letter addressed to "Nicholas Carroll, Esq., Cincinnati, Ohio," postmarked "New York, Dec. 18," and also marked "Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 11," the difference between the two dates being three weeks and a half. The letter was afterward forwarded to New York, "care of Messrs. Gideon Lee & Co., No. 20 Ferry street." The name of this firm will have a familiar sound to some leather merchants still doing business in the "Swamp."

In addition to the interest which this old letter has as a curiosity of the mails, it contains the account of an eyewitness of the great fire of 1835. It is written upon a full sheet of foolscap paper, and was mailed, after the fashion of that time, without an envelope, the address being written upon the blank fourth page and the whole sealed with a wafer. There is no stamp of course, but the post-office department has marked it with a pen, "2P 25-50." The postmarks in red ink are much larger and plainer than those of the present.

The letter is dated New York, Dec. 17, 1835. "It is with the deepest feeling of regret," the writer says, "that I try to give you a faint idea of the horrible calamity that befell our city last night. It is indeed one of the greatest disasters that ever visited this country or probably any country since the memorable conflagration of Moscow. Almost the whole business part of the city is one heap of ruins."

"About 8.45 o'clock last evening fire was discovered breaking out in two or three places in the stores in Pearl street, just below Wall street, on the side nearest the exchange. There was almost a gale blowing from the northwest, which immediately drove the flames across Pearl street, where they enveloped ten or twelve stores, and in a few minutes the fire was driven through to Water street, and thence to the East river, sparing nothing in its course on the lower side of Wall street."

The shipping in that quarter was almost every moment catching, and the tide was too low to float them out in the river, some of them being aground.

"The fire continued to drive on toward the Battery, enveloping the exchange and making steady progress down toward Old slip and to William street, sweeping everything in its way to a level with the ground. It then extended through Exchange place to William street, up William to Wall on both sides, then through the South Dutch church, taking the whole block below through to Broad street, except the stores fronting on Broad street. You can now imagine the whole space from the block fronting on Broad street down to the East river one broad sheet of fire and rapidly moving down to the Battery. The engines had long since given up all hope of doing anything; it was utterly out of their power, as the hose froze as fast as it was filled up.

"I was on the spot a few minutes after the fire broke out and stayed till about 7.30 this morning, helping, as much as I was able, my friends to move their own and their employees' books and valuables. It was a bitter cold night, and this morning you can perhaps imagine my feelings, but you cannot my looks. It is now 12 o'clock, and I have not been from the stove since I came from the fire, but I hear that it is raging almost as much as ever and has burned up everything this side of Coenties slip.

"Dec. 18.—Your letter remained unfinished yesterday, as I thought it would be useless to attempt to mail it in the confusion necessarily attendant upon the removal of the post-office. They saved everything, I believe, connected with that department, and are now under the custom-house. The fire is got under and has not reached below Coenties slip. They stopped its further progress in Pearl street by blowing up one or two stores in Pearl street on the corner of Coenties slip, where, you will recollect, the slip is narrow and there was danger of the fire reaching across. Among our acquaintances burned out are Cheesebrough, lost all his clothes, saved \$15,000 out of \$70,000; D. Stoutenburgh, John Birdsall, etc. People are more cool to-day, and say the loss is between \$30,000,000 and \$50,000,000.

"The case now stands thus: Begin on the lower side of Coffee House slip and come up Wall street to William, thence diagonally back of the Phoenix bank to the stores fronting on Broad street; then it has made a clean sweep within this circle to the East river down to Coenties slip, where it is now burning. Everything within this is destroyed—the exchange, post-office, A. Tappan & Co.—everything is gone. Everybody wears a gloomy face this morning, and with reason. Some of the effects will be the failure of all fire insurance companies in the city, and people coming in while I am writing say that at least half of the merchants in New York must fail, and half the banks. In short, there is no end to the misery that will be produced. The loss at the present time is variously estimated at from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 in goods and property. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained."

People were not cool enough even on the second day to reach rational figures, for the loss by the great fire of 1835 was afterward computed at \$18,000,000. The houses and stores destroyed numbered 648. There was no Croton water then to fight fire with. The Croton system had been determined upon a year before, but it was not opened until 1842. The first transatlantic steamship entered the harbor six years later, in 1841, and in that year the first telegraph line was established. The writer of this interesting reminder of a half century ago was Edwin R. Tremain.—*New York Times*.

A PLUCKY MAIL DRIVER.

Frederick Ward, driver of the United States mail wagon, while driving across the mountains west of South Orange, N. J., at about 9 o'clock on the night of September 12, was stopped by two masked highwaymen.

One of the robbers jumped upon the wagon and commanded Ward to surrender all his money and valuables. Ward, who had \$100 in his possession, did not give it up, but fought the robbers off with an iron bar.

He struck one of them with the bar, knocking him from the wagon. He then whipped up his team and drove away at a rapid pace and escaped. He reported the attempted robbery to the police the next morning, but no clew could be found to the footpads.

A NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.

HOUSE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY BOXES TO BE INTRODUCED.

On Sept. 9th, Postmaster General Wanamaker issued his expected order deputizing the postmasters of free-delivery cities, towns, and rural communities to put up letter boxes at the request of citizens, for the collection and delivery of mail at house doors. The order effects nearly 3,000,000 residences to which the free-delivery service is already extended, and it is regarded by postal experts as to the most important departure in the free delivery of mails since the beginning of the system under Postmaster General Blair.

The canvass of models of boxes to be recommended has lasted over two years, and the recommended boxes have stood the test of actual experience. In the test upon the Washington carrier's routes, where boxes were put up on houses situated mostly on the building line, an actual saving of time on the trip of the carrier was half an hour or more, and in the test upon the St. Louis routes, where the boxes were all put up on houses 75 feet from the sidewalk, there was an actual gain of several minutes.

This gain comes from the fact that much time formerly consumed by the carrier in waiting for people to come to doors to receive their mails is not all taken up in calling at houses where the automatic signal, seen from the sidewalk, indicates that mail is to be collected. In St. Louis more than four times as much mail was deposited in the house letter boxes as had formerly been dropped in the street letter boxes within the same area and in the same length of time.

The boxes vary in price from \$1 to \$2, and a given route is to be equipped when the postmaster finds that two-thirds of the householders desire the new double service. The post-office officials say that as no loss of time is involved to the carrier force, no extra carriers (except as the service naturally grows) are required, and if the saving of time on given routes is considerable enough, extra deliveries, always a necessity, may be put on with the same force of carriers.

The change means that as fast as patrons of the mails desire them the new facilities will

be within reach, without any expense to the householder except the first cost of the box, and without any departmental outlay at all, as the expenses of tests have been borne by the inventors themselves. It has already been decided to experiment, without cost to the department, with the house letter boxes in rural communities, in conjunction with the country free delivery and the star routes, and it is believed that if this house-to-house collection system comes generally into vogue, the robbery of letter boxes will perforce be done away with.

In response to the invitation of the postmaster general for models, designs, and specifications of house letter boxes, about 1,200 devices were submitted. These were referred to a commission of postal experts, of which Postmaster Van Cott of New York was chairman, for examination. This commission recommended for favorable consideration six of the devices, which in its opinion best met the requirements of the case. The postmaster general accepted the proposition of such of the inventors as desired to put up boxes at their own expense, to give a practical demonstration of their value.

Accordingly tests were made of four different boxes by the postmasters of St. Louis and Washington. The boxes will be exhibited at post-offices by the postmasters, and post-office employees have been directed to facilitate their introduction. Housekeepers desiring to try the new mail collection and delivery scheme must select and purchase a box of one of the styles approved by the department.

THE TRANS-ATLANTIC MAIL CONTRACT.

The Inman and International Navigation Co. will in all probability be awarded the transatlantic mail contract by Postmaster-General Wanamaker. It is said that Liverpool will probably be abandoned and Southampton adopted for the Great Britain terminus, Liverpool being one of the most expensive ports in the world and the stopping point of a great many ocean steamers, which has spoiled both the freight and passenger service by ruinous competition. It is thought that ere long the above change will be made on this account.

TO WRITE A BOOK.

It is said that Postmaster-General Wanamaker, encouraged by the notoriety gained by author Tom Watson, of Georgia, has determined to write a book. The forthcoming volume is to be devoted to Mr. Wanamaker's personal experience as postmaster-general. Throughout the department it is referred to as "Wanamaker's Book."

Several clerks have been engaged for some time past in the preparation of the manuscript, and everything was progressing finely until, according to a press dispatch from Washington, the author decided to include a number of illustrations in the publication. Portraits of a few of the leading bureau officers are to appear, but a special feature is to be the pictures of some of the handsomest of the women employees.

The rolls of the department undoubtedly contain the names of a large number of beautiful young women, and the selections of the subjects for "Wanamaker's Book" naturally caused a merry war to break out in the department. The favored ones who were invited to give the postmaster-general their respective tintypes were of course in high glee, but those who had been overlooked said some very mean things about the postmaster-general and those who assisted him in making the selections. Those who had not the necessary photographs on hand were authorized to go to a local artist and have them taken at the expense of the postmaster-general. That is, so the report says.

Mr. Wanamaker's annual reports have always been different from the general run of public documents of this character, and this year he intends to contribute a more than usually picturesque work to the government book shelves.

MODELS OF OUR POSTAL CARS IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN MUSEUM.

Some time ago the United States Post-Office had prepared two models of United States railway mail cars to be placed in the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin. These models were ten feet long, just one-sixth of the size of the regular postal car which cost the German Government \$1,000 apiece. The department, at its own expense, had the models fitted up

with the regular appliances and apparatus of the service, which made an exact reproduction of the postal car in use. They were then shipped to Germany. Sept. 17 the Post-Office Department received a communication from the German Government acknowledging the receipt of the models and extending thanks to the United States for its courtesy. The letter adds that the museum will now be able to clearly demonstrate to its visitors the excellent arrangement and operations of the United States railway mail service, and at the same time give an idea of the grand development of the United States postal traffic.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PERTH, N. Y.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL.

SIR: Among the many funny things received at this office recently was a letter directed to Mr. Slab Maker. We delivered the same to Mr. J. C. Lois, who owns a sawmill here. He proved to be the right person. We went on the principle that a man who runs a saw mill must be a slab maker. Your paper is a good one.

Yours respectfully, C. L. CODDING.

AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Charles E. Hatcher, one of Captain McGrath's secretaries in the city delivery department of the Chicago post-office, is preparing a unique exhibit for the post-office at the World's Fair grounds. Part of Mr. Hatcher's duties is to decipher badly addressed letters after all the post-office experts in that line have failed. In this Mr. Hatcher has no equal. The bulk of the badly addressed letters come from foreign lands. In sorting over these letters, Mr. Hatcher kept an account of the number of different ways the word Chicago is spelled. The record now shows 197 different ways. Some ripe scholar in Finland last week sent a letter to his brother here, and spelled the name of the exposition city Zizazo. Still another foreigner, possibly with a sinister motive, spelled the word Jagjago. Hipaho, Jajijo, Schecchacho, Hizago and Chachicho are also prime favorites and are all down on Mr. Hatcher's little list. He proposes to add to it until the World's Fair is opened, when the list will be put on exhibition. Mr. Hatcher has been at his work of collection but a few months, and he expects his list will be increased by the addition of several hundred by the time the fair is opened.

HARD TO COUNTERFEIT.

"The paper money of the United States is the least handsome in the world," said the proprietor of a money exchange. "That is because this Government depends entirely upon the intricacy and elaborateness of the designs on its notes and certificates for protection against counterfeiters. In foreign countries, on the other hand, much effort is directed to making their currency beautiful with pictures and arabesques in the classical style. Not only are the results pretty to look at, but they serve their chief purpose better, for any engraver will tell you that real art work on a bill is far more difficult to imitate than any purely mechanical effect, no matter how complicated the latter may be made by the geometric lathe and other devices.

"Most beautiful of all paper notes are those issued in France and Prussia. Here is a pretty Austrian bill for 100 florins, printed in blue ink with the design mainly composed of two large standing figures of cherubic children and an oval of children's heads. That seems a queer notion from our point of view for the ornamentation of currency, but it is certainly both interesting and handsome. This is a Russian bill for 100 rubles, done in pink and green. Here you have a Scotch note, issued by the 'British Linen Co.,' which promises to pay £5 on demand. In Great Britain the privilege of issuing paper money can be obtained by corporations other than banks from the Government.

"You will need a magnifying glass to examine this note with. It is Irish. The words 'one pound' are printed across it in big letters, but this broad stripe extending from one end to the other of the document is a curiosity. To the naked eye, even upon scrutiny, it seems to have no significance, but when magnified you will perceive that it is wholly made up of the words 'one pound' in microscopic letters. From the superficial appearance of the Bank of England notes you would suppose that they could be readily imitated by photography or otherwise, inasmuch as their designs consist of very little more than lettering in black that is almost severely simple. But that great financial institution depends altogether upon the water marking of its paper, which is wonderfully elaborate, as you can see by looking at the

light through it. This water marking has been imitated, but never with success."

—*Washington Star.*

POST-OFFICE ROBBER, MURDERER AND SUICIDE.

Inspector McCalmont, of Pennsylvania, identified at Jamestown, N. Y., recently, the remains of Patrick Dowd, of Dunkirk, the murderer of George J. Hess and a suicide, at Jamestown. Inspector McCalmont says Dowd was one of the smoothest rascals he ever attempted to follow. He has operated extensively in the robbing of post-offices throughout western Pennsylvania. He has been in prison in New York and Pennsylvania several times. Only a short time ago he was in Buffalo, where he disposed of a large number of postage stamps which he had stolen.

HIS MAIL BAG IN THE RIVER.

Mr. Bodell, the driver of the mail wagon between Luray and New Market, Va., on his trip on August 25 lost control of his team and was thrown out of his wagon and very badly hurt. The mail was lost in the Shenandoah River, but was afterward recovered. Mr. Bodell is seventy-four years old and a character in many respects, not having drank a drop of liquor or used tobacco in any way during his life.

"THE amount of moisture a letter of two or three pages will carry," says a business man, "is enormous, and is frequently heavy enough to turn the scale and call for more postage. A large batch of mail matter of mine was reported 'held for postage' not long ago, and on going to the post-office I found it weighed well within the limit. It was explained, however, that the mail was damp when delivered, and that the water soaked up by the paper must be paid for, although it has since evaporated, which seems to indicate that it is economical to copy letters at least an hour or two before mailing them."—*New York Tribune.*

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

BOX RENTING IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS OF WEST VIRGINIA.

One of the typical mountaineers came into the office at Williamson recently one day and seemed very much amused with the boxes. After a good deal of questioning and talk in regard to their use, Postmaster Kimball, Plympton, told him the price per quarter and explained the usefulness of boxes both to the postmaster and patrons. Finally after a good deal of reckoning he allowed he would take a nickel's worth.

The well-known Boston music publisher, Mr. F. Trifet, 408 Washington St., has published a collection of songs that is a credit alike to the compiler and to Mr. Charles D. Blake, who arranged the music. He has so constructed and harmonized the selections that not only can they be sung with or without accompaniment, but were the words of every song removed there would be a collection of instrumental pieces left without altering a single note. The choice of selections ranges from religious to secular, pathetic to humorous, ancient to modern—in short, from everything to its opposite. There are 256 pages, with 400 songs, and the volume is neatly printed and bound. By mail to any address it is sent postpaid for 60 cents, paper, or \$1, boards. Few, if any, other music books can compare with it as regards quantity, quality or price. It is an excellent fireside companion, and will help to while away many a happy hour in hundreds of homes.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

POSITION WANTED.

A lady with four years' experience in a Third Class Post-Office wishes to obtain a position; Western State preferred. Can give good references. Any postmaster requiring an assistant or clerk may correspond with

MARY W. PETTEE,

Gen. Delivery Clerk in
the Plattsmouth, Neb.,
Post-Office.

THE FLANNELETTE HYMNS OF JOHN WANAMAKER.

Is the political life of the Hon. John Wanamaker drawing to a close? We know not how else to account for the evident afflatus with which he has been afflated recently. His advertisements have long been noted for their occasional strains and touches of poetic genius. Now they are one long welter of rhythm, one vast procession and recession of the tides of song, with interludes and pauses in which you catch the rush of the cash railroads or the complaint of nickels dropping into the slot. There is an old, wild Northern strength, coupled with a meridional luxuriance of epithet about these Wanamakerian hymns. The strong brevity of the Icelandic or Anglo-Saxon poets is blended with the soft adjectives of Aristo. The Tennyson of "The Princess" and Swinburne before his Mother Goose period have also been studied by Mr. Wanamaker. But let us proceed to print in its proper poetic form the fancy Flannelette which this eminent Philadelphian has too modestly printed in prose:

"Sunset clouds and shimmer of moonbeams
Seem to have touched this year's Dress
Goods;

Warp-and-Woof woven of beauty and airiness,

Pinks and blues as if from cloudland.

The bright stuffs might have touched with the stars,

Fittingest fabrics and fair prices,

Poem pictures awaiting their frame.

"The wing of the Albatross was never more soft-white

Than the Cream Cloth so bird-named,

Other creams are Crépons, Henriettas,

Engadines, Challies, Serges and Crépes.

"Apricot, Willow, Petunia, Pecan,

Fawn, Vapor, Blue Pilote, new colors in Broadcloth,

Hints of new touches in dress beauty, one

Twenty-five, seventy-five, \$2, \$3.

"Bashkirtseff, Margate, and Krenelin again.

Women's suits never too many times told of.

At the same little prices to-day you can pick

From a batch of most picturesque prettiness.

Six-fifty and seven, eight-fifty and nine;

And Serge Suits at \$14.75.

The colors, the cutting, the tailor touch of finish

All help to keep these costumes in favor.

"Jackets for girls, and all sorts of jauntiness

In dresses of light-weight cloth, Guimpes to go under;

Other dresses to go over or to go by themselves

Without Guimpes. Children to be fitted may be

Fourteen years, or 4, or between.

Prices start at \$1.25 Chestnut street.

Second floor. The Fancy Flannelette Jacket

And Skirt at \$4.50 are Fatigue suits to

The Full Dress Costume, opportune for the outing,

Cool, comfortable, cheap.

Style and Service in happy union."

Are we reading Wanamaker or are we reading a newly discovered work by the author of "Piers Plowman"? "Jackets for girls, and all sorts of jauntiness, in dresses of light-weight cloth, guimpes to go under." Why, this is more Langlandese than Langland himself. But to more poetry:

"The soldierly set of a Zouave Blouse Suit
Delights almost any boy. The uncommonly little

Prices will delight almost any mother."

But here is the delirious dithyramb in which the poet is borne triumphantly to the crystalline heaven of song:

"Six styles at \$4.00,

Six styles at \$5.00,

Five styles at \$6.50,

Five styles at \$7.50."

This is the perfection of Flannelette verse. But is it a swan song? Are we to judge from it that the Hon. John Wanamaker is about to give up fancy Flannelette politics and return to fancy Flannelette poetry?

—N. Y. Sun.

DRAMA OF THE MAIL.

A letter once mailed no longer belongs to the sender, says the *Morning Journal*, but is the property of the person to whom it is addressed. Such is the postal law, but it is a law often violated by postmasters in small places where correspondents are likely to be personally known to the post-office authorities, and sometimes leads to curious complications in large ones where this is not the case.

Important business interests have been effected by the same law. A firm which had long been really insolvent, had succeeded in keeping the knowledge from the public, and continued to receive money from investors, which the partners employed dishonestly for their own advantage.

It was their intention to raise one more large sum of money, part of which was to be

contributed by a business friend of one of them, and then to leave the country with their spoil, and let their creditors shift for themselves.

But the wife of the business friend and the wife of the man who meant to victimize him frequently corresponded with each other, and the latter wrote a gay gossiping letter to the former, in which she mentioned that her husband had been in poor health lately on account of business troubles, but that she trusted their approaching trip to Canada would restore him.

Remembering too late that her husband had asked her to mention neither of these facts, and fearing to vex him, she went to the post-office to recall her letter.

The postmaster refused to give it up. She could give no good reason for demanding it, and became petulant and irritated when he continued to refuse. He remained firm, and the letter was sent. The receiver showed it to her husband, whose suspicions were aroused. He made an investigation, and as a consequence the dishonest firm was broken up and both the partners arrested and punished.

Intercepted letters have long been a theme of drama and romance. A letter which could not be intercepted, but had to go in spite of the sender's express desire and entreaty, might offer an interesting variety.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., has not yet free postal delivery for its outlying territory. The inspectors have been over the ground and reported that the sidewalks must be laid, the streets lighted, and houses numbered before the free delivery system can be introduced into the new territory.

A chemist declares that "next to pork the banana is the most indigestible thing a person can eat." This ought to be a sufficient warning to all who value a good digestion to refrain from eating bananas next to pork.—*Minneapolis Tribune*.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

POSTMASTERS!!!

We want you to have the UNITED STATES MAIL, because we feel that you need it in your business (thousands testify to this), and in order to further its circulation, we will make you the following

Liberal and Unprecedented Offers.

No. 1. Fine Ebony and Rolled Gold Desk Holder and Pen, LADIES' SIZE, very useful. Regular Price, \$1.50. We give this ELEGANT PREMIUM with solid gold 14 K. No. 3 Pen, and one year's new or renewal subscription, for \$1.75.

No. 2. Fine Ebony and Rolled Gold Telescope Holder and Pen, MEN'S SIZE. Regular price, \$2.25. We give this ELEGANT PREMIUM, with solid gold 14 K. No. 5 Pen and one year's new or renewal subscription, for \$2.00.

CAN YOU BEAT THIS ?
WE THINK NOT.

UNITED STATES MAIL,
280 Broadway,
New York City.

Premium
No. 1.

GUARANTEED TO PLEASE OR MONEY REFUNDED.

(SEE PAGE OPPOSITE.)

Premium
No. 2.

OUR GOLD PEN OFFER

Only a few more of these first quality and standard Gold Pens can be offered;
therefore act on the Premium at once if you want the Pen and
the MAIL for one price practically.

READ THESE UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

FROM THOSE WHO HAVE SECURED THE MAIL AND A PEN.

Postmaster Graves of Delaware Water Gap, Pa.:

"I received the gold pen you sent me as premium for my subscription to your valuable journal; it is every way satisfactory and I am only astonished that you can offer such a fine article at such a small addition to the subscription price. I consider it alone worth the two dollars you charge for both pen and subscription, and advise all postmasters to take advantage of this liberal offer. Your journal is exceedingly interesting to me. I welcome it more heartily than any other magazine I take, and think you should be well rewarded for getting up such a publication, and especially for your efforts to obtain for the underpaid fourth-class postmasters the addition to their compensation that they are so justly entitled to. You may count me a life subscriber to the MAIL, even if the fortune of politics should bereave me of business connection with the Post Office Department."

Postmaster Ferriday of Cedar Keys, Fla.:

"The gold pen you offered for 50 cents extra, as premium for subscription to the U. S. MAIL came last night. It is a fine one, and I trust all brother postmasters will be supplied with both pen and magazine."

Postmaster Carnahan of Larrabee, Ia.:

"The No. 1 gold pen and holder received from you as premium with the U. S. MAIL is a good one, and worth all you ask for both pen and Mail. The MAIL I would not do without for twice the subscription price."

Postmaster Watson of New Salem, Ill.:

"I am very much pleased with the pen, and I believe it alone is worth the money I paid for subscription and it also."

Postmaster Pittman of Cedar Hill, Tex.:

"Your premium received all O. K., and can say that I am much more than pleased with same and recommend it to all. Both the pen and holder are well worth the price alone, and just what they are represented to be in the MAIL."

Postmaster Martin of Butternut, Mich.:

"I wish to inform you that I have received your valuable premium, the gold pen, for which please accept thanks. I consider I got value received for my money in the pen alone. There is not a live postmaster who wishes to keep well posted in his official duties as postmaster who can very well dispense with a paper that supplies the long felt want that we can find in the UNITED STATES MAIL. I sincerely wish you success."

Postmaster Watkins of Warren, Ark.:

"The premium gold pen received of you August 31st is a 'daisy.' It alone is well worth the two dollars, much less the value of the U. S. MAIL to a Postmaster. Every Third and Fourth Class Postmaster should have both the MAIL and pen."

Postmaster Newton of Alpha, Ill.:

"The premium gold pen sent me by the UNITED STATES MAIL was received in good order and is giving good satisfaction."

Postmaster Scott of Bronson, Minn.:

"I received the gold pen as premium No. 2, and it pleases me very much. The pen is worth at least the price paid for subscription to the U. S. MAIL. I think this is a very liberal offer of the publisher, a gold pen and subscription to the MAIL for one year, with its valuable information, for the small sum of two dollars."

SEE ADVERTISEMENT ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

ADDRESS,

**UNITED STATES MAIL, 280 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK.**

BIG RUSH FOR STAMPS.

With the last day of June the fiscal year of the post-office department came to an end, and Uncle Sam's stamp agents all over the country are now shipping in their orders for new supplies by the wholesale. Although these orders all come direct to the post-office department in this city, they are not filled here. The great gray stone building between E and F, Seventh and Eighth streets, northwest, is not, as many people suppose, a great "gumstickum" and red-paper reservoir, where one can drop a dollar in the slot and draw out a string of stamps. Neither are the stamps manufactured here. In fact, about the only stamps which come to the city are to the Washington post-office, and these only through the same red-tape routine which is required of country postmasters.

The manner of which is as follows:

The general storekeeper and official representative of Uncle Sam at Happy Hollow, U. S., finding the post-office getting short of stamps, makes out an order upon a printed blank for the required number and sends it in to the post-office department at Washington. Here the account of the postmaster at Happy Hollow is looked up, and if his credit is still good, the order is approved, debited to his account, and forwarded to the government agent at the stamp factory. The American Bank Note Company are contractors for this class of work.

The stamps having been counted and carefully packed under the direction of the government agent, are shipped by registered mail direct to Happy Hollow. They are accompanied by a receipt which the postmaster signs and forwards to the Post-Office Department, where it is checked off on his account and also serves as a voucher. The Happy Hollow magnate then proceeds to recoup himself by retailing these stamps at their face value, ranging from 1 to 90 cents.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the actual cost of manufacture of the ordinary adhesive postage stamps is only about $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per thousand. Also that the number issued this year is something over two and a half billion, valued at something like \$50,000,000. Accordingly it would seem that there is a very pretty profit in the postage stamp business, but Uncle Sam has a

monopoly and doesn't seem inclined to divide even with his agents, most of whom consider themselves lucky if they get out even on their sales.

This year also there have been issued over 600,000,000 stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers, together with nearly 500,000,000 postal cards, and some 60,000,000 official and registered package envelopes. The total value of all stamps, envelopes, cards, etc., issued by the Post-office Department during the past year is something like \$65,000,000, or an average of about \$1 worth for each inhabitant of the United States. So it appears as a whole, we are quite a nation of letter writers, whatever may be our individual failings, according to our friends.

The Plimpton Manufacturing Co. and Morgan Envelope Co., of Hartford, Conn., made the stamped envelopes, and the registered-package, tag, official, and dead-letter envelopes are furnished by White, Corbin & Co., of Rockville, Conn.

Postal cards cost the government 35 cents per thousand, while the stamped envelopes, according to contract, range from 54 cents to \$6.76 per thousand, according to size and quality. In distributing these, somewhat different methods are used from those just stated concerning stamps. The postal cards are manufactured at Birmingham, Conn., and are freighted from the factory to sundry sub-agencies, whence they are distributed to the post-offices throughout the country according to demand. In this way the Department gets the benefit of freight rates on packages which would be too heavy to handle conveniently in the mails. Such sub-agencies have been in operation for eight or ten years at Chicago and St. Louis, the postmasters in those cities also officiating as postal card distributors for the whole western section of the country.

With the completion of the new city post-office building about the 15th of next October, such an agency will be established in Washington, and Postmaster Sherwood will be duly appointed agent. From this office then postal cards will be distributed throughout the whole South. There has long been urgent need of such an agency in this city, but, owing to the meager accommoda-

tions of the post-office itself, and the Department not being authorized to rent another building for the purpose, it has been delayed until this year.—*Washington Post*.

A FINE POSTAL CAR.

The finest postal car that has ever been made in this country will be built for exhibition at the World's Fair. It will have all the modern improvements now in use in the railway service of the department; will be provided with every known device now in use in the distribution and collection of mail in transit; will be a complete post-office on wheels, and will be used as working government exhibit. No expense will be spared to make the car itself attractive as a specimen of the handiwork of the Wilmington mechanics as well as a sample portable post-office. The car will be in a special building on the fair grounds, and a force of postal clerks will be kept at work while the fair is open.

SHORT ON POSTAGE.

Some one, either crazy or foolish, dropped a letter into the postoffice yesterday that was addressed to "My Darling Mamie, No. 1, Heaven's Gate, Heaven, care of St. Peter." Opening of the letter to secure a more definite address disclosed a couple of pages of rambling ravings apparently written to a deceased wife and signed "Hubby." The writer said he had written two or three times before, but was afraid the postmaster had not forwarded his letters. He says that the night before he walked toward the bridge with the intention of drowning himself, but concluded to write one more letter. If he doesn't hear from his wife in a day or two he threatens to end his life with either poison or lead. The envelope bore a one cent stamp, and if forwarded would have to have been due-stamped. When it costs two cents to send a letter to any part of the world, the writer should have had sense enough to have put on at least that much to get a letter to another realm.

The letter has not been sent on, for fear that it might get lost on the way. Then, Davenport is about as near Heaven as a good

many people get in this world, and there is a possibility that the letter might travel a long ways without getting any nearer its destination. Add to this the uncertainty of there being any postmasters or mail clerks up there, and the fact that Mamie might not call at the general delivery office for a month, and might even miss seeing her name in the paper if the letter was advertised as undelivered—and it will be seen that no blame attaches to the post-office authorities here below. The writer of that letter will have to make the address a little more specific and put on a little more postage if he wants any messages from the unseen world. With a fortune-teller and a couple of clairvoyants in town, he was very foolish to write at all.—*Davenport Dem.*

A Wyoming postmaster has written to Postmaster Van Cott, of New York, concerning what he says is a sure preventive of cholera. It is to burn scraps of leather in the hall of the house, so that the fumes will spread to all the rooms. The writer says that in Vienna, when the cholera raged there, not a shoemaker was attacked. This was because they all burned the waste leather in their shops.

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS.

Dear Postmaster: I here command you,
Inspect the "Living Hymns" I hand you,
Which we surmise, not without reason,
Will have a goodly sale this season.

You might buy one for your perusal
(I shall be pained by your refusal);
And should you act as agent write us;
Be sure such action will delight us.

So quickly set yourself about it
(No post-office should be without it);
We rank our new religious sonnets
With best fall styles, from hose to bonnets.

As brother in the saving plan, sir,
We shall expect an early answer;
Trust us, these "Hymns" will prove a
"taker."

Yours cordially, John Wanamaker.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

→: THE :←

DOLLS' DRESSMAKER

**The Most Popular
Girls' Magazine of the Age.**

THIS BRIGHT MONTHLY IS FILLED
WITH PICTURES AND SHORT STORIES,
SUITED TO THE HEARTS OF OUR LITTLE
MAIDENS OF THE DOLL LOVING AGE,
AND HAS ONLY TO BE EXHIBITED TO
TAKE.

Special Terms to Postmasters.

JENNIE WREN,

PUBLISHER,

35 East 77th Street, - NEW YORK.

If there are any people in your place practically interested in art in any way, SHOW THEM

THE ART AMATEUR,

"The Best Practical Art Magazine."

Each number contains at least **THREE COLOR PLATES**, each of which is executed in the most artistic manner possible; 32 to 42 pages profusely illustrated by the best artists, and (supplementary) numerous working designs in black and white for all kinds of art work and household decoration.

40 BEAUTIFUL PICTURES IN COLORS FOR \$4
Suitable for Framing or Copying.

The subjects include:

*Oil and
Water Color
Landscapes,*

Marines,

Fruit Pieces,

Flowers,

Horses,

Cats,

Dogs,

Birds,

Butterflies,

Etc., Etc.

THE ART AMATEUR



DEVOTED TO
ART IN THE
HOUSEHOLD

(Established 1879.)

THIS SUMPTUOUS PUBLICATION HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY MAGAZINE OF ITS CLASS IN THE WORLD.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$4 A YEAR.

MONTAGUE MARKS PUBLISHER
23 UNION SQUARE NEW YORK.

A THOROUGHLY
Practical Guide for
church and home needle-
work, and for beautifying
the home at moderate cost.

Among the practical sub-
jects fully treated are:

Free Hand Drawing,

China Painting,

Wood Carving,

Oil and Water Color
Painting,

Pyrography or
Poker Work.

A special feature never before attempted in an art periodical are the **PROGRESSIVE LESSONS IN PAINTING**, showing in color the first stages and the finished work.

FREE TO POSTMASTERS
Specimen Copy with Three Color Plates.

Also an extra color plate for display in your offices. It will certainly sell the magazine at sight.

N. B.—Any Postmaster sending subscriptions to THE ART AMATEUR at the regular price (\$4.00 a year) will be entitled to a **CASH COMMISSION OF SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS** for each subscription. If you are a Newsdealer, remember that THE ART AMATEUR is the only art periodical that is fully returnable.

MONTAGUE MARKS, Publisher,

23 Union Square,

New York.

SAFEST
FASTEST
FINEST

TRAINS
IN THE
WORLD

B&O

ARE THE

ROYAL BLUE LINE TRAINS

BETWEEN

NEW YORK,
PHILADELPHIA,
BALTIMORE,
WASHINGTON.

RUNNING VIA

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

All Trains are Vestibuled from end to end, Heated by Steam, Lighted by Pintsch Gas, Protected by Pullman's Anti-Telescoping Device, and operated under Perfected Block Signal System.

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

Maintains a Complete Service of Vestibuled Express Trains between

NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS AND CHICAGO,

EQUIPPED WITH

PULLMAN PALACE SLEEPING CARS, Running Through Without Change.

ALL B. & O. TRAINS BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST RUN VIA WASHINGTON.

PRINCIPAL OFFICES:

211 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
415 Broadway, New York.
N. E. Cor. 9th and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.
Cor. Baltimore and Calvert Sts., Baltimore, Md.
1351 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.
Cor. Wood St. and Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Cor. Fourth and Vine Streets, Cincinnati, O.
193 Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.
105 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

J. T. ODELL,

GENERAL MANAGER.

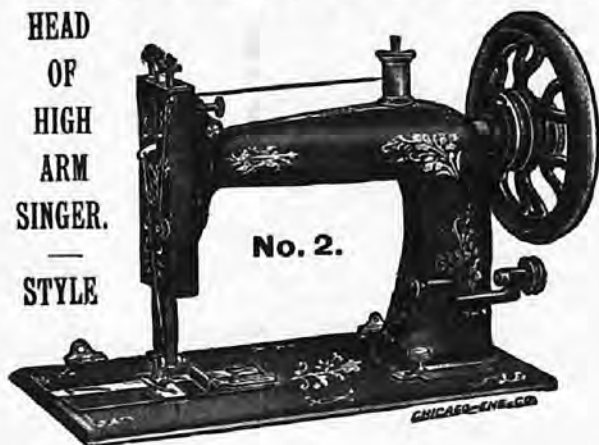
CHAS. O. SCULL,

GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT.

BALTIMORE, MD.

SPECIALLY FOR POSTMASTERS.

HEAD
OF
HIGH
ARM
SINGER.
—
STYLE



No. 2.

POSTMASTERS!

Best Offer Ever Made You.

The 3 Best Machines Made.

PRICES:

\$18, \$22 AND \$24

YOUR COMMISSIONS:

\$4.50, \$5.50 AND \$6

No. 2.—Represents the Head of the New Improved High-Arm Singer Style Sewing Machine. This machine is having an immense sale, and gives universal satisfaction. For a practical, every day, family machine, there is no better made. The furniture is of same style as shown in cut No. 1, and consists of a Drop-Leaf Table, Cover, and 5 Drawers, handsomely finished with a fine set of Attachments. All machines are crated for shipment, and weigh about 100 lbs. They go safely by Freight or Express. Price, \$22. Postmasters' commissions, \$5.50. Send us \$16.50.

THE
"NEW JEWEL"

No. 3.—This machine is a High-Arm, and takes the place of any high-priced machine. The needle is self-setting. It is light-running and does a wide range of work. Being highly finished and ornamental, it gives universal satisfaction to those who want the best at any price. The Attachments are the very best and the Furniture is elaborate and highly polished. We will send Black Walnut or Antique Oak as preferred. Price, only \$24, with \$6.00 commission to Postmasters. Send us \$18.00.

Remember that all machines have Drop-Leaf Table Cover and Five Drawers, and a full set of the Latest Improved Attachments.

All Orders Promptly Filled.

Send money by P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Bank Draft. Send for Catalogue of hundreds of useful articles, sold at low prices, with a liberal commission to Postmasters. See offers to Postmasters in POSTAL GUIDE, January, 1890, pages 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57. Send for circulars to distribute among the patrons of your office; they will help you make sales. Nearly 1,000 other articles upon which we allow Postmasters a good commission. Address

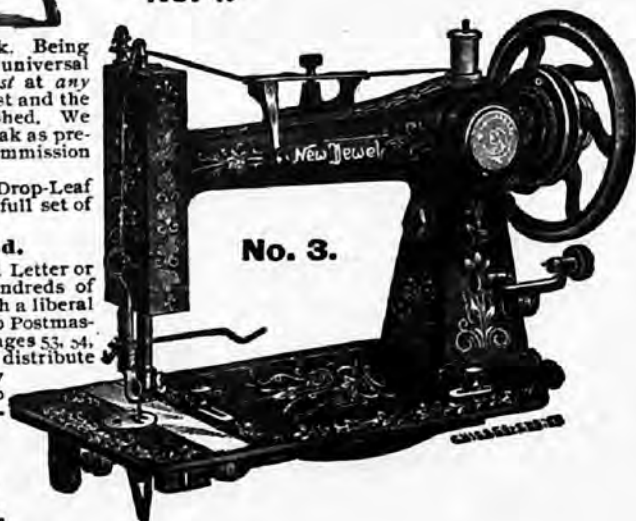
CHICAGO SCALE CO.,

:51 S. Jefferson St., Chicago, Ill.



No. 1.

No. 1.—Represents the Improved Singer Style Machine complete. This is one of the most popular Sewing Machines made. It is finely finished and nothing but the best material is used in its construction. The handsome Black Walnut Furniture is oil polished, and the style represented, viz.: Drop Leaf Table Cover and Five Drawers. Each machine contains a full set of the latest improved Attachments, with Instruction Book. All patents having expired, we have reduced the price of this machine from \$60 to \$18, allowing Postmasters \$4.50 commission, they sending us \$13.50.



No. 3.

To Postmasters:

You are authorized to act as agents of the following publications for procuring subscriptions.

The publishers of the following leading magazines and papers will fill subscriptions from Postmasters at the price named below.

	REGULAR PRICE.	PRICE TO P. M.	PROFIT TO P. M.
ART PERIODICALS.			
The Art Amateur, devoted to art study and home decoration. New York	\$4 00	\$3 25	\$ 75
MAGAZINES.			
North American Review.....	5 00	4 00	1 00
The Forum, a review of living subjects by the foremost writers.. New York	5 00	4 00	1 00
The Atlantic Monthly, first of American Literary Magazines..... Boston	4 00	3 20	80
Lippincott's..... Philadelphia	3 00	2 25	75
Peterson's Magazine..... Philadelphia	2 00	1 45	55
New England Magazine..... Boston	3 00	2 65	35
Overland Monthly..... San Francisco	4 00	3 25	75
The Old Homestead..... Savannah Ga	1 00	75	25
The Author, (to interest and help literary workers)..... Boston, Mass	1 00	80	20
The Writer, (to interest and help literary workers)..... Boston, Mass	1 00	80	20
THE CENTURY CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.			
The Century Magazine.....	4 00	3 50	50
St. Nicholas for Young Folks.....	3 00	2 50	50
GENERAL NEWSPAPERS.			
The Weekly Tribune..... New York	1 00	90	10
The Weekly Sun..... " "	1 00	90	10
HARPER PUBLICATIONS.			
Harper's Magazine, Monthly..... New York	4 00	Special Rates to Postmas- ters.	
Weekly..... " "	4 00		
Bazar, Weekly..... " "	4 00		
Young People, Weekly..... " "	2 00		
JUDGE PUBLICATIONS.			
Judge Library..... New York	1 00	80	20
Judge..... " "	5 00	3 75	1 25
Leslie Newspaper..... " "	4 00	3 20	80
Leslie Zeitung..... " "	4 00	3 20	80
FASHION PUBLICATIONS.			
Domestic Monthly..... New York	1 50	1 10	40
LITERARY AND POLITICAL WEEKLIES.			
Post Indep't, Tariff Ref., News, Agric., Household, Fashions, Stories N. Y	1 00	75	25
ELECTRICAL, GAS, WATER PUBLICATIONS.			
Progressive Age (see display advt.)..... New York	3 00	2 25	75
JUVENILE.			
Doll's Dressmaker (see display advt.)..... New York	1 00	80	20
SPORTING.			
Horseman..... Chicago	4 00	3 25	75
Turf, Field and Farm..... New York	5 00	4 65	35
The Sporting News (Base Ball)..... St. Louis	2 00	1 50	50
FARMING PUBLICATIONS.			
Rural New Yorker..... New York	2 00	1 65	35
American Agriculturalist (see display advt.)..... " "	1 50	1 10	40
Southern Farmer..... Atlanta, Ga	1 00	85	15
New England Farmer..... Boston	2 00	1 40	60
Farm and Fireside..... Springfield, O	50	40	10
HOUSE FURNISHING.			
Decorator & Furn., Art Furniture & Furn'gs & Int'r Decoration. New York	4 00	3 00	1 00
DRUGS, OILS, PAINTS.			
Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter..... New York	4 00	3 50	50
Philadelphia Drug, Oil and Paint Reporter..... Philadelphia, Pa	2 00	1 00	1 00
COAL AND METAL MINING.			
The Colliery Engineer..... Scranton, Pa	2 00	1 50	50

SIR: I am more than pleased with the UNITED STATES MAIL, and shall ever be a hearty supporter of the same. Your efforts in our behalf should receive the congratulations of every postmaster in the country, and I hope every fourth-class postmaster in Ohio

will send to you with his subscription a personal letter of thanks for the work you are doing. Thanking you for your noble efforts for "Fair Pay," and hoping that your valuable paper will find a home in every post-office in Ohio.
S. G. BENNETT.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL



Is the organ of the Third and Fourth-Class Postmasters of the United States ;

Its mission is to wipe out the inequalities of the law in regard to their compensation ;

To secure them fair remuneration for their services ;

To place their offices upon a respectable, paying basis and render them more acceptable to the people ;

To instruct Postmasters in regard to postal laws and regulations and to give them advice upon perplexing questions ;

To advise and counsel them upon the business of conducting their offices ;

To aid them in preventing mistakes in their relation to the Department and to the public ;

To discuss postal law and regulation by indicating the good and pointing out the bad ;

To give the news of the service from Maine to Mexico and from the Atlantic to the Pacific ;

To make Postmasters happier and better, and create within them an enthusiasm in regard to the Postal Service that will reflect credit upon the Government as well as upon themselves ; and, lastly,

To make money for the publisher so that he will some day become a corpulent millionaire.

Having put \$400,000 into the pockets of Third-Class Democratic Postmasters, our next move will be to double that amount for their Republican successors, and at the same time quadruple the incomes of those of the fourth-class.

There is no position on earth wherein there is a greater demand for honesty ; integrity and honor than that of a Postmaster, and all who seek that high office should strive to maintain the confidence reposed in them by the Government by giving the public a good, clean, efficient and worthy administration, and it is our work to aid you in so doing.

WILL YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR NAME ?

A DATER AND CANCELLER

FOR NOTHING.

An Offer That _____
Can't Be Duplicated.



TO those not now subscribers to the United States Mail, we will offer for a limited period this valuable and useful premium.



(With either of these Cancellers).

The Dater and Cancellor here shown is the Cheapest ever offered to Postmasters. The base is Nickel-plated and highly finished, with Black Enamelled Handles. Set of dates from 1 to 31, names of months (12.) yearly dates from 1891 to 1896 (all neatly arranged in box.) with Ink, Pads, Tweezers, etc., complete.

The above will be sent FREE post-paid to all postmasters who receive this copy of THE UNITED STATES MAIL and forward us \$1.50 for their subscription for this paper for one year. The MAIL is alone worth the money, and you can't buy a Dater and Cancellor the equal of this under \$1.10. This is a first-class opportunity to get a bargain, and, at the same time, two useful and indispensable articles to every Post Office in the land.

Address, **UNITED STATES MAIL,**
280 Broadway, New York City.

Answers to Correspondents.

POSTAL LAW UNRAVELED.

Write only on one side the paper and keep business communications separate.

Those who desire answers by mail must enclose stamps.

SPECIAL NOTICE!!!

THIS DEPARTMENT IS STRICTLY INTENDED FOR THE USE OF POSTMASTERS WHO ARE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE UNITED STATES MAIL. TO GIVE PROPER ATTENTION TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS REQUIRES ALL THE TIME AND SPACE THAT CAN BE DEVOTED TO THIS FEATURE; THEREFORE, THOSE WHO ARE NOT SUBSCRIBERS NEED NOT BE DISAPPOINTED OR DISPLEASED NOT TO HAVE THEIR COMMUNICATIONS ANSWERED.

TO POSTMASTERS:

The gentleman who attends to this department wears a number 8 3-4 hat. He is all brain on postal law, therefore we wish postmasters to send along their questions; none too hard for him to tackle; in fact the more difficult the happier it makes him.

D. R. S., MARYLAND.—1. In answer to C. H. S., New Jersey, you say the writer of a letter can demand it at the office of destination. Suppose there are several letters mailed at the same office for one person, and the writer of one of those letters demands it at the office addressed; how is the postmaster to satisfy himself of the right one? Is the handwriting to be identified? If the applicant opens the wrong letter, he lays himself liable to the law. 2. Can a letter of actual correspondence wholly in writing be sent for one cent postage when unsealed? Such was mailed here, and I held them for postage and notified the addressee. The writer says a postmaster told him that one cent was sufficient. I am almost sure that Section 321 answers this question, and the letter is subject to first-class postage. If I am wrong, I am willing to be corrected. If written, it is first-class matter sealed, or unsealed, is it not? 3. Is a letter United States mail matter before it has been deposited in any post-office? If seal of a letter should be broken by a private party on its way to a post-office, would the matter be settled by United States authorities?

ANSWER.—1. Unless the description given by the sender is sufficient to enable the postmaster to identify it without doubt, the letter should not be returned. Usually there is a business card or some distinguishing mark upon the envelope by which it can be easily recognized. 2. Written matter whether sealed or unsealed, is subject to letter rates of postage. 3. A letter is not protected by United States statutes either before it has been placed in a post-office or after delivery therefrom.

W. F. IOWA.—Suppose I have enough postage-due stamps to last me five years or more, according to the number I am now using, can I dispose of a part, or must I carry them along till I use them all? 2. Assistant Postmaster, Michigan, asked in your April number if he can get any pay for carrying the mail to the train and back. You tell him he cannot if the office is within 80 rods of railroad train. This seems to conflict with the orders sent to me from Washington, which say: "Every railroad company is required to take the mails from and deliver them into all terminal post-offices whatever, except in cities where other provision is made by the department, and also into all intermediate post-offices which are located within 80 rods of the station where the company has an agent." The railroad company has always lived up to this rule with me. 3. If a letter is posted in New York to go San Francisco and by oversight gets into the bag for Council Bluffs, what should the postmaster at Council Bluffs do with the letter, or how should he act in the matter?

ANSWER.—1. We would not advise you to dispose of them without first consulting the department. 3. Endorse it "Missent to Council Bluffs, Iowa," and forward by next mail to its destination.

C. MCD., ILLINOIS.—In answer to M. H. W., Florida, you say news agents must pay one cent for each four ounces on papers returned. Please harmonize your answers with Section 350, P. L. & R., 1887.

ANSWER.—Please read again our reply to M. H. W., Florida. It says that unsold second-class matter returned by a news agent to a publisher is subject to the four-ounce rate. Ruling 92, page 823, U. S. Official Postal Guide for January, 1892, confirms this statement: "The Section (350) to which you refer relates to the rights of news agents. They are entitled to mail second-class matter to other news agents and to sub-

scribers. They are entitled to return unsold copies of second-class matter to other news agents, but not to publishers. There is no conflict between our statement and the section you quote.

E. E. T., IOWA.—What should be the postage on wheat and other grain, sent to Chicago by local dealers, for samples, to be inspected by commission houses.

ANSWER.—One cent for each two ounces or fractional part of two ounces. See page 16, December, 1891, Guide.

L. J. C., KANSAS.—July 1, I sent the amount due the United States to the depository at Leavenworth, Kan., by registered mail; that night the post-office at Junction City, Kan., was robbed of all registered packages, mine included. Will I be the loser or will the post-office department?

ANSWER.—You will probably be the loser. The fee charged by the department for registration does not guarantee the sender against loss in case of robbery or other casualty, but is imposed simply for the additional labor and safeguards given to safety of such matter. If the culprit is apprehended, and any of the stolen property recovered, you will be entitled to your *pro rata*.

W. B. C., MISSOURI.—How old must a person be before he can get a position as railway postal clerk. I have carefully examined the P. L. & R. of 1887, but cannot find anything in regard to age of "R.P.C.'s."

ANSWER.—No person can be examined for admission to the railway mail service who is under 18 or over 35 years of age, except in the case of those who have been honorably discharged from the military or naval service of the country by reason of disability resulting from sickness or wounds incurred in the line of duty. This is not in the P. L. & R., but a provision of the civil service rules.

J. H., MAINE.—Is it the duty of postmaster to forward any mail matter if he is not requested to do so?

ANSWER.—Where a person removes and leaves no instructions for the delivery of his mail and the postmaster is acquainted with his new location, he should write and ask him to file an order directing what disposition he wishes made of it. A postmaster has no right to change addresses on mail matter without proper authority.

K. J. S., WISCONSIN.—Is it my duty to

distribute papers brought to the office by individuals or sent in from an unknown source and labeled "Sample copies; please distribute," when no postage is paid thereon and when individuals refuse payment at drop rates?

ANSWER.—You are perfectly right in not distributing these papers. Sample copies cannot be mailed by individuals unless postage is prepaid by stamps affixed, and can only be mailed by publishers at the pound rate at the office of entry.

C. R. P., MINNESOTA.—On July 16, I risked my life to capture a burglar who had broken in my office; he proved to be quite a notorious outlaw. Is there any reward given by the department for the capture of such burglars?

ANSWER.—Your courageous action is most commendable and worthy of substantial recognition, but unfortunately the department has no fund that can be drawn on for such purposes. At least we have never heard of any. You ought to make a report of your experience and all the particulars in the case to the Fourth Assistant P. M. General.

F. H., NEW YORK.—Is it a violation of the postal rules for a postal clerk to show a letter (that has been dropped in the office, addressed in a very illegible manner) to a friend for them to assist in the interpretation of the place addressed, letter sent to a company, and not private individual? If such a thing were done in an extreme case, would it be violating the law?

ANSWER.—It is not likely that any action would be taken in an isolated case of a postal clerk showing a letter for the purpose of deciphering its destination, but strictly speaking there is no justification in law for his doing so. Postal employees are forbidden to make public any information obtained in the discharge of their duties concerning mail matter.

J. W. G., NEW JERSEY.—I think you are in error in J. H. M., Texas, as to his account of deceased postmaster. They are not entitled to \$50 each in the same quarter. This gives them 100 per cent. on \$100 in the same quarter. This will not do. In a fourth-class office it is divided between the two on the first \$50 at a certain percentage.

ANSWER.—In a quarter of 90 days, the deceased postmaster served as such 15 days. He would only be entitled to one sixth of

the cancellations, the remaining five-sixths going to his successor. Thus they would jointly get but \$50 each according to the length of the term of service.

G. H. W., MISSISSIPPI.—A new office is established on the route from my office to another, but nearer to the other; the new postmaster had made his bond, but had not received his commission. A letter came through addressed to the new office by way of my office; the addressee lives at new office. I sent it on to other office; the postmaster at that office refused to deliver the letter, but marked it mis-sent; then marked it "Return to writer;" when it came back to my office, I stopped it and delivered it. The people at new office were patronizing my office at the time. Was I right, or wrong?

ANSWER.—We do not believe there is any regulation covering a case of this kind, but yours was a common sense way out of the difficulty.

E. J., MISSOURI.—What disposition will a little fourth-class postmaster have to make of copper cents? Some say work them off, but they work on every day, and we have so many they have become a nuisance in our office, it being a small office. Can't the department take care of them and allow me value received for them?

ANSWER.—When you transmit your surplus funds to your depository you can include all the copper coin you don't need. Of course the depository will object, but there is no other way that we know of for you to work it off except in the natural course of business.

C. L., OHIO.—Is there any law prohibiting me from selling postage stamps on Sunday? also delivering mail on Sunday? The mail arrives late on Saturday evening and some cannot get their mail that evening?

ANSWER.—A postmaster is not *required* to open his office on Sunday if no mail arrives after the closing of the office on Saturday and before six o'clock Sunday afternoon. While the office is open stamps may be sold. See Ruling 24, Page 6, November, 1891, Guide.

W. W. G., PHILADELPHIA.—In the destruction of my entire post-office (by fire) my commission from the Postmaster-General was also destroyed. Should I have a duplicate of same; if so, whom should I apply to, for duplicate of said commission?

ANSWER.—It is not absolutely necessary, but the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General

(if yours is a fourth-class office) will provide you with a duplicate if you desire it.

J. F. M., MAINE.—Please inform me how I can get from the P. O. department "a record and postal account book?"

ANSWER.—The First Assistant Postmaster General (Division of Post-Office Supplies) is the proper official to address. Perhaps it is the intention of the department to have you supply yourself with the book.

C. S. W., INDIANA.—1. What must I do when the mail pouch comes in without a lock? I can't find it in P. L. & R. 2. Do I have to make a monthly report to the Dead Letter Office when I have no dead letters? 3. There was a letter deposited in my office with a yellow stamp with the word Agricultural on it; also 2c. U. S. What should I have done with it, and what kind of a stamp was it?

ANSWER.—When a pouch is received without a lock, and the postmaster has no mail lock to put on the pouch, he should lock the pouch with any safe padlock he may have and send the key in a sealed envelope by the mail carrier to the next postmaster. If the postmaster has no padlock he should purchase an inexpensive lock, which should be sent with the key immediately after use to the second Assistant Postmaster General with a full explanation of the facts in the case. 2. This is a matter of office detail. Make inquiry of the superintendent of D. L. O., Washington, D. C. 3. We never saw such a stamp and know nothing of its origin or use. If the letter was prepaid with a U. S. 2 cent stamp you were right in forwarding it.

C. S. MONTANA.—Am I expected to deliver mail addressed to another postmaster or any one at another post-office, this mail going through my office to his office; of late he has been causing me a good deal of unnecessary trouble.

ANSWER.—Mail matter must be sent to and delivered at the post office of address except under certain circumstances, the details of which you will find given in full in Section 565 P. L. & R. You should call a "halt" on the postmaster whose actions are irregular.

T. W. M., GEORGIA.—To whom do fourth class postmasters make orders for a book of records to keep account of stamps sold and canceled each day?

ANSWER.—Perhaps the department intends you to supply the book yourself. The First Assistant Postmaster General (Division of

Post-Office Supplies), is the official to whom the requisition should be addressed.

J. W. G., NEW JERSEY.—Am I under obligations to change stamps after having sold and they get stuck, if I deliver the same in good order? Doesn't Section 178 forbid it?

ANSWER.—The exchange of postage stamps is prohibited by Section 176 P.L. & R.

M. E. M., CALIFORNIA.—1. This office has recently been appointed a money order office. A says if he should purchase a money order for \$7 and hand me 10 cents for the fee, I must give him a two-cent stamp back. Nickels are the smallest coins we use here—what should I do? 2. A paper published in this county is mailed in the post-office of the town in which it is published; it is forwarded to this office marked one cent due. Should it not be forwarded free of charge?

ANSWER.—1. This is a question that we have never heard raised before and one that has never been passed upon by the department in public form, hence we do not feel like anticipating any decision that its officials might render. Were we in your place, however, we should decline to give stamped paper as change, but would procure from the Treasurer of the U. S. or sub-treasurer at the point nearest your office a supply of copper cents for use in making change and keep a supply of them on hand for that purpose. 2. A county paper can be delivered free to an actual subscriber who resides in the county in which the paper is printed in whole or in part. After it has been delivered at the place to which it is addressed, it can not be forwarded to a new address either in or out of the county without proper payment of postage. Our authority for this statement is ruling 33, page 16, December, 1891, Postal Guide, which reads that *all* matter that is not of the first class shall be charged additional postage *each* time it is forwarded.

A. S. C., KENTUCKY.—1. I find no law regulating the postage on perforated raised letters of the blind, whether it goes for first, second or third class. 2. The balance due the United States at the close of each quarter must be paid forthwith; but if any balance is due the postmaster, much or little, he is advised to take credit in the next report; but suppose he still comes out ahead, what then? 3. I have a daily mail and three days of the week two mails daily and the daily register of the departures and arrivals of said mails on two routes, and keep one person busy and

only at a salary of from \$45 to \$55 per year for the whole business, and think your bill fair play for such postmaster? O, yes!—4. A young lady, over 16 years of age, duly sworn carries the mail sometimes on the route, and some kick and say she is not eligible, and I say there is nothing in the postal law to forbid.

ANSWER.—1. Perforated sheets for use of the blind are first class matter when personal correspondence; otherwise they are third class matter. See page 15, Dec., 1891, Guide. 2. We do not quite understand this query. 3. Of course it is fair play, and we wish Congress could be made to look at it in the same light. 4. We know of nothing in P. L. & R. that prohibits the young lady from carrying the mails.

E. M. M., MICHIGAN.—Do you think there is any possibility of having our mail carried by the railroad company. Our office is at 60 rods from the first stopping place and the company will never be in need of an agent. This post-office was established seven years ago under the Democratic Administration. In the last three years, through convenient post-office boxes, we have increased it 15 per cent. It pays to the Post-Office Department \$50 to \$75 a quarter. Five tons of mail are handled and we have six mails a day. Our next post-office on one side is at a distance of six miles. It is not as considerable as this one, but the company employs an agent and the mail is taken care of. The way our post-office is situated the railroad cars can stop at any place on this road and our next station is a terminus at a distance of half a mile. An agent here will never be beneficial to the company, consequently there will never be any. I think it is terribly unjust to be compelled to carry so much bulk without any compensation. It takes a man to do it and he can hardly do any thing else. Very often trains are late, and one has to wait from twenty-five minutes to an hour in the open air; summer or winter makes no difference. I think if the situation was well represented to the Post-Office Department justice might be done, but how am I to proceed?

ANSWER.—We do not think there is much probability of your obtaining relief from the Department, but it will certainly not make your case worse to appeal to the authorities at Washington giving a full description of all the facts in the case. The Second Assistant Postmaster General is the proper official to address upon the subject. It is a genuine hardship to impose this labor upon you, and your appeal ought to receive recognition.

J. O. H., NEW YORK.—Will you please read on page 16 of the June number of the U. S. Postal Guide the article headed "Soldiers' Right of Preference," and give your opinion as whether or not a postmaster who is a disabled soldier can be removed (except for cause) from his office in case of change in the administration. People here contend that a postmaster cannot be removed except for cause. I mean a postmaster who is a disabled soldier.

ANSWER.—We are not prepared to give you a judicial opinion upon this subject, nor one that could in any sense be used as a precedent. But you will observe that the act says nothing about removals or retentions; it simply reads that they shall be preferred for appointments, and further, that they must possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties. This latter clause is susceptible of much elasticity. It can be made to apply for or against a variety of cases.

POSTMASTER, MAINE.—Is a one-cent open letter containing a price list addressed to So & So, Boston, Mass., mailed at Boston, Mass., forwarded to Brookline, Me., without being taken out of the office in Boston, entitled to additional postage. I collected due postage one cent. But the party addressed didn't think he ought to pay due.

ANSWER.—It was subject to one cent additional—that is two cents—if delivered in Boston. The drop rate does not apply to letter-carrier offices. Your action in charging it up was correct.

Postmasters should send for a sample copy and display card of *The Art Amateur*, which the publisher offers to send free. It is the best practical art magazine, and subscriptions can be easily secured. Beside being full of practical articles and designs, it gives forty color studies during the year. They are articles on Portrait, Still Life, Pastel, Glass and China Painting, Pen Drawing, Biography, Modelling, Wood Carving, The House and its Furnishing. Full-size drawings from the cast and from life are given, showing progressive stages of the work. This is a great feature of *The Art Amateur*, and is given in a great many of the color plates. It enables people to learn drawing and painting without any other teacher than this valuable magazine. MONTAGUE MARKS, Publisher.

23 Union Square, New York.

DISCOUNTS TO POSTMASTERS.

Write for our Illustrated Catalogue of
Dutch and . . . French BULBOUS ROOTS,
HYACINTHS, TULIPS, DAFFODILS, BERMUDA
EASTER LILIES, AURATUM LILIES, LILY OF
THE VALLEY PIPS, TUBEROSES, ETC.

Send us your own orders, and your friends', and we will allow you a liberal discount from our Catalogue prices.

N. B.—We are the oldest and largest Importers of Bulbs in the States, and you may rely upon getting only the *Highest Class* of Goods.

J. M. THORBURN & CO.,
15 John Street, New York.
ESTABLISHED 1802.

FRENCH STYLE OF RIDDLE.

"Take away my first letter;
Take away my second letter;
Take away my third letter;
Take away all my letters;
And I remain what I was before."

Answer—The Postman.

WASTE EMBROIDERY SILK.

Various Shades, odd lengths, at half price; 1 ounce in a box, all good Silk and good colors. Sent by mail on receipt of 40 cts. or 11 oz. for \$4. 100 Crazy Stitches in each package. For 50 cts. will send a beautiful assortment of Vienna Chenille and Arasene, fifteen new shades each. Latest Book on Art Needlework, only 10 cts. Send postal note or stamps to

The Brainerd & Armstrong Spool Silk Co.

ALSO MANUFACTURERS OF

SILK THREADS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

SATIN LININGS,

SILK AND MOHAIR BINDINGS,

ART FABRICS, ETC., ETC.

Special terms to dealers. Send for price list.

SALESROOMS:

625 BROADWAY, N. Y.
120 KINGSTON ST., BOSTON.
621 MARKET ST. PHILA.

The Washington Loan and Trust Company,

GRANITE BUILDING,
Ninth and F, Washington, D. C.

Paid-up Capital, \$1,000,000.

Executes all Trusts. Pays Interest on Deposits. Rents Boxes in its Fine Safe Deposit Vaults.

BRAINARD H. WARNER, PRES.

HIGHEST
PRICE
PAID BY ANY
POSTMASTER TO
POSTMASTERS ON
PERCENTAGE
IS BY THE



Send for Terms, Samples, Blanks, Etc.

NO TROUBLE TO BUILD



If you start right. The first step should be an examination of Mr.

Shoppell's building designs—the only large collection of designs that are artistic, practical and reliable. The estimates are guaranteed. Mr. Shoppell's publications are as follows:

		Price.
* Portfolio of \$1,000 Houses,	30 designs,	\$2 00
" " 1,500 "	30 "	2 00
" " 2,000 "	30 "	2 00
" " 2,500 "	30 "	2 00
" " 3,000 "	32 "	2 00
" " 3,500 "	33 "	2 00
" " 4,000 "	30 "	2 00
" " 5,000 "	30 "	2 00
" " 6,000 "	28 "	2 00
" " 7,500 "	22 "	2 00
" " 10,000 "	21 "	2 00
" " Stables "	19 "	2 00

*The first Portfolio contains designs that cost as low as \$500, \$600, \$700 and \$800.

Any 2 of the above Portfolios for \$5; any 7 for \$10; the complete set (12) for \$15. Bound volume containing over 200 designs selected from the various portfolios, price \$5, returnable if not satisfactory.

Address R. W. SHOPPELL,
Architect, 63 B'way, New York.

To Postmasters Only!!
EXCLUSIVE AGENCY GIVEN.



NEW IMPROVED HIGH ARM.

Not a "Snide" or Bogus Singer, as Advertised by Some Under Various Names.

New mechanical principles and rotary movements, automatic, direct and perfect action, cylinder shuttle, self-setting needle, positive feed, no springs, few parts, minimum weight, no friction, no noise, no wear, no fatigue, no "tantrums," capacity unlimited, always in order, richly ornamented, nickel-plated, and gives perfect satisfaction. *Warranted the best.*

			Also, Singer Model.
No. 1, Plain Table, 1 Drawer,	-	\$14 40	\$9 00
" 2, " " and Cover, 1 Drawer,	-	16 20	10 50
" 3, Drop Leaf Table, 3 Drawers and Cover,	-	18 00	11 50
" 4, " " " 5 " " "	-	19 80	12 50
" 5, " " " 4 " " "	-	18 00	12 00
" 6, " " " 7 " " "	-	21 60	13 50

WITH FULL SET OF ATTACHMENTS.

THE AVERY SEWING MACHINE AGENCY

THE ALFORD & BERKELE CO., Proprietors,

77 CHAMBERS ST.. NEW YORK CITY

P. O. Box 2002,

WHAT THE GENERALS HAVE SAID.

FROM PRESIDENT GRANT'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

Whoever familiarizes himself with the history and details of the postal service in this country, must become a student. Its growth within the last twenty years has been marvelous and unprecedented, fully up to and a little ahead of the general progress of the country. It is now the equal of any in the world—yea, considering the vast territory to be served, and its amazing increase in population, it is the *best* service in the world. The enterprise that brought it to its present perfection was unaided, most of the time, by a proper medium for the spread of information, and was never advanced by an "organ," in the full sense of the term. *The officials and employes of the Post Office Department should encourage a publication that so nearly approaches this character as does THE MAIL.*

Very truly yours,

JAS. N. TYNER.

FROM PRESIDENT HAYES' POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

It possesses great value for officials connected with the postal system of the country, and equally as great, if not greater, for persons engaged in business, professions or pursuits requiring considerable correspondence through the mails, by preventing mistakes which occur necessarily from a want of knowledge of the laws, regulations and methods of postal administration. In my opinion no live, wide awake postmaster will fail to avail himself of the benefits to be derived from a careful study of its columns

Most respectfully,

D. M. KEY.

FROM PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

Filled to the brim with valuable postal information, and edited with care and ability, *it supplies a want long felt by the postmasters throughout the country. If your journal could be read by every official connected with the department, THERE WOULD BE*

FEWER COMPLAINTS AND A MORE PERFECT SERVICE.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS L. JAMES.

FROM PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S POSTMASTER-GENERALS.

(Extract from Letter.)

A paper like yours, which brings the workings of the postal system of the country before the people, cannot be otherwise than beneficial. Your paper is bright and interesting, and I wish you all success.

Yours truly,

FRANK HATTON.

(Extract from Letter.)

I am greatly pleased with the contents, and the mechanical work is first-class. I sincerely hope your undertaking will be successful, and that you will be liberally patronized by those who are employed in the postal service, and others.

Very truly,

W. Q. GRESHAM.

FROM PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

I willingly join my voice with the commendation of my predecessors in this office upon your bright faced and cheery magazine, THE UNITED STATES MAIL. It is so full of interest and valuable information to persons interested in the postal service that it must by its merits command a general patronage.

Very truly yours,

WM. F. VILAS.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

(Extract from Letter.)

DEAR SIR: I am glad of the opportunity to express my commendation of THE UNITED STATES MAIL. It has always seemed to me to be possessed of many excellent qualities. It is conducted with unusual ability, and is remarkable for its painstaking accuracy of statement. It contains a fund of interesting information of the highest utility to postmasters and to all others who take a special interest in postal affairs.

Very truly yours,

C. F. McDONALD.

Superintendent.

POSTMASTERS CAN

be of service to their friends, and make a profitable arrangement for themselves, by sending the name of a good reliable man that is now out of business and anxious to engage in a line that is at once profitable.

We refer to the accident insurance business, which is becoming very popular.

Send us the name of such a party, state that you saw this notice in the UNITED STATES MAIL, and we will give you an ample equivalent for your services. Address,

A. N. LOCKWOOD, President,

THE PROVIDENT FUND (ACCIDENT) SOCIETY,

29 Broadway, - - - New York City.

PATENTS Secured Without Fail or Delay.

Send Rough Sketch Model and I will tell you whether you can obtain a patent, WITHOUT CHARGE. Address,

C. T. BELT,

621 Seventh Street, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WM. B. MATTHEWS, Attorney at Law,

Late Assistant Chief of the Pre-emption Division and Examiner of Mineral Contests in the General Land Office. We practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, all the Departments, and Committees of Congress.

Contested and Ex-parte Cases under the Pre-emption Homestead, Townsite, Timber Culture and Mineral Laws and Indian Deputation Cases a Specialty.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"CLUBS OF 10"

WILL SECURE HANDSOME GOLD WATCH.

Write: H. F. WHITE, 2 West 125th St., NEW YORK.

OUR "TRUE APOLLO RING" RAZOR

At \$2.00 by mail, is a Royal Razor. Believe us. Refer to your postmaster. Mention this paper.

ALLING & LODGE, Cutlery, Madison, Ind.

The Yankee Blade, Boston, Mass., will be sent to all new subscribers every week for one year for \$1.00; 6 mos. for 50 cents. Twenty-five per cent. commission to Postmasters.

Cut this out and forward with four 2-cent stamps to BOSTON HOME COLLEGE, and you will receive by return mail valuable sample lessons from the English Course, Examination Course, Teachers' Course, and Science Course; also one interesting lesson in geography with map, and one lesson in business correspondence; also Life of Oliver Goldsmith, and Life of Washington Irving; also announcement giving full particulars of our new and unique method of teaching by mail; all printed in colors, and the whole making quite a large, attractive package. Classes begin first Monday of each month. Each course complete in ten weeks. Distance no objection. 2000 testimonials. Send for the samples. Seymour Eaton, Prin., Box 1777, Boston, Mass.

Lessons at Home

4th CLASS POSTMASTERS,

It will be some time before bill 10,757 comes to your relief, therefore don't wait for it, but grasp the opportunity we present. Several thousand are now making big money selling our Pocket Lamps. READ.



LIGHT

AGENTS wanted for THE BEST SELF-LIGHTING POCKET LAMP IN THE WORLD. Any person can run them and "live" men can coin money. Sample and 400 lights 50c. Write quick.

ADDRESS TOLEDO LAMP CO., P. O. Box 431, TOLEDO, O. U. S. A.

We Make an Allowance to Postmasters.

WE SELL DIRECT TO FAMILIES AND MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO BUY OF US NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE.

\$35
ORGANS
\$500

\$180
PIANOS
\$1500

Yes, my dear, your Marchal & Smith Piano is a beautiful instrument, the tone is so sweet and pure, the action so fairy-like, and the finish so elegant that nothing is left to wish for. Their organs, too, are as sweet and beautiful as their Pianos.

I WROTE AND TOLD THEM JUST WHAT I WANTED, AND THEY SENT IT TO ME, AGREEING TO TAKE IT BACK AND PAY THE FREIGHT BOTH WAYS IF I DID NOT LIKE

IT, BUT I COULD NOT BE BETTER PLEASED IF I HAD A THOUSAND TO CHOOSE FROM. THEY SEND THEIR CATALOGUE FREE TO EVERY ONE WHO WISHES TO BUY.

MARCHAL & SMITH PIANO CO.,
235 East 21st Street, New York.



Postmasters Can A FREE GIFT TO P.Ms.

make a good thing by sending us the names of a few of the chief manufacturing concerns in their town, who are large users of steam power.

Gas for fuel is the coming source of power and *Progressive Age* treats largely on the subject of gaseous fuel. You send the names, we send samples and circulars and pay you 75 cents on each yearly subscription secured. *Try it and see.*

Progressive Age Pub. Co.,
280 Broadway New York.

Any P. M. or clerk who will send me \$1.00 (cash or stamps) I will send 124 each of fine envelopes and note-heads, all printed in neat design and *post paid* and with every order I will send as a *free gift* one fine nickel plated pat. key ring, worth 25 cents.

You can have all note-heads or all envelopes if you wish.

I will send free a valuable cloth bound book worth \$1.00 with a \$5.00 order for printing. Address.

S. P. SEAWELL, P. M.,
BENSALEM, MOORE CO., N. C.

POSTMASTERS CAN

be of service to their friends, and make a profitable arrangement for themselves, by sending the name of a good reliable man that is now out of business and anxious to engage in a line that is at once profitable.

We refer to the accident insurance business, which is becoming very popular.

Send us the name of such a party, state that you saw this notice in the UNITED STATES MAIL, and we will give you an ample equivalent for your services. Address,

A. N. Lockwood, President,

THE PROVIDENT FUND (ACCIDENT) SOCIETY,

29 Broadway, - - - New York City.

PATENTS Secured Without Fail or Delay.

Send Rough Sketch Model and I will tell you whether you can obtain a patent, WITHOUT CHARGE. Address,

C. T. BELT,
621 Seventh Street, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WM. B. MATTHEWS, Attorney at Law,

Late Assistant Chief of the Pre-emption Division and Examiner of Mineral Contests in the General Land Office. We practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, all the Departments, and Committees of Congress.

Contested and Ex-parte Cases under the Pre-emption. Homestead, Townsite, Timber Culture and Mineral Laws and Indian Deputation Cases a Specialty.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"CLUBS OF 10"

WILL SECURE HANDSOME GOLD WATCH.

Write: H. F. WHITE, 2 West 125th St., NEW YORK.

OUR "TRUE APOLLO RING" RAZOR

At \$2.00 by mail, is a Royal Razor. Believe us. Refer to your postmaster. Mention this paper.

ALLING & LODGE, Cutlery, Madison, Ind.


The Yankee Blade, Boston, Mass., will be sent to all new subscribers every week for one year for \$1.00; 6 mos. for 50 cents. Twenty-five per cent. commission to Postmasters.

Cut this out and forward with four 2-cent stamps to BOSTON HOME COLLEGE, and you will receive by return mail valuable sample lessons from the English Course, Examination Course, Teachers' Course, and Science Course; also one interesting lesson in geography with map, and one lesson in business correspondence; also Life of Oliver Goldsmith, and Life of Washington Irving; also announcement giving full particulars of our new and unique method of teaching by mail; all printed in colors, and the whole making quite a large, attractive package. Classes begin first Monday of each month. Each course complete in ten weeks. Distance no objection. 2000 testimonials. Send for the samples. Seymour Eaton, Prin., Box 1777, Boston, Mass.

Lessons at Home

4th CLASS POSTMASTERS,

It will be some time before bill 10,757 comes to your relief, therefore don't wait for it, but grasp the opportunity we present. Several thousand are now making big money selling our Pocket Lamps. READ.



LIGHT

AGENTS wanted for THE BEST SELF-LIGHTING POCKET LAMP IN THE WORLD. Any person can run them and "live" men can coin money. Sample and 400 lights 50c. Write quick.

ADDRESS TOLEDO LAMP CO.,
P. O. Box 431, TOLEDO, O. U. S. A

We Make an Allowance to Postmasters.

WE SELL DIRECT TO FAMILIES AND MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO BUY OF US NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE.

\$35
ORGANS
\$500

\$180
PIANOS
\$1500

Yes, my dear, your Marchal & Smith Piano is a beautiful instrument, the tone is so sweet and pure, the action so fairy-like, and the finish so elegant that nothing is left to wish for. Their organs, too, are as sweet and beautiful as their Pianos.

I WROTE AND TOLD THEM JUST WHAT I WANTED, AND THEY SENT IT TO ME, AGREEING TO TAKE IT BACK AND PAY THE FREIGHT BOTH WAYS IF I DID NOT LIKE

IT, BUT I COULD NOT BE BETTER PLEASED IF I HAD A THOUSAND TO CHOOSE FROM. THEY SEND THEIR CATALOGUE FREE TO EVERY ONE WHO WISHES TO BUY.

MARCHAL & SMITH PIANO CO.,
235 East 21st Street, New York.



Postmasters Can A FREE GIFT TO P. Ms.

make a good thing by sending us the names of a few of the chief manufacturing concerns in their town, who are large users of steam power.

Gas for fuel is the coming source of power and *Progressive Age* treats largely on the subject of gaseous fuel. You send the names, we send samples and circulars and pay you 75 cents on each yearly subscription secured. *Try it and see.*

Progressive Age Pub. Co.,
280 Broadway New York.

Any P. M. or clerk who will send me \$1.00. (cash or stamps) I will send 124 each of fine envelopes and note-heads, all printed in neat design and *post paid* and with every order I will send as a *free* gift one fine nickel plated pat. key ring, worth 25 cents.

You can have all note-heads or all envelopes if you wish.

I will send free a valuable cloth bound book worth \$1.00 with a \$5.00 order for printing. Address.

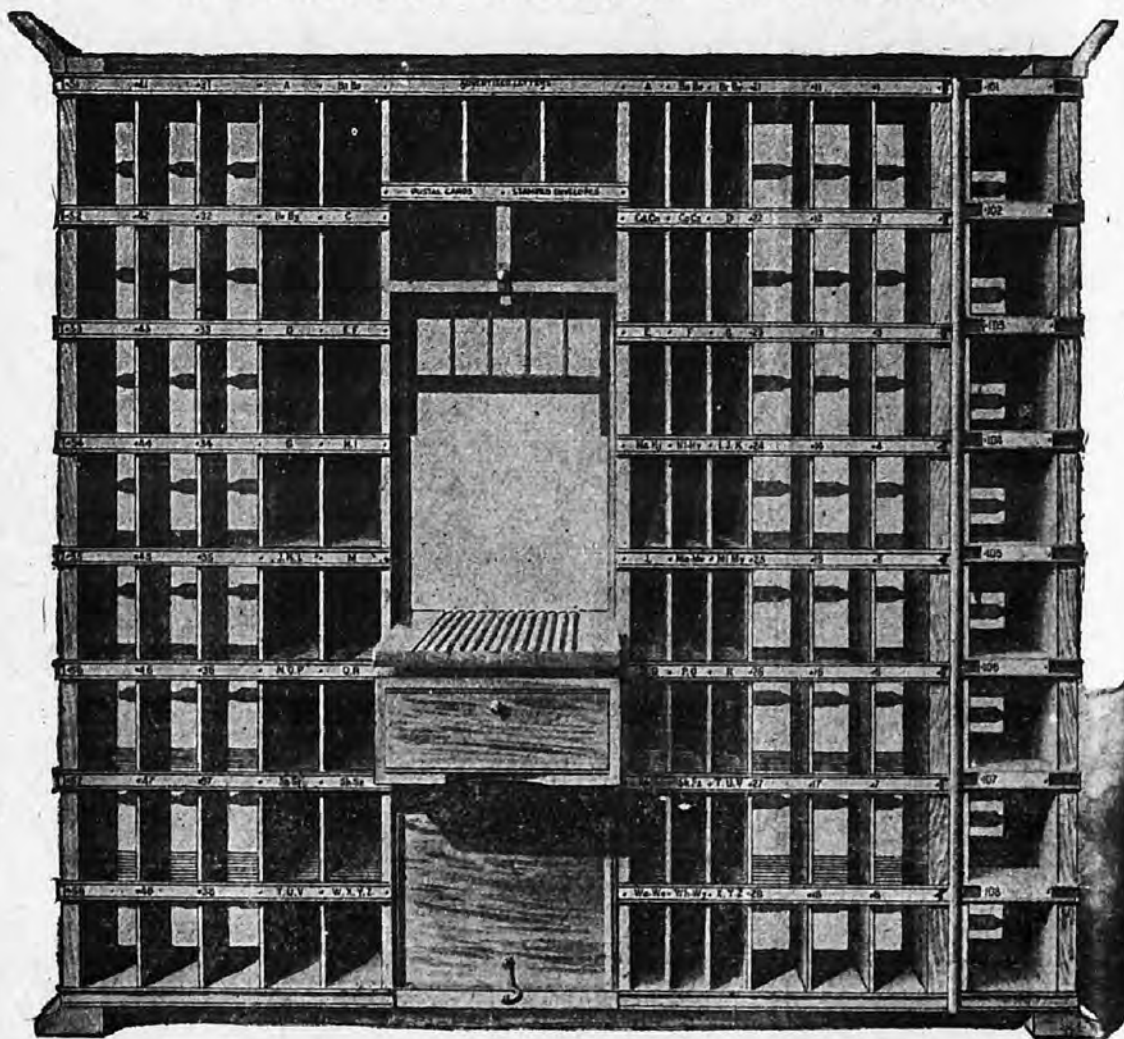
S. P. SEAWELL, P. M.,
BENSALEM, MOORE CO., N. C.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

YALE STANDARD CABINETS

FOR

FOURTH CLASS OFFICES.



Rear View of No. $\frac{45}{81L}$ Cabinets. (For front see issue of Dec., 1891.)

The immediate increase in the income of a Post Office, which follows the introduction of a Yale Standard Cabinet, enables the cost to be largely met by the receipts from box rentals, and as the Cabinets are sold on easy terms, they may thus be made to pay for themselves.

THE YALE & TOWNE MFG. CO.,

STAMFORD, CONN.

NEW YORK, 84-86 Chambers St.
PHILADELPHIA, 1120 Market St.

CHICAGO, 152-154 Wabash Ave.
BOSTON, 224 Franklin St.

VOL. VI.

JANUARY ❖ 1891.

NO. 5.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

THE UNITED ❖ STATES ❖ MAIL

THE FRIEND OF THE POSTMASTERS.



UNCLE SAM ON THE FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

Instruction.

Amusement.

An Expounder of
Postal Laws and Regulations.

Untrammelled.

Fearless.

BOYLSTON BUILDING
269 DEARBORN ST.

John H. Patterson
PUBLISHER

CHICAGO

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - -	\$1.50
SIX MONTHS, - - - - -	.75
Single Copies, - - - - -	15 Cents.

JOHN H. PATTERSON,

PROPRIETOR.

CHICAGO OFFICE, 269 Dearborn St.
Boylston Building, Room 420.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.

Entered as second-class matter at the Chicago Post Office.

DISSATISFACTION—WHY?

THE DISSATISFACTION that has sprung up in postal circles with regard to the pay of postmasters is not of recent origin. It began when third-class offices were deprived of their income from box rents, and when the rate of postage on first-class matter was reduced from 3 to 2 cents and the unit of weight increased from a half ounce to an ounce, while the pay was computed upon the same basis as before the change took place. Anybody with a thimbleful of brains can easily see that if the gross receipts of an office were \$4,000 per annum when postage was 3 cents per half ounce, that it must transact one-third more business under the present law if its receipts remain the same; and if they do, then one-third more labor must be performed by the postmaster, while there is not a dollar of an increase of compensation. But the injustice of this feature of the law cuts even deeper than the outside public is aware of, for there are many postmasters who were compelled to employ a certain amount of clerk hire when the business of their offices aggregated a certain sum, who were compelled to secure additional help when postage was reduced, while the volume of their business in dollars and cents was not as much as before, and all because the number of pieces of mail matter dispatched and received increased so much under the lower rate of postage that the old force could not handle it and new help had to be introduced.

There are, of course, third and fourth-class offices where an allowance is made for "clerk hire," but it is only where there is a large amount of outside mail to handle, or, in other

words, for "distributing" offices, but we doubt whether there is an office in the country where the "allowance" is equal to the expenditure. We could name many where the postmaster is compelled to pay out of his own salary from \$150 to \$700 a year more than is allotted by the government for that specific purpose.

If the handling of all "through" mail was added to the business of the "distributing" office, and, incidentally, to the income of the postmaster, it would not be a matter of such serious import as to the extra outlay for necessary clerk hire; but when it is all outgo and no income, then it can only be characterized as a bare-faced robbery. There are no other words that will so perfectly express the real meaning of this species of iniquity practiced by the government than those we employ. Is there any reason under heaven why a postmaster whose office happens to be so located, geographically, that he must handle from two to forty mails per week for connecting offices that he shall take any sum of money from his already too meager salary and pay it out to clerks to handle the mails coming from and going to those offices? Their establishment was ordered by the department for the benefit of a certain section or community, and contracts are let for the carrying of the mails to and from those points. If it cost \$500 a year to carry those mails, every nickel of that expense should be borne by the government, and adequate appropriations made by congress to meet all such expenditures; but the labor of receiving them *in transit*, falls upon the "distributing" office, and as before said, whatever of expense there is attending it *in transit*, or at least three-quarters of it, falls upon the postmasters at "distributing" points. Seven-eighths of all the clerical labor at that class of offices relates to the handling of "through" mails. If the department is inclined to grant mail facilities to the public, then the expense attending it should be borne by the government of the United States and *not* by its postmasters.

These wrongs, however, should not be laid at the door of the post-office department, for congress alone is to blame for not making adequate appropriations. The remedy lies altogether with it, and unless the postmasters come forward like men and show the injustice of such a course, then there will be no end to it. It will continue!

What will you do?

Are you prepared to continue to liquidate the expenses of the government out of your own pockets?

A REFORM NEEDED.

ONE day not long since there were deposited in a certain large post office, 1,600 drop-letters on which one full rate of postage had not been paid. Under the regulations of the post-office department that mail was not deliverable because there was one cent due on each letter.

Now what do you suppose was to be done in order to get that mail into the hands of the persons to whom it was addressed?

This is what was done:

Here were sixteen hundred letters, each bearing a one cent stamp. The addresses were all plain and easily understood, and in the majority of cases the street and number were given. Three clerks were set to work to copy off all the addresses into a record book for preservation. Then when that was accomplished, a card, something on the order of a postal, was sent to each person informing them that there was a letter bearing their address detained at the post office on account of the non-payment of postage, and that unless they called and paid the same within a specified date, they would be sent to the dead-letter office. That card was given to the carriers for delivery. Then the persons addressed were compelled to walk way down to the post office, fork over the *one cent* due, get their letters and depart.

The clerical work to enter all these names and send the card of notification, was equal to three thousand two hundred addresses, and three days were required to perform the labor. The amount of money involved was \$16.00 while the salary paid the three clerks for the time consumed was \$17.50, or just \$1.50 more than the government would have received in case the entire sixteen hundred letters had been called for and the deficient postage paid. But in this instance only twelve hundred were called for, leaving the government short \$5.50 in the transaction, to say nothing of the time and labor consumed in the delivery of the "notifications" by the carriers, and the waiting upon the twelve hundred who called to pay the postage and take out their mail.

Now would it not have been very much better for all concerned, for the persons addressed and for the post-office authorities, to have put all that short-paid mail right into the hands of the carriers on the day it was deposited in the office and had them deliver it and collect the one cent due, and by that means saved the loss the post office sustained, besides all the clerical labor spent upon it, to

say nothing of the delay sustained in the *delivery* of the mail? Some of it may have been very important and speedy delivery might have been very desirable, but as it was, there was a loss of time and money to all concerned.

Here is a useless waste. There is ample room for reform, and the attention of the department is respectfully called to the matter. We cannot understand why such a ridiculous regulation was ever introduced.

THEY have a queer way of distributing the American mail in Constantinople. A sovereign citizen sojourning in that city says that the first intimation he had of the presence of a postman was a voice calling him, "Sir, come here!" As he approached the postman that functionary held a bag bottom up over the top of a hogshead and poured out its contents, which included pamphlets, papers and letters, in an indiscriminate mass. After the bag was emptied the postman called to the bystanders, most of whom were Americans, to look over the pile and take out what belonged to them, while he visited a neighboring cafe and refreshed himself. The Turkish government evidently presumes that all men are honest; but whatever may be the success of this method of delivering the mail in Turkey, most other nations could not safely adopt it.

CREDIT for postage stamps in country offices should be discarded. When a postmaster is told to "charge them to my box," he should most respectfully decline. Some new postmasters, in order to be excessively accommodating to the public, often disregard the postal laws, and not only give credit for stamps, but also for quarterly postage and for box rent, and often go so far as to "lick" the stamps, and do not see how foolish they have been until they get swindled out of a few hundred dollars.

"POKER Made Plain," the "Life of Bill Sykes," "Nancy Jane's Darling" and the "Rogues of New York," being standard publications and edifying to the youth of this country, are sent through the mails at one cent for two ounces, while a package of letter-heads or bill-heads must be paid for at the rate of one cent an ounce. The man who is responsible for such discriminations should have a monument of putty made of him and placed at the lowest point on the Potomac flats.

SAMPLE COPIES OF NEWSPAPERS.

SAMPLE copies of newspapers of the second class are defined to be copies sent to persons *not subscribers*, for the purpose of inducing them either to subscribe or advertise, or to persons whom the publisher may desire to secure as agents of his paper. Any number of copies of any number of different editions of a second-class paper may be sent at any one time as sample copies. The primary design of a publisher in sending out sample copies is to increase his subscription list and advertising patronage, and the law permits him to send such copies at the rate of one cent per pound. This was enacted in expectation that such free circulation of sample copies of his paper would induce subscriptions thereto, and, therefore, augment the postal revenues.

But such exceptional advantages as are extended by the law to publishers in circulating their papers to induce *legitimate* returns, must *not* be regarded as embracing papers *sent out for advertisers*, or by campaign committees or for other persons to be sent to specified addresses, and apparently intended, from the nature of the contents, or of marked portions of them, to serve the business, political or personal interests of the person or persons ordering them. Such copies are third-class matter, and should be prepaid by stamps at the rate of one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

For example: No paper of the second class can contain a "write-up" of a business house, with the article marked and the papers paid for by such concern, and then mail them at second-class rates under the plea that they are "sample copies."

Political speeches or documents of any kind published in a newspaper, to be used for campaign purposes, can not be purchased by campaign committees, or other interested parties, in large or small quantities, and then sent out by the publisher at second-class rates, no matter whether they go in single wrappers or in bundles to their own agents or to other persons.

A publisher in sending out sample copies of his paper, must limit the sphere of his purpose to *his own benefit*, either in advertising or subscriptions, and to mail papers with a certain business advertisement, be it marked or unmarked, to addresses furnished by *outside parties*, is a clear violation of the law.

WE must insist that every postmaster who writes to this office for information shall furnish an addressed envelope, *fully stamped*.

WHAT IS A LEGAL NEWSPAPER?

THERE has always been a disposition on the part of the general government to favor the cheap circulation of legitimate newspapers. Every facility has been extended to publishers and the postage rates have been placed at a figure which entailed an annual loss upon the department for transportation.

As will always happen, however, under such circumstances, certain abuses have grown up which impose upon federal generosity and demand attention. There has been a gradual tendency on the part of advertisers to encroach upon the legitimate field of the newspaper, and the department has issued so many rulings governing the treatment of second-class matter that it now becomes a matter of frequent difficulty to decide as to what is or what is not a legal newspaper. Such a paper is thus defined:

It must be originated and published for the dissemination of news of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts or some special industry, and having a legitimate list of subscribers; providing, however, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to admit to the second-class rate regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation at nominal rates.

Notwithstanding the very manifest intention of the foregoing section, a host of publications of most doubtful character are now admitted to the second-class rates at every large post office. In order to secure the cheaper rate of transportation, advertisers manage in some way to satisfy the letter of the law while they violate its spirit, and the mails are daily flooded with tons of stuff which nobody reads but the patrons of the advertising agents, and which are in no true sense newspapers, under the meaning of the statute. It is apparent that Ex-Postmaster-General VILAS recognized this evil and that he was animated by a desire to correct it. His order, excluding such publications as the Seaside Library and continued novels from the second-class rates, was a step in the right direction. Such publications are in no sense newspapers. There is another and more difficult class of publications to which Mr. WANAMAKER will probably soon turn his attention. We refer to the so-called newspapers published by firms and corporations for the purpose of advertising their own private business. A thorough sifting and investigation would show that the government is burdened with the transportation of matter of this kind, which does not come under the law. The matter demands correction, not only because it is an imposition upon the government, but because it invades the field of the true newspaper and lessens its power for good in the community.

THE SANCTITY OF THE SEAL.

THE seal of the letter intrusted to the mails is sacred. It is a little bit of wax or strip of mucilage. A touch of the finger can break it, yet the law gives it the strength of locks and bars of steel. The man who unlawfully breaks it is a felon, and the felon's fate awaits him if he be convicted.

And this should be so. The postal service is intrusted with the dearest secrets of mankind—the secrets of love, of domestic affection, of business, of politics; in short, of human experience. The officers and employes of the postal service are trusted as no other officials are. More reliance is placed on their fidelity than on any other people in the world. Basest and meanest of men are they who betray this sacred charge. False to their oaths, false to the sacred trust reposed in them, false to the confidence bestowed upon their fidelity, the wretches who violate the sanctity of the seal, or commit depredations upon the mails, are monsters of depravity, and entitled to less of human charity than any other class of malefactors.

The law throws around the private papers of an individual, when under seal in the mails, the same constitutional safeguards that are thrown around them in his own home. They are exempt from search and seizure. Officers of the law cannot open them in search of evidence of crime. Oftentimes green and inexperienced sheriffs, or constables, or detectives, when on the trail of suspected guilt, think they can open letters, or pry into the secrets of the post office, for links in a chain of evidence. The postmaster is frequently importuned by such officials to violate the law, to commit or allow one crime to be committed with a view to detecting another. Fortunately, but few postmasters are ever verdant enough to permit such tampering with sealed letters.

The regulations are full of commandment and warning against tampering with sealed mail matter. (See P. L. & R., § 506.) The laws visit upon the unlawful opening of letters by employes of the postal service the most rigorous punishment (P. L. & R., § 1447), even when the letters contain no valuable inclosure.

To guard against the unlawful obstruction of correspondence or prying into the secrets of another, the statutes of the United States provide:

"That any person who shall take any letter, postal card or packet, although it does not contain any article of value or evidence thereof, out of a post office or branch post office, or from a letter or mail carrier, or which has been in any post office or branch post office, or in the custody of any letter or mail carrier, before it has been delivered to the person to whom it was direc-

ted, with a design to obstruct the correspondence or pry into the business or secrets of another, or who shall secrete, embezzle or destroy the same, shall, for every such offense, be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than one year, or by both."

It was at one time doubted whether this statute could protect a letter which had been in the mail, after it had been lawfully delivered by the postal authorities to some one entitled to take it, but not entitled to open it. In other words, it was questionable whether A could be punished under this statute if he should receive the letter of B from a post office or letter or mail carrier, to deliver it to B, and should open it before delivery to B, without authority from B so to do. The courts have found considerable difficulty in construing and applying this statute, and their decisions are not uniform or entirely harmonious.

In the case of the *United States vs. Parsons*, 2 Blatchf. 104, decided in 1849, a letter carrier, having a letter for delivery to C. H. P., gave it to A, in the defendant's house, in the absence of the defendant. A afterward gave it to the defendant. The defendant's name was the same as that on the letter, although the letter was not intended for him. He opened the letter and embezzled its contents. The court, in construing this statute, held this language:

"We think that the object of this section does not look beyond a possession of letters obtained wrongfully from the post office or from a letter carrier. Its design is to guard the post office and its legitimate agents in the execution of their duties in the safekeeping and delivery of letters. *After the voluntary termination of the custody of a letter by the post office or its agents, the property in and right of possession to it belong wholly to its real proprietor, and his rights are under the guardianship of the local law, and not that of the United States.* All action and authority of the post-office department, in respect to the letter, terminated on its delivery to that third person, and, in our opinion, it was not intended that the act of congress should apply any longer than while the letter should be within the power and control of that department."

In the case of the *United States vs. Sanders*, 6 McLean, 598, the letter had been delivered to one who was the agent of the addressee. The defense was that a delivery to the agent was such a delivery to the addressee, that the functions of the government over the letter had terminated. The court so held, saying:

"A letter having been committed to the post-office department for carriage and delivery, if once parted with by the postmaster to a person authorized to receive it, from that moment ceases alike to be under the control of the department and the power and authority of the general government. . . . When the functions of the department are exhausted by the proper delivery of mail matter (once placed in its charge), such mail matter is then beyond the reach and authority of the legislation of congress."

But, in charging the jury, the judge further instructed them that, if they found that the defendant was the authorized agent of the addressee, and received the letter with the intent of opening it with the design specified in the statute, that then the offense was complete. This instruction has been criticised. It recognizes what the logic of the court does not admit, namely, that the protection of the statute extends to the letter after it has passed, by a lawful delivery, out of the custody of the postal officials.

POSTMASTERS AS AGENTS FOR PUBLISHERS.

It has long since come to be understood that postmasters are the only valuable agents for publishers in extending the circulation of their papers, especially of the great weeklies. They know just who among their patrons are subscribers to outside journals, and they know, too, just what papers they take, whether religious, political or agricultural. This information gives them an advantage possessed by no other persons. They have a better opportunity to canvas for subscribers than anybody else, for there is no person, old or young, rich or poor, who does visit the post-office at stated times. Besides all that, postmasters are *responsible*. The people are not afraid to trust them with their money, whereas, with strangers, they would not be willing to put up a penny in advance.

To the bulk of all fourth-class postmasters in the United States, the subscription business yields a greater revenue than the emoluments of their offices. It is a part of the legitimate business of the postoffice.

The thousands of new postmasters who have gone into office during the past few months, and the thousands who will soon enter, may not understand this feature of their business fully. To such we would say, there is no objection to their performing this character of service for publishers, either for Democratic or Republican papers, and the more subscribers they take, the better for all concerned. The government recognizes newspapers as an educating force, and, as such, extends to them special privileges and advantages in the way of securing circulation.

Many publishers, however, are wasting their money and their time by undertaking to reach postmasters by circular, by postal card and by posters, and the result is that tons upon tons of that sort of stuff finds a home only in the postmaster's waste pile.

The UNITED STATES MAIL is not only the *best* but the *cheapest* medium by which publishers can reach postmasters. The circulation is large and constantly growing. This is a class of patronage we want, and we *can give value received*.

Publishers can get better results from the UNITED STATES MAIL than from any other publication, for postmasters are interested in its prosperity. Among its stockholders are 753 postmasters, who virtually own it.

FUN WITH NAMES OF POSTMASTERS.

The President appointed FRED AXE as postmaster at Eureka, Cal., thus using him to cut the head off his predecessor, and it didn't dull his edge a bit, either. In fact, he worked for *gore*. Eureka's AXE is keen and cuts well.

MISS JESSIE BAKER "cooked the goose" of her opponent in the late contest for the post-office at La Grande, Oregon, and places P. M. after her name. She is one *La Grande* sweet little lady. And this reminds us that among the candidates for the post-office at Kirwin, Kan., was a man named DAVE BLACK and a woman named Miss MARY WHITE, and the result is that MARY gave DAVE a black eye and secured the commission, and now the office will be white instead of black.

MISS JOSEPHINE REID is the new postmistress at Connellsville, Pa. She can now read her title clear to a four years' clutch on the mails in that city. Hope she will handle them tenderly. Be careful, JOSIE.

GEO. F. POOLE has taken upon himself the labors of the postmastership at Orange, Tex. We know him well, and any one who attempts to play POOLE for a sucker will make a mistake. He reads the U. S. MAIL.

Two men met one day in Rome, N. Y., and entered into conversation concerning the appointment of the new postmaster, when one remarked dryly: "Well, any of our citizens who don't read the Bible at home can go to the post-office and *look at it*, anyhow. The Postmaster's name is WM. E. SCRIPTURE.

MR. E. J. LOCKE has been commissioned to carry the keys to the post-office at Eufaula, Ala., for four years, and LOCKE is happy.

The new postmaster at Tallahassee, Fla., is named WEEKES. He waited many months to get there but finally made it in good shape.

The name of the new postmaster at Park River, Dak., is HONEY. He was sweet on the President.

The lines of SIMON D. B. LINES, postmaster at Braidwood, Ills., have fallen in a pleasant place. If the length of time which his lines continue may be measured by his name, SIMON will bid *fare well*, not to his office but to dull care.

When the Hon. J. L. GRUBB, postmaster at Columbus Junction, Ia., started in to get the post-office he was fighting for GRUBB in more ways than one.

MAIL BOX NO. 5, THE LATEST AND BEST.

Almost every postmaster has calls now and then from private parties for a letter box. Some want one for their homes, some for their stores and some for their offices. Every country hotel should have one for the benefit of their guests who write letters during the day and hand them to the clerk or to the proprietor to keep until it is time to carry them to the postoffice. If this mail box was put up in the hotel office so that anybody could step in and deposit



their mail as well as the guests of the house, it would relieve the landlord of all anxiety and responsibility as to the safety of the mail and at the same time be of benefit to the general public. The mail could be taken therefrom by the proprietor or his clerk and taken to the postoffice; or, if the postmaster desired to be specially accommodating as a public official, he could furnish the box free of charge to the hotel, carry the key himself and go after or send for the mail in time before closing. A box could also be placed in one or more drug stores. It is this ac-

commodating, progressive spirit that makes a man popular as a postmaster and renders his administration of the office all and more than the people expect, besides being specially pleasing to the department.

This box is undoubtedly the finest ever made, as well as the handsomest. It has a spring tumbler lock; a glass covered sight hole; fastening screws covered inside the box; the back piece of solid cast iron; ample capacity and is strong and durable. The price complete with lock and two keys, \$2.00, delivered to any express office. The box and THE UNITED STATES MAIL for one year, \$2.50.

One of these boxes would pay for itself in four weeks by inducing the writing of letters that would not otherwise be written. Expressage paid by postmaster.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA POSTMASTER.

POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA., Jan. 3, 1888.
THE UNITED STATES MAIL, Chicago, Ill.

Your paper contains so much that is interesting and valuable to those employed in the postal service that I feel that it would be an advantage to the executive division of this office to have it on file here, and I therefore beg that you consider me a subscriber for the current year of 1888. Upon receipt of bill for a year's subscription I will promptly remit.

Wishing you compliments of the season, I am

Yours very respectfully,

WM. F. HARRITY, Postmaster.

RESOLUTIONS FROM COOK CO. POSTMASTERS.

The following resolutions of fourth-class postmasters in Cook county, Illinois, have no uncertain sound, and they are commended to all who are interested:

Whereas, the present law governing the compensation of fourth-class postmasters is so flagrantly unjust as to render it a hardship to maintain their office with that degree of efficiency necessary to satisfy the demands of the public and at the same time give them even a reasonable equivalent for the expense and responsibility incurred, to say nothing of the time employed, the postmasters of Cook County, Illinois, hereby declare as follows:

Resolved, FIRST, that they give the most emphatic approval of House Bill 10,757 introduced by the Hon. R. P. Kennedy, of Ohio, and indorse it as a measure calculated to afford ample relief;

Resolved, SECOND, that we commend the said bill to the earnest support of all fourth-class postmasters in the United States and ask their co-operation in order to secure its passage;

Resolved, THIRD, that we suggest earnest work among Congressmen by postmasters between now and the 1st of December, and in every case to see them if possible, but if that cannot be done, then to address them letters upon the importance of the enactment into law of the bill representing our interests.

Resolved, FOURTH, that we heartily indorse and approve of the efforts of MR. JOHN H. PATTERSON, editor of the *United States Mail*, to inaugurate this movement in our behalf, and ask for him and his able journal the support and encouragement so richly deserved;

Resolved, FIFTH, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to every fourth-class postmaster in Cook County for his personal indorsement and return to the Editor of the *United States Mail*.

CHAS. H. SMITH, P.M., Parkside, Ill.
C. C. HUDSON, P.M., Hegewisch, Ill.
J. W. HALLENBECK, P.M., Auburn Park, Ill.
FRED. ULRICH, P.M., Duquoin, Ill.
W. H. COLEHOUR, P.M., Colehour, Ill.
R. A. VANDENBERG, P.M., Fernwood, Ill.
S. J. BARTLETT, P.M., Glencoe, Ill.
P. J. CONWAY, P.M., Cummings, Ill.
J. H. BANKS, P.M., Willow Springs.
F. D. BRACKETT, P.M., Riverdale.
HENRY BOLTE, P.M., Arlington Heights.
W. M. GAGER, P.M., Irving Park.
CHAS. GRAPHER, P.M., Alpine.
S. E. ROBERTS, P.M., Chicago Lawn.
H. E. KINGSLAND, P.M., Central Park.
THOS. SALE, P.M., Moreland.
L. H. WATSON, P.M., Western Springs.
CHAS. W. MERKLEY, P.M., Richton.
JOHN MADDREN, P.M., Rosalind.
JACOB T. MOSS, P.M., Rogers Park.
CHAS. H. FRANK, P.M., Washington Heights.
JOHN H. CURTIS, P.M., Desplaines, Ill.
H. A. DONALDSON, P.M., Norwood Park.

FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS POSTMASTER.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Sept. 12, 1887.

PUBLISHERS U. S. MAIL.

Gentlemen—Yes, I want the MAIL for another year and, in fact, as long as I am postmaster. Could not keep house without it! Enclosed please find my renewal for another year. Wish every postmaster in the United States would take it. I receive much valuable information from it. Success to you.

Yours very truly,

JOHN J. ANKENY, P.M.

KISSES BY MAIL.

A young postmaster of a village postoffice was hard at work when a gentle tap was heard upon the door, and in stepped a beautiful maiden of sixteen with a money-order, which she desired cashed. She handed it to the official with a bashful smile, who, after closely examining it, handed her the money it called for. At the same time he asked her if she had read what was written on the margin of the order.

"No, I have not," she replied, "for I cannot make it out. Will you please read it for me?"

The young postmaster read as follows: "I send you three dollars and a dozen kisses."

Glancing at the bashful girl, he said: "Now, I have paid you the money and I suppose you want the kisses."

"Yes," she said, "if he sent me any kisses I want them, too."

It is hardly necessary to say that the balance of the order was promptly paid, and in a scientific manner at that and eminently satisfactory to the country maiden, for she went out of the office smacking her lips as if there was a taste upon them she had never encountered before.

After she arrived home she remarked to her mother: "Eh, mother, but this post-office system of ours is a great thing, developing more and more every year, and each new feature added seems to be the best. JIMMIE sent me a dozen kisses along with the money order and the postmaster gave me twenty. It beats the special delivery system all hollow."

"I SEE that an Ohio postmistress has resigned her position to get married," remarked an old Benedict to his wife.

"Poor thing! I pity her!"

"Why so?"

"Because, after the honeymoon is over, she'll have to sit up every night and wait till the *male* comes in."

WE desire every person in the postal service who may read this to consider himself or herself a committee of one to cut out of the newspapers anything they see, of a postal character, and send it to us.

If all our *old* subscribers will come to the rescue and send us in *one* new subscriber each, we shall be happy

A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.

"I see that the mail-car along with several passenger coaches was burned up the other night on the Milwaukee road at a little station called Rio, and all the mail destroyed."

"You don't tell me! Where was it bound?"

"Going north to Minneapolis and St. Paul."

"To Minneapolis! Good! good!"

"Good? What on earth is there *good* about it?"

"Why, you see, I owe a man in Minneapolis a little amount, and I've promised to send it to him till he won't take promises any longer."

"What's that got to do with it?"

"Everything, everything. I'll go right off now and write, asking him why in tunket he doesn't send a receipt for that money that I sent him last—last—what day did you say that mail-car was burned?"

* * * * *

Every postmaster in the United States should send \$1.50 for the U. S. MAIL for one year, and thereby keep thoroughly informed in postal matters. It will save you much trouble and annoyance.

* * * * *

THE following is a superscription on a letter mailed at Evansville, Ind., lately:

Give this a start and send it straight
To Corydon City, in the Hoosier State,
Where Miss ADDIE HATTIE may be found
Gallanting some young man around.
Hand her this and tel, her beware
Of dark mustache and auburn hair.

THE RESIGNATION ACT.

When SAM A. RISLEY, ex-postmaster at West Plains, Mo., resigned, he did so in the following extatic manner:

Farewell, old friend, who scans these statements o'er,
You'll see my straggling pot hooks here no more;
Another man these statements now may make,
And for the task his Sunday evenings take.

I have resigned, I was resigned to do
The resignation act. 'Twixt me and you,
This money-order business makes me sick,
Since Doctor "Mac" has piled it on so thick.

And so—Ta ta!—So long!—adieu!—farewell!
I hope you'll live a thousand years—and—well,
I trust the dear old Doctor, too, may live
Yet long enough the poor P. M.'s to give
A beggar's wages for the work they do.
Give him my love, my friend, and same to you.

SPECIAL.

Any postmaster or clerk in a post office who may desire five or ten copies of this issue of THE UNITED STATES MAIL to give to their friends can have them at ten cents per copy. Every newspaper of every kind in every city, town or village should have one. It would enlighten them upon topics of which they now know but little.

AT THE POST OFFICE.

Gayly she skipped,
Lightly she tripped,
Up the big post office stair,
Sure she should find
A note, interlined,
From her dear "Chawley" in there.



Now blank is her look,
As she scours her book,
Seeking the post office key;
Finds it at last,
Grips it quite fast,
Inserts it in "two forty-three."



Then, in goes her fist,
Clear up to the wrist;
Quickly the mail's brought to view;
Seraphic her smile,
But it soon turns to bile;
For the note bears the legend—
"Your box rent is due!"



THE new postmasters should remember that *coöperation* is the only way to win when making a fight before congress. This journal is your standard bearer. Will you stand by it?

THERE is a postmaster over in Ohio by the name of B. MEEK. It is a very funny name for a postmaster, but still it is quite appropriate, for all postmasters are very meek and humble, so to speak.

MRS. ANNA W. JENKS has been appointed postmaster at Newport, Ky. This was a wise selection. There was no more competent lady in the state for the position, and she will manage the office to perfection.

A most daring robbery was lately committed at the Suspension Bridge post-office. GEORGE LAMMERT, a clerk, went to the office safe to get a supply of stamps for the tray at the stamp-window, which was empty. He was alone in the office, and while getting the stamps he was seized from behind by an unknown man and a cloth, supposed to be saturated with chloroform, thrown about his head and he was thrown on the floor, where he was found later. The money order tray is missing, but the loss is not as yet known. Lammert has no idea who his assailants were.

If the next House of Congress is to be democratic, as it will, then let P. M's make a dive for House Bill 10,757 during the short session.

THE reduction of postage to one cent means another reduction of your salaries. Are you ready for the change, or will you join us in the fight against it?

THEY say the *males* are always late in some towns; that they never arrive until near morning, and then appear as if they had been ditched.

MR. CHARLES HAPPY is the name of the new postmaster at Maybee, Mich. Well, he *may be* happy and *maybe* he won't. We hope he *maybe*.

MRS. LOVINIA HADNOT is the postmistress at Hadnot, Louisiana. She recently subscribed for the UNITED STATES MAIL, and is sorry she *had not* subscribed before.

A NEW post office in Virginia has been named "Malaria." It is to be hoped that the post office department won't catch it. The public is interested in its health.

"HERE I'll raise my Ebenezer," is what a post office inspector said when he gave that name to a post office in Darlington county, S. C., and he raised it. "It's a darling."

THE mission of THE UNITED STATES MAIL will not have been ended until the fourth-class postmasters shall have obtained substantial relief. Then it could succumb with some sort of comfort and satisfaction.

As the journals on the wheels of a railroad car require *lubrication* in the way of grease or oil in order to preserve them and keep them in running order, so it is with a journal devoted to the postmasters, only its lubrication must needs be in the form of "*soap*" to pay the printer.

BURNING OLD LOVE-LETTERS.

I take them with reverent fingers,
These tokens of passion now dead:
The lines full of tenderest yearning,
Through which your love seemed to be burning,
Can move me as when first I read.

I know love is now stranger to us,
Our paths in the world ne'er will meet,
And yet as I burn these old letters
I wish once again for the fetters
You broke, though I thought them so sweet.

And now nothing's left to remind me
Of the days when our love was so true,
But still as I gaze through wet lashes
At the fire, where smolder the ashes,
I sigh for the past—and for you.

YOU'VE ALL HEARD IT.

Said a man out at Kalamazoo
To the postmaster, "This you must do—
You get me a letter,
Or we'll have a better
Postmaster at Kalamazoo."

WE received a subscription the other day from a postmaster named B. WRIGHT. He evidently goes upon the principle that it is better to BE WRIGHT than ALL WRONG, hence he subscribes. See?

THE editor of THE UNITED STATES MAIL is the happy possessor of a half-dozen large albums containing photographs of his friends among the postmasters, but he is willing to make further investments in the way of more albums if additional photographs are furnished. Next!

Wife (to husband)—Mother wants to come and make us a visit, John; but I have written her that just at present, while baby is teething, it wouldn't be convenient. If I give you the letter will you think to mail it?

Husband (with an air of perfect confidence)—Well, I should say I would!

Jake—Say, Jim, I hear that they are going to put ladies into the post office.

Jim—What do they want to do that for?

Jake—Why, don't you see, the ladies are so expert in handling the males.

Jim—That's all right, but they only handle those that have lots of stamps.

"Anything in the drug line this mornin'?" he answered.

"No, I believe not."

"Jes' got in some new blood-pur'fyer that's going off like icicles in August—only dollar bottle."

"No, don't think we need any."

"Better have some condition powders for your off-mule."

"No."

"Jes' got in two new kinds of chewin'."

"No—nothing but some stamps to-day."

"All right, then. Kid," he continued, and a small boy made a mysterious appearance in the post office, "give this cuss a quarter's worth stamps—he ain't paid for em!"

THERE are still a few of our old-time subscribers who have not as yet renewed, but we hope that ere the lights and shades of many days shall have elapsed they will come in.

TO THIRD-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

The following letter from a third-class postmaster is an appreciated testimonial in regard to our services in behalf of that grade of offices. It is true, as he states, that we were the first to espouse their cause and make a fight for them for rent, light and fuel. Two national conventions were necessary to bring it about, but we never ceased in our work until victory came. Obstacles and discouragements arose on every hand, the principal of which was the indifference of postmasters themselves to their own interests. It was a hard struggle from first to last, and not many would have stuck to their mission when the fates seemed against them, as they appeared to be against us. There were brave and true men to stand by us and uphold our hands, but they did not exceed five thousand.

The letter of Mr. AXT suggests a question as to the support we are receiving from *third-class postmasters now in office*, who are reaping the reward of our labor, and those who labored with us. Well, *it is not what it should be*, and it is disheartening to think that there are 2,000 of them who are receiving allowances of from \$200 to \$400 for light and fuel entirely through our individual efforts, *who have not as yet sent us \$1.50 for the UNITED STATES MAIL for a year*. Just how they can see their way clear to do so is the question Mr. AXT suggests. But here is his letter:

U. S. POST-OFFICE,
ODELL, ILL., Oct. 15, 1890.

My Dear Patterson:

I am glad to know that you are still in the field. If there is anything I can do for you to stir up *third-class postmasters to a sense of their duty in subscribing for the UNITED STATES MAIL*, let me know, for if there is a man on earth to whom they are indebted, for every dollar of their allowance for rent, light and fuel, it is to JOHN H. PATTERSON.

It was you who started the agitation of the subject five years ago, and it was due entirely to your constant and unceasing labors in connection with your two Postmasters' National Conventions that Congress finally succumbed and granted us an allowance for these expenses.

It is absolutely base ingratitude for any third-class postmaster to fail to send you \$1.50 for your bright and noble paper.

Having been associated with you in your former work, and a delegate to both conventions, I know whereof I speak, and being still a postmaster, I wish to renew my subscription, and enclose you a money order for \$1.50.

I shall be pleased to call upon you when in Chicago. With kind regards I am, as ever,
Your sincere friend,

CHAS. E. AXT.

Letters like the above go far to remove impressions that men are ungrateful for favors bestowed, and it encourages one to press on in what they regard as a line of duty. We have believed, however, that our present third-class postmasters have not fully understood the real situation in the matter of their obligations to the UNITED STATES MAIL, or they would all subscribe to a man.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POSTAGE

FOUR YEARS AGO we first published a pamphlet on *Domestic and Foreign Postage* designed specially for the use of business men, but it was arranged in such clear, concise, easy form for reference, that postmasters took to it quicker than the public, principally, perhaps, because they could find anything they desired to know so much more readily than in any publication issued by the Government. Four editions have been printed and another is now on the press. We gave one to General BINGHAM, the distinguished chairman of the House Post Office Committee, who was postmaster at Philadelphia for five years, and has since been a Member of Congress for twelve years, and received the following letter concerning it:

COMMITTEE ON POST-OFFICES AND POST-ROADS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24, 1890.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, Esq.,
Editor *United States Mail*.

MY DEAR SIR: Your publication entitled "*Domestic Postage*" received. I have examined it with great care and have verified its references. It is correct, reliable, and arranged in such sequence and clearness as to make it authority.

As a legislator in special relation to postal questions, I regard it as invaluable because of its convenience. To the officials of the Post-Office Department and the business community, it is truly "*multum in parvo*."

Very truly yours,

HENRY H. BINGHAM.

Single copies, 25 cents; 8 for \$1.00.

There is a large photograph in existence, 19x34, of a group of two hundred of the postmasters who attended the Postmasters' Convention held in Washington in December, 1887, and we are proud of the fact that our face appears among that gallant, brave, patriotic and determined group of men.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMUNICATIONS upon all questions pertaining to the Postal Service are invited and if worthy will be published. THE UNITED STATES MAIL covers the entire field of Postal literature. It has no rivals, and cannot have any. Our circulation covers the continent.

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY.

[See illustration below.]

No. III.

In October we saw the post office at Cloverfield closed. The postmaster had gone a mile in the country to deliver a circular having attached thereto a special delivery stamp. While he had gone on his journey, a crowd of customers surrounded the office and gave him "fits" for having gone off on such an errand leaving no one behind to deliver the mail or to sell them sugar, coffee, rice and beans. Indignation hardly expressed their disgust, both at him and the government. In November we saw the postmaster on his way to make the delivery. He was weary and foot-sore, for each time he put his pedal extremities to the earth, they sunk into mud over ankle deep. He was a most woeful picture of distress.

But now we see that he has returned and is sadly contemplating his condition. Look at him, dear reader, and let your pity go out to him. We think we can hear his remarks as he sits there gazing upon the floor, and we'll venture the opinion that he is not delighted with the special delivery service, and we would like to have the name of the P. M. who is,

AN UNACCOMMODATING POSTMASTER.

"You seem unhappy," ventured a hotel loiterer to a glum-looking citizen of the woolly west, yesterday.

"Guess you'd be so, too, if you lived where I do. I'm going on to Washington to see the president."

"Political trouble?"

"National trouble, sir; international trouble. Don't letters come from all over the globe! Say, now!"

"Oh, I see; something wrong in the post-office department."

"Wrong! I should say there was. You see I live at Snag Forks, and Bill Wilkins, he's been postmaster for nigh on to six year. At first he done the square thing. When the letters come they was dumped in a candle-box on the bar-room floor, and the boys had no trouble a findin' their mail. But Bill ain't the man he used ter be. He's got as unaccommodatin' as a Texas steer. Fust he moved the box to the counter, and we had to nearly break our arms a divin' fer the letters. Then, if the durned coyote didn't get a new painted consarn with a glass front so we couldn't git at the mail at all, and, as if that weren't insult enough to honest men, he went to work, rigged up a lot of boxes, and hang me if he didn't put locks on to 'em and go to chargin' storage. I just tell you I'll git that Bill Wilkins out of that there place or die fer it, you bet."



THE RETURN OF THE P. M. FROM HIS SPECIAL DELIVERY.

HE WANTED A RAISE.

The present assistant postmaster at Cincinnati has no superior in the service in point of real genuine ability to perform the duties of his position. To start with, he is a man of strong physical capacity. He can endure the hard work of his office without any physical discomfort. Besides that, he possesses special qualifications for his position. There is no better-posted man in postal law or in the routine of postoffice work. He carries all the rulings and decisions of the department in his head, and can almost instantly decide any point that may come up for consideration. He is also polite, affable, genial and easy of access to all alike. He commenced in the Cincinnati post office as a clerk in the stamp department, some twenty years ago, and occupied his place there for twelve years, until appointed assistant postmaster. Some twelve years ago Mr. Müller, the gentleman to whom we refer, thought he would strike for a raise of salary. John P. Loge was the postmaster, and was no more competent to fill the position than he was to act as president of Yale college. He was made postmaster because he was a German, and because it was supposed his appointment would please the Germans. Well, to make a long story short, Mr. Müller braced himself up one day and asked Loge for \$1,600 a year. His salary was \$1,200.

"What for you ask dis?" inquired Loge.

"Because," said Mr. Müller, "the position is a very responsible one, and the Chicago office pays \$1,800, and the St. Louis office the same."

"What does you do down dare?" was his next inquiry.

"I am compelled," answered Mr. Müller, "to give a bond of \$30,000; I am responsible for all mistakes, for the mutilated, counterfeit and uncurrent money taken; I am compelled to keep thoroughly and accurately informed in postal laws and regulations and decisions of the department; I have to be competent to answer all questions in relation to foreign and domestic postage, and to meet the thousand and one inquiries upon postal matters made at my window; I come in contact with 500 people to one of any other clerk in the office. I have been there some years now, and am entitled to a raise."

Loge listened attentively to what Mr. Müller had to say, but after he delivered his little speech he looked at him sharply and said:

"Well, by Gott! does it require a filosofaer to sell a five-cent stamp?"

The salary was not increased!

THE POSTMASTER AT ROUND HEAD.

The good people of Round Head, Arizona, found a great deal of fault with their postmaster because they never knew when he opened or closed the mails, as he did it only when it was convenient for him to do so. Sometimes, when business was good, he would throw the mail bags in the corner and let them lay there for a day or two before he would take the trouble to handle them, either to distribute what was received or dispatch that which was to be mailed. His idea of running the post-office was that the postal interests of Round Head were entirely secondary to that of selling tobacco and "mucilage" to his customers, and he would not think of sacrificing personal profit to that of handling letters, so he did it whenever he felt inclined. But that mode of running the post office did not suit some of the male members of the community of Round Head, so they entered a solemn protest that that sort of thing would have to cease or they would "thrash his insides out" and ask for his removal. The postmaster had to succumb to such an argument, and agreed that thereafter he would open all mails promptly on arrival and also dispatch them whenever the mail carrier called for them, and he even promised to do still better: *he would blow a horn thirty minutes before he closed the mails, and also immediately upon their reception.*



THE POSTMASTER AT ROUND HEAD, ARIZONA,
ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE MAILS.

SCENES IN RURAL POST OFFICES.

The country post office is a great place. It is visited daily by almost every inhabitant. The matter of getting a letter or a newspaper out of it never enters into their calculations, their one solitary idea being simply to go there and inquire and receive the same old answer, "No, nothing!" You see the post office belongs to the young and old, the rich and poor, the white and black, and to those who get mail and to those who don't, and those who average one letter a year think just as much of it as those who receive twenty a day.

Many postmasters are subjected to the annoyance of unruly crowds of boys who congregate in the post office in great throngs and cut up high shins. They claim to be waiting for the mails to be distributed, and while that is going on they whoop, yell and fight and play and drum on the doors and windows, and even on the boxes, and render themselves a general nuisance, not only to the postmaster but also the public.

We wish to say now to all who have written THE UNITED STATES MAIL for information touching their rights in such matters, that they should *first* notify the parents of such boys as to their bad conduct, and then if it is repeated, swear out a warrant for their arrest on the charge of disturbing the peace, and have them fined. If that don't break it up, slip out your back door and come in the front way and knock them right and left with a big stuffed club. As a last resort, report them to the chief post-office inspector, and by the time the boys are arrested and carried off one or two hundred miles to the nearest United States court, they will conclude that "raising the devil in the post office" is not a paying business.

RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS.

It will provoke no invidious distinction to say that of the several branches of the civil service no class incur so much risk nor endure more real labor and fatigue than railway postal clerks. In almost every branch of the service the employé has at least a limited control over his hours of labor. The postal clerk has none. A very high order of business qualifications has to be exercised in the discharge of the duties of postal clerks. The plans, or "schemes," as they are called, for distributing the mails on postal cars, require the exercise of a very high degree of care and precision; and hundreds and thousands who daily receive, and promptly receive, almost illegibly addressed letters are too apt to forget that these messages were accurately distributed and forwarded by men who have stood from eight to ten hours assorting the mails.

The physical hardships of this branch of the service are in excess of those pertaining to any other. The wear and tear of the nervous forces, consequent on having to brace one's self for several consecutive hours in a moving train, constitute a most serious objection to the service. Add to this the casualties incident to the service (and the postal clerk "takes his life in his hand" every trip); and we have an average of mortality far in excess of that pertaining to any class, save, perhaps, that of an army engaged in actual war.

In subscribing to the United States Mail postmasters are simply supplying the needful to carry on a contest in which each one has an individual interest.



WHEN SCHOOL IS OVER.

FATAL MISTAKE OF A POST-MASTER.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer.]

THE LIFE of a United States commissioner, especially if he be situated in Cincinnati, hath something of spice and variety in it. Commissioner Halliday, being vivacious and sprightly in his disposition, with a vein of poetry and romance in his nature, often has the tedium of his official life removed, sometimes by stirring scenes in court, and sometimes by things humorous and amusing. Our judicial friend had a case before him yesterday which gave full play to those mirthful faculties for which he is so celebrated, and in which a woman figured.

It seems a very well looking, sprightly young married lady by the name of Mary Turner, lives at Indian Hill, in Hamilton county, with her husband. Mrs. Turner is very respectable, social and full of innocent gaiety. In fact, she is quite a charming and attractive lady. Mrs. Mary Turner occasionally finds it necessary to visit the city on shopping excursions, and sometimes comes by railroad, unattended. Sometime since a letter was received by the postmaster at Indian Hill, for Mrs. Turner, written by some impudent fellow who probably rendered her some slight assistance with her packages on one of her lonely shopping expeditions, for which Mrs. Turner was doubtless duly grateful. Now, there would probably have been an end of the matter, but unfortunately another Mrs. Turner resides at or near Indian Hill, whose Christian appellation is Hannah; and the letter directed to "Mrs. Turner," the postmaster was in great perplexity as to who was the proper owner. Mrs. Hannah Turner first received the letter. Mrs. Hannah Turner is past the meridian of life, and has turned her back upon the frivolities of the world. Mrs. Hannah Turner was thrown into a spasm of virtuous indignation. The secret of the letter was too much for her to keep alone, and accordingly she got the assistance of some forty or fifty of her acquaintances to help her. Among them was the husband of Mrs. Mary Turner, who, upon reading the letter addressed to his wife, became as jealous as Othello, and threatened to get a divorce.

When Mrs. Mary Turner learned what liberties had been taken with a missive addressed to her, he raised a breeze over the scandal, brought the case before Commissioner Halliday yesterday, and got Mrs. Hannah Turner bound over to answer to the charge of tampering with letters that did not belong to her, in the sum of \$500. The husband was appeased, and threatens to introduce a funeral into the Newton family.

The mischievous letter was copied by Mrs. Hannah Turner, and is as follows:

FRANKFORT, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO.

Mrs. Turner—You will pardon my boldness toward you. I must acknowledge that I am bought with your beauty. You will remember me that I came out from Cincinnati with you. I sat on the seat behind

you on Thanksgiving day. You stopped at Maderia. I never will forget the polite good-by you gave me when you stopped. You will remember that I gave you some peanuts, and we talked about Mr. Bramble. Now, Mrs. Turner, I will say to you that I never saw a woman that I loved before, and I want to come and see you, if it can be done. I have got plenty of money, and I will give you plenty if you will see me on the sly. I will come any time that you say and meet you. Don't take this as an insult. You told me that your husband got \$5 per day, and you could spend it as fast. I don't think I ever saw a woman that I wanted to see as bad as you. You told me that you was free in this world. Now, I will help you along, whenever you want money I will send it to you, if you will let me see you, if you are willing. You shant never lose nothing by me. I am your friend. I must acknowledge that I never saw a lady that I loved before as much as you. Collect your thoughts together and see if you can remember me, as we sat in the car together. You can get more money from me than any other woman I ever saw. In fact, I have thought of you more than any other woman. I will just say to you that I love you, and I can't help it. Now, if you can be true the same, all right. I want you to write to me, sure. If you can grant my request favor me with a line from your hand. If you do, set the time for me to come, and I will be there. I desire you to be alone, or I will meet you at the Loveland House, at Loveland, or I will go to Cincinnati, or any place, so I can see you alone. Don't take this as an insult, will you? You are married and so am I; it is no harm for us to see one another, if you act your part. Write right off, as soon as read; I am waiting anxiously. Direct to Frankfort post office.

T. T. NEWTON, Ross County, Ohio.

SUPPRESSING AN INSURRECTION.

In the early days of Michigan, when many of the post offices were carried in the hats of the postmasters, a postmaster in Livingston county was out in the woods one day and lost several letters from his hat. A day or two after that a pioneer named Bailey came to his house and inquired if there was any mail for him.

"There was a letter for you, Bill, but I've lost it," was the reply.

"When?"

"Tother day in the woods."

"Well, I want that letter."

"But ye can't git it. I'm sorry I lost it, but that's all I can do."

"Then I'll have you removed from office."

"Look a-here, Bill Bailey," said the official, as he began to skin off his coat, "I was appointed to hold this post office, and I'm bound to do it. As a private citizen I have no hard feelings agin you; as postmaster I lost a letter writ to you by your sister in York State; as a representative of this great and awful government, I want to say to you that if I hear two more words of sass from your throat I'll suppress the insurrection by hanging you to the nearest tree, so help me God, sir!"

Mr. Bailey was, however, permitted to make a hunt in the woods for his letter, and he found it; and the insurrection was suppressed. —*Detroit Free Press.*

In subscribing to the United States Mail postmasters are simply supplying the needful to carry on a contest in which each one has an individual interest.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHY.

BY CYRUS W. FIELD.

IT APPEARS to me that the time has arrived when the government of the United States should purchase, in the interest of the people, all the telegraph lines in the country. There are many practical business reasons for such a course, a few of which I will specify.

Glancing, in the first place, at all the precedents, it must be remembered that all the telegraph lines of the old world belong to the governments of the countries in which they are located. Communication by telegraph has become almost as common, and quite as necessary, as communication by letter. Why should not the two branches of what is really one service to the public be brought together in this country, as in other countries, and placed under one management? It would certainly be a great convenience to the people if every telegraph office were a post office, and every post office a telegraph office. As letters are sent to all parts of the United States for two cents, and papers and magazines at one cent for every four ounces, so, I think, a telegraph message should be sent to any part of the United States at the lowest price at which experience has shown it possible that the transmission can be effected. The press, which sends long messages, and these partly for the general information of the people, if partly also for private business gain, should be charged half the usual rates.

In regard to the method of conveying the property of the telegraph companies to the government, a law should, in my judgment, be passed by congress, regulating all the purchases in such a way that every company should be bound by a principle. Each telegraph company should select an arbitrator, and the government should choose another. In case of disagreement between these two they should choose a third, who ought to be a man thoroughly experienced, and regarded as an expert in the business. These arbitrators should have power to examine all reports and accounts, so as to arrive at the fact as to the actual net profits which the line or lines had earned during any given year—say 1885, inasmuch as the transfer of the telegraph property from private hands to the public should be made at once—the sooner the better—if the public benefits to which I have pointed demand it. The government should then establish, as a principle, that the stock of a company which had earned five per cent., clear profit, must be rated at par in making the purchase, and rated in the same ratio if earning either more or less. Thus, if five per cent. gave par, four per cent. would give eighty, three per cent. sixty, and so on.

It will be asked, of course, where the United

States government is to procure the money to make the purchases. It can be done very easily and satisfactorily. Let there be, for the purpose, an issue of three per cent. bonds. The government will thus be enabled to reap the profit on the investment, as between three and five per cent., and also gain on the constantly increasing business and by the great saving in rent of offices. This two per cent. surplus would form a sinking-fund for the redemption and payment of the bonds. These bonds should have fifty years to run. No difficulty would be experienced in raising the money, as individuals and estates would be glad to invest in such securities. Under this arrangement, the United States government would, in much less than fifty years, own all the telegraph lines in the country, and actually without cost to the government or people. This principle was adopted by the English government, and was found to be just to all.

It is imagined by some persons that danger would arise from the ownership of the telegraph lines by the United States, on account of our frequent changes in the administration of the government. But I believe this apprehension is entirely without foundation. The measure would be for the good of all political parties, as well as of all the people. The government telegraph lines would be in no greater danger than the post office. The overturn or change in the government does not destroy the administration of the post office, but often helps to improve it.

Is it asked, how long a time would elapse before the people would enjoy the benefits of reduced telegraph rates? No doubt exists in my mind that if the United States government should enter into the business, the reduction of expense in running the telegraph lines would begin at once. There would be no necessity for so many telegraph offices—often in the same building—with their attendant expense for rent and *attaches*. The post office would also be the telegraph office. The reduction in cost alone would be one of the means of enabling messages to be sent at a far lower price than at the present time. It would, therefore, be only a short time before the public would be reaping the advantages of the change in the system. As I have already explained, the United States government would have possession and complete control over the telegraph systems of the country, and actually without cost to the people.

It may be objected, however, that not all telegraph companies are successful. Some of them do not pay. But why? For the simple reason that the expenses are too great in operating the lines. Often two or three offices belonging to different companies are located in a small place. There is not business enough for all of them to live upon. They contend with each other for business, and, in the strife, rates are cut so as not to pay operating expenses, in that district, for either of them. This result is of no permanent benefit to the public at large, and the companies are unable to maintain themselves during the conduct of the useless warfare.

THE ANSWERING OF LETTERS.

BY FANNIE M. BENSON.

OF all welcome tasks, surely that of answering letters ought to be most eagerly cherished. Nobody is waited for with more real anxiety than the postman. Though he comes ever so often, he never wearies. A delicious flavor of anticipation and a spice of uncertainty hang over his quick, imperative ring. What has he brought now? He is like a messenger of destiny, himself uninterested, void of speculation, unstirred by surprise, as he rapidly passes in his freight, addressed to people whom he does not know. In his mysterious repository, which after all is only a stout, black bag, he carries a whole world of conflicting hopes and fears. Here is a thin missive, directed in a tremulous, angular hand, and it has crossed the sea to tell, in a remote household, of the death of one whom the head of the house calls father, but from whom he parted so many years ago that he has come to be little more than a memory. Here is a schoolboy's jolly letter home. Here, a tender message from friend to friend, sweet and full in its outpouring of affection. Whatever the letter be about, it will be opened with expectation, and read with desire to take in its purport and intention. There is a divine quality of beneficence in the postal system, which annihilates distances, and brings the scattered members of a family close together, so that heart feels heart, and hands clasp, though miles lie between them. In the olden days, dim and beautiful through the shadows of the past, angels were wont to visit men, and often tent door and temple portico were thrilled with their flute-like voices. Now, though the golden-winged messengers come no more in visible shape, they have learned to fold themselves up, and to carry their words of cheer or of warning in four-square envelopes, borne far and near by steam.

Everybody is delighted to receive letters, but few are equally pleased with the work of answering them. The nature of a pleasant correspondence differs little from that of an agreeable conversation. It would be hard to keep up bright and cheery talk, if one party suffered hours of other occupations to drift between himself and his answer. The ordinary way with many people is to read and enjoy a letter, and then lay it away in desk or drawer until a convenient season comes for writing a

reply. So doing, the freshness and glow which it awakened have gone by the time that the pen and paper are taken for the return letter. The sense of nearness has receded. The duties of the days between and the pressure of home cares have laid a pile of accumulated materials, most of them alien, upon the feelings which the letter awakened. Instead of something vivid, descriptive, charming and natural, the effort to write a duty letter succeeds in producing that which is stiff and artificial as wax flower compared with a real one. If letters were, as a rule, answered on the day of their arrival, or shortly after, they would cease to be a task, and would be regarded as a diversion. Then, too, the thought of formality should be carefully eliminated from them. Certain conventionalities help us to carry on our life-work smoothly and pleasantly, and it is only the boor who thinks that time spent in courteous observances is time thrown away. Yet she, who in writing her letter to her friend, translates her thoughts out of colloquial English into the English of books, is very likely to take out of it the individuality of expression which would have made it beautiful. A home letter should tell all sorts of little things about home. The bits of fun which enliven the day, the domestic incidents, the droll sayings of children, and the small and trifling occurrences, which are undignified, but delightful, have their proper place in a letter.

Only one rule we would make about the answering of letters. If there has been that in the one you received which touched a painful chord in your breast, which awakened harsh, or regretful, or bitter feelings, then be slow with your reply. Do not hasten to send away the utterances of a morbid mood, the accents of impatience, or the upbraidings of anger. To overcast another's sky by your own transient petulance, or even by your just indignation, is not best. There is a permanence about that which is unfortunate to give to any but the sweeter and pure emotions of the heart.

No lovelier, and certainly no more desirable, accomplishment can be possessed by a lady than the faculty of writing happy, graceful and gracious letters. The good correspondent is sure of appreciation. As it is an accomplishment within the reach of all, it is worth taking a little pains to secure it. Next to writing one's self out in the best way, the study of such models as are afforded in the recently published lives of men like Lord Macaulay and Norman Macleod is the most practicable and easily available of help, by way of suggestion, of course, and not of servile imitation, which is always reprehensible.

DETECTION OF MAIL DEPREDATIONS.

BY L. A. NEWCOMB, LATE POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR.

No. I.

IN THE FALL of 1881 the postmaster of Jersey City, was greatly annoyed by receiving complaints from patrons of his office of the loss of ordinary mail matter addressed to them, and in many cases letters mailed at the Jersey City post office, addressed to different points throughout the country, had been reported as missing, and failed to reach their destination.

Mr. Gopsill, the postmaster, had been in the service but a short time, and as these complaints were so numerous and seemingly on the increase daily, he became very anxious about the matter; so much so, that he nearly worried himself into severe illness in consequence. About this time I had been operating in New York State and Connecticut, and had been very successful in my investigations, causing the arrest of some ten different persons in and out of the postal service for various depredations committed.

Mr. Gopsill had continually called the attention of the post-office department to the state of affairs in his office and demanded that an investigation be made. D. B. Parker, at that time our chief, detailed an inspector to examine into these cases, but for some reason unknown to me, this officer never discovered any trace of stealing, and no explanation of the great number of losses was given. Still they continued. The postmaster, feeling that he was receiving no satisfaction from the department, applied to the postmaster of New York for advice. I happened to be in the New York office when he called, and was introduced to him. He gave me full particulars as to these complaints of losses, and I determined to assist him.

I accordingly made arrangements with Chief Parker to have all the other inspectors withdrawn, as I preferred to work alone. The chief readily agreed to this, and as soon as I got his consent I commenced a thorough examination of all complaints. I was ably assisted in this by both Mr. Gopsill and the assistant postmaster, Mr. Henry Hellerman.

Five days' hard work convinced me beyond a doubt that the stealing was going on in the Jersey City office, but who the thief or thieves were was a matter I had to determine, and pick them out of the large number of employes

attached to the office. Continued surveillance of different clerks and carriers, both on the street while delivering their mail and in the office, soon directed my suspicion toward a carrier named Church.

This carrier had been in the service for some years, and was a general favorite all around his route. Everybody trusted him and seemed to have a kind word for Jerry Church, the letter-carrier. As he would pass through a street the children would all call out, "Hello, Jerry." "Give me some candy, Jerry." "Got a letter for me?" etc. He was a particular friend of the ladies and many a letter Jerry would have for some young lady from her lover, and as he handed the letter to her he would make some gay remark which would call forth a retort from the girl. Jerry would then go on his route with a good-natured smile to the next house. Notwithstanding that Church was so well liked and had so many friends, a few days devoted to him by myself convinced me that he was spending more money than he, as a carrier, could afford to do. I therefore determined to devote my whole attention to him and see where he was obtaining this surplus money from, and with which he bought his cigars and drinks (for Church never forgot to treat a friend, and I have known him to go into a saloon, take his letter-bag off, sometimes full of letters, leave it on a chair and enter into a game of pool or shake dice for drinks). With this in view, I waited for Church to leave the office, intending to follow him over his route. He had to ride in a horse-car to where his route commenced. I rode on the same car with him and noticed he looked at me very sharply as I boarded the car, but I pretended not to see him. After he left the car I rode a block further where I got off and then proceeded back to where I had seen him turn. Much to my astonishment Church was standing just around the corner. "Good morning," he said to me, as I approached. "Good morning," I replied. "Say, Mr. Newcomb," he continued, "you need not follow me. You have been given away to me and I know you. I ain't done any stealing and I don't intend to, either." During Church's little speech I had made up my mind just what to do and how to act. Extending my hand I said, "Well, Mr. Church, I have followed you, and am glad to say that I have found nothing out of the way as far as you are concerned, and now I want to request of you that you will help me catch the person who is committing these depredations."

As I said this I could notice an expression of relief come over the face of Carrier Church, and grasping my hand he readily agreed to help me. Making an appointment for him to

meet me after he had delivered his route, I let him go. Now, although I had told Church he was all right, and there was no suspicion against him, I was not really of that opinion, and in a few days I developed the fact that I was correct in my judgment and that he was a thief.

As soon as Church had delivered his route, I met him as agreed, had a talk with him, and requested him to watch another carrier in the office, and if he saw this man do anything wrong he was to report to me at once.

A few days after this I arranged with the postmaster to place some test letters containing marked money addressed to persons on Church's route in his letter case, and then to keep watch of said letters until he could swear that they were taken from the case by Church and were in his possession. This being done to my satisfaction, the next thing to do was to see if Church delivered these letters.

I, therefore, went to the houses where these letters were addressed, entering one myself and directing my assistant to go to another. Church went over his route, but he did not deliver either of the test letters. As soon as I was sure of this I proceeded to a saloon that I was certain he would stop at, and secreting myself behind a screen that was there, I waited patiently for Church to come in. At about 5.30 p. m. in he came, threw his bag on the chairs next the bar and called for a drink, at the same time looking around the room. He then proceeded into the wash-room and returned to the bar at about the time the drink was ready. At that moment I came from behind the screen, and walking up to the bar, I said, "Well, Jerry, have you finished your route?" "Yes," he replied, "delivered every letter I had. Have a drink, Mr. Newcomb?" "I won't drink, Jerry, but I'll take a cigar." "All right," he said, and at the same time he threw a two-dollar bill on the bar to pay for both the cigar and the drink. One glance at the bill was enough to satisfy me it was the bill that I had marked and placed in one of the test letters before mentioned. "Why, Jerry," I exclaimed, "how is it you are spending my money?" at the same time taking the bill from the bar. "What do you mean?" he replied, at the same time trying to smile, but it was the sickest smile I ever saw. "I mean this: that you are my prisoner, and I arrest you for stealing letters from the mail." Church made no reply, but taking his letter-bag from the chairs, and without touching his drink, left the saloon with me. Not a word was spoken by either of us until we got into the car.

On the way I purposely allowed Church to fall a little behind me, knowing full well that if he had any stolen property on his person he would take this opportunity of disposing of it. I will mention that I had previously stationed my assistant to cover the door of the saloon. In the event of Church dropping any letters or money on his way out he was to see the act and recover whatever was dropped. I pretended to take no notice of Church other than to see he did not leave me, although I saw him make a motion that to my mind was suggestive

that he had thrown something on the sidewalk. I said nothing about it.

After we got seated in the car Church turned to me and said: "Mr. Newcomb, you are doing me a great wrong. I got that two-dollar bill, not from any letter, but in change at a store where I got a five-dollar bill broke. I can bring the keeper of the store to prove this." "Well, Church," I said, "you keep right on lying to me. It would be better for you, perhaps, but I would advise you to say nothing." At this he got indignant, and told me he had the best of friends. He was innocent, and his friends would cause my dismissal from the service. To these words I made no reply. There were some passengers in the car, and they all knew Church, and he was not at all bashful, but talked in a loud voice, so that he could readily be heard by all.

At last we got to the street nearest the post office, and we left the car followed by my assistant. After we reached the office I placed Church in the postmaster's room, and then calling in my assistant, in presence of the postmaster and Mr. Hellerman, asked my assistant if he had seen Carrier Church throw away anything after he was arrested. He replied: "Yes, sir," and placed on the postmaster's desk three one-dollar bills. Turning to Mr. Hellerman, I then said: "Will you kindly examine and tell me, Mr. Hellerman, if you have ever seen any of those bills before; also, this one?" and I produced the two-dollar bill that I had taken from the bar. "Yes, sir, I have." "State where," I asked. "I placed those bills in two letters at your request. This afternoon I placed the letters in Carrier Church's case, and saw him take those letters out for delivery with other mail-matter." "You are sure of this, Mr. Hellerman?" I asked. "Yes, siree," he replied. "I can swear to it."

Turning to my assistant, I said: "Palmer, how came those bills in your possession?" referring to the three bills. Palmer stepped forward and said: "I saw Carrier Church throw them away in front of the saloon, and I picked them up and brought them here with me."

Church, as soon as he heard Palmer's statement, got up out of his chair, and walking up to me, said: "Mr. Newcomb, have no hard feelings toward me for what I said coming down on the car. I thought I could beat this, but I cannot. I am guilty, and am willing to take the consequences."

Church was then locked up, and at the trial he pleaded guilty, and his friends interceded for him, and on account of the illness of his wife he received a sentence of one year.

After the arrest of Carrier Church I expected the complaint of loss of letters to cease.

What was my surprise when, in about a month from the arrest of Church, to receive a call from Mr. Gopsill, who had the same story to tell. More stealing, and for God's sake would I come and help him out again? This was the last of December, 1881, and I could get no time to enter into the matter until January, 1882. I then took up the case as before.

A LITTLE POSTAL COMMON SENSE.

BY THEODORE TILTON.

WE received the other day, a letter which had been deposited in a western post office, addressed to us, but not prepaid by the person sending. The editor of that excellent postal paper, the Cincinnati *Post-Office Bulletin*, forwarded it to me and pasted on the following label:

THIS LETTER.

Was deposited in the Cincinnati post office without the proper stamp. Under the regulations it would have gone to the dead-letter office. Realizing the importance of its immediate transmission, the editor of the *Post-Office Bulletin* has supplied the proper postage. To repay him send ten cents for a copy of his paper.

Address: JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Box 3,204. Cincinnati, Ohio.

It was a kind and generous act. The severe political economist would probably say that it was an unwise interference with that wholesome education of the dead-letter office, by which every man learns, sooner or later, that repayment is not optional. But this manner of reasoning is more apt to reach men's brains than their hearts.

At any rate, the incident affords a hint for a little common sense addressed to letter-writers, as to the use of a post office. For the want of any of these letters, some child may have died of starvation, or some woman of despair. The last hope quenched, the last opportunity of virtue or of life closed—that is what a dead letter may mean. They are well called by that name, for they may end in the death of more than one life.

What causes all the misery? Who is responsible for dead letters? Ask your postmaster, and he will prove to you that they are caused in more than nine cases out of ten, not by sheer ignorance or misfortune, but by the neglect of the writer to comply with the simple provisions made by the department for the security of letters.

The simple use of stamped envelopes, instead of stamps, would keep one-third of the letters out of the dead-letter office. The general use of what are called "request envelopes" would dispose of most of the remainder. Let us see.

Ask your postmaster to show you the twenty letters which he is to send to the dead-letter office to-day. Ten of these (you find to your surprise) were dropped into the post office only yesterday. Perhaps four of these were put in without stamps, or had the stamps rubbed off in mailing. Two of them bear two-cent stamps instead of three. One has a revenue stamp only. One has a stamp previously used, and put on perhaps accidentally. Eight letters have thus become "dead," all of which would have been saved by the use of stamped envelopes. An envelope can not lose its stamp, nor assume a wrong stamp. The

only possible chance is that the wrong envelope may be used; and the "request envelope," guards, as we shall see, against the consequence of that.

These are eight of the ten fresh letters. Then there is another with stamp and no address; and another with the name of John Smith, and no sign of a town, or county, or state, to distinguish John Smith from his numerous cousins. These are the new letters. Now look at the old ones. Some with addresses perfectly illegible, some clear, precise, accurate, looking so distinct and unmistakable, that you feel as if the very man must live just around the corner—yet he has never been heard of in these parts, and the letter has been waiting for weeks, unclaimed. Some bear the marks of hopeless experiments in penciled memoranda—"try New York," "try Newport," "try Newfane," but no spot on earth, new or old, can give this poor old letter any respite, till it finds at Washington the repose of death. Then the foreign letters—the Galway and Cork missives, the letters to Portuguese sailors, the big letters from the German *frau* and the coroneted and perfumed note from the French marchioness to her pet American fine lady—all gone hopelessly wrong, and drifting together into their morgue of stationery, the dead-letter office.

How to save these poor letters from their doom? One simple precaution would have saved every American letter from death. Had you written on your envelope the single words "If unclaimed in ten days return to"—giving your address, wherever it may be—then your letter would have borne a charmed life. It would have been like the "return balls" the children play with—if the ball does not hit the rubber string brings it back. Better still, buy of the ready postmaster the envelopes on which this request is already printed.

We err in supposing that dead letters are chiefly the result of ignorance. They chiefly proceed from sheer negligence in those who should know better. It is negligence to use a stamp when you might use a stamped envelope. It is negligence to use even this without a "request" on the outside. Let us close with a moral tale. It was once necessary that we who write this should enclose a \$20 bill to a particular person in Providence, R. I., to make sure of its identity, as it was suspected of being counterfeit, and we were charged with having passed it. The note never arrived. Servants were cross-examined, private inquiry made. No clue was found. Weeks after, the letter reappeared from the dead-letter office. We had addressed it to the right person, the right street, the right number—and the wrong city. In some moment of stupidity or hurry, it had been unconsciously addressed to New York, instead of Providence. What we thus did, any of our readers may do with his very next letter. But we, at least, learned by experience. From that day to this we have used "request envelopes," and have had no more dead letters.—*Cincinnati Post-Office Bulletin*, January, 1872.

THE POSTAL-CAR DOG "OWNIE."

"Ownie" is a dog—a mongrel evidently, and the homliest looking cur, probably, in the country. His hair is wiry and his color a dingy gray and dull white. He is between three and four years old, and eighteen inches high, and he makes his home at the post-office at Albany, N. Y. He is a great traveler, always riding in the cars—more particularly railway postal-cars; but if he gets too far from home he will occasionally get into a baggage-car.

While all railroad men centering at Albany are friends of Ownie's, still his choice of associates is railway postal-clerks, and he will follow them in preference to any one else. Many remarkable stories are told of his doings. One day he secreted himself in the Boston and Albany mail car at Albany, evidently intending to go to Boston. The clerk in charge discovered him and put him out, closing the door. The next day, on going to the car in Boston, Ownie was found sitting on the platform wagging his stubby tail, as if to show his gladness to meet the boys so far from home.

A few months ago he took a trip to Brattleboro', Vt., and evidently lost his bearing, as he was gone several weeks, and his friends gave him up. It appears that he went to sleep in the mail-car at night, and the telegraph operator fed him in the daytime. After a while a clerk of the Brattleboro' and Palmer route recognized him and remembered that a clerk at Palmer, Mass.,

was interested in him. He took the dog to Palmer, where he found the clerk playing tennis. Ownie recognized his friend at once, and was so glad to see him that with one bound he jumped clean through the netting.

A short time ago, on the arrival of the mail-wagon at the Albany post-office, a sack of mail was missing. The driver went back to look for it, and Ownie was discovered sitting on it in the gutter. The sack being light, the wind had blown it off, and Ownie had dragged it to the gutter and was watching it. All restaurant keepers around Albany know him, and he is never molested, but receives many good things from the hands of the waiters.

DRAW THE LINE ON FEBRUARY!

We have got on our books the names of some six hundred postmasters whose subscriptions expired with December, about one thousand three hundred whose time expires in January, and some eighteen hundred who fall by the wayside with February! Now do please remember this cold statement of fact and

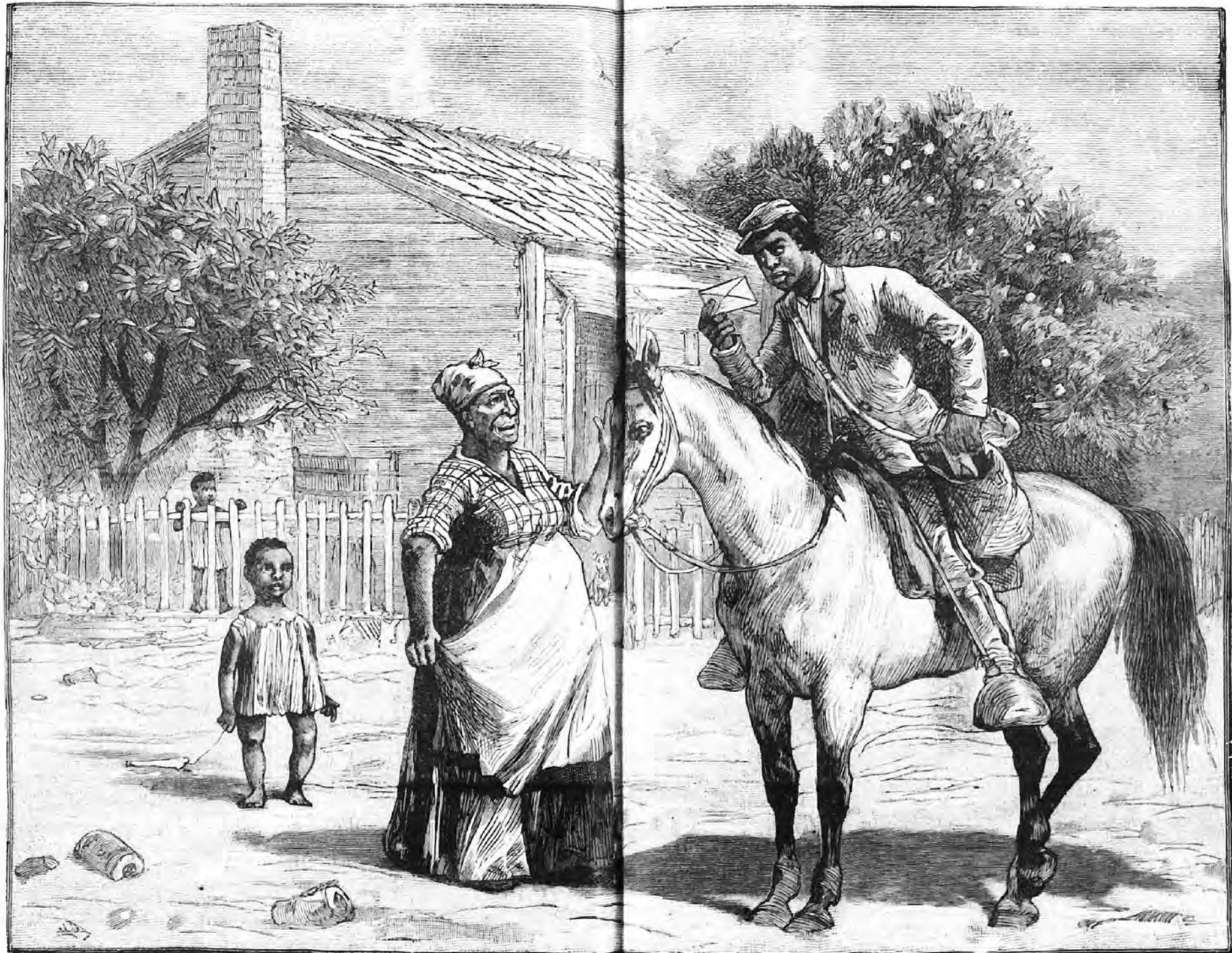
Come, Open That Heart

Of yours and also your pocketbook, and *renew* your allegiance to the UNITED STATES MAIL! Give us your name for 1891 and get ready for the great campaign that is now in progress! Make haste! Make no delay!



THE POSTAL-CAR DOG "OWNIE."

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.



A SUBURBAN LETTER CARRIER

IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL, Chicago.

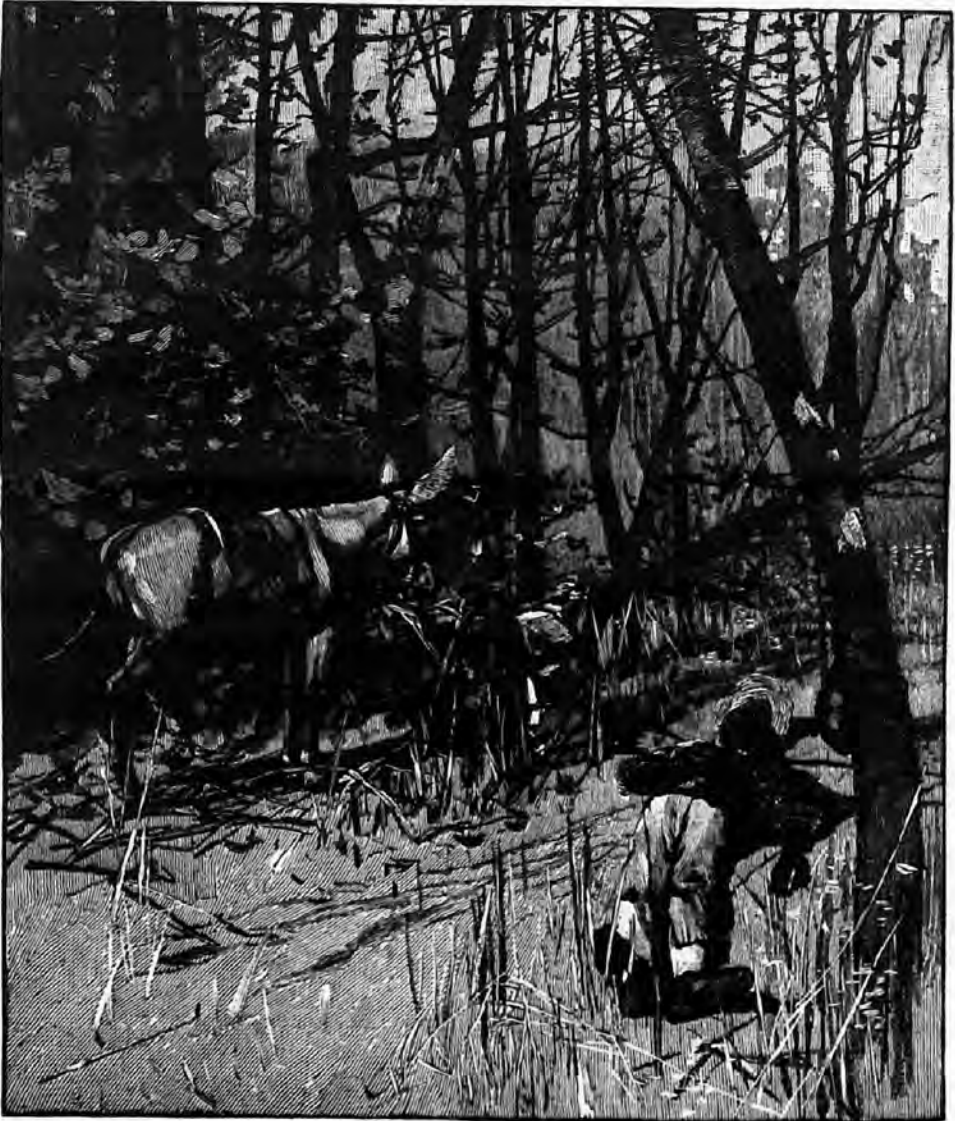
THE FAST MAIL IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The people of the old pine tree state may not feel greatly elated over our illustration of their fast mail facilities, but the fact remains that the picture represents more truth than poetry. As a class they are not up to the times and by far the largest majority of them would not care whether they possessed either post-offices or slow or fast mails. The mail carrier in the representation before us has dismounted from his mule and is taking a nap in the forest, totally oblivious to his responsibility as a messenger in the employ of the government. Whether his schedule time is made is of no concern to him. His slumber is peaceful and serene while his life

is far more happy than the postal clerks who man the postal cars on the Washington and Charlotte R. P. O., or on the New York Central fast mail. If this mail messenger is under the control of J. Lowrie Bell, the Lord help him, for he'll get the G. B. Sure.

BRACE UP,

Old man, and renew your subscription to the UNITED STATES MAIL. Can you afford to have your name stricken from our pages, wherein are inscribed the names of those who are "truly good," who are "registered" to inherit joy and peace here and bliss and sweetness in the world beyond?



"THE FAST MAIL IN NORTH CAROLINA."

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

A QUIET READING.

[See illustration below.]

HEKE is a lovely maiden who has received a letter, and, lest anyone should interrupt her while delving into its contents, she has sought a safe and quiet retreat, where no eye can see nor ear hear what the contents of it may be as she murmurs the words in ecstasy of love. Oh, what treasures there are in letters where one soul pours out its incense to another, where heart and life and spirit are all

devotion, for they are too precious for the world to know their contents, and retreats far removed from intrusion are sought wherein they may find the consolation that only words of love can give. THE UNITED STATES MAIL commends this beautiful picture to its hundreds of lady readers as one worthy of imitation. We know our readers will thank us for this lovely conception. Beautiful in form, sweet and angelic in feature, she presents such an interesting ideal of womanhood that we love her even though a shadow.



A QUIET READING.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

A LETTER FROM THE GIRL THAT RAN AWAY.

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE UNITED STATES MAIL
BY RUTH STETSON.

The mail was tardy getting in—the creek has overflow'd,
A bridge is gone on Thatcher's pike, and one on Wil-
low road;
I waited at the office nearly half a working-day,
And all for this—a letter from the girl that ran away!

I knew it by the postmark, altho' they stamped it light,
A-thinking I would open it before I tried my sight;
But ah! they couldn't hoodwink me, whose heart is
made of steel;
So here's the letter, Hannah Jane, with its unbroken
seal.

I had a notion for to let it in the office stay,
For dead to me forever is the girl that ran away;
'Twas for your sake I brought it home over a storm-
cut track,
And it seemed to burn my pocket all the way a-coming
back!

Read it? No! That hated task to you I will consign—
But keep its contents to yourself; don't read to me a
line!
I know 'tis full of pleading words to make my spirit
bend,
But no! The thorny path she made she keeps unto
the end!

Of all my children, Hannah Jane, I loved that girl the
most—
She was the sunshine of my life, my darling and my
boast;
I used to think she looked like you when you became
my bride,
And all my heart was cast in her; for her I would have
died!

We sent her off to school, you know, to learning's
richest feast—
They made her fit to reign as queen in the old storied
east;
How beautiful she could sing! how grandly she could
read!
Ah! when she saw the farm again she was a queen in-
deed.

The serpent came to blight our hearth; he wore his
blandest smile;
My seraph girl all innocence, and he all guilt and guile!
I told her not to love the man—that love like his would
kill—
But with him to the altar, wife, she went against my
will.

She left the old farm secretly to be a young "blood's"
wife,
And begs me in a letter now to smoothe her wretched
life;
No! no! I never can forget the inorn of that dark day,
When in blinding tears you told me that our child had
run away!

I sent her word that self-same day that home was hers
no more,
I told her with a father's curse, to darken not my door;
And to complete it, Hannah Jane, in binding black and
white,
Amid the silence of my room I made my will that night!
Gave the other children more than had been my in-
tent,
A thousand acres went to John, the old homestead to
Brent;
My money, twenty thousand cash, was all bestowed
on May,
And not a single dollar to the girl that ran away!

They told me afterwards that she laughed over what
I'd done,
And said that she was happy with the man her beauty
won;
He had some gold, and with it, like his class, was very
free,

For he took her to the countries lying far beyond the
sea.

He showed her the magnificence of Venice, Paris,
Rome;
I wonder if among their scenes she ever thought of
home?
How could she when she'd left it in her young and
guileless life,
Against her aged father's will, to be a gambler's wife?

And when they sought this land again, reverses thick
and fast
Came to her husband until he was poor as salt at
last;
Then he who had my bitter curse a letter sent one
day,
To ask if I'd take pity on the girl that ran away.

Now, here's another letter from the same place, Han-
nah Jane;
The same old story's in it, and the same old plea
again
You've opened it! I'll leave the room. Ha! What was
that you said?
"All's over?"—No! it can not be!—O God! Is Mary
dead?

Oh, let me see the letter! Dead! dead! and what is
worse,
I let the poor child die at last beneath a father's
curse;
And he who took her as his wife, across the ocean's
foam,
In sorrow writes to ask if we will let our child come
home.

I'm broken now! With love for her my inmost depths
are stirr'd,
I'll go to town this very day, and there I'll send him
word
To bring her back—that's all forgot, e'en to that dark
day;
I want to kiss once more, though dead, the girl that
ran away.

Her little child is our's now, and she shall have her
share;
I've dreamed that she had Mary's eyes and Mary's
golden hair;
She'll be the sunshine of our lives, now we are old and
gray,
And I will love the image of the girl that ran away!

I'M GOING TO WRITE A LETTER TO PAPA.

BY WILL S. HAYES.

I'm going to write a letter to papa
I guess he'd like to hear
What his little girl is doing
The same as when he's near.
I'll tell him how I missed him,
And how I wish he'd come,
And never, never leave us,
But always stay at home.

I'll tell him 'bout my dolly,
She's sleeping on the floor;
I fear that noise will wake her,
Oh, please don't slam the door;
"For I must not be bothered,"
That's what my ma would say
When she begins a letter,
And sends me off to play.

I'll send him lots of kisses
And one bright, shining curl
I'll ask him to remember
His lonely little girl.
I want so much to see him,
But I won't cry a wink,
'Cause, when I write my letter
The tears would blot my ink

I'm going to write to papa,
And oh, how glad he'll be
To get a little letter,
That's written all by me.

I'VE GOT THEM ON MY LIST.

BY M. J. DONNELLY.

As some day it may happen that a victim must be found,
I've got a little list, I've got a little list,
Of people whom you'll all admit might well be under ground,
And who never would be missed, who never would be missed.
There's the pestilential nuisances inquiring after stamps;
And the boys who stop the train so oft, those good-for-nothing tramps,
And the man who's always harping 'bout the latest change in schemes,
And the clerk in charge who frequently disturbs our pleasant dreams;
And the engineer who runs full speed 'round every curve and twist,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed.

There's the agent who throws in his pouch ere yet the train has stopped,
I've got him on my list, I've got him on my list,
And the other chap who holds for you a pile of stuff he's stopped,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed,
And the clerk who lays for you each month and "biffs" you in the neck,
With a little slip of paper that the service calls a "check,"
And the man who whistles "chestnut" tunes while standing at the rack,
And the funny man who now and then puts dead cats in your sack,
I don't think he'd be missed, quite sure he'd not be missed.

There's the life-insurance agent and others of his class,
I've got him on my list, I've got him on my list,
And the cunning "Con," who at the door inquires for your pass,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed,
And the fellow who to boycott brings his letters to the car,
And out of the little flapper on the side he knocks the tar,
And the transfer clerk who brings the mail at leaving time, you know,
And chucks it at you thro' the door with action that's not slow.

There's the man who threatens to resign, but ne'er turns in his key,
The festive "kickerist," I've got him on my list,
And the "crank" who's rather stuck on mailing sample copies free,
He'd surely not be missed, quite sure he'd not be missed,
And the fellow that's well posted—the Railway Mail "Galoot,"
Who springs the little Black Book whenever in dispute,
And the "prune" who cleans your car at night and collars all he finds,
Tho' dirt on floor or lamps untrimmed, such things he never minds.

There's the clerk who rushes to the door when'er he sees a girl,
The "la-de-da" artist, I've got him on my list,
And the boys who wear boiled shirts and such, while wrestling with the mail,
And the idiot always telling funny stories that are stale,
Nor the "greeny" at the "sweat-box," who takes off his coat and vest,
And says to Captain Perkins, "I'm going to do my best,"
Nor the fellow that's been bragging 'round of what he's going to do,
And on examination scores percentage forty-two,
I could mention many others who would swell my little list,
But who never would be missed, who never would be missed.

THE POSTAL CLERK

BY M. J. DONNELLY.

There's a wonderful machine,
That perhaps you've often seen,
Which toils from morn to e'en,
Like a Turk.

Wound up it's bound to go,
With an action that's not slow,
It is called, I'd have you know,
The Postal Clerk.

He stands there by the rack,
With a crook upon his back,
And papers by the sack,
Doth he work.

Or over at the case
His legs he'll firmly brace,
Piles of letters he will face,
The Postal Clerk.

While engaged in occupation,
Shrills the whistle for a station,
In his mind a profanation
Tall doth lurk.

To the door he'll nimbly rustle,
And the mail he'll quickly hustle,
This thing of brain and muscle,
The Postal Clerk.

He cuts up pranks and capers,
That astound the rustic gapers,
As they watch him throw the papers
With a jerk.

It's surprising, surely this is,
A sack he seldom misses,
As he makes up towns and "dises,"
The Postal Clerk.

To reach bottom oft contriving,
His nose thro' papers driving,
For a pamphlet he is diving
Or a "circ."

When secured, he sounds no praises,
But the air contains blue blazes,
This machine in faith a "daze" is,
The Postal Clerk.

Half asleep tho' sometimes seeming,
You'd imagine he was dreaming,
But he's not, he's deftly scheming
Out his work.

With his helper often "gassing,"
Thro' his brain whole states are passing,
On a crank he's fond of massing,
The Postal Clerk.

His clothes are black and sooty,
You'd scarce term him a beauty,
But his face when freed from duty
Wears a smirk.

When engaged his face in washing,
He'll indulge in harmless mashing,
With a maiden young and dashing,
The Postal Clerk.

A key he keeps suspended
From his trousers, which are mended,
And a knife, perhaps intended
For a dirk,

He keeps, the twine to sever,
In a manner that is clever,
He cuts and slashes ever,
The Postal Clerk.

When the cards he's quickly throwing,
And the sweat from him is flowing,
Oft a wink, perchance, bestowing
O'er at "Perk."

But the Chief ne'er smiles at all,
Vacant stares he at the wall,
Soon he'll wrestle for a fall,
The Postal Clerk.

DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

THE SALE of articles which have accumulated in the dead-letter office during the last year will commence December 13. The catalogue presents some curious features. It is a book of ninety-five closely printed pages. There are approximately 25,000 miscellaneous articles enumerated, which are separated into 4,500 packages. Besides these there are 2,600 books and 133 pieces of jewelry. The sale is conducted by an auctioneer and continues for several days. The packages are wrapped in paper, so that the only clue to what they contain is found in the catalogue. This often misleads because of its brevity in description, and the interest of the purchaser never flags in consequence. Among the contents of the packages, underwear for both sexes and of all sizes is most numerous. The following are specimens: Women's cheap hosiery, garters, corsets, chemises, bustles, undershirts, shoulder-braces, men's underwear, cotton hose, suspenders, collar buttons, soiled linen, damaged hose, and damaged shoes. Smoking and plug tobacco and cotton hose are frequently in the same package. No. 164 contains a cheap

revolver, plug tobacco and a cheap watch. Another contains two pairs women's cotton hose, pair infant's socks, and some sheet wax. Steel pens, rosaries, razors, some of them badly damaged, galvanic girdles, mirrors, sewing-machine needles, playing cards, cigars, cigarettes, a rope halter, soap, women's back-combs, doll-corsets, egg-beaters, can-openers, dentophones, ear-muffs, electric batteries, cheese trier, abdominal supporters, dark lanterns, a seersucker suit, oil-paintings, music, boys' boots, women's shoes, Easter eggs, toys, men's slippers, sewing machines, Indian moccasins, tooth-brushes, bayonets, Turkish bath towels, violin strings, towel-racks, harmonicas, dentists' forceps, fifes, roller-skates, bow and arrows, pipes, artificial eyes, fish-hooks, demijohn, clinical thermometer, flour-sifters, and iron and metal castings.

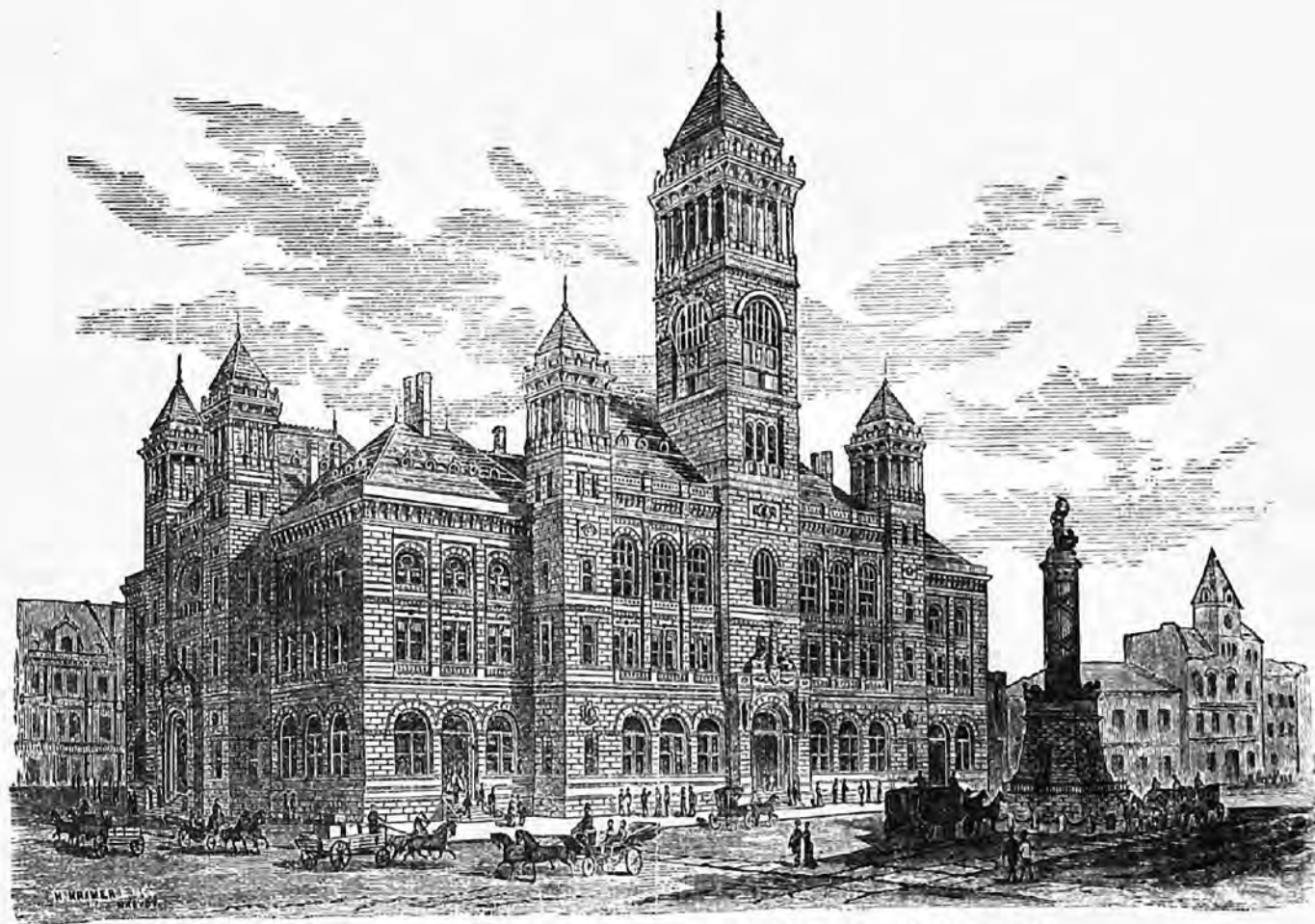
During the last year there was received at the office an average of nearly 15,000 letters daily, or a total of about 5,000,000. These have been handled by 120 employes, mostly women. The dead letters are classified as "ordinary" and "unmailable," the latter being such as do not have a sufficient address or which contain prohibitory matter. Misdirected letters will average 1,000 a day,

and letters which have no address at all 1,000 a month. It is an astonishing fact that the greater per cent. of the latter contain money. Of the domestic letters opened the past year about 40,000 contained money, drafts, checks and money-orders amounting to about \$1,500,000. Nearly 70,000 contained postage stamps. Every opened letter containing an enclosure of value is carefully recorded, and those for which no owner can be found are filed away, subject to reclamation within four years. When the writer's name is attached to a valuable letter he is informed of the money being detained, and by the most satisfactory proof is enabled to secure it.



DEAD-LETTER OFFICE—INTERIOR.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.



THE NEW POST-OFFICE BUILDING AT BALTIMORE, MD.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

See page 3.



WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED:
\$450,000 for rent, light and fuel for third class offices.



WOMAN'S FAVORITE OCCUPATION—LETTER WRITING.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

A "FENSIVE" PARTISAN.

The Calamity which Befell the Postmaster at Red Robin.

OLD Andy Benchly is as dark as the hour which precedes the dawn. During several years Andy has been postmaster at Red Robin, a small village situated below Little Rock. During the campaign Andy was an uproarious supporter of Cleveland, but since the installation of Harrison he has been a violent republican. The other day he came to the city, and hurrying to the state house he presented himself to the governor.

"Come in, Andy."

"Yas, sah; thankee."



HON. ANDY BENCHLY, EX-POSTMASTER AT RED ROBIN, ARK.

"How are the crops down in your part of the country?"

"Doan know, sah. Been so mighty bodered dat I ain't noticed dem."

"What is the matter?"

"Wall, sah, er mighty k'larity hab fell in our curmunity."

"That so?"

"It am, fur a fack."

"What is the nature of the calamity?"

"Ain't got no nater, sah. Too bad ter hab one."

"Well, tell me what the trouble is."

"Well, sah, dat man Harrison hab moved me from my office."

"That's hard on you, Andy."

"Yes; an' I'll make it hard on dis heah gubermint 'fore da gets done wid it, dat's whut I'll do. Fin' dat I ain't er pusson ter be snatched up an' be shuck like er rat. Da'll larn who blows de ho'n in dat neighborhood."

"What was the cause of the removal, Andy?"

"Da said dat I wuz er 'fensive partisan, sah."

"Well, did they prove it?"

"Didn't try ter prube it, sah. Prubin' it didn't 'pear to be no consarn er tall. I writ ter Mr. Wanimacker an' tole him ter go ober and sorter shake up der Preserdent, but de gennerman didn't answer de letter. He mus' tink dat I ain't got nuthin' ter do but ter write ter him. Sets back dar wid his slippers on, readin' my letter, an' den when he gits through wid it he flings it erside like I wan't anybody. I doan like dat way o' runnin' er gubermint, sah, 'clare to goodness I doan."

"Andy, were you not a democrat during the campaign?"

"Who, me?"

"Yes, you."

"Gub'ner, how awful cuis yesse'f ken talk when yer puts yer mind down ter hit. I never was er dimocrat. I was born'd er 'publican, sah."

"Didn't you make speeches in favor of Cleveland?"

"Who, me?"

"Yes."

"Now, dar yer goes ergin. I 'clar' ter goodness dar ain't no comfort in talkin' ter high officers no mo'. 'Twan't allus dat way. Uster come up heah when I wanted ter 'joy myse'f."

"You have not answered my question."

"Who hain't?"

"You."

"What wuz de question? I ain't heerd it."

"I asked if you did not make speeches in favor of Cleveland?"

"Dat's er fack; tibber sho yer did. No, sah, I neber said 'er word 'bout Clebelan, only ter skin him. De Lawd, how I did peel de bark offen dat man. I done de wust thing o' all; I skun him wid er dull knife. It doan hurt so much ter be skun wid er sharp, but when yer skins er man wid er ole case knife dat's been layin' out in de dew, massy sakes how it do make him flinch."

"Why, Andy, I understand that in your speeches you told the negroes that if Harrison were elected they would all be put back into slavery."

"Da tole yer er campaign lie, sah. I neber said no sich o'er thing. I said dat er fool nigger dat would vote fur Clebelan' oughter be put back inter slabery, dat's what I said, an' now jes' look whut I gets fur it. 'Cuzed o' bein' er

'fensive partisan an' turned outen office. Ef I wa'n't in de presence o' de gub'n'r, I would say dat it is a daim shame, sah, dat's whut I'd say. Now, gub'n'r, I doan want'r 'tain yer, but I wants yer ter do me er little faber. Why, sah, I uster 'long to some o' yer kinfolks 'fore de wah, an' it's er mighty pleasant fack ter recolleck, too, sho's yer bornd, it is. Didn' yer hab er uncle libin' in Tennessee?"

"Yes."

"Whut was his name, boss?"

"Hughes."

"Yas, sah, I uster 'long to dat man."

"I don't think you did, Andy. I knew all of his negroes."

"Wall, den, it mout uv been ernuder man by de same name; but dat doan make no difference. I wants yer ter do me er faber. Heah am er paper dat hab been drawed up. Lemme read it ter yer."

"Dis heah am to cercafy dat Andy Benchly am de bes' postmaster dat we hab eber hab at Red Robin—dat's a fack, gub'n'r, for I'se de fust; name o' de office wuz changed—'an' dat we de undersigned is greatly troubled in de flesh 'caze he hab been 'cuzed o' bein' er 'fensive partisan, an' hab on dat account been cheated outen his birfright an' his 'heritance, an' we ax yer, Mr. Preserdent, to put him back in de office.' Now, gub'n'r, jes' lissen at de men whut hab signed dis paper: Lem Gardner, Peter Shaler, Bucksnot Gramley, Nat Packman, Brockey Alf an' Abe Coats. Now, dem's fine names, gub'n'r, so jes' put yer own signerter down heah an' all will be squar."

"Andy, I have given you as much time as I can spare. Go on now."

"Whut, a'int yer gwine to sign dis paper?"

"No, I am not. Go on."

"All right, sah," he said, in a voice of deep disappointment, "all right. I hope it won't be long till da prubes dat yesse'f am er 'fensive partisan. Hope da'll boost you outen dis office. Voted ergin yer once an' ken ergin. Good day."—*Little Rock Journal*.

A POSTMISTRESS WHO WANTED THE NEWS.

For several months past irregularities have been reported at the Borning postoffice, Lower Milford township, Lehigh county. The people claimed time after time that their letters had been mysteriously opened and pasted shut again in a bungling manner. The postmistress was Miss Catherine Trump, an elderly lady, who had been highly recommended for the position. The irregularities at the post office became more and more frequent, and the post office authorities at Philadelphia were informed. A detective was given the case in charge, and he soon discovered that the old lady was the guilty party. When not otherwise engaged the letters were opened, their contents read and the envelopes resealed. In this way she said she got to know all the news of the neighborhood in advance, but she was emphatic in saying she meant no harm and did not know it was against the post office rules. She was required to enter bail to answer at the next term of the United States court at Philadelphia.

HE WAS WELL STAMPED.

THERE was a comical incident at the post office the other day that was directly due to the cold spell and which induced all but one of the parties concerned to almost excuse the blizzard that caused it. A man all muffled up presented himself before stamp-seller Basson's window, and handing out a silver dollar which he had conveniently in his hand he asked for fifty 2-cent stamps. Mr. Basson handed them out in a block. The purchaser paused a moment as though in contemplation, then took off his hat, a soft one, and putting his stamps in it, pulled it closely down on his head.

He thought to save himself the trouble of loosening his wraps. Mr. Basson noticed that the stranger was unusually bald, having but a little fringe of hair around the lower part of his head, and feared for the stamps; but concluded to let his customer order his own affairs without interference.

In about half an hour the man came back. He walked with a hurried step, and the gleam in his eye was not wholly caused by the frigid blast. He marched up to Mr. Basson, and, taking off his hat, bent down his head and in a tone of reproach said:

"Look there!"

Mr. Basson did look, and saw what he declares to be the funniest thing he ever saw. That man's head was plastered all over with 2-cent postage stamps, rimmed around with a little fringe of short, silky hair.

"He looked just like a Humpty-Dumpty clown," declared Mr. Basson, "and I had to bend myself over and laugh till the tears ran out of my eyes. I asked the man what he put the stamps in his hat for, and he said, as though he was very much surprised, that they had varnish on them."

The unfortunate fellow got mad at Mr. Basson's mirth, and angrily demanded what he should do.

"Ha! ha! You had better go to the next window and have them canceled," responded the stamp dealer.

Then the stranger threatened to interview the postmaster and have the unsympathetic clerk discharged at once, and the rumpus brought several other clerks to the scene, who kindly directed the victim to "soak his head." Finally such a crowd of people gathered around and the stranger was so unmercifully guyed that he left, and probably did as he was told, soaked his head.—*Cincinnati Times-Star*.

LETTER ADDRESSES.

"To GEORGE W. KNOWLES this letter is sent. To the Town of Brighton, where the other one went; No matter who wrote it, a friend or a foe. To the State of New York I hope it will go."

The following is a superscription on a letter mailed at Evansville, Indiana, lately:

"Give this a start, and send it straight To Corydon City, in the Hoosier State. Where Miss ADDIE HATTIE may be found Gallanting some young man around. Hand her this, and tell her beware Of dark mustache and auburn hair."



"BLACK BART."

The Career of the Most Noted Mail Robber of Modern Times.

THE career of Black Bart, the mail robber, has ended, so far as continuing his depredations is concerned, as he is now confined in the penitentiary on a sentence of six years' imprisonment. His depredations commenced August 3, 1877, when the stage from Fort Ross to Russian River was robbed by him, and the express-box and mails rifled. His other robberies cover a period of about six years, or until he was captured by Captain Harry Morse, in November, 1883. He is charged with robbing at least thirty stages, and the question of his guilt is so clearly defined that there is no possible doubt of his identity. He was probably the most adroit stage robber of his time, and certainly he was the most successful. He had no confederates. He laid all of his own plans, and executed them himself, and was successful in nearly every undertaking. He was not brutal or murderous, but he went well armed with a double-barreled shotgun. He was polite to passengers, and especially so to ladies. He went to and came from the scene of all his robberies on foot, and was a thorough mountaineer, as he sometimes covered long distances in a day and the routes he took were always difficult to traverse. He got food only from houses in out-of-the-way places, and was never known to remain over night in a house occupied by others. He was never seen in the vicinity of his robberies, and never showed up for food until

twenty or thirty miles away. The only baggage visible when traveling was a roll of blankets. He masked with a flour-sack over his face when committing his robberies, and had holes cut in it to see through. His person was always enveloped in a long linen duster, which completely concealed his identity. He carried an old ax in his expeditions, to open the express-boxes, but always left it behind when the job was completed. In opening mail-sacks he used a very sharp knife, and cut them like a **T**, thus. In attacking a stage he would jump out suddenly from his hiding-place to the front of the team, and in a stooping posture hide himself in front of the leading horses.

Of course, the name of "Black Bart" is assumed. His real name is Charles E. Bolles. That was ascertained from a family bible found in his room after his capture, and from a discharge from the regular army. He is an American, and is about fifty-five years of age. He is five feet ten inches in height, and will weigh about one hundred and sixty pounds. He has a high forehead, with points running well up into the hair, which is gray, as is also his mustache. He is a man of considerable information, well read in current events, and prides himself on his literary attainments, especially in a poetical way. Some of his verses are very good, while others are very poor; in fact, mere doggerel, as the sample sent in will show.

On July 25, 1878, he robbed the stage from Quincy to Orrville. In the express-box, when found the next day, there was a verse of doggerel written on one of the express way-bills, commencing:

"Here I lay me down to sleep," etc.

I send you a *fac-simile*, which you can have reproduced for your columns.

He was not addicted to the use of liquor in any form, and was never a frequenter of saloons or places of questionable resort, but passed his time in reading-rooms and in the society of gentlemen. He was a good talker, and had many warm friends in San Francisco and Sacramento, who were completely surprised when his true character was revealed, as he was supposed to be a man of wealth, largely interested in mining speculations.

Occasionally he would absent himself from the city and be gone for one or two weeks, announcing to his friends that he had been on a visit to his mines. He dressed in style, and in every respect appeared to be a well-meaning, cordial, social, gentlemanly fellow.

The honor of "cornering" Black Bart belongs to Captain Harry Morse, of this city, and I cannot give your readers a more intelli-

gent account of how it was done than by doing so in the words of that gentleman himself, whom I have just seen. He said:

"Last June, a year ago, I was employed by Wells, Fargo & Co. to go to Calaveras county to see if I could get any clew to the person who had been robbing the stages. He had been plundering the company's treasure-boxes and the mails for years, and as yet there had been no clue whatever obtained. I spent three or four days up there making investigations, and came back and reported to the company my idea about the matter. A consultation was held between Captain J. B. Hume, Detectives Charles Aull and J. N. Thacker, in the employ of the express company, and Sheriff Ben Thorne, of Calaveras county, who determined upon a plan for capturing the man.

"Once we thought we had a clew to him, but it proved to be a mistake. We had all been diligently at work on it ever since the matter was placed in the hands of Hume, Thacker and myself. We often consulted and compared notes, and at length concluded that we would have to wait until another robbery had been committed by him, and then, with any clew we might obtain, act

quickly. We did not have to wait very long for the opportunity. On the 3d of last November the robbery of the Sonora and Milton stage was committed near Copperopolis. We fixed upon a plan by which we could get the man when he came to town. Thacker started immediately for the scene of the robbery, with Sheriff Thorne, and made diligent search for the robber, but failed to find any other clew than the things they found there, which he had left in his hurry to get away from the stage-driver, who was shooting at him.

"Among the articles he had left in his hiding-place behind the rocks by the roadside were a hat, three pairs of cuffs, an opera-glass case, and a silk crape handkerchief with the mark "F. K. O. 7" on it. On being notified of this, Mr. Hume telegraphed to Thacker and Thorne to send the things down to the office in San Francisco, which was done. Hume took the hat and opera-glass case to see if he could have them identified, placing the handkerchief in my hands, with instructions to find the owner of the mark, if possible. This was on Wednesday following the robbery, which was committed on Saturday. On his way down to San Francisco, Detective Thacker gave the mark to an officer

here I lay me down to sleep
to wait the coming morn
perhaps success perhaps defeat
And everlasting sorrow
I've labored long and hard for bread
for honor and for riches
But on my corns too long you tread
Your fine haired sons of branches
let come what will I'll try it on
My condition but be worse
and if there's money in that box
Tis munny in my purse
black bank
The. 108

who had been stationed at Lathrop by Chief Crowley, telling him all about the case. I left all other business and devoted myself exclusively to this. I knew I had a job before me, as there were ninety-one laundries in the city.

"After diligent search, I was, on Monday afternoon, the 12th instant, rewarded by finding on the books of a laundry agency, at No. 316 Bush street, kept by a Mr. Ware, the identical mark. The handkerchief had been left three times—the first time on Saturday, July 21, and the second time on Saturday, August 11. I found, also, on inquiring, that the washing belonged to C. E. Bolton. I made the most cautious inquiries at the laundry, and found that he was well known there. The laundryman said Bolton was a mining man, who often visited his mines, although he did not know where they were situated. Sometimes he would be gone a week or two, and sometimes a month.

"I assumed as a pretext that I wanted to consult with him on some mining matter, and not being sure he was the Bolton I was looking for, I wished he would describe him. The laundryman did so, and remarked that he had left the office but a few minutes before, and would be around again the next morning, if not that evening. I also learned that he roomed at No. 37 Second street, room 40. I at once placed a watch on this house, with instructions to keep a close eye and see if any person went in or out, and if anyone was seen, to send word immediately to me, taking care, in the meantime, not to lose sight of him.

"I then returned to the laundry office, and while I was talking to Mr. Ware Bolton came walking up the street toward us. Ware remarked: 'Why, here comes Bolton now. I'll introduce you to him.' This was about five o'clock in the afternoon, just two hours after I had got his name from the laundryman. I knew at once, from the description I had received, that he was the man. He was elegantly dressed, and came sauntering along, carrying a little cane. He wore a natty Derby hat, a diamond pin, a large diamond ring on his little finger and a heavy gold watch and chain. He was about 5 feet 8 inches in height, straight as an arrow, broad-shouldered, with deep-sunken, bright-blue eyes, high cheek bones, and a large, handsome gray mustache and imperial. The rest of the face was shaven clean. One would have taken him for a gentleman who had made a fortune and was enjoying it, rather than a highwayman. He looked anything but a stage-robber. He was quick in his movements, and had muscular and symmetrical limbs. Ware introduced me to him by the name of Hamilton, that being the name I gave him. I shook hands with Bolton, and asked him if he was Mr. Bolton, the mining man. He said, 'Yes, I am.' I then told him that I had a matter of importance relating to some mines which I wished to consult him about, and asked him if he would spare a few moments with me. He said, 'Certainly,' and we walked together down Bush to Montgomery street, then to California

and Sansome, bringing up at Wells, Fargo & Co's office.

"We went up-stairs to the superintendent's office. I introduced him to Mr. Hume, who requested him to be seated, saying that he wished to have a little talk with him. Mr. Hume commenced by inquiring about his business. Bolton said he was a mining man. Mr. Hume asked him where his mine was situated. He said in Nevada, on the California line.

"On being closely pressed, he was unable to give either the name of the mine or the exact locality. He then began to get a little excited, and great drops of perspiration stood out on his forehead and nose. Said he: 'I am a gentleman, and I don't know who you are. I want to know what all this inquiry is about.' Mr. Hume told him if he would answer his questions satisfactorily he would tell him his reasons for asking them.

"I will state here that when Black Bart committed the robbery he dropped a package that had a blood stain on it, and while we were in Mr. Hume's office I noticed that on Bolton's right hand there was a piece of skin knocked off, about the size of a ten-cent piece. I drew Mr. Hume's attention to this, and he asked Bolton how it occurred. He replied that he struck his hand against a car while he was getting off the train at Truckee. He was asked a great many questions, many of which he could not and others he would not answer, and at length grew indignant. He said it was the first time in his life that his character had been called in question; that he was a gentleman, and he would refuse to answer any more questions.

"Mr. Hume then sent to the city prison for Captain Stone, and upon his arrival a hack was summoned, and Captain Stone, Mr. Hume, Black Bart and myself proceeded to Bart's room, at No. 37 Second street, leaving Detective Thacker and Captain John Curtin, of Morse's agency, at Wells-Fargo's, to await our return. This was about eight o'clock in the evening. The interview at Mr. Hume's office lasted about three hours. Bolton said he was forty-seven years of age, and a native of Jefferson county, New York. On arriving at the room we immediately proceeded to search for evidence. We found a large trunk, two valises, three or four suits of clothes, among them a suit answering the description of those worn by the man who robbed the stage near Copperopolis. In one of the pockets I found another handkerchief bearing the same mark as that found at the scene of the robbery, and perfumed with evidently the same perfume.

"Upon opening the trunk they found a lot of shirts, cuffs and collars, all having the same laundry mark, and also a letter written by Bolton, the writing in which corresponded with the handwriting of the doggerel written by the robber on one of the express company's way-bills and left on the treasure box a year ago, and would leave no doubt in the mind of

[This interesting and thrilling story of a real mail robber now in prison, will be completed in the February issue. Though absolutely true in every particular still it reads like romance.]

A STAGE COACH IN A SNOW STORM.

Here is an exact representation of a stage coach in a snow storm in Dakota. It would have no particular significance except that it carries the United States mails and shows how uncertain the mails are in the country where stages are the only means for their transportation. During the winter season they are even more uncertain than the *fast males* in the large cities who stay out late at night and come "rollin' home in the mornin'." But it makes one shudder to look upon this picture and imagine the discomforts of stage travel in the far west.



A WESTERN MAIL COACH IN A SNOW STORM.

Engraved expressly for THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE POSTMASTER'S SOLILOQUY.

Shall I renew or shall I *not* renew? *That* is the question! Whether 'tis nobler in the mind of a postmaster to renew his subscription to his favorite paper—THE UNITED STATES MAIL—or basely and foolishly cling on to his little dollar and a half, and thereafter depend upon his county paper for postal instruction and run the risk of finally landing the post-office in the street—or, to renew, and, *to renew at once*, by boldly inclosing a postal note for the amount due. *Renew!* Did I say, RENEW? and thus put my office in good shape for a visit from some post-office inspector when he comes smelling around to see whether I have given away all my postage stamps free gratis for nothing, or sold them for spot cash! I propose to be always on the safe side and look out for the interests of Uncle Sam and never do without that blessed paper, my counsellor, my benefactor and my friend, you bet.

CLEAR POSTMARKS.

Cannot somebody invent a machine for the use of postmasters that will always postmark a letter clearly and distinctly? There is not a day passes but we receive more or less badly postmarked letters, some so blurred that it is impossible to decipher the mark, and others where the postmarking clerk has only one-half done his duty, by striking but one-half or one-quarter upon the letter. The postmark is a matter of no small importance to business men, and we beg that every one connected with the post-offices whose eye this meets, especially in our great commercial cities, will keep this important fact in mind, and urge upon the stampers to do their work well.

THERE was a lunatic over in Ohio once—a harmless fellow—who persisted in putting P. M. after his name. When inquired of, one day, why he did so, he said in reply that it meant Powerful Mind.

THE STAMP CLERK.

"I SHOULD think you have a pretty easy time in here."

"Well, *pretty* easy."

"You don't have much to do. Just stand at the window, count out stamps, and take in the money."

"That's all, save the little item of making correct change every time."

"Oh, of course. But that isn't much."

"No, not much, though sometimes half-a-dozen people, all in a hurry, want stamps at the same moment."

"Yes, to be sure. You must be busy at times, say early in the day, or at Christmas and Easter. But most people could do the work, with a little practice."

"Yes, practice is a great thing, but I've been a stamp clerk for ten years, and yet yesterday I made a mistake in counting out a small number of one-cent stamps. Still, practice is a great thing."

"Well, I should like to have your place, that's all. It can't be very hard to sell postage-stamps."

"I wish you had it, as you think it is so easy. But, should you try it a day, you might think differently."

This conversation between two acquaintances occurred in a city post office a year ago. The change which has brought about a new administration removed, about a month ago, the old post-office clerk, and installed the other man in his place.

The new clerk entered upon his duties, the first day, with a feeling that selling stamps was a diversion suited to his genial temperament. He hadn't been at the window an hour before he was a sadder and a wiser man.

A woman came up and wanted thirteen cents' worth of twos and ones, half and half, seven postal cards, and a package of two-cent wrappers. She had nothing smaller than a five-dollar bill.

When the clerk had recovered from the temporary slow fever into which this episode threw him, there was a big crowd waiting outside, and all he could hear was:

"Twenty-five cents' worth of twos, please."

"Package postal cards." "Dollar's worth stamps, quick." "How much'll that take? Goin' to Canady." "Nuff stamps on that, hey?" "Gimme two twos and three ones, will you? I'm in a hurry!"

The young man nervously counted out stamps, weighed packages, consulted the printed schedule for rates in foreign countries, and perspired freely. Cold chills ran down his back, for he had a vague idea of giving somebody seventy-five cents' worth of stamps for fifty cents, and of selling a package of postal cards for half-price.

The crowd at the window did not diminish, but grew.

A man finally came up in a great hurry, and threw down a handful of loose silver and nickels and coppers, and asked for,—

"Twenty-seven ones, sixteen cents' worth of twos, two and a half packages of postal cards, and the rest in twos and one-cent wrappers."

The new clerk choked down a big word or two, mopped his brow nervously with a sheet of stamps, and began counting out a package of stamped envelopes, government official size.

"How many did you say?"

"How many what?"

"Envelopes."

"Envelopes? I don't want any envelopes. Twenty-seven ones, sixteen cents' worth of twos, two and a half packages of postal cards, and the rest in twos and one-cent wrappers. That's what I want, and in a big hurry, too. Got to catch a train."

"Sixteen cents' worth of twos?"

"Yes, I said so."

"Oh, well, all—right! There you are. And—and how many ones?"

"Twenty-seven. Come, hurry up!"

"Twenty-seven; twenty-seven. Five times five is twenty-five, and two is seven—twenty-seven. Twenty-seven. And now, the rest in envelopes, did you say?"

"Envelopes? I don't want any envelopes. One-cent wrappers is what I want."

"How many?"

"How many? Well, give me just one. Perhaps you can count that out straight" (sarcastically).

"A one-cent wrapper is two cents."

"All right! I can stand it if you can."

"How many packages of postal cards?"

"Never mind. I can't wait here all day. Besides, there's a crowd out here stretching way around the corner. Just give my change, and I'll get out of here."

When the clerk had recovered from the syncope into which this little transaction had cast him, he spied his old acquaintance, the former stamp clerk, at the window.

"Ah, you seem to be having a pleasant time in here. Please let me have two dollars' worth of twos and sixes, dollar's worth of each. And just weigh that little bundle. Going to Honduras. Needs two more stamps, I think. Should think you would have a good time in here. Not much to do but stand up and sell stamps, and give back the right change, hey? You must enjoy your place here. Of course, it will be a little busy early in the morning, or at Christmas and Easter times. Most people could do it, with a little practice!"

EMBEZZLEMENT OF LETTERS.

An interesting question was raised in the recent case of the United States *v.*s. Badger, in the United States Circuit Court at Boston, namely, as to whether the United States government protects letters after they have been delivered into a private box which the person to whom they are directed has authorized. The court ruled in this case, in which the defendant was tried for embezzling letters, that the United States protects letters till they reach the person to whom they are addressed, and that a delivery into a box such as that described above is not a delivery to the person.

THE POST OFFICE INSPECTOR AND THE POSTMASTER.

A TRAVELING post office inspector went up into Scott county a few days ago for the purpose of investigating certain reported crookedness. One afternoon he reached a small cabin situated near a lonely road. He stopped, intending to get a drink of water, and as he drew near the house, was astonished at seeing a signboard bearing the following inscription: "Poost ofis." An old fellow with a grizzly beard and a hairy chest—displayed as his shirt was unbuttoned—came out and, merely nodding to the inspector, sat down on a stump.

"How are you?" said the inspector,

"Tol'ble."

"Have you some fresh water handy?"

"Plenty uv it down thar in the branch. One uv ther boys shot my bucket all ter pieces, an' sence then I hafter go ter ther branch wen I wanter drink."

Just then a man, mounted on a mule, rode up and asked: "Mr. Plummer, got any letters for me?"

"Yas, thar's one here, Bill Patterson, but you kain't get it. Go on away frum here, or I'll make you wush you hadn't come."

"Wush yer would give it ter me."

"Yas, and the nigger wushed that ther coon would come down outer ther tree, but he didn't come."

"Say, Mr. Plummer——"

"Shut your mouth an' say nothin', an' mor'n that, you'd better mosey away frum here."

The man rode away, and the inspector, addressing the postmaster, asked:

"Why didn't you give that man his letter?"

"Kase he worked ag'in me when I run fur jestic uv the peace."

"Yes, but the government doesn't care anything for that."

"Reckon not, but I do."

"But you were appointed to serve the people."

"Yas, an' I sarve 'em, too—sarve some uv them like old Nick."

"My friend, I am a traveling post office inspector, and——"

"All right, then, travel."

"If I report you to the post office department, which I shall be very apt to do, you'll travel."

"Reckon not. This establishment b'longs ter me, an' nobody's got a right ter tell me ter git out."

"How long have you had this office?"

"Ever since I built it."

"I mean how long have you been postmaster?"

"'Bout a year, I reckon."

At this juncture, an old fellow, cautiously picking his way among the bushes, approached the postmaster, who, upon seeing him, sprang to his feet and exclaimed:

"Whut in thunder do you want here, Abe Smith?"

"Come arter that paper."

"Didn't I tell yer that yer kain't git it?"

"Yas, but I 'lowed that yer mout change yer mind."

"Wall, I hain't. When yer refused ter lend me yer slide an' 'hoss tother week I told yer that yer couldn't git nothin' else outen this office."

"I'm er goin' ter git that paper."

"Not lessen yer are a better man than I be."

"An' that's erbout whut I think."

"Wall, help yerse'f."

With agility surprising for such old men, they grappled each other and began a desperate struggle. Abe Smith succeeded in throwing the postmaster.

"Now," said Smith, as he began to choke old Plummer, "goin' ter let me have that paper?"

A gurgled "yes" came from the postmaster's throat. Smith released his hold and suffered Plummer to get up.

"Wall," said the postmaster, as he stood brushing fragments of leaves and bark from his beard, "I reckon I wuz sorter mistaken in yer. I didn't know that yer wuz such a nice man. Come in, Abe, an' git yer paper, fur yer have earned it like a white man."

"Ain't thar a letter fur me, too?"

"Yas."

"Wall, I want it."

"Kain't git it, Abie. Yet fit fur ther paper an' not fur ther letter."

"Got ter have it Plummer."

"Not lessen yer whip me ergain."

"B'leve I ken do it."

"All right, Abie."

They went at it again; pranced around, striking at each other. Finally Plummer struck Abe a heavy blow and felled him, then seating himself on the prostrate man, he said:

"Don't want ther letter, do yer, Abie?"

"Reckon not, Plummer."

"All right, come erhead an' git yer paper."

When Abe had gone, the postmaster turned to the inspector and said:

"Want anything outen me?"

"No, I believe not."

"Had er letter here on' I didn't want yer ter have it yer wouldn't argy ther p'int, would yer?"

"I don't think that I should."

"Don't want no truck with me?"

"None."

"Wall, then, good-by. Got ter go in now an' make up ther mail."

A REAL NICE MAN.

"He never posted a letter without calculating whether it would have to travel on Sunday to reach its place of destination, and if so he would not mail it till Monday morning. Still further did he carry his Puritanical observance. Unnumbered times have I known him to receive important letters so late on Saturday night that he would not break his fixed resolution never to use his eyes, which were very delicate, by artificial light; he would carry the letters in his pocket till Monday morning, then rise with the sun and read them."



SORROWFUL MORNING GREETING.
A LETTER OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

The difference between the two illustrations upon this page is simple enough. One represents beautiful maidenhood only a moment from her night's rest, while before her is a letter of disappointment and sorrow, so great, that in her grief she drops it upon the floor, the better to give way to the flood of tears that are falling. Sorrow comes to



MAILING A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS.

all hearts, with but slight intermissions, when youth has passed. It is no respecter of persons. And it comes too, by letter. Unkind words that have been penned, have sent many a tender heart to death. Words lightly written are far more dangerous in their effects than when idly spoken, and if we would save tears and griefs, let our missives be as tender as love, and as honest as the day.

The other illustration represents the exuberance of youth, and even the dog shares the joy of the little girl who is sending a letter to Santa Claus to remember her at Christmas. "Christmas comes but once a year", while the griefs of life seem to have no end.

The UNITED STATES MAIL sends its greetings to the little cherubs in the family of every postmaster who may read these lines.

NASBY TURNED MUGWUMP.

IN A BASTEEL (For takin possession uv the Post offis), CONFEDERIT X ROADS (Wich is in the State uv Kentucky), Dec. 7, 1885.—There is a depresshn in the Corners wich is suthin frtful. Ther is a feelin wich is gatherin strength and intensity, and wat the result will be the Lord only knows.

It wuz perposed in Bascom's yisterday that the citizens shood move onto the Basteel and release me by force uv arms, but it wuz promptly votid down. Bascom sed that while my society wuz desirable, he cood hardly afford it. Wher I wuz I cood not run up my account. The heft uv the other citizens sed that so long ez I wuz incarserrated I could not be borrherrin uv em, and it wood be well enuff to let me stay. I wuz bein supported at the expense uv the government, and the Corners hed that much out uv the administrashen wich hed betrayed em. We mite be thankful for that atleast.

Every citizen uv the Corners, however, wants me appinted, fur I owe every one uv em, I think, unless it may be Simeon Johnson, a pauper, wich is supported by the township. I shood hev owed him, only he never hed a dollar, and all I cood ever get out uv him wuz occasionally invitin myself to share his meels with him, wich, ez he is a cripple and coodent make fite, I succeeded alluz in compassin.

They spose that ef I git the place I wood pay em off in time, wich accounts for their solistood. Alas! They don't know how much I owe Bascom, or how sekore his hold is onto me, shood I ever git my rites.

I hev left Issaker Gavitt and Deekin Pogram to take keer of theirselves, and hev taken a new deparcher. Self-preservashun is hev'in's fust law, and I must self-preserve.

I hev turned Mugwump.

I yisterday address the follerin letter to the tyrant Cleveland. It went agin mi grane, but I hed to do it.

To His Eggslency the President: I beg yer attenshun to the follerin fax: I am at present incarserratid in a Basteel at the Corners, fur having attempted to enforce mi rites by pitchin the nigger wich now holds the postoffice here out onto his nose onto the sidewalk. Yoo will understand that I am a applicant for the post-office at this place, wich poshishun I adorned under the late lamented Johnson, wich was succeeded by the brootal Grant, wich histed me.

It hez bin generally sposed that I am a offensive partisan, but I make haste to deny it. I votid fur yoo fur President last fall. 1. Becoz I admired your sterlin integrity, your firmiss and power uv will, and your ginerall

fitness for the exalted posishun, and 2. Becoz I fully coincided with yoo in yoor noshuns uv civil-srvs reform, and desired to do wat I cood to purify and bring about necessary reforms in Amerikin pollytix.

While I did all that a honest man cood do to bring about yoor eleckshun, and to block the unhallowed ambishn uv that politikle skeemer, Blane, I want it understood that I did not do it ez a partisan. I hev alluz bin a democrat, in a ginerall way, tho uv a very mild type. I hev bin hankerin fur yeers fur a oppoortoonity to git rid even uv a semblance uv dimocrisy, and to that end, that I mite be a reformer and no democrat, the very mornin that I heerd the noose uv yoor nominashen I borrowed a cleen shirt, washed my feet, and otherwise disguised myself.

The only regret that I hed in votin the tikket wich you headid wuz that Hendrix, uv Injeany, a man wich beleaved in the etroshus maxim, "To the victors b'long the spoils," wuz on the tikket with yoo. However, I hed to swaller him in order to vote fur yoo, fur wich I enterthane an esteem wich I havn't words to eggsspress. The ontimely death uv Hendrix leeves yoo free to do ez yoo please, onembarast by spoilsmen; unto wich, while regrettin his deth, I congratyoolate yoo in the interest uv our common kentry.

In the intrest uv civil-servis reform I rekest the remove uv the gentleman now okkepyn the post offis at this place, and my appointment in his stead. Mr. Lubbock hez held the place 24 yeers, and, ez a matter uv course, in that time must hev become corrupt. It ain't in the nacher uv things that he cood be otherwise. He hez never bin uv any yoose to the Corners, ez the entire emolyooments uv the offis he hez self-ishly put into a house into wich he lives, instead uv spendin it ez the rest uv the citizens do, in Bascom's.

I would say, in proof of my entire devoshun to the prinseples wich me and George Willyum Curtis hev alluz advokated, that after votin for you I immejitly whopped around and votid the entire republikin tikket last spring and this fall, ez I conceive a mugwump to be one wich never votes twict alike, so thet he may be sure uv bein rite at leest half the time. When a mugwump holds to one party consecootively more than wunst, he becomes a offensive partisan and ceases to be a mugwump.

I trust yoo will make this appintment ez soon as possible, for the people are sendin money lively to the Loozeaner lottery, and every minnit I remain out uv the post offis is losin me heavily.

With sentimence uv profound respect, &c.

* * * * *

I wept when I sent this letter. Things hez come to a purty pass when in order to get an appintment under a dimekratic president, one hez to speak uv a nigger ez a "gentleman," and otherwise apologize fur being a dimekrat. But I sent it, and await the result.

PETROLEUM V. NASBY.

(Abashed, but hopeful.)

THE GREAT MAIL ROBBERY

On the Northern Pacific When \$8,000 Was Stolen in Registered Letters.

The greatest mail robbery of modern times, where more booty was secured in the way of robbing mail pouches, occurred a little after 10 o'clock on Saturday night, June 7, 1890. It was on the Northern Pacific railroad and the next morning after the event the daily papers of the country were filled with an account of the daring deed of two bold and dashing robbers.

It was at ten o'clock, as before stated, when the St. Paul and Helena R. P. O., (railway postoffice) bound east, pulled out of New Salem, North Dakota. The train is known as the Northern Pacific express with



[From a photograph recently taken.]

CHAS. E. BAILEY.

One of the Northern Pacific Mail Robbers.

Tacoma as its western and St. Paul its eastern terminal points. "Jimmy" Kilmartin was the engineer on the locomotive, which was No. 167, and George Simonson was the fireman.

Just as the train was about to start two masked men leaped into the cab and before Kilmartin knew what was up, the cold muz-

zles of a brace of Colt's navy revolvers were placed close to the faces of the fireman and engineer. Both were completely taken by surprise, still they never lost their presence of mind nor did they give way to bodily fear. The engineer appeared as calm as if their action was a joke and actually turned round smilingly to the robbers and asked them what in the devil they wanted. He was quickly informed to "pull out quick or mass would be celebrated over your remains within two days." Jimmy blessed himself and promptly obeyed. After running about three hundred yards the leader of the desperadoes ordered a halt. When the train came to a stand still the engineer and fireman were directed to cut loose from the train the express, baggage and mail cars and send them to a point about a quarter of a mile further down the track. This was quickly obeyed, and, with Kilmartin in the lead armed with a coal pick, the party filed off the engine and wended their way back to the express car, the main object of attack. Just as they were passing the mail car the postal clerk, Shurlock, a nervous youth of some twenty-four years, anxious to learn what was going on, thrust his head out the door, when he was immediately ordered to join the party and he did so without any ceremony.

On reaching the express car Kilmartin was commanded by the robbers to knock in the door with the pick and he at once commenced the work. The sounds made by his banging at the doors seemed to touch the sky above. The night was still and not a sound was heard anywhere except the noise made in the attempt to batter down door. The robbers stood behind with revolvers cocked ready for instant use should even a move be made to disobey their commands. The suspense of the captives was terrible. The poor mail clerk as well as the fireman almost fainted from fear and only brave Jimmy Kilmartin retained his coolness and presence of mind, though he has said since that he expected every moment to be shot to death. Over \$30,000 in paper and silver were in the safe in the car and the robbers were determined to possess it if bravery and determination would secure it.

Inside the car seated upon a box opposite the door at which Jimmy was whacking, sat Ed. Angevine, the messenger. In his hands he held a gun heavily charged with buck shot awaiting the appearance of the robbers determined to empty its contents into the face of the first one which appeared after the door fell. But judge of his chagrin when he recognized the voice of Kilmartin, who as he saw the door would soon give way, begged of Angevine not to shoot. "For heaven's sake, Eddy, don't shoot; it's me and I can't help it and the gentlemen here who are bossing the job say I must or die," said the engineer in pleading tones.

Angevine immediately dropped his gun and slipped out through the rear door and ran rapidly to New Salem, faster far than he ever got over ground before.

When the door was finally battered in, Kilmartin was ordered to enter first, and soon the postal clerk, the fireman and robbers were beside him. But Angevine had fled and the safe could not be opened. This angered the robbers intensely, but with terrible oaths swore they would not be baffled entirely and so headed the party to the mail car in which there was an exceedingly heavy registered mail. Postal Clerk Shurlock was commanded to enter with one of the robbers, while the remaining "Knight of the Road" held Kilmartin, the fireman and a brakeman, who had come to inquire what was going on—under cover on the outside. Shurlock was forced to unlock the cage in which was placed all the registered packages, cut open all the through pouches, and, with the local registers in the car, transfer their contents to a large tie sack. The number of registers filled the sack to the "neck," and that, too, after the clerk was compelled to bounce them up and down on the floor so as to make room for the entire lot.

The sack was then placed on the shoulders of the engineer, and with the balance of the party, he was marched down the track, over a bridge and round a curve, a half mile beyond the glare of the locomotive headlight. Fifty yards beyond the bridge a canoe was found tied up and into it was placed the great sack of mail.

Then the robbers gave the captives a warning in the manner of their return to the train and swore they would shoot them down if they even turned their heads backward. It is hardly necessary to state that they made all haste in their return trip and was only too glad to escape with their lives. They almost fell over each other in their eagerness to get back and it was a strange and most unusual flight of three men for their lives. Even when crossing the bridge, they ran with furious strides over its dangerous track, which one misstep would hurl them almost to instant death by concussion or by drowning. And when at last they arrived at the locomotive almost breathless, with the quickest possible action they mounted the cab and Kilmartin sounded the whistle making it screech as never before. The fireman rang the bell with all his might and the great iron horse was soon backing down to the train. The passengers had all been notified of what had happened and the twenty minutes consumed in the robbery seemed to them like twenty years. Some hid behind their seats for security while others left the train in their fright. The express messenger had notified everybody of the situation and the consternation of all on board may be imagined but never fully realized unless the same experience shall have been gone through.

This was one of the boldest and most audacious train robberies that ever occurred in this country, surpassing the most desperate known in the annals of crime. It was committed within thirty-five miles of the capital of North Dakota and a little less than one

mile from a village of three hundred people and the hour was not late. The train was made up of eight passenger coaches, three of which were sleepers, and not less than two hundred people were on board; and yet the deed was done by but two bold and determined men, neither of whom were twenty-eight years of age. It sounds like the exploits of a modern Jack Sheppard.

The booty secured by the robbers was very large, as something valuable was in every package. The amount of cold cash taken is estimated at about \$8,000. The exact amount will never be known until all complaints shall have been made of losses sustained. But the "divy" was large and had both the robbers escaped, the amount of their swag would have been quite satisfying to them.

The knowledge of the robbery was known before the train reached Mandan, only thirty-five miles distant, and the next morning it was spread all over the United States. In less than three hours after its occurrence many of the particulars had been wired to Captain Jim Stuart, the chief postoffice inspector in Chicago, and on the first train out in the morning the gallant captain, the hero of hundreds of important arrests of criminals charged with rifling the mails, had one of his most trusted lieutenants start on a journey to the scene of the robbery. It was William Watkins, one of the youngest members of Captain Stuart's inspecting force. He was not only ambitious but daring and skillful, and he left on his mission determined to succeed.

Watkins arrived at New Salem on the second morning after the robbery and lost no time arranging to commence his pursuit of the outlaws.

Himself and posse then started down along the track on well mounted and fleet footed horses to the place where the robbers crossed the river after they had ordered off the engineer, postal clerk and brakeman. Once over, the trail was easily caught and followed for a mile due south, leading to a secluded thicket in the rear of a steep hill, where it was found that two horses had been picketted within a very recent period, certainly not over two days before, and that one of the horses had no shoe on his left fore foot. This was conclusive evidence that they were on the right trail and they determined to follow it. From there for a distance of eight miles it was easily kept when it was suddenly lost owing to the peculiar condition of the soil they encountered. They decided to continue in the same direction, however, hoping to find it again before dark. Their course was southwesterly from New Salem and in the direction of the "Black Hills," for Watkins knew that it would be the aim of the robbers to get as far south of the railroad as possible into an almost inhabitable section of country. The inspector and his posse moved slowly, watching the ground in every direction. They kept up the same line of pursuit for a distance of fifteen miles, when, to the complete astonishment of the party,

they came to the place where the robbers had dismounted, rifled every registered letter and package, took the money and destroyed the remnants by fire. The money taken amounted to about \$8,000 and it was divided equally between them. The breech loading shotgun taken by them from the express car, was then broken and destroyed.

The trail from that point became visible again at times, run for an hour or two, then it would suddenly disappear, many times for five or ten miles. But Watkins had a theory in regard to the course of the robbers, and he determined to follow it to a logical sequence and therefore kept on in the same direction. He did this for a distance of seventy-five miles until he arrived at Cedar Creek. At that point he started one of his posse up the stream and another down. This was done to find the place at which the robbers crossed. All of the party dismounted and hitched their horses for a rest, but in less than twenty minutes one of them returned with the information that he had found the foot prints of the horses on the bank of the river not a quarter of a mile distant. That was glad tidings, and they quickly remounted and rode rapidly to the point indicated.

It appears, however, from subsequent developments that one of the robbers could not swim, and that the other, who proved to be Chas. E. Bailey, attempted to find a fording place for his accomplice by riding his horse up and down the river and cross and back, and that it was while in that act that his animal became bogged and sustained an injury in one of his limbs that afterwards led to the arrest of his rider.

Seeing the serious predicament in which Bailey had gotten into with his horse down in the mire and deep water on every side of him, the accomplice coolly mounted his horse and left his companion to his fate, and has never been seen or heard of from that time to the present, and will probably never be caught.

But Bailey and his horse finally extricated themselves and crossed the river in safety. His animal, however, was seriously crippled in one of his limbs by his terrible exertions to pull himself out of the mud in which he had become embedded to a depth of a foot or more. His journey from that onward was quite slow, little dreaming of the close proximity of the officers of the law.

In order to shorten a long story of details in regard to the pursuit and capture of Bailey, it is only necessary to say that Watkins and his party crossed the river and again found the trail and pursued it with all possible haste. For four days from the time the search began, with but little food and water and under a burning sun, the trail not not always visible, many times not at all, and often very uncertain, the officers pressed forward in pursuit of the fugitives.

On the morning of June 12th, when one hundred and fifty miles southwest from New Salem, Watkins and his party saw at a long

distance ahead of them a tall, athletic appearing person standing near a horse that was hobbled and grazing, and the solitary man was none other than the robber they had been striving so hard to capture. It was Chas. E. Bailey, who had stopped for an hour to rest his wearied horse.

The moment Bailey saw the approaching party he quickly saddled his animal and made off as fast as he could carry him, but he was lame and rapidly lost ground, and Bailey soon saw that escape was impossible. He urged his faithful steed to the utmost, but it was an unequal race, and the distance between the pursuers and the pursued gradually diminished, when all of a sudden he stopped his horse and faced his captors. He quickly dropped a wad of something, which afterwards proved to be his share of the robbery. Then he raised his gun and took deliberate aim at one of his pursuers. Watkins and his assistants, who were riding rapidly, were unprepared for this display of bravery and mad desperation, and were not a little nonplussed at what seemed to sure death to one of the three; but they, too, were brave, and as quickly as possible raised their trusty Winchester rifles and prepared to send him to his reward beyond, when, as quickly as he raised his gun he as suddenly lowered it, and calmly awaited the approach of his captors, and in less than ten minutes from the time he was seen a mile distant he was under arrest. When taken he was found with a sorrel horse, with the shoe missing on his left fore foot, which confirmed the opinion of the officers when they first examined the trail.

The "wad" Bailey dropped was not found until four days after his capture, and it was not until then that it was ascertained that it was made up of bank bills. But little of the \$4 000 was ever recovered. Much of it was chewed into pulp by roving animals, and some of the bills were found torn, ragged and worthless from mutilation miles distant.

In order to absolutely fix the guilt upon Bailey, Inspector Carraway took the three remaining shoes from off the feet of the horse and fitted them in the tracks on the farm of a Mr. Gillis, where Bailey and his companion had camped for a week prior to the robbery. He also did the same with the boots owned by Bailey, thereby fixing upon him the perpetration of the robbery, so that there was no question as to his guilt.

Bailey was taken to Fargo and placed in jail until the 14th of October last, when he plead guilty, and was sentenced to eight years' confinement at the prison at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Capt. Jim Stuart, from whom the editor of the UNITED STATES MAIL learned the foregoing particulars, is very happy over its completeness, and Colonel Rathbone, the chief inspector of the United States, is proud of the achievement. We saw at Captain Stuart's office one of the shoes worn by Bailey's horse and also Bailey's boots.

VOL. VIII.

SEPTEMBER + 1892.

NO. 9.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL

THE FRIEND OF THE POSTMASTERS.



UNCLE SAM ON THE FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

Instruction.

Amusement.

An Expounder of
Postal Laws and Regulations.

Untrammelled.

Fearless.

NEW YORK CITY,
280 BROADWAY,

E. C. BROWN, Editor and Publisher.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Everything that Pertains to the Trade. **22** Separate Departments.
Our No. 34 Catalogue Mailed free on receipt of Satisfactory Business Card.

ESTABLISHED 1863.



S. F. MYERS & CO., Manufacturing *and* Wholesale Jewelers.

WATCHES,	PENS, HOLDERS, &c.,	TOOLS AND MATERIALS.
DIAMONDS,	SOLID SILVER WARE,	OPTICAL GOODS, LAMPS,
GOLD JEWELRY,	CLOCKS, BRONZES, &c.,	CANES AND UMBRELLAS,
PLATED JEWELRY,	SILVER PLATED WARE,	JOBGING AND REPAIRS.

48 & 50 MAIDEN LANE, 33 & 35 LIBERTY ST., N. Y.

LARGEST ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS KIND.

MENTION THE UNITED STATES MAIL IN ANSWERING ABOVE

Claims Paid, over \$800,000.00.

THE HOME ... BENEFIT ... ASSOCIATION,

Offices: 135 and 137 Broadway, New York.

RESERVE FUND DIVIDENDS every year after the Fifth. Economical Life Insurance. Safe! Sure! Sound! The Company for active workers. General and Special Agents for Territory at present unoccupied will be given liberal compensation and will find our plan of insurance a good one to present. For terms, particulars and all information, address as above.

For those who buy Insurance.

For those who sell Insurance.

The net cost of twenty years' Accident Insurance in the **MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY** of Geneva, N. Y., is \$73.80, or an average of \$3.69 per year, under its "Return Premium" Policy.

Death Benefit, \$5,000. Other benefits same as in policies issued by other first-class Companies.

For particulars, address

WM. D. CHASE, Sec'y and Gen'l Manager.

**MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY,
GENEVA, N. Y.**

OUR PLAN IS ENTIRELY NEW

Assets over	-	-	-	-	-	\$100,000
Reserve Fund with the N. Y. State Ins. Department,	-	-	-	-	-	50,000

SPECIAL TERMS TO FIRST-CLASS SOLICITORS.

GOOD GOODS SOLD CHEAP, SELL EASILY.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Everything that Pertains to the Trade. 22 Separate Departments.
Our No. 34 Catalogue Mailed free on receipt of Satisfactory Business Card.

ESTABLISHED 1863.



S. F. MYERS & CO., Manufacturing and Wholesale Jewelers.

WATCHES,	PENS, HOLDERS, &c.,	TOOLS AND MATERIALS.
DIAMONDS,	SOLID SILVER WARE,	OPTICAL GOODS, LAMPS,
GOLD JEWELRY,	CLOCKS, BRONZES, &c.,	CANES AND UMBRELLAS,
PLATED JEWELRY,	SILVER PLATED WARE,	JOBGING AND REPAIRS.

48 & 50 MAIDEN LANE, 33 & 35 LIBERTY ST., N. Y.

LARGEST ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS KIND.

MENTION THE UNITED STATES MAIL IN ANSWERING ABOVE

Claims Paid, over \$800,000.00.

THE HOME ... BENEFIT ... ASSOCIATION,

Offices: 135 and 137 Broadway, New York.

RESERVE FUND DIVIDENDS every year after the Fifth. Economical Life Insurance. Safe! Sure! Sound! The Company for active workers. General and Special Agents for Territory at present unoccupied will be given liberal compensation and will find our plan of insurance a good one to present. For terms, particulars and all information, address as above.

For those who buy Insurance.

For those who sell Insurance.

The net cost of twenty years' Accident Insurance in the **MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY** of Geneva, N. Y., is \$73.80, or an average of \$3.69 per year, under its "Return Premium" Policy.

Death Benefit, \$5,000. Other benefits same as in policies issued by other first-class Companies.

For particulars, address

WM. D. CHASE, Sec'y and Gen'l Manager.

**MANUFACTURERS ACCIDENT INDEMNITY COMPANY,
GENEVA, N. Y.**

OUR PLAN IS ENTIRELY NEW

Assets over	-	-	-	-	-	\$100,000
Reserve Fund with the N. Y. State Ins. Department,	-	-	-	-	-	50,000

SPECIAL TERMS TO FIRST-CLASS SOLICITORS.

GOOD GOODS SOLD CHEAP, SELL EASILY.

POSTMASTERS,

SEND FOR CATALOGUE TO

THE SADLER CO. BALTIMORE, MD. KANSAS CITY, MO.



Photograph of our "B-16" Post Office Cabinet

WHICH CONTAINS

48 Wire Bottom (Dustless) Call Boxes,
16 Solid Bronze Lock Boxes (3 Keys),
24 Wire Bottom Boxes for Letters,
16 Wire Bottom Boxes for Newspapers,
5 Boxes above Window for Envelopes, etc.,

Solid Bronze P. O. Sign over Window,
Solid Bronze Letter Drop,
Brass Rod Wicket with Folding Doors,
Cash Drawer, Spring Lock, Coin Tray,
Numbered Name Cards for each Box.

A Complete Working Post Office, 3 feet 8 inches high, by 4 feet 6 inches long, for

\$37.50 CASH, OR \$50.00 ON INSTALMENTS.

(Payable in five quarterly payments, without interest; first payment with order.)

Price. **WITH 8 LOCK BOXES, \$27.50 Cash, or \$35.00 on Instalment.**

WITHOUT LOCK BOXES, \$17.00 " " \$20.50 " "

We Pay the Freight to any R. R. Station in the United States.

EVERYTHING FOR POSTMASTERS

(See September No. Official Postal Guide.)

POSTMASTERS,

SEND FOR CATALOGUE TO

**THE SADLER CO. BALTIMORE, MD.
KANSAS CITY, MO.****RUBBER STAMPS FOR POST OFFICE USE.****SELF-INKING STAMP PADS.**COLORS: BLACK, RED, PURPLE, GREEN AND
BLUENo. 0— $2\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$. Price, 20 cents.No. 1— $2\frac{3}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$. Price, 35 cents.No. 2— $3\frac{1}{4}$ x $6\frac{1}{4}$. Price, 50 cents.**IMPROVED LINE DATERS.**

Complete with box of dates for years, months and days, tweezers, etc. The holders are of metal, neatly finished, with enameled handle. They are made in five styles, as shown below.

**PRICES.**

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, each, \$0.75

No. 4..... 1.00

No. 5..... 1.25

Postage paid.

No. 1.
MAY 20 1888No. 2.
MAY 20 1888No. 3.
SEP 24 1888No. 4.
OCT 25 1888No. 5.
JUN 23 1888

We furnish the entire set of Fifteen One-Line Stamps for Post Office use, as per samples below, postage paid, for

ONLY \$1.00.

The first three lines will be altered to suit the name of Postmaster, Assistant Postmaster, Town, etc.

J. I. NORRIS, P. M.**L. Kain, Asst. P. M.****Richmond, Va.****DUE 1 CENT.****DUE 2 CENTS.****REGISTERED NO.****CORRECT.****RETURN TO WRITER.****POSTAGE DUE.****ADVERTISED.****UNCLAIMED.****Third Class Matter.****MISSENT.****FORWARDED.****HELD FOR POSTAGE.**

If less than 15 of these Stamps are wanted, the first 3 on the list will be 12 cents each, cash with order, the remainder 6 cents each as we have them in stock.



Price for this Hand, 15 cents.

Contractors to U.S. Post Office Department

(See September No. Official Postal Guide.)

The Ladies' Home Journal



will give

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

To the person sending in the largest list of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS

To the person sending in the second largest list of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

To the three persons sending in the next three largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

To the five persons sending in the next five largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

To the twenty persons sending in the next twenty largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

FIFTY DOLLARS EACH

To the twenty persons sending in the next twenty largest lists of Yearly subscriptions by January 1st, 1893.

This \$6,400 in cash will be divided as indicated among the 50 persons sending the largest clubs of Yearly subscribers at One Dollar each, between now and January 1st, in addition to the large cash commission which they earn (and retain) for every subscriber secured. For details concerning this cash commission write to us.

The following persons were the winners of the Cash Prizes offered in our subscription contest which closed June 1st, 1892:

500 DOLLARS Subs. **200 DOLLARS** Subs.
C. O. T. Larson, Nebraska 678 W. H. Moore, New York 462

150 DOLLARS EACH
H. A. Kenyon, Illinois 342 L. Conant, Illinois 261

100 DOLLARS EACH
C. W. Bennett, Michigan 222 Rev. Jesse Brown, New York 145
Miss C. M. Swan, California 192 Cora Stoner, Indiana 143
Rose Jones, Iowa 177

50 DOLLARS EACH

Mrs. F. T. Bidell, West Virginia 140	Sarah Kittridge, Massachusetts 67
Miss S. A. Turner, Vermont 139	Miss E. C. Pope, Maryland 64
Libbie Cassidy, New Jersey 133	Clara Lanum, Ohio 56
C. B. Tuttle, Kansas 125	Flora Newly, Indiana 52
Mrs. A. E. Hummel, Pennsylvania 106	Chester Brown, Vermont 52
E. R. Kelsey, Massachusetts 103	Mrs. J. I. McCormick, Pennsylvania 52
Miss H. I. Seeley, California 100	Rev. E. W. Cummings, Vermont 51
Edna Jones, Kansas 83	Mrs. T. J. Sherk, Minnesota 50
Miss S. A. Lacy, Connecticut 81	Miss M. E. Terry, Connecticut 50
Effie A. Pattie, Texas 74	Mrs. M. A. Ratliff, Illinois 45

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

433-435 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE FRIEND OF THE POSTMASTERS.

VOL. VIII.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1892.

No. 9.

OBITUARY.

Ex-Postmaster E. D. Hall, of Meriden, Conn., died on Sept. 10, aged 60, after an illness of a week. He was appointed postmaster by Mr. Hayes. He was in the insurance business. He leaves a wife and one daughter.

Colonel John F. Bates, of Dubuque, Iowa, who during President Cleveland's administration rendered official service as superintendent of the free delivery system in the post-office department, died suddenly in Washington on September 4, of asthma. Since his retirement from office Colonel Bates had been practicing law. He leaves a widow and one son.

ROBBERIES.

Numerous complaints having been made to the department this summer by the residents and visitors of Atlantic City, N. J., of the loss of special delivery letters, the government detectives were placed on the case, and on Sept. 10 arrested Holand Hewitt, who is chief clerk of the distributing department of the Atlantic City post-office, as the culprit. He has been connected with the department since 1887, and enjoyed the confidence of both a Democratic and Republican postmaster.

Decoy letters were used in detecting the thefts, and Inspector Griggs, who caused Hewitt's arrest, claims that the evidence is so convincing that there is no doubt of his guilt, though the latter states that he is able to

prove his innocence. He was taken to Camden, to be detained for a hearing the following week before a United States commissioner. Hewitt was to have been married next month. Up to this writing we are unable to give the result of his case.

The post-office at Wilmington, Del., was entered by burglars on Sept. 17. After carrying the safe out of the office they ransacked it of \$500 in money and carried off several valuable letters and papers.

A. B. Farrel, mail contractor on the route from Tallahassee, Fla., to Carrabelle, on the Gulf coast, was arrested on September 10, on the charge of robbing the mail. For three years past there have been reported losses on the route of registered letters and packages of great value, but suspicion had not been directed to Farrel until about three weeks ago, when Post-Office Inspector Fred D. Pees took the case up.

Farrel declares his entire innocence, but was committed to jail the next day in default of \$6,000 bail.

The loss of money on the Carrabelle route is estimated to be over \$10,000 in the past twenty-one months.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.
MONTHLY.
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF FOURTH
CLASS POSTMASTERS.

ONE YEAR,	- - - - -	\$1.50
Eight Months,	- - - - -	1.00
Six Months,	- - - - -	.75
Four Months,	- - - - -	.50

E. C. BROWN, - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

NEW YORK, - 280 Broadway.

Remittances for subscriptions or advertisements should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Entered at the Post Office in New York as second-class matter.

KEEP EVERLASTINGLY AT IT.

The great inpouring of letters from Fourth Class Postmasters in every section of the country in response to our editorial in the August number as to whether it was the wish and expectation of the Fourth Class Postmasters throughout the country for the UNITED STATES MAIL to again engage in its effort to secure increased compensation has assured us that it is the wish of a large majority of the Fourth Class Postmasters that the UNITED STATES MAIL should renew the fight this fall and attempt to see justice given the poorly paid Fourth Class Postmasters. Our duty, then, seems to be plain, and we have buckled on the armor, and we shall make a determined effort, leaving no stone unturned in the hope and expectation that Congress at its next session will see only too plainly the imperative necessity for granting immediate relief to the patient and long-suffering postmaster. We are well aware of the difficulties surrounding the case, but we now feel assured that we may count upon the earnest support, in every possible way, of a large number of incumbents of Fourth Class offices, and among them nearly every man who lent his aid last winter, that we feel the effort to be made this fall will not be so difficult, owing to the cooperation of the National Association of Fourth Class Postmasters.

Nevertheless it is highly necessary if success is to be won that a large accession of new recruits must be secured; therefore it stands in hand for every Fourth Class Postmaster to lend his aid and encouragement not only to the UNITED STATES MAIL but to the officers of their National Association. It is only too plain to us that in the event of Mr. Harrison's re-election—and who among the Fourth Class Postmasters does not believe that that result is a fixed fact—unless concerted action is taken and a new bill re-introduced at the very opening of the coming Congress, that they will run along another four years on their already too small stipend. It is time for action, and we hope this article will insure the receipt by us of a still further number of letters, whose writers will assure us of their hearty cooperation and determination to see justice dealt out, not only to themselves but to that great army of struggling veterans of the service.

FOURTH CLASS POSTMASTERS.

(From THE UNITED STATES MAIL of August, 1892.)

The bill introduced by Senator Brice and Congressman Cummings in the upper and lower houses of Congress never saw the light of day. This just and honorable prayer for the relief of thousands of honest and tireless governmental servants, who for the most part do not receive sufficient compensation to keep body and soul together, was simply ignored by the members of the National Legislature composing the committee on post-offices and post roads, and, in the language of one of the shrewdest of postmasters working for its passage:

* * * "It was the intention of the postal administration to kill our bill in committee." We incline to the same thought. Now shall we rest on our oars and make no further effort to secure from this government that measure of relief which constant toil and strict attention to the requirements of the office exact, or shall we move onward and forward and prepare for the meeting of the next Con-

gress, and in the mean time lay the ropes that will pull the latch that has always in the past opened for every class of government officials save only the fourth class postmaster.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is with the postmaster until the end, and here and now announces its steadfast intention to "keep everlastingly at it" until the right is made to prevail. Remember, there are many Congressmen between now and the ides of November who will sit on the steps of every post-office in this land of liberty and appeal for "help." Remember, then, the "Lord helps those who help themselves."

"Thrice armed is he that hath his quarrel just." —*Shakespeare.*

"And four times he who gets his blow in fust." —*Josh Billings.*

GIVE US THE FACTS, MR. CUSHING.

Marshall Cushing, in the *New York Press*, gives an exhaustive review of the work of the post-office department and he paints it in the most "roseate tints," the chief aim apparently being to show how the deficit in the department is being lessened by the present administration. But alas; we fail to find any account or comment of how thousands of fourth-class men are toiling for a miserable pittance, that the ends of the leading lights in the department may be served.

While you are talking on the subject, Mr. Cushing, give us both sides, and let the public see how these economies are in many instances almost keeping the bread out of the mouths of these poor, patient and patriotic public servants. We doubt very much if the common people would sanction any such course did they know the true facts in the case. Give it to us, Mr. Cushing, and in the language of the New York street urchin, "give it to us straight."

MAILS AT A DOG TROT.

IT TOOK TWENTY-FOUR DAYS FROM NEW YORK TO CINCINNATI.

It is hard to believe that only fifty-seven years ago, a time within the memory of many old residents of this city, a letter took twenty-four days in transit between New York and Cincinnati. Here is a letter addressed to "Nicholas Carroll, Esq., Cincinnati, Ohio," postmarked "New York, Dec. 18," and also marked "Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 11," the difference between the two dates being three weeks and a half. The letter was afterward forwarded to New York, "care of Messrs. Gideon Lee & Co., No. 20 Ferry street." The name of this firm will have a familiar sound to some leather merchants still doing business in the "Swamp."

In addition to the interest which this old letter has as a curiosity of the mails, it contains the account of an eyewitness of the great fire of 1835. It is written upon a full sheet of foolscap paper, and was mailed, after the fashion of that time, without an envelope, the address being written upon the blank fourth page and the whole sealed with a wafer. There is no stamp of course, but the post-office department has marked it with a pen, "2P 25-50." The postmarks in red ink are much larger and plainer than those of the present.

The letter is dated New York, Dec. 17, 1835. "It is with the deepest feeling of regret," the writer says, "that I try to give you a faint idea of the horrible calamity that befell our city last night. It is indeed one of the greatest disasters that ever visited this country or probably any country since the memorable conflagration of Moscow. Almost the whole business part of the city is one heap of ruins.

"About 8.45 o'clock last evening fire was discovered breaking out in two or three places in the stores in Pearl street, just below Wall street, on the side nearest the exchange. There was almost a gale blowing from the northwest, which immediately drove the flames across Pearl street, where they enveloped ten or twelve stores, and in a few minutes the fire was driven through to Water street, and thence to the East river, sparing nothing in its course on the lower side of Wall street.

The shipping in that quarter was almost every moment catching, and the tide was too low to float them out in the river, some of them being aground.

"The fire continued to drive on toward the Battery, enveloping the exchange and making steady progress down toward Old slip and to William street, sweeping everything in its way to a level with the ground. It then extended through Exchange place to William street, up William to Wall on both sides, then through the South Dutch church, taking the whole block below through to Broad street, except the stores fronting on Broad street. You can now imagine the whole space from the block fronting on Broad street down to the East river one broad sheet of fire and rapidly moving down to the Battery. The engines had long since given up all hope of doing anything; it was utterly out of their power, as the hose froze as fast as it was filled up.

"I was on the spot a few minutes after the fire broke out and stayed till about 7.30 this morning, helping, as much as I was able, my friends to move their own and their employees' books and valuables. It was a bitter cold night, and this morning you can perhaps imagine my feelings, but you cannot my looks. It is now 12 o'clock, and I have not been from the stove since I came from the fire, but I hear that it is raging almost as much as ever and has burned up everything this side of Coenties slip.

"Dec. 18.—Your letter remained unfinished yesterday, as I thought it would be useless to attempt to mail it in the confusion necessarily attendant upon the removal of the post-office. They saved everything, I believe, connected with that department, and are now under the custom-house. The fire is got under and has not reached below Coenties slip. They stopped its further progress in Pearl street by blowing up one or two stores in Pearl street on the corner of Coenties slip, where, you will recollect, the slip is narrow and there was danger of the fire reaching across. Among our acquaintances burned out are Cheesebrough, lost all his clothes, saved \$15,000 out of \$70,000; D. Stoutenburgh, John Birdsall, etc. People are more cool to-day, and say the loss is between \$30,000,000 and \$50,000,000.

"The case now stands thus: Begin on the lower side of Coffee House slip and come up Wall street to William, thence diagonally back of the Phoenix bank to the stores fronting on Broad street; then it has made a clean sweep within this circle to the East river down to Coenties slip, where it is now burning. Everything within this is destroyed—the exchange, post-office, A. Tappan & Co.—everything is gone. Everybody wears a gloomy face this morning, and with reason. Some of the effects will be the failure of all fire insurance companies in the city, and people coming in while I am writing say that at least half of the merchants in New York must fail, and half the banks. In short, there is no end to the misery that will be produced. The loss at the present time is variously estimated at from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 in goods and property. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained."

People were not cool enough even on the second day to reach rational figures, for the loss by the great fire of 1835 was afterward computed at \$18,000,000. The houses and stores destroyed numbered 648. There was no Croton water then to fight fire with. The Croton system had been determined upon a year before, but it was not opened until 1842. The first transatlantic steamship entered the harbor six years later, in 1841, and in that year the first telegraph line was established. The writer of this interesting reminder of a half century ago was Edwin R. Tremain.—*New York Times*.

A PLUCKY MAIL DRIVER.

Frederick Ward, driver of the United States mail wagon, while driving across the mountains west of South Orange, N. J., at about 9 o'clock on the night of September 12, was stopped by two masked highwaymen.

One of the robbers jumped upon the wagon and commanded Ward to surrender all his money and valuables. Ward, who had \$100 in his possession, did not give it up, but fought the robbers off with an iron bar.

He struck one of them with the bar, knocking him from the wagon. He then whipped up his team and drove away at a rapid pace and escaped. He reported the attempted robbery to the police the next morning, but no clew could be found to the footpads.

A NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.

HOUSE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY BOXES TO BE INTRODUCED.

On Sept. 9th, Postmaster General Wanamaker issued his expected order deputizing the postmasters of free-delivery cities, towns, and rural communities to put up letter boxes at the request of citizens, for the collection and delivery of mail at house doors. The order effects nearly 3,000,000 residences to which the free-delivery service is already extended, and it is regarded by postal experts as to the most important departure in the free delivery of mails since the beginning of the system under Postmaster General Blair.

The canvass of models of boxes to be recommended has lasted over two years, and the recommended boxes have stood the test of actual experience. In the test upon the Washington carrier's routes, where boxes were put up on houses situated mostly on the building line, an actual saving of time on the trip of the carrier was half an hour or more, and in the test upon the St. Louis routes, where the boxes were all put up on houses 75 feet from the sidewalk, there was an actual gain of several minutes.

This gain comes from the fact that much time formerly consumed by the carrier in waiting for people to come to doors to receive their mails is not all taken up in calling at houses where the automatic signal, seen from the sidewalk, indicates that mail is to be collected. In St. Louis more than four times as much mail was deposited in the house letter boxes as had formerly been dropped in the street letter boxes within the same area and in the same length of time.

The boxes vary in price from \$1 to \$2, and a given route is to be equipped when the postmaster finds that two-thirds of the householders desire the new double service. The post-office officials say that as no loss of time is involved to the carrier force, no extra carriers (except as the service naturally grows) are required, and if the saving of time on given routes is considerable enough, extra deliveries, always a necessity, may be put on with the same force of carriers.

The change means that as fast as patrons of the mails desire them the new facilities will

be within reach, without any expense to the householder except the first cost of the box, and without any departmental outlay at all, as the expenses of tests have been borne by the inventors themselves. It has already been decided to experiment, without cost to the department, with the house letter boxes in rural communities, in conjunction with the country free delivery and the star routes, and it is believed that if this house-to-house collection system comes generally into vogue, the robbery of letter boxes will perforce be done away with.

In response to the invitation of the postmaster general for models, designs, and specifications of house letter boxes, about 1,200 devices were submitted. These were referred to a commission of postal experts, of which Postmaster Van Cott of New York was chairman, for examination. This commission recommended for favorable consideration six of the devices, which in its opinion best met the requirements of the case. The postmaster general accepted the proposition of such of the inventors as desired to put up boxes at their own expense, to give a practical demonstration of their value.

Accordingly tests were made of four different boxes by the postmasters of St. Louis and Washington. The boxes will be exhibited at post-offices by the postmasters, and post-office employees have been directed to facilitate their introduction. Housekeepers desiring to try the new mail collection and delivery scheme must select and purchase a box of one of the styles approved by the department.

THE TRANS-ATLANTIC MAIL CONTRACT.

The Inman and International Navigation Co. will in all probability be awarded the transatlantic mail contract by Postmaster-General Wanamaker. It is said that Liverpool will probably be abandoned and Southampton adopted for the Great Britain terminus, Liverpool being one of the most expensive ports in the world and the stopping point of a great many ocean steamers, which has spoiled both the freight and passenger service by ruinous competition. It is thought that ere long the above change will be made on this account.

TO WRITE A BOOK.

It is said that Postmaster-General Wanamaker, encouraged by the notoriety gained by author Tom Watson, of Georgia, has determined to write a book. The forthcoming volume is to be devoted to Mr. Wanamaker's personal experience as postmaster-general. Throughout the department it is referred to as "Wanamaker's Book."

Several clerks have been engaged for some time past in the preparation of the manuscript, and everything was progressing finely until, according to a press dispatch from Washington, the author decided to include a number of illustrations in the publication. Portraits of a few of the leading bureau officers are to appear, but a special feature is to be the pictures of some of the handsomest of the women employees.

The rolls of the department undoubtedly contain the names of a large number of beautiful young women, and the selections of the subjects for "Wanamaker's Book" naturally caused a merry war to break out in the department. The favored ones who were invited to give the postmaster-general their respective tintypes were of course in high glee, but those who had been overlooked said some very mean things about the postmaster-general and those who assisted him in making the selections. Those who had not the necessary photographs on hand were authorized to go to a local artist and have them taken at the expense of the postmaster-general. That is, so the report says.

Mr. Wanamaker's annual reports have always been different from the general run of public documents of this character, and this year he intends to contribute a more than usually picturesque work to the government book shelves.

MODELS OF OUR POSTAL CARS IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN MUSEUM.

Some time ago the United States Post-Office had prepared two models of United States railway mail cars to be placed in the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin. These models were ten feet long, just one-sixth of the size of the regular postal car which cost the German Government \$1,000 apiece. The department, at its own expense, had the models fitted up

with the regular appliances and apparatus of the service, which made an exact reproduction of the postal car in use. They were then shipped to Germany. Sept. 17 the Post-Office Department received a communication from the German Government acknowledging the receipt of the models and extending thanks to the United States for its courtesy. The letter adds that the museum will now be able to clearly demonstrate to its visitors the excellent arrangement and operations of the United States railway mail service, and at the same time give an idea of the grand development of the United States postal traffic.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PERTH, N. Y.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL.

SIR: Among the many funny things received at this office recently was a letter directed to Mr. Slab Maker. We delivered the same to Mr. J. C. Lois, who owns a sawmill here. He proved to be the right person. We went on the principle that a man who runs a saw mill must be a slab maker. Your paper is a good one.

Yours respectfully, C. L. CODDING.

AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Charles E. Hatcher, one of Captain McGrath's secretaries in the city delivery department of the Chicago post-office, is preparing a unique exhibit for the post-office at the World's Fair grounds. Part of Mr. Hatcher's duties is to decipher badly addressed letters after all the post-office experts in that line have failed. In this Mr. Hatcher has no equal. The bulk of the badly addressed letters come from foreign lands. In sorting over these letters, Mr. Hatcher kept an account of the number of different ways the word Chicago is spelled. The record now shows 197 different ways. Some ripe scholar in Finland last week sent a letter to his brother here, and spelled the name of the exposition city Zizazo. Still another foreigner, possibly with a sinister motive, spelled the word Jagjago. Hipaho, Jajijo, Schecchacho, Hizago and Chachicho are also prime favorites and are all down on Mr. Hatcher's little list. He proposes to add to it until the World's Fair is opened, when the list will be put on exhibition. Mr. Hatcher has been at his work of collection but a few months, and he expects his list will be increased by the addition of several hundred by the time the fair is opened.

HARD TO COUNTERFEIT.

"The paper money of the United States is the least handsome in the world," said the proprietor of a money exchange. "That is because this Government depends entirely upon the intricacy and elaborateness of the designs on its notes and certificates for protection against counterfeiters. In foreign countries, on the other hand, much effort is directed to making their currency beautiful with pictures and arabesques in the classical style. Not only are the results pretty to look at, but they serve their chief purpose better, for any engraver will tell you that real art work on a bill is far more difficult to imitate than any purely mechanical effect, no matter how complicated the latter may be made by the geometric lathe and other devices.

"Most beautiful of all paper notes are those issued in France and Prussia. Here is a pretty Austrian bill for 100 florins, printed in blue ink with the design mainly composed of two large standing figures of cherubic children and an oval of children's heads. That seems a queer notion from our point of view for the ornamentation of currency, but it is certainly both interesting and handsome. This is a Russian bill for 100 rubles, done in pink and green. Here you have a Scotch note, issued by the 'British Linen Co.,' which promises to pay £5 on demand. In Great Britain the privilege of issuing paper money can be obtained by corporations other than banks from the Government.

"You will need a magnifying glass to examine this note with. It is Irish. The words 'one pound' are printed across it in big letters, but this broad stripe extending from one end to the other of the document is a curiosity. To the naked eye, even upon scrutiny, it seems to have no significance, but when magnified you will perceive that it is wholly made up of the words 'one pound' in microscopic letters. From the superficial appearance of the Bank of England notes you would suppose that they could be readily imitated by photography or otherwise, inasmuch as their designs consist of very little more than lettering in black that is almost severely simple. But that great financial institution depends altogether upon the water marking of its paper, which is wonderfully elaborate, as you can see by looking at the

light through it. This water marking has been imitated, but never with success."

—*Washington Star.*

POST-OFFICE ROBBER, MURDERER AND SUICIDE.

Inspector McCalmont, of Pennsylvania, identified at Jamestown, N. Y., recently, the remains of Patrick Dowd, of Dunkirk, the murderer of George J. Hess and a suicide, at Jamestown. Inspector McCalmont says Dowd was one of the smoothest rascals he ever attempted to follow. He has operated extensively in the robbing of post-offices throughout western Pennsylvania. He has been in prison in New York and Pennsylvania several times. Only a short time ago he was in Buffalo, where he disposed of a large number of postage stamps which he had stolen.

HIS MAIL BAG IN THE RIVER.

Mr. Bodell, the driver of the mail wagon between Luray and New Market, Va., on his trip on August 25 lost control of his team and was thrown out of his wagon and very badly hurt. The mail was lost in the Shenandoah River, but was afterward recovered. Mr. Bodell is seventy-four years old and a character in many respects, not having drank a drop of liquor or used tobacco in any way during his life.

"THE amount of moisture a letter of two or three pages will carry," says a business man, "is enormous, and is frequently heavy enough to turn the scale and call for more postage. A large batch of mail matter of mine was reported 'held for postage' not long ago, and on going to the post-office I found it weighed well within the limit. It was explained, however, that the mail was damp when delivered, and that the water soaked up by the paper must be paid for, although it has since evaporated, which seems to indicate that it is economical to copy letters at least an hour or two before mailing them."—*New York Tribune.*

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

BOX RENTING IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS OF WEST VIRGINIA.

One of the typical mountaineers came into the office at Williamson recently one day and seemed very much amused with the boxes. After a good deal of questioning and talk in regard to their use, Postmaster Kimball, Plympton, told him the price per quarter and explained the usefulness of boxes both to the postmaster and patrons. Finally after a good deal of reckoning he allowed he would take a nickel's worth.

The well-known Boston music publisher, Mr. F. Trifet, 408 Washington St., has published a collection of songs that is a credit alike to the compiler and to Mr. Charles D. Blake, who arranged the music. He has so constructed and harmonized the selections that not only can they be sung with or without accompaniment, but were the words of every song removed there would be a collection of instrumental pieces left without altering a single note. The choice of selections ranges from religious to secular, pathetic to humorous, ancient to modern—in short, from everything to its opposite. There are 256 pages, with 400 songs, and the volume is neatly printed and bound. By mail to any address it is sent postpaid for 60 cents, paper, or \$1, boards. Few, if any, other music books can compare with it as regards quantity, quality or price. It is an excellent fireside companion, and will help to while away many a happy hour in hundreds of homes.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

POSITION WANTED.

A lady with four years' experience in a Third Class Post-Office wishes to obtain a position; Western State preferred. Can give good references. Any postmaster requiring an assistant or clerk may correspond with

MARY W. PETTEE,
Gen. Delivery Clerk in
the Plattsmouth, Neb.,
Post-Office.

THE FLANNELETTE HYMNS OF JOHN WANAMAKER.

Is the political life of the Hon. John Wanamaker drawing to a close? We know not how else to account for the evident afflatus with which he has been afflated recently. His advertisements have long been noted for their occasional strains and touches of poetic genius. Now they are one long welter of rhythm, one vast procession and recession of the tides of song, with interludes and pauses in which you catch the rush of the cash railroads or the complaint of nickels dropping into the slot. There is an old, wild Northern strength, coupled with a meridional luxuriance of epithet about these Wanamakerian hymns. The strong brevity of the Icelandic or Anglo-Saxon poets is blended with the soft adjectives of Arosto. The Tennyson of "The Princess" and Swinburne before his Mother Goose period have also been studied by Mr. Wanamaker. But let us proceed to print in its proper poetic form the fancy Flannelette which this eminent Philadelphian has too modestly printed in prose:

- "Sunset clouds and shimmer of moonbeams
Seem to have touched this year's Dress
Goods;
Warp-and-Woof woven of beauty and airi-
ness,
Pinks and blues as if from cloudland.
The bright stuffs might have touched with
the stars,
Fittingest fabrics and fair prices,
Poem pictures awaiting their frame.
- "The wing of the Albatross was never more
soft-white
Than the Cream Cloth so bird-named,
Other creams are Crépons, Henriettas,
Engadines, Challies, Serges and Crépes.
- "Apricot, Willow, Petunia, Pecan,
Fawn, Vapor, Blue Pilote, new colors in
Broadcloth,
Hints of new touches in dress beauty, one
Twenty-five, seventy-five, \$2, \$3.
- "Bashkirtseff, Margate, and Krenelin again,
Women's suits never too many times told of,
At the same little prices to-day you can pick
From a batch of most picturesque prettiness.
Six-fifty and seven, eight-fifty and nine;
And Serge Suits at \$14.75.
The colors, the cutting, the tailor touch of
finish
All help to keep these costumes in favor.
- "Jackets for girls, and all sorts of jauntiness
In dresses of light-weight cloth, Guimpes to
go under;

Other dresses to go over or to go by themselves

Without Guimpes. Children to be fitted may be

Fourteen years, or 4, or between.

Prices start at \$1.25 Chestnut street, Second floor. The Fancy Flannelette Jacket And Skirt at \$4.50 are Fatigue suits to The Full Dress Costume, opportune for the outing,

Cool, comfortable, cheap.

Style and Service in happy union."

Are we reading Wanamaker or are we reading a newly discovered work by the author of "Piers Plowman"? "Jackets for girls, and all sorts of jauntiness, in dresses of light-weight cloth, guimpes to go under." Why, this is more Langlandese than Langland himself. But to more poetry:

"The soldierly set of a Zouave Blouse Suit Delights almost any boy. The uncommonly little

Prices will delight almost any mother."

But here is the delirious dithyramb in which the poet is borne triumphantly to the crystalline heaven of song:

"Six styles at \$4.00,

Six styles at \$5.00,

Five styles at \$6.50,

Five styles at \$7.50."

This is the perfection of Flannelette verse. But is it a swan song? Are we to judge from it that the Hon. John Wanamaker is about to give up fancy Flannelette politics and return to fancy Flannelette poetry?

—N. Y. Sun.

DRAMA OF THE MAIL.

A letter once mailed no longer belongs to the sender, says the *Morning Journal*, but is the property of the person to whom it is addressed. Such is the postal law, but it is a law often violated by postmasters in small places where correspondents are likely to be personally known to the post-office authorities, and sometimes leads to curious complications in large ones where this is not the case.

Important business interests have been effected by the same law. A firm which had long been really insolvent, had succeeded in keeping the knowledge from the public, and continued to receive money from investors, which the partners employed dishonestly for their own advantage.

It was their intention to raise one more large sum of money, part of which was to be

contributed by a business friend of one of them, and then to leave the country with their spoil, and let their creditors shift for themselves.

But the wife of the business friend and the wife of the man who meant to victimize him frequently corresponded with each other, and the latter wrote a gay gossiping letter to the former, in which she mentioned that her husband had been in poor health lately on account of business troubles, but that she trusted their approaching trip to Canada would restore him.

Remembering too late that her husband had asked her to mention neither of these facts, and fearing to vex him, she went to the post-office to recall her letter.

The postmaster refused to give it up. She could give no good reason for demanding it, and became petulant and irritated when he continued to refuse. He remained firm, and the letter was sent. The receiver showed it to her husband, whose suspicions were aroused. He made an investigation, and as a consequence the dishonest firm was broken up and both the partners arrested and punished.

Intercepted letters have long been a theme of drama and romance. A letter which could not be intercepted, but had to go in spite of the sender's express desire and entreaty, might offer an interesting variety.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., has not yet free postal delivery for its outlying territory. The inspectors have been over the ground and reported that the sidewalks must be laid, the streets lighted, and houses numbered before the free delivery system can be introduced into the new territory.

A chemist declares that "next to pork the banana is the most indigestible thing a person can eat." This ought to be a sufficient warning to all who value a good digestion to refrain from eating bananas next to pork.—*Minneapolis Tribune*.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

POSTMASTERS!!!

We want you to have the UNITED STATES MAIL, because we feel that you need it in your business (thousands testify to this), and in order to further its circulation, we will make you the following

Liberal and Unprecedented Offers.

No. 1. Fine Ebony and Rolled Gold Desk Holder and Pen, LADIES' SIZE, very useful. Regular Price, \$1.50. We give this ELEGANT PREMIUM with solid gold 14 K. No. 3 Pen, and one year's new or renewal subscription, for \$1.75.

No. 2. Fine Ebony and Rolled Gold Telescope Holder and Pen, MEN'S SIZE. Regular price, \$2.25. We give this ELEGANT PREMIUM, with solid gold 14 K. No. 5 Pen and one year's new or renewal subscription, for \$2.00.

CAN YOU BEAT THIS ?
WE THINK NOT.

UNITED STATES MAIL,
280 Broadway,
New York City.

Premium
No. 1.

GUARANTEED TO PLEASE OR MONEY REFUNDED.

(SEE PAGE OPPOSITE.)

Premium
No. 2.

OUR GOLD PEN OFFER

Only a few more of these first quality and standard Gold Pens can be offered ;
therefore act on the Premium at once if you want the Pen and
the MAIL for one price practically.

READ THESE UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

FROM THOSE WHO HAVE SECURED THE MAIL AND A PEN.

Postmaster Graves of Delaware Water Gap, Pa.:

"I received the gold pen you sent me as premium for my subscription to your valuable journal; it is every way satisfactory and I am only astonished that you can offer such a fine article at such a small addition to the subscription price. I consider it alone worth the two dollars you charge for both pen and subscription, and advise all postmasters to take advantage of this liberal offer. Your journal is exceedingly interesting to me. I welcome it more heartily than any other magazine I take, and think you should be well rewarded for getting up such a publication, and especially for your efforts to obtain for the underpaid fourth-class postmasters the addition to their compensation that they are so justly entitled to. You may count me a life subscriber to the MAIL, even if the fortune of politics should bereave me of business connection with the Post Office Department."

Postmaster Ferriday of Cedar Keys, Fla.:

"The gold pen you offered for 50 cents extra, as premium for subscription to the U. S. MAIL came last night. It is a fine one, and I trust all brother postmasters will be supplied with both pen and magazine."

Postmaster Carnahan of Larrabee, Ia.:

"The No. 1 gold pen and holder received from you as premium with the U. S. MAIL is a good one, and worth all you ask for both pen and Mail. The MAIL I would not do without for twice the subscription price."

Postmaster Watson of New Salem, Ill.:

"I am very much pleased with the pen, and I believe it alone is worth the money I paid for subscription and it also."

Postmaster Pittman of Cedar Hill, Tex.:

"Your premium received all O. K., and can say that I am much more than pleased with same and recommend it to all. Both the pen and holder are well worth the price alone, and just what they are represented to be in the MAIL."

Postmaster Martin of Butternut, Mich.:

"I wish to inform you that I have received your valuable premium, the gold pen, for which please accept thanks. I consider I got value received for my money in the pen alone. There is not a live postmaster who wishes to keep well posted in his official duties as postmaster who can very well dispense with a paper that supplies the long felt want that we can find in the UNITED STATES MAIL. I sincerely wish you success."

Postmaster Watkins of Warren, Ark.:

"The premium gold pen received of you August 31st is a 'daisy.' It alone is well worth the two dollars, much less the value of the U. S. MAIL to a Postmaster. Every Third and Fourth Class Postmaster should have both the MAIL and pen."

Postmaster Newton of Alpha, Ill.:

"The premium gold pen sent me by the UNITED STATES MAIL was received in good order and is giving good satisfaction."

Postmaster Scott of Bronson, Minn.:

"I received the gold pen as premium No. 2, and it pleases me very much. The pen is worth at least the price paid for subscription to the U. S. MAIL. I think this is a very liberal offer of the publisher, a gold pen and subscription to the MAIL for one year, with its valuable information, for the small sum of two dollars."

SEE ADVERTISEMENT ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

ADDRESS,

UNITED STATES MAIL, 280 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK.

BIG RUSH FOR STAMPS.

With the last day of June the fiscal year of the post-office department came to an end, and Uncle Sam's stamp agents all over the country are now shipping in their orders for new supplies by the wholesale. Although these orders all come direct to the post-office department in this city, they are not filled here. The great gray stone building between E and F, Seventh and Eighth streets, northwest, is not, as many people suppose, a great "gumstickum" and red-paper reservoir, where one can drop a dollar in the slot and draw out a string of stamps. Neither are the stamps manufactured here. In fact, about the only stamps which come to the city are to the Washington post-office, and these only through the same red-tape routine which is required of country postmasters.

The manner of which is as follows:

The general storekeeper and official representative of Uncle Sam at Happy Hollow, U. S., finding the post-office getting short of stamps, makes out an order upon a printed blank for the required number and sends it in to the post-office department at Washington. Here the account of the postmaster at Happy Hollow is looked up, and if his credit is still good, the order is approved, debited to his account, and forwarded to the government agent at the stamp factory. The American Bank Note Company are contractors for this class of work.

The stamps having been counted and carefully packed under the direction of the government agent, are shipped by registered mail direct to Happy Hollow. They are accompanied by a receipt which the postmaster signs and forwards to the Post-Office Department, where it is checked off on his account and also serves as a voucher. The Happy Hollow magnate then proceeds to recoup himself by retailing these stamps at their face value, ranging from 1 to 90 cents.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the actual cost of manufacture of the ordinary adhesive postage stamps is only about $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per thousand. Also that the number issued this year is something over two and a half billion, valued at something like \$50,000,000. Accordingly it would seem that there is a very pretty profit in the postage stamp business, but Uncle Sam has a

monopoly and doesn't seem inclined to divide even with his agents, most of whom consider themselves lucky if they get out even on their sales.

This year also there have been issued over 600,000,000 stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers, together with nearly 500,000,000 postal cards, and some 60,000,000 official and registered package envelopes. The total value of all stamps, envelopes, cards, etc., issued by the Post-office Department during the past year is something like \$65,000,000, or an average of about \$1 worth for each inhabitant of the United States. So it appears as a whole, we are quite a nation of letter writers, whatever may be our individual failings, according to our friends.

The Plimpton Manufacturing Co. and Morgan Envelope Co., of Hartford, Conn., made the stamped envelopes, and the registered-package, tag, official, and dead-letter envelopes are furnished by White, Corbin & Co., of Rockville, Conn.

Postal cards cost the government 35 cents per thousand, while the stamped envelopes, according to contract, range from 54 cents to \$6.76 per thousand, according to size and quality. In distributing these, somewhat different methods are used from those just stated concerning stamps. The postal cards are manufactured at Birmingham, Conn., and are freighted from the factory to sundry sub-agencies, whence they are distributed to the post-offices throughout the country according to demand. In this way the Department gets the benefit of freight rates on packages which would be too heavy to handle conveniently in the mails. Such sub-agencies have been in operation for eight or ten years at Chicago and St. Louis, the postmasters in those cities also officiating as postal card distributors for the whole western section of the country.

With the completion of the new city post-office building about the 15th of next October, such an agency will be established in Washington, and Postmaster Sherwood will be duly appointed agent. From this office then postal cards will be distributed throughout the whole South. There has long been urgent need of such an agency in this city, but, owing to the meager accommoda-

tions of the post-office itself, and the Department not being authorized to rent another building for the purpose, it has been delayed until this year.—*Washington Post*.

A FINE POSTAL CAR.

The finest postal car that has ever been made in this country will be built for exhibition at the World's Fair. It will have all the modern improvements now in use in the railway service of the department; will be provided with every known device now in use in the distribution and collection of mail in transit; will be a complete post-office on wheels, and will be used as working government exhibit. No expense will be spared to make the car itself attractive as a specimen of the handiwork of the Wilmington mechanics as well as a sample portable post-office. The car will be in a special building on the fair grounds, and a force of postal clerks will be kept at work while the fair is open.

SHORT ON POSTAGE.

Some one, either crazy or foolish, dropped a letter into the postoffice yesterday that was addressed to "My Darling Mamie, No. 1, Heaven's Gate, Heaven, care of St. Peter." Opening of the letter to secure a more definite address disclosed a couple of pages of rambling ravings apparently written to a deceased wife and signed "Hubby." The writer said he had written two or three times before, but was afraid the postmaster had not forwarded his letters. He says that the night before he walked toward the bridge with the intention of drowning himself, but concluded to write one more letter. If he doesn't hear from his wife in a day or two he threatens to end his life with either poison or lead. The envelope bore a one cent stamp, and if forwarded would have to have been due-stamped. When it costs two cents to send a letter to any part of the world, the writer should have had sense enough to have put on at least that much to get a letter to another realm.

The letter has not been sent on, for fear that it might get lost on the way. Then, Davenport is about as near Heaven as a good

many people get in this world, and there is a possibility that the letter might travel a long ways without getting any nearer its destination. Add to this the uncertainty of there being any postmasters or mail clerks up there, and the fact that Mamie might not call at the general delivery office for a month, and might even miss seeing her name in the paper if the letter was advertised as undelivered—and it will be seen that no blame attaches to the post-office authorities here below. The writer of that letter will have to make the address a little more specific and put on a little more postage if he wants any messages from the unseen world. With a fortune-teller and a couple of clairvoyants in town, he was very foolish to write at all.—*Davenport Dem.*

A Wyoming postmaster has written to Postmaster Van Cott, of New York, concerning what he says is a sure preventive of cholera. It is to burn scraps of leather in the hall of the house, so that the fumes will spread to all the rooms. The writer says that in Vienna, when the cholera raged there, not a shoemaker was attacked. This was because they all burned the waste leather in their shops.

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS.

Dear Postmaster: I here command you,
Inspect the "Living Hymns" I hand you,
Which we surmise, not without reason,
Will have a goodly sale this season.

You might buy one for your perusal
(I shall be pained by your refusal);
And should you act as agent write us;
Be sure such action will delight us.

So quickly set yourself about it
(No post-office should be without it);
We rank our new religious sonnets
With best fall styles, from hose to bonnets.

As brother in the saving plan, sir,
We shall expect an early answer;
Trust us, these "Hymns" will prove a
"taker."

Yours cordially, John Wanamaker.

Postmasters who receive this copy of the UNITED STATES MAIL will consult their own interest by reading the announcements on pages 10 and 11.

→: THE :←

DOLLS' DRESSMAKER

**The Most Popular
Girls' Magazine of the Age.**

THIS BRIGHT MONTHLY IS FILLED
WITH PICTURES AND SHORT STORIES,
SUITED TO THE HEARTS OF OUR LITTLE
MAIDENS OF THE DOLL LOVING AGE,
AND HAS ONLY TO BE EXHIBITED TO
TAKE.

Special Terms to Postmasters.

JENNIE WREN,

PUBLISHER,

35 East 77th Street, - NEW YORK.

If there are any people in your place practically interested in art in any way, SHOW THEM

THE ART AMATEUR,

"The Best Practical Art Magazine."

Each number contains at least **THREE COLOR PLATES**, each of which is executed in the most artistic manner possible; 32 to 42 pages profusely illustrated by the best artists, and (supplementary) numerous working designs in black and white for all kinds of art work and household decoration.

40 BEAUTIFUL PICTURES IN COLORS FOR \$4
Suitable for Framing or Copying.

The subjects include:

*Oil and Water Color
Landscapes,*

Marines,

Fruit Pieces,

Flowers,

Horses,

Cats,

Dogs,

Birds,

Butterflies,

Etc., Etc.

THE ART AMATEUR



DEVOTED TO
ART IN THE
HOUSEHOLD

(Established 1879.)

THIS SUMPTUOUS PUBLICATION HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY MAGAZINE OF ITS CLASS IN THE WORLD.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$4 A YEAR.

MONTAGUE MARKS, PUBLISHER.
23 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK.

A THOROUGHLY
Practical Guide for
church and home needle-
work, and for beautifying
the home at moderate cost.

Among the practical subjects fully treated are:

Free Hand Drawing,

China Painting,

Wood Carving,

Oil and Water Color
Painting,

Pyrography or
Poker Work.

A special feature never before attempted in an art periodical are the **PROGRESSIVE LESSONS IN PAINTING**, showing in color the first stages and the finished work.

FREE TO POSTMASTERS

Specimen Copy with Three Color Plates.

Also an extra color plate for display in your offices. It will certainly sell the magazine at sight.

N. B.—Any Postmaster sending subscriptions to THE ART AMATEUR at the regular price (\$4.00 a year) will be entitled to a **CASH COMMISSION OF SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS** for each subscription. If you are a Newsdealer, remember that THE ART AMATEUR is the only art periodical that is fully returnable.

MONTAGUE MARKS, Publisher,

23 Union Square,

New York.

SAFEST
FASTEST
FINEST

TRAINS
 IN THE
WORLD

B&O

ARE THE

ROYAL BLUE LINE TRAINS

BETWEEN

NEW YORK,
 PHILADELPHIA,
 BALTIMORE,
 WASHINGTON.

RUNNING VIA

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

All Trains are Vestibuled from end to end, Heated by Steam, Lighted by Pintsch Gas, Protected by Pullman's Anti-Telescoping Device, and operated under Perfected Block Signal System.

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

Maintains a Complete Service of Vestibuled Express Trains between

NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS AND CHICAGO,

EQUIPPED WITH

**PULLMAN PALACE SLEEPING CARS, Running Through
 Without Change.**

**ALL B. & O. TRAINS BETWEEN THE
 EAST AND WEST RUN VIA WASHINGTON.**

PRINCIPAL OFFICES:

211 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
 415 Broadway, New York.
 N. E. Cor. 9th and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Cor. Baltimore and Calvert Sts., Baltimore, Md.
 1351 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.
 Cor. Wood St. and Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Cor. Fourth and Vine Streets, Cincinnati, O.
 193 Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.
 105 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

J. T. ODELL,

GENERAL MANAGER.

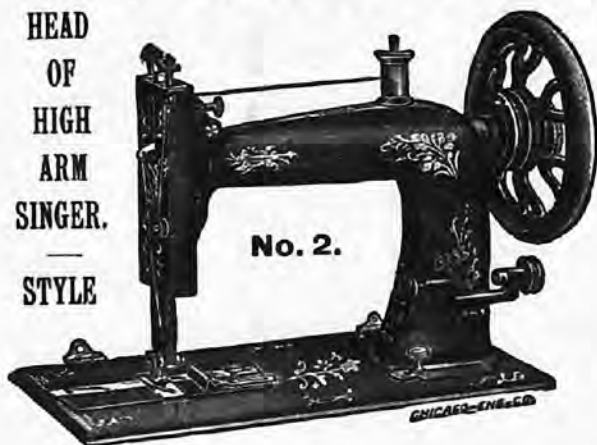
CHAS. O. SCULL,

GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT.

BALTIMORE, MD.

SPECIALLY FOR POSTMASTERS.

HEAD
OF
HIGH
ARM
SINGER.
—
STYLE



No. 2.—Represents the Head of the New Improved High-Arm Singer Style Sewing Machine. This machine is having an immense sale, and gives universal satisfaction. For a practical, every day, family machine, there is no better made. The furniture is of same style as shown in cut No. 1, and consists of a Drop-Leaf Table, Cover, and 5 Drawers, handsomely finished with a fine set of Attachments. All machines are crated for shipment, and weigh about 100 lbs. They go safely by Freight or Express. Price, \$22. Postmasters' commissions, \$5.50. Send us \$16.50.

THE
"NEW JEWEL"

No. 3.—This machine is a High-Arm, and takes the place of any high-priced machine. The needle is self-setting. It is light-running and does a wide range of work. Being highly finished and ornamental, it gives universal satisfaction to those who want the best at any price. The Attachments are the very best and the Furniture is elaborate and highly polished. We will send Black Walnut or Antique Oak as preferred. Price, only \$24, with \$6.00 commission to Postmasters. Send us \$18.00.

Remember that all machines have Drop-Leaf Table Cover and Five Drawers, and a full set of the Latest Improved Attachments.

All Orders Promptly Filled.

Send money by P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Bank Draft. Send for Catalogue of hundreds of useful articles, sold at low prices, with a liberal commission to Postmasters. See offers to Postmasters in POSTAL GUIDE, January, 1890, pages 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57. Send for circulars to distribute among the patrons of your office; they will help you make sales. Nearly 1,000 other articles upon which we allow Postmasters a good commission. Address

CHICAGO SCALE CO.,

51 S. Jefferson St., Chicago, Ill.

POSTMASTERS!

Best Offer Ever Made You.

The 3 Best Machines Made.

PRICES:

\$18, \$22 AND \$24

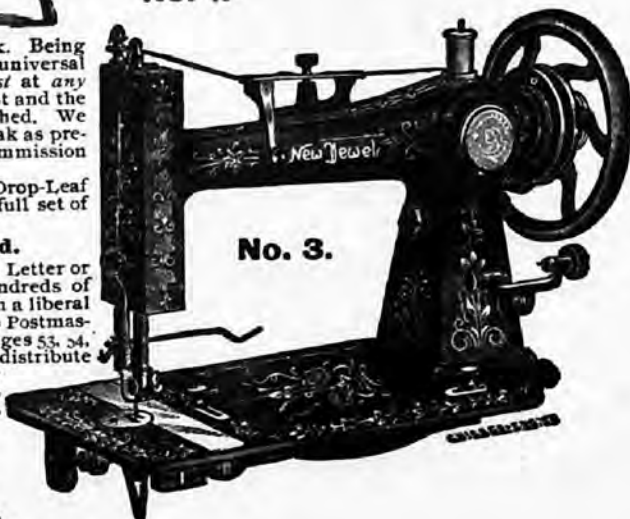
YOUR COMMISSIONS:

\$4.50, \$5.50 AND \$6

WARRANTED 5 YEARS.

No. 1.—Represents the Improved Singer Style Machine complete. This is one of the most popular Sewing Machines made. It is finely finished and nothing but the best material is used in its construction. The handsome Black Walnut Furniture is oil polished, and the style represented, viz.: Drop Leaf Table Cover and Five Drawers. Each machine contains a full set of the latest improved Attachments, with Instruction Book. All patents having expired, we have reduced the price of this machine from \$60 to \$18, allowing Postmasters \$4.50 commission, they sending us \$13.50.

No. 1.



To Postmasters:

You are authorized to act as agents of the following publications for procuring subscriptions.

The publishers of the following leading magazines and papers will fill subscriptions from Postmasters at the price named below.

	REGULAR PRICE.	PRICE TO P. M.	PROFIT TO P. M.
ART PERIODICALS.			
The Art Amateur, devoted to art study and home decoration.. New York	\$4 00	\$3 25	\$ 75
MAGAZINES.			
North American Review.....	5 00	4 00	1 00
The Forum, a review of living subjects by the foremost writers.. New York	5 00	4 00	1 00
The Atlantic Monthly, first of American Literary Magazines..... Boston	4 00	3 20	80
Lippincott's..... Philadelphia	3 00	2 25	75
Peterson's Magazine..... Philadelphia	2 00	1 45	55
New England Magazine..... Boston	3 00	2 65	35
Overland Monthly..... San Francisco	4 00	3 25	75
The Old Homestead..... Savannah Ga	1 00	75	25
The Author, (to interest and help literary workers)..... Boston, Mass	1 00	80	20
The Writer, (to interest and help literary workers)..... Boston, Mass	1 00	80	20
THE CENTURY CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.			
The Century Magazine.....	4 00	3 50	50
St. Nicholas for Young Folks.....	3 00	2 50	50
GENERAL NEWSPAPERS.			
The Weekly Tribune..... New York	1 00	90	10
The Weekly Sun.....	1 00	90	10
HARPER PUBLICATIONS.			
Harper's Magazine, Monthly..... New York	4 00	Special Rates to Postmas- ters.	
" Weekly.....	4 00		
" Bazar, Weekly.....	4 00		
" Young People, Weekly.....	2 00		
JUDGE PUBLICATIONS.			
Judge Library..... New York	1 00	80	20
Judge.....	5 00	3 75	1 25
Leslie Newspaper.....	4 00	3 20	80
Leslie Zeitung.....	4 00	3 20	80
FASHION PUBLICATIONS.			
Domestic Monthly..... New York	1 50	1 10	40
LITERARY AND POLITICAL WEEKLIES.			
Post. Indep't, Tariff Ref., News, Agric., Household, Fashions, Stories N. Y	1 00	75	25
ELECTRICAL, GAS, WATER PUBLICATIONS.			
Progressive Age (see display advt.)..... New York	3 00	2 25	75
JUVENILE.			
Doll's Dressmaker (see display advt.)..... New York	1 00	80	20
SPORTING.			
Horseman..... Chicago	4 00	3 25	75
Turf, Field and Farm..... New York	5 00	4 65	35
The Sporting News (Base Ball)..... St. Louis	2 00	1 50	50
FARMING PUBLICATIONS.			
Rural New Yorker..... New York	2 00	1 65	35
American Agriculturalist (see display advt.).....	1 50	1 10	40
Southern Farm..... Atlanta, Ga	1 00	85	15
New England Farmer..... Boston	2 00	1 40	60
Farm and Fireside..... Springfield, O	50	40	10
HOUSE FURNISHING.			
Decorator & Furn., Art Furniture & Furn'gs & Int'r Decoration.. New York	4 00	3 00	1 00
DRUGS, OILS, PAINTS.			
Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter..... New York	4 00	3 50	50
Philadelphia Drug, Oil and Paint Reporter..... Philadelphia, Pa	2 00	1 00	1 00
COAL AND METAL MINING.			
The Colliery Engineer..... Scranton, Pa	2 00	1 50	50

SIR: I am more than pleased with the UNITED STATES MAIL, and shall ever be a hearty supporter of the same. Your efforts in our behalf should receive the congratulations of every postmaster in the country, and I hope every fourth-class postmaster in Ohio

will send to you with his subscription a personal letter of thanks for the work you are doing. Thanking you for your noble efforts for "Fair Pay," and hoping that your valuable paper will find a home in every post-office in Ohio.
S. G. BENNETT.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL



Is the organ of the Third and Fourth-Class Postmasters of the United States ;

Its mission is to wipe out the inequalities of the law in regard to their compensation ;

To secure them fair remuneration for their services ;

To place their offices upon a respectable, paying basis and render them more acceptable to the people ;

To instruct Postmasters in regard to postal laws and regulations and to give them advice upon perplexing questions ;

To advise and counsel them upon the business of conducting their offices ;

To aid them in preventing mistakes in their relation to the Department and to the public ;

To discuss postal law and regulation by indicating the good and pointing out the bad ;

To give the news of the service from Maine to Mexico and from the Atlantic to the Pacific ;

To make Postmasters happier and better, and create within them an enthusiasm in regard to the Postal Service that will reflect credit upon the Government as well as upon themselves ; and, lastly,

To make money for the publisher so that he will some day become a corpulent millionaire.

Having put \$400,000 into the pockets of Third-Class Democratic Postmasters, our next move will be to double that amount for their Republican successors, and at the same time quadruple the incomes of those of the fourth-class.

There is no position on earth wherein there is a greater demand for honesty ; integrity and honor than that of a Postmaster, and all who seek that high office should strive to maintain the confidence reposed in them by the Government by giving the public a good, clean, efficient and worthy administration, and it is our work to aid you in so doing.

WILL YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR NAME ?

A DATER AND CANCELLER

FOR NOTHING.

An Offer That _____
Can't Be Duplicated.



TO those not now subscribers to the United States Mail, we will offer for a limited period this valuable and useful premium.



(With either of these Cancellers).

The Dater and Cancellor here shown is the Cheapest ever offered to Postmasters. The base is Nickel-plated and highly finished, with Black Enamelled Handles. Set of dates from 1 to 31, names of months (12.) yearly dates from 1891 to 1896 (all neatly arranged in box.) with Ink, Pads, Tweezers, etc., complete.

The above will be sent FREE post-paid to all postmasters who receive this copy of THE UNITED STATES MAIL and forward us \$1.50 for their subscription for this paper for one year. The MAIL is alone worth the money, and you can't buy a Dater and Cancellor the equal of this under \$1.10. This is a first-class opportunity to get a bargain, and, at the same time, two useful and indispensable articles to every Post Office in the land.

Address, **UNITED STATES MAIL,**
280 Broadway, New York City.

Answers to Correspondents.

POSTAL LAW UNRAVELED.

Write only on one side the paper and keep business communications separate.

Those who desire answers by mail must enclose stamps.

SPECIAL NOTICE!!!

THIS DEPARTMENT IS STRICTLY INTENDED FOR THE USE OF POSTMASTERS WHO ARE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE UNITED STATES MAIL. TO GIVE PROPER ATTENTION TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS REQUIRES ALL THE TIME AND SPACE THAT CAN BE DEVOTED TO THIS FEATURE; THEREFORE, THOSE WHO ARE NOT SUBSCRIBERS NEED NOT BE DISAPPOINTED OR DISPLEASED NOT TO HAVE THEIR COMMUNICATIONS ANSWERED.

TO POSTMASTERS:

The gentleman who attends to this department wears a number 8 3-4 hat. He is all brain on postal law, therefore we wish postmasters to send along their questions; none too hard for him to tackle; in fact the more difficult the happier it makes him.

D. R. S., MARYLAND.—1. In answer to C. H. S., New Jersey, you say the writer of a letter can demand it at the office of destination. Suppose there are several letters mailed at the same office for one person, and the writer of one of those letters demands it at the office addressed; how is the postmaster to satisfy himself of the right one? Is the handwriting to be identified? If the applicant opens the wrong letter, he lays himself liable to the law. 2. Can a letter of actual correspondence wholly in writing be sent for one cent postage when unsealed? Such was mailed here, and I held them for postage and notified the addressee. The writer says a postmaster told him that one cent was sufficient. I am almost sure that Section 321 answers this question, and the letter is subject to first-class postage. If I am wrong, I am willing to be corrected. If written, it is first-class matter sealed, or unsealed, is it not? 3. Is a letter United States mail matter before it has been deposited in any post-office? If seal of a letter should be broken by a private party on its way to a post-office, would the matter be settled by United States authorities?

ANSWER.—1. Unless the description given by the sender is sufficient to enable the postmaster to identify it without doubt, the letter should not be returned. Usually there is a business card or some distinguishing mark upon the envelope by which it can be easily recognized. 2. Written matter whether sealed or unsealed, is subject to letter rates of postage. 3. A letter is not protected by United States statutes either before it has been placed in a post-office or after delivery therefrom.

W. F. IOWA.—Suppose I have enough postage-due stamps to last me five years or more, according to the number I am now using, can I dispose of a part, or must I carry them along till I use them all? 2. Assistant Postmaster, Michigan, asked in your April number if he can get any pay for carrying the mail to the train and back. You tell him he cannot if the office is within 80 rods of railroad train. This seems to conflict with the orders sent to me from Washington, which say: "Every railroad company is required to take the mails from and deliver them into all terminal post-offices whatever, except in cities where other provision is made by the department, and also into all intermediate post-offices which are located within 80 rods of the station where the company has an agent." The railroad company has always lived up to this rule with me. 3. If a letter is posted in New York to go San Francisco and by oversight gets into the bag for Council Bluffs, what should the postmaster at Council Bluffs do with the letter, or how should he act in the matter?

ANSWER.—1. We would not advise you to dispose of them without first consulting the department. 3. Endorse it "Missent to Council Bluffs, Iowa," and forward by next mail to its destination.

C. McD., ILLINOIS.—In answer to M. H. W., Florida, you say news agents must pay one cent for each four ounces on papers returned. Please harmonize your answers with Section 350, P. L. & R., 1887.

ANSWER.—Please read again our reply to M. H. W., Florida. It says that unsold second-class matter returned by a news agent to a publisher is subject to the four-ounce rate. Ruling 92, page 823, U. S. Official Postal Guide for January, 1892, confirms this statement: "The Section (350) to which you refer relates to the rights of news agents. They are entitled to mail second-class matter to other news agents and to sub-

scribers. They are entitled to return unsold copies of second-class matter to other news agents, but not to publishers. There is no conflict between our statement and the section you quote.

E. E. T., IOWA.—What should be the postage on wheat and other grain, sent to Chicago by local dealers, for samples, to be inspected by commission houses.

ANSWER.—One cent for each two ounces or fractional part of two ounces. See page 16, December, 1891, Guide.

L. J. C., KANSAS.—July 1, I sent the amount due the United States to the depository at Leavenworth, Kan., by registered mail; that night the post-office at Junction City, Kan., was robbed of all registered packages, mine included. Will I be the loser or will the post-office department?

ANSWER.—You will probably be the loser. The fee charged by the department for registration does not guarantee the sender against loss in case of robbery or other casualty, but is imposed simply for the additional labor and safeguards given to safety of such matter. If the culprit is apprehended, and any of the stolen property recovered, you will be entitled to your *pro rata*.

W. B. C., MISSOURI.—How old must a person be before he can get a position as railway postal clerk. I have carefully examined the P. L. & R. of 1887, but cannot find anything in regard to age of "R.P.C.'s."

ANSWER.—No person can be examined for admission to the railway mail service who is under 18 or over 35 years of age, except in the case of those who have been honorably discharged from the military or naval service of the country by reason of disability resulting from sickness or wounds incurred in the line of duty. This is not in the P. L. & R., but a provision of the civil service rules.

J. H., MAINE.—Is it the duty of postmaster to forward any mail matter if he is not requested to do so?

ANSWER.—Where a person removes and leaves no instructions for the delivery of his mail and the postmaster is acquainted with his new location, he should write and ask him to file an order directing what disposition he wishes made of it. A postmaster has no right to change addresses on mail matter without proper authority.

K. J. S., WISCONSIN.—Is it my duty to

distribute papers brought to the office by individuals or sent in from an unknown source and labeled "Sample copies; please distribute," when no postage is paid thereon and when individuals refuse payment at drop rates?

ANSWER.—You are perfectly right in not distributing these papers. Sample copies cannot be mailed by individuals unless postage is prepaid by stamps affixed, and can only be mailed by publishers at the pound rate at the office of entry.

C. R. P., MINNESOTA.—On July 16, I risked my life to capture a burglar who had broken in my office; he proved to be quite a notorious outlaw. Is there any reward given by the department for the capture of such burglars?

ANSWER.—Your courageous action is most commendable and worthy of substantial recognition, but unfortunately the department has no fund that can be drawn on for such purposes. At least we have never heard of any. You ought to make a report of your experience and all the particulars in the case to the Fourth Assistant P. M. General.

F. H., NEW YORK.—Is it a violation of the postal rules for a postal clerk to show a letter (that has been dropped in the office, addressed in a very illegible manner) to a friend for them to assist in the interpretation of the place addressed, letter sent to a company, and not private individual? If such a thing were done in an extreme case, would it be violating the law?

ANSWER.—It is not likely that any action would be taken in an isolated case of a postal clerk showing a letter for the purpose of deciphering its destination, but strictly speaking there is no justification in law for his doing so. Postal employees are forbidden to make public any information obtained in the discharge of their duties concerning mail matter.

J. W. G., NEW JERSEY.—I think you are in error in J. H. M., Texas, as to his account of deceased postmaster. They are not entitled to \$50 each in the same quarter. This gives them 100 per cent. on \$100 in the same quarter. This will not do. In a fourth-class office it is divided between the two on the first \$50 at a certain percentage.

ANSWER.—In a quarter of 90 days, the deceased postmaster served as such 15 days. He would only be entitled to one sixth of

the cancellations, the remaining five-sixths going to his successor. Thus they would jointly get but \$50 each according to the length of the term of service.

G. H. W., MISSISSIPPI.—A new office is established on the route from my office to another, but nearer to the other; the new postmaster had made his bond, but had not received his commission. A letter came through addressed to the new office by way of my office; the addressee lives at new office. I sent it on to other office; the postmaster at that office refused to deliver the letter, but marked it mis-sent; then marked it "Return to writer;" when it came back to my office, I stopped it and delivered it. The people at new office were patronizing my office at the time. Was I right, or wrong?

ANSWER.—We do not believe there is any regulation covering a case of this kind, but yours was a common sense way out of the difficulty.

E. J., MISSOURI.—What disposition will a little fourth-class postmaster have to make of copper cents? Some say work them off, but they work on every day, and we have so many they have become a nuisance in our office, it being a small office. Can't the department take care of them and allow me value received for them?

ANSWER.—When you transmit your surplus funds to your depository you can include all the copper coin you don't need. Of course the depository will object, but there is no other way that we know of for you to work it off except in the natural course of business.

C. L., OHIO.—Is there any law prohibiting me from selling postage stamps on Sunday? also delivering mail on Sunday? The mail arrives late on Saturday evening and some cannot get their mail that evening?

ANSWER.—A postmaster is not *required* to open his office on Sunday if no mail arrives after the closing of the office on Saturday and before six o'clock Sunday afternoon. While the office is open stamps may be sold. See Ruling 24, Page 6, November, 1891, Guide.

W. W. G., PHILADELPHIA.—In the destruction of my entire post-office (by fire) my commission from the Postmaster-General was also destroyed. Should I have a duplicate of same; if so, whom should I apply to, for duplicate of said commission?

ANSWER.—It is not absolutely necessary, but the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General

(if yours is a fourth-class office) will provide you with a duplicate if you desire it.

J. F. M., MAINE.—Please inform me how I can get from the P. O. department "a record and postal account book?"

ANSWER.—The First Assistant Postmaster General (Division of Post-Office Supplies) is the proper official to address. Perhaps it is the intention of the department to have you supply yourself with the book.

C. S. W., INDIANA.—1. What must I do when the mail pouch comes in without a lock? I can't find it in P. L. & R. 2. Do I have to make a monthly report to the Dead Letter Office when I have no dead letters? 3. There was a letter deposited in my office with a yellow stamp with the word Agricultural on it; also 2c. U. S. What should I have done with it, and what kind of a stamp was it?

ANSWER.—When a pouch is received without a lock, and the postmaster has no mail lock to put on the pouch, he should lock the pouch with any safe padlock he may have and send the key in a sealed envelope by the mail carrier to the next postmaster. If the postmaster has no padlock he should purchase an inexpensive lock, which should be sent with the key immediately after use to the second Assistant Postmaster General with a full explanation of the facts in the case. 2. This is a matter of office detail. Make inquiry of the superintendent of D. L. O., Washington, D. C. 3. We never saw such a stamp and know nothing of its origin or use. If the letter was prepaid with a U. S. 2 cent stamp you were right in forwarding it.

C. S. MONTANA.—Am I expected to deliver mail addressed to another postmaster or any one at another post-office, this mail going through my office to his office; of late he has been causing me a good deal of unnecessary trouble.

ANSWER.—Mail matter must be sent to and delivered at the post office of address except under certain circumstances, the details of which you will find given in full in Section 565 P. L. & R. You should call a "halt" on the postmaster whose actions are irregular.

T. W. M., GEORGIA.—To whom do fourth class postmasters make orders for a book of records to keep account of stamps sold and canceled each day?

ANSWER.—Perhaps the department intends you to supply the book yourself. The First Assistant Postmaster General (Division of

Post-Office Supplies), is the official to whom the requisition should be addressed.

J. W. G., NEW JERSEY.—Am I under obligations to change stamps after having sold and they get stuck, if I deliver the same in good order? Doesn't Section 178 forbid it?

ANSWER.—The exchange of postage stamps is prohibited by Section 176 P. L. & R.

M. E. M., CALIFORNIA.—1. This office has recently been appointed a money order office. A says if he should purchase a money order for \$7 and hand me 10 cents for the fee, I must give him a two-cent stamp back. Nickels are the smallest coins we use here—what should I do? 2. A paper published in this county is mailed in the post-office of the town in which it is published; it is forwarded to this office marked one cent due. Should it not be forwarded free of charge?

ANSWER.—1. This is a question that we have never heard raised before and one that has never been passed upon by the department in public form, hence we do not feel like anticipating any decision that its officials might render. Were we in your place, however, we should decline to give stamped paper as change, but would procure from the Treasurer of the U. S. or sub-treasurer at the point nearest your office a supply of copper cents for use in making change and keep a supply of them on hand for that purpose. 2. A county paper can be delivered free to an actual subscriber who resides in the county in which the paper is printed in whole or in part. After it has been delivered at the place to which it is addressed, it can not be forwarded to a new address either in or out of the county without proper payment of postage. Our authority for this statement is ruling 33, page 16, December, 1891, Postal Guide, which reads that *all* matter that is not of the first class shall be charged additional postage *each* time it is forwarded.

A. S. C., KENTUCKY.—1. I find no law regulating the postage on perforated raised letters of the blind, whether it goes for first, second or third class. 2. The balance due the United States at the close of each quarter must be paid forthwith; but if any balance is due the postmaster, much or little, he is advised to take credit in the next report; but suppose he still comes out ahead, what then? 3. I have a daily mail and three days of the week two mails daily and the daily register of the departures and arrivals of said mails on two routes, and keep one person busy and

only at a salary of from \$45 to \$55 per year for the whole business, and think your bill fair play for such postmaster? O, yes!—4. A young lady, over 16 years of age, duly sworn carries the mail sometimes on the route, and some kick and say she is not eligible, and I say there is nothing in the postal law to forbid.

ANSWER.—1. Perforated sheets for use of the blind are first class matter when personal correspondence; otherwise they are third class matter. See page 15, Dec., 1891, Guide. 2. We do not quite understand this query. 3. Of course it is fair play, and we wish Congress could be made to look at it in the same light. 4. We know of nothing in P. L. & R. that prohibits the young lady from carrying the mails.

E. M. M., MICHIGAN.—Do you think there is any possibility of having our mail carried by the railroad company. Our office is at 60 rods from the first stopping place and the company will never be in need of an agent. This post-office was established seven years ago under the Democratic Administration. In the last three years, through convenient post-office boxes, we have increased it 15 per cent. It pays to the Post-Office Department \$50 to \$75 a quarter. Five tons of mail are handled and we have six mails a day. Our next post-office on one side is at a distance of six miles. It is not as considerable as this one, but the company employs an agent and the mail is taken care of. The way our post-office is situated the railroad cars can stop at any place on this road and our next station is a terminus at a distance of half a mile. An agent here will never be beneficial to the company, consequently there will never be any. I think it is terribly unjust to be compelled to carry so much bulk without any compensation. It takes a man to do it and he can hardly do any thing else. Very often trains are late, and one has to wait from twenty-five minutes to an hour in the open air; summer or winter makes no difference. I think if the situation was well represented to the Post-Office Department justice might be done, but how am I to proceed?

ANSWER.—We do not think there is much probability of your obtaining relief from the Department, but it will certainly not make your case worse to appeal to the authorities at Washington giving a full description of all the facts in the case. The Second Assistant Postmaster General is the proper official to address upon the subject. It is a genuine hardship to impose this labor upon you, and your appeal ought to receive recognition.

J. O. H., NEW YORK.—Will you please read on page 16 of the June number of the U. S. Postal Guide the article headed "Soldiers' Right of Preference," and give your opinion as whether or not a postmaster who is a disabled soldier can be removed (except for cause) from his office in case of change in the administration. People here contend that a postmaster cannot be removed except for cause. I mean a postmaster who is a disabled soldier.

ANSWER.—We are not prepared to give you a judicial opinion upon this subject, nor one that could in any sense be used as a precedent. But you will observe that the act says nothing about removals or retentions; it simply reads that they shall be preferred for appointments, and further, that they must possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties. This latter clause is susceptible of much elasticity. It can be made to apply for or against a variety of cases.

POSTMASTER, MAINE.—Is a one-cent open letter containing a price list addressed to So & So, Boston, Mass., mailed at Boston, Mass., forwarded to Brookline, Me., without being taken out of the office in Boston, entitled to additional postage. I collected due postage one cent. But the party addressed didn't think he ought to pay due.

ANSWER.—It was subject to one cent additional—that is two cents—if delivered in Boston. The drop rate does not apply to letter-carrier offices. Your action in charging it up was correct.

Postmasters should send for a sample copy and display card of *The Art Amateur*, which the publisher offers to send free. It is the best practical art magazine, and subscriptions can be easily secured. Beside being full of practical articles and designs, it gives forty color studies during the year. They are articles on Portrait, Still Life, Pastel, Glass and China Painting, Pen Drawing, Biography, Modelling, Wood Carving, The House and its Furnishing. Full-size drawings from the east and from life are given, showing progressive stages of the work. This is a great feature of *The Art Amateur*, and is given in a great many of the color plates. It enables people to learn drawing and painting without any other teacher than this valuable magazine. MONTAGUE MARKS, Publisher.

23 Union Square, New York.

DISCOUNTS TO POSTMASTERS.

Write for our Illustrated Catalogue of

Dutch and . . . French **BULBOUS ROOTS,**

HYACINTHS, TULIPS, DAFFODILS, BERMUDA
EASTER LILIES, AURATUM LILIES, LILY OF
THE VALLEY PIPS, TUBEROSES, ETC.

Send us your own orders, and your friends', and we will allow you a liberal discount from our Catalogue prices.

N. B.—We are the oldest and largest Importers of Bulbs in the States, and you may rely upon getting only the **Highest Class** of Goods.

J. M. THORBURN & CO.,
15 John Street, New York.
ESTABLISHED 1802.

FRENCH STYLE OF RIDDLE.

"Take away my first letter;
Take away my second letter;
Take away my third letter;
Take away all my letters;
And I remain what I was before."

Answer—The Postman.

WASTE EMBROIDERY SILK.

Various Shades, odd lengths, at half price;
1 ounce in a box, all good Silk and good colors.
Sent by mail on receipt of 40 cts. or 11 oz. for
\$4. 100 Crazy Stitches in each package. For
50 cts. will send a beautiful assortment of
Vienna Chenille and Arasene, fifteen new shades
each. Latest Book on Art Needlework, only
10 cts. Send postal note or stamps to

The Brainerd & Armstrong Spool Silk Co.

ALSO MANUFACTURERS OF

SILK THREADS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

SATIN LININGS,

SILK AND MOHAIR BINDINGS,

ART FABRICS, ETC., ETC.

Special terms to dealers. Send for price list.

SALESROOMS:

625 BROADWAY, N. Y.
120 KINGSTON ST., BOSTON.
621 MARKET ST. PHILA.

The Washington Loan and Trust Company,

GRANITE BUILDING,
Ninth and F, Washington, D. C.

Paid-up Capital, \$1,000,000.

Executes all Trusts. Pays Interest on Deposits. Rents Boxes in its Fine Safe Deposit Vaults.

BRAINARD H. WARNER, PRES.

HIGHEST
PRICE
PAID BY ANY
PAPER TO
POSTMASTERS ON
PERCENTAGE
IS BY THE



Send for Terms, Samples, Blanks, Etc.

NO TROUBLE TO BUILD



If you start right.
The first step
should be an ex-
amination of Mr.

Shoppell's building designs—the only large collection of designs that are artistic, practical and reliable. The estimates are guaranteed. Mr. Shoppell's publications are as follows:

		Price.	
* Portfolio of \$1,000 Houses,	30 designs,	\$2	00
" " 1,500 "	30 "	2	00
" " 2,000 "	30 "	2	00
" " 2,500 "	30 "	2	00
" " 3,000 "	32 "	2	00
" " 3,500 "	31 "	2	00
" " 4,000 "	30 "	2	00
" " 5,000 "	30 "	2	00
" " 6,000 "	28 "	2	00
" " 7,500 "	22 "	2	00
" " 10,000 "	21 "	2	00
" " Stables "	19 "	2	00

*The first Portfolio contains designs that cost as low as \$500, \$600, \$700 and \$800.

Any 3 of the above Portfolios for \$5; any 7 for \$10; the complete set (12) for \$15. Bound volume containing over 200 designs selected from the various portfolios, price \$5, returnable if not satisfactory.

Address **R. W. SHOPPELL,**
Architect, 63 B'way, New York.

To Postmasters Only!!
EXCLUSIVE AGENCY GIVEN.

AVERY

Style No. 4. Cover off.



SEWING MACHINE

NEW IMPROVED HIGH ARM.

Not a "Slide" or Bogus Singer, as Advertised
by Some Under Various Names.

New mechanical principles and rotary movements, automatic, direct and perfect action, cylinder shuttle, self-setting needle, positive feed, no springs, few parts, minimum weight, no friction, no noise, no wear, no fatigue, no "tantrums," capacity unlimited, always in order, richly ornamented, nickel-plated, and gives perfect satisfaction. *Warranted the best.*

		Also, Singer Model.	
No. 1, Plain Table, 1 Drawer,	- - -	\$14	40
" 2, " " and Cover, 1 Drawer,	-	16	20
" 3, Drop Leaf Table, 3 Drawers and Cover,	-	18	00
" 4, " " " 5 " " "	-	19	80
" 5, " " " 4 " " "	-	18	00
" 6, " " " 7 " " "	-	21	60
			13 50

WITH FULL SET OF ATTACHMENTS.

THE AVERY SEWING MACHINE AGENCY

THE ALFORD & BERKELE CO., Proprietors,

77 CHAMBERS ST., NEW YORK CITY

P. O. Box 2002,

WHAT THE GENERALS HAVE SAID.

FROM PRESIDENT GRANT'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

Whoever familiarizes himself with the history and details of the postal service in this country, must become a student. Its growth within the last twenty years has been marvelous and unprecedented, fully up to and a little ahead of the general progress of the country. It is now the equal of any in the world—yea, considering the vast territory to be served, and its amazing increase in population, it is the *best* service in the world. The enterprise that brought it to its present perfection was unaided, most of the time, by a proper medium for the spread of information, and was never advanced by an "organ," in the full sense of the term. *The officials and employes of the Post Office Department should encourage a publication that so nearly approaches this character as does THE MAIL.*

Very truly yours,

JAS. N. TYNER.

FROM PRESIDENT HAYES' POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

It possesses great value for officials connected with the postal system of the country, and equally as great, if not greater, for a persons engaged in business, professions or pursuits requiring considerable correspondence through the mails, by preventing mistakes which occur necessarily from a want of knowledge of the laws, regulations and methods of postal administration. In my opinion no live, wide awake postmaster will fail to avail himself of the benefits to be derived from a careful study of its columns

Most respectfully,

D. M. KEY.

FROM PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

Filled to the brim with valuable postal information, and edited with care and ability, *it supplies a want long felt by the postmasters throughout the country. If your journal could be read by every official connected with the department, THERE WOULD BE*

FEWER COMPLAINTS AND A MORE PERFECT SERVICE.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS L. JAMES.

FROM PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S POSTMASTER-GENERALS.

(Extract from Letter.)

A paper like yours, which brings the workings of the postal system of the country before the people, cannot be otherwise than beneficial. Your paper is bright and interesting, and I wish you all success.

Yours truly,

FRANK HATTON.

(Extract from Letter.)

I am greatly pleased with the contents, and the mechanical work is first-class. I sincerely hope your undertaking will be successful, and that you will be liberally patronized by those who are employed in the postal service, and others.

Very truly,

W. Q. GRESHAM.

FROM PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Extract from Letter.)

I willingly join my voice with the commendation of my predecessors in this office upon your bright faced and cheery magazine, THE UNITED STATES MAIL. It is so full of interest and valuable information to persons interested in the postal service that it must by its merits command a general patronage.

Very truly yours,

WM. F. VILAS.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

(Extract from Letter.)

DEAR SIR: I am glad of the opportunity to express my commendation of THE UNITED STATES MAIL. It has always seemed to me to be possessed of many excellent qualities. It is conducted with unusual ability, and is remarkable for its painstaking accuracy of statement. It contains a fund of interesting information of the highest utility to postmasters and to all others who take a special interest in postal affairs.

Very truly yours,

C. F. McDONALD.

Superintendent.

POSTMASTERS CAN

be of service to their friends, and make a profitable arrangement for themselves, by sending the name of a good reliable man that is now out of business and anxious to engage in a line that is at once profitable.

We refer to the accident insurance business, which is becoming very popular.

Send us the name of such a party, state that you saw this notice in the UNITED STATES MAIL, and we will give you an ample equivalent for your services. Address,

A. N. LOCKWOOD, President,

THE PROVIDENT FUND (ACCIDENT) SOCIETY,

29 Broadway, - - New York City.

PATENTS Secured Without Fail or Delay.

Send Rough Sketch Model and I will tell you whether you can obtain a patent, WITHOUT CHARGE. Address,

C. T. BELT,

621 Seventh Street, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WM. B. MATTHEWS, Attorney at Law,

Late Assistant Chief of the Pre-emption Division and Examiner of Mineral Contests in the General Land Office. We practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, all the Departments, and Committees of Congress.

Contested and Ex-parte Cases under the Pre-emption. Homestead, Townsite, Timber Culture and Mineral Laws and Indian Deputation Cases a Specialty.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"CLUBS OF 10"

WILL SECURE HANDSOME GOLD WATCH.

Write: H. F. WHITE, 2 West 125th St., NEW YORK.

OUR "TRUE APOLLO RING" RAZOR

At \$2.00 by mail, is a Royal Razor. Believe us. Refer to your postmaster. Mention this paper.

ALLING & LODGE, Cutlery, Madison, Ind.

The Yankee Blade, Boston, Mass., will be sent to all new subscribers every week for one year for \$1.00; 6 mos. for 50 cents. Twenty-five per cent. commission to Postmasters.

Cut this out and forward with four 2-cent stamps to BOSTON HOME COLLEGE, and you will receive by return mail valuable sample lessons from the English Course, Examination Course, Teachers' Course, and Science Course; also one interesting lesson in geography with map, and one lesson in business correspondence; also Life of Oliver Goldsmith, and Life of Washington Irving; also announcement giving full particulars of our new and unique method of teaching by mail; all printed in colors, and the whole making quite a large, attractive package. Classes begin first Monday of each month. Each course complete in ten weeks. Distance no objection. 2000 testimonials. Send for the samples. Seymour Eaton, Prin., Box 1777, Boston, Mass.

Lessons at Home

4th CLASS POSTMASTERS,

It will be some time before bill 10,757 comes to your relief, therefore don't wait for it, but grasp the opportunity we present. Several thousand are now making big money selling our Pocket Lamps. READ.



LIGHT

AGENTS wanted for THE BEST SELF-LIGHTING POCKET LAMP IN THE WORLD. Any person can sell them and "live" men can coin money. Sample and 400 lights 50c. Write quick.

ADDRESS TOLEDO LAMP CO.,

P. O. Box 431, TOLEDO, O. U. S. A.

We Make an Allowance to Postmasters.

WE SELL DIRECT TO FAMILIES

AND MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO BUY OF US NO
MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE.

\$35
ORGANS
\$500

\$180
PIANOS
\$1500

Yes, my dear, your Marchal & Smith Piano is a beautiful instrument, the tone is so sweet and pure, the action so fairy-like, and the finish so elegant that nothing is left to wish for. Their organs, too, are as sweet and beautiful as their Pianos.

I WROTE AND TOLD THEM JUST WHAT I WANTED, AND THEY SENT IT TO ME, AGREEING TO TAKE IT BACK AND PAY THE FREIGHT BOTH WAYS IF I DID NOT LIKE

IT, BUT I COULD NOT BE BETTER PLEASED IF I HAD A THOUSAND TO CHOOSE FROM. THEY SEND THEIR CATALOGUE FREE TO EVERY ONE WHO WISHES TO BUY.

MARCHAL & SMITH PIANO CO.,
235 East 21st Street, New York.



Postmasters Can A FREE GIFT TO P. Ms.

make a good thing by sending us the names of a few of the chief manufacturing concerns in their town, who are large users of steam power.

Gas for fuel is the coming source of power and *Progressive Age* treats largely on the subject of gaseous fuel. You send the names, we send samples and circulars and pay you 75 cents on each yearly subscription secured. Try it and see.

Progressive Age Pub. Co.,
280 Broadway New York.

Any P. M. or clerk who will send me \$5.00 (cash or stamps) I will send 124 each of fine envelopes and note-heads, all printed in neat design and *post paid* and with every order I will send as a *free* gift one fine nickel plated pat. key ring, worth 25 cents.

You can have all note-heads or all envelopes if you wish.

I will send free a valuable cloth bound book worth \$1.00 with a \$5.00 order for printing. Address.

S. P. SEAWELL, P. M.,
BENSALEM, MOORE CO., N. C.

POSTMASTERS CAN

be of service to their friends, and make a profitable arrangement for themselves, by sending the name of a good reliable man that is now out of business and anxious to engage in a line that is at once profitable.

We refer to the accident insurance business, which is becoming very popular.

Send us the name of such a party, state that you saw this notice in the UNITED STATES MAIL, and we will give you an ample equivalent for your services. Address,

A. N. Lockwood, President,

THE PROVIDENT FUND (ACCIDENT) SOCIETY,

29 Broadway, - - - New York City.

PATENTS Secured Without Fail or Delay.

Send Rough Sketch Model and I will tell you whether you can obtain a patent, WITHOUT CHARGE. Address,

C. T. BELT,

621 Seventh Street, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WM. B. MATTHEWS, Attorney at Law,

Late Assistant Chief of the Pre-emption Division and Examiner of Mineral Contests in the General Land Office. We practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, all the Departments, and Committees of Congress.

Contested and Ex-parte Cases under the Pre-emption Homestead, Townsite, Timber Culture and Mineral Laws and Indian Deputation Cases a Specialty.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"CLUBS OF 10"

WILL SECURE HANDSOME GOLD WATCH.

Write: H. F. WHITE, 2 West 125th St., NEW YORK.

OUR "TRUE APOLLO RING" RAZOR

At \$2.00 by mail, is a Royal Razor. Believe us. Refer to your postmaster. Mention this paper.

ALLING & LODGE, Cutlery, Madison, Ind.

The Yankee Blade, Boston, Mass., will be sent to all new subscribers every week for one year for \$1.00; 6 mos. for 50 cents. Twenty-five per cent. commission to Postmasters.

Cut this out and forward with four 2-cent stamps to Boston Home College, and you will receive by return mail valuable sample lessons from the English Course, Examination Course, Teachers' Course, and Science Course; also one interesting lesson in geography with map, and one lesson in business correspondence; also Life of Oliver Goldsmith, and Life of Washington Irving; also announcement giving full particulars of our new and unique method of teaching by mail; all printed in colors, and the whole making quite a large, attractive package. Classes begin first Monday of each month. Each course complete in ten weeks. Distance no objection. 200 testimonials. Send for the samples. Seymour Eaton, Prin., Box 1777, Boston, Mass.

Lessons at Home

4th CLASS POSTMASTERS,

It will be some time before bill 10,757 comes to your relief, therefore don't wait for it, but grasp the opportunity we present. Several thousand are now making big money selling our Pocket Lamps. READ.



LIGHT

AGENTS wanted for THE BEST SELF-LIGHTING POCKET LAMP in THE WORLD. Any person can tell them and "live" men can coin money. Sample and 400 lights 50c. Write quick.

ADDRESS TOLEDO LAMP CO.,
P. O. Box 431, TOLEDO, O. U. S. A

We Make an Allowance to Postmasters.

WE SELL DIRECT TO FAMILIES

AND MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO BUY OF US NO
MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE.

\$35
ORGANS
\$500

\$180
PIANOS
\$1500

Yes, my dear, your Marchal & Smith Piano is a beautiful instrument, the tone is so sweet and pure, the action so fairy-like, and the finish so elegant that nothing is left to wish for. Their organs, too, are as sweet and beautiful as their Pianos.

I WROTE AND TOLD THEM JUST WHAT I WANTED, AND THEY SENT IT TO ME, AGREEING TO TAKE IT BACK AND PAY THE FREIGHT BOTH WAYS IF I DID NOT LIKE

IT, BUT I COULD NOT BE BETTER PLEASED IF I HAD A THOUSAND TO CHOOSE FROM. THEY SEND THEIR CATALOGUE FREE TO EVERY ONE WHO WISHES TO BUY.

MARCHAL & SMITH PIANO CO.,
235 East 21st Street, New York.



Postmasters Can A FREE GIFT TO P. Ms.

make a good thing by sending us the names of a few of the chief manufacturing concerns in their town, who are large users of steam power.

Gas for fuel is the coming source of power and *Progressive Age* treats largely on the subject of gaseous fuel. You send the names, we send samples and circulars and pay you 75 cents on each yearly subscription secured. *Try it and see.*

Progressive Age Pub. Co.,
280 Broadway New York.

Any P. M. or clerk who will send me \$1.00. (cash or stamps) I will send 125 each of fine envelopes and note-heads, all printed in neat design and *post paid* and with every order I will send as a *free* gift one fine nickel plated pat. key ring, worth 25 cents.

You can have all note-heads or all envelopes if you wish.

I will send free a valuable cloth bound book worth \$1.00 with a \$5.00 order for printing. Address.

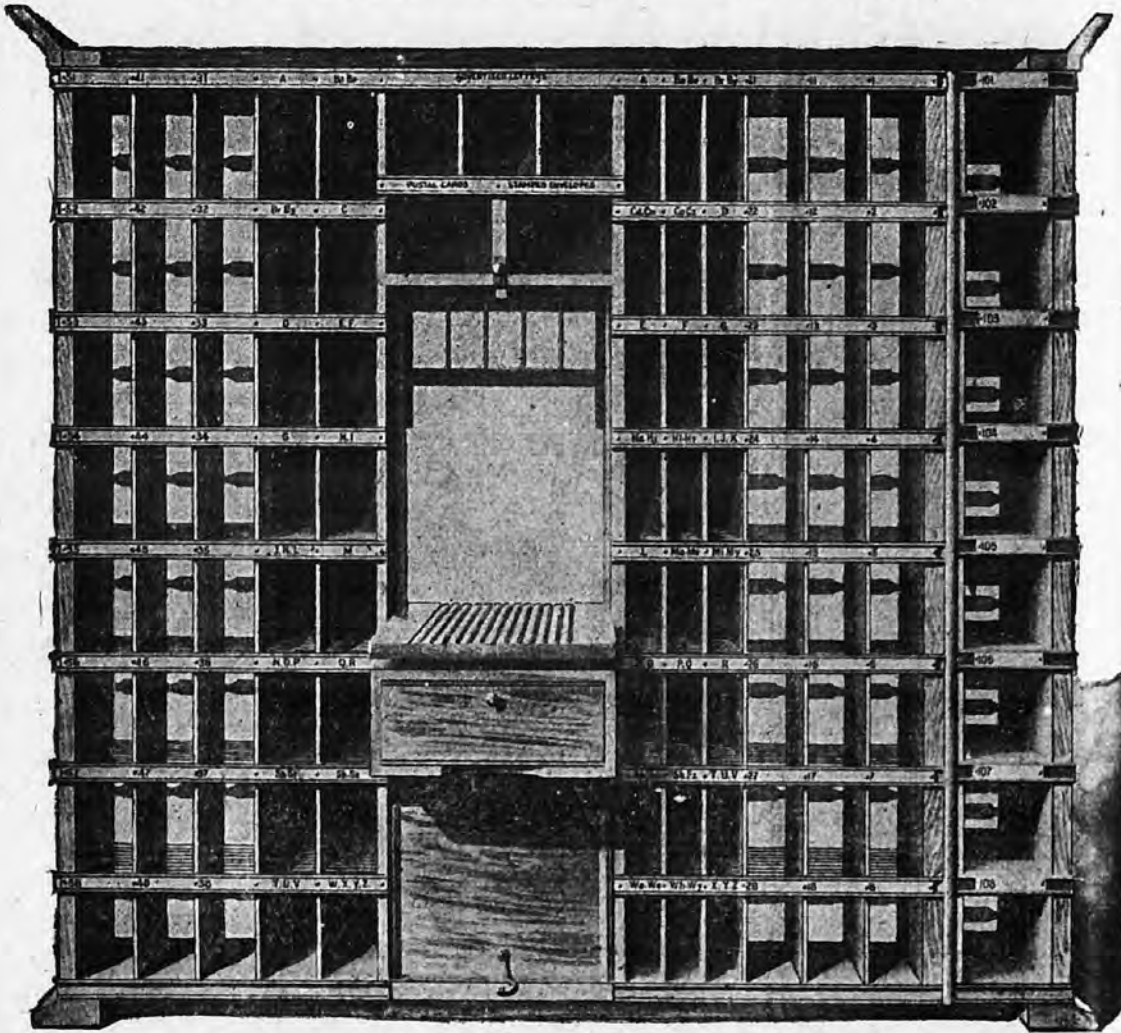
S. P. SEAWELL, P. M.,
BENSALEM, MOORE CO., N. C.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

YALE STANDARD CABINETS

FOR

FOURTH CLASS OFFICES.



Rear View of No. $\frac{45}{81L}$ Cabinets. (For front see issue of Dec., 1891.)

The immediate increase in the income of a Post Office, which follows the introduction of a Yale Standard Cabinet, enables the cost to be largely met by the receipts from box rentals, and as the Cabinets are sold on easy terms, they may thus be made to pay for themselves.

THE YALE & TOWNE MFG. CO.,

STAMFORD, CONN.

NEW YORK, 84-86 Chambers St.
PHILADELPHIA, 1120 Market St.

CHICAGO, 152-154 Wabash Ave.
BOSTON, 224 Franklin St.

Brownford 2314(4)



VOL. III.

CHICAGO—NEW YORK, JULY, 1887.

No. 34.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

(ESTABLISHED 1846.)
FOR 1887

THE POSTMASTER'S DELIGHT
BECAUSE

THERE IS MONEY IN IT.

IT IS A SPECIALTY FOR
Architects, Mechanics, Artizans, Scientists, Inventors
and MEN WHO READ TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE.
No Postmaster anxious to make money should fail to
take subscribers for the

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

Mention the UNITED STATES MAIL.

COIN MONEY

BY GETTING UP A CLUB AT YOUR POST-OFFICE
FOR THE

NEW YORK WORLD

THE GREATEST NEWSPAPER ON THIS
CONTINENT.

Circulation over 1,400,000 copies per week. It offers
every yearly subscriber to its weekly edition

THE GRANDEST PREMIUM EVER KNOWN.

Mention the UNITED STATES MAIL.

GREAT OFFER TO POSTMASTERS

THE New York Observer,

The OLDEST and BEST
FAMILY NEWSPAPER,

Will give One Dollar Commission
for every New Subscriber at Three Dollars a year.
For Fifty New Subscribers at Three Dollars a
year, \$1.50 Commission.

Send on the names as fast as received.

Send for Sample copies at once.

Mention the UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE CINCINNATI WEEKLY TIMES,

Now in its 51st Year of Publication and offering
better inducements to subscriber and agent than ever
before.

TO SUBSCRIBER

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

TO POSTMASTERS

75 CTS. PER YEAR.

A premium for every subscriber, be they old or new.
Renewals count just the same in commissions. Drop us
a postal for premium List and Specimen Copy.

Mention the UNITED STATES MAIL.

New Yorker Staats-Zeitung.

The N. Y. Staats-Zeitung is the
LEADING GERMAN NEWSPAPER
in the United States. Established 1834.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.	TO POSTMASTERS for Subscriptions forwarded.
Daily.....one year, \$0.00	\$0.75
Sunday..... " 1.50	1.00
Weekly..... " 1.50	1.00
Weekly and Sunday " 2.50	1.75
Daily and Sunday " 10.00	7.50

One-half of the above rates will be charged for 6 months.

Address,
THE NEW YORKER STAATS-ZEITUNG
P. O. Box 1207. NEW YORK CITY.

TO POSTMASTERS.

YOUR REPUBLICAN SPECIALTY
IN THE
SUBSCRIPTION WORK
SHOULD BE THE

New York Tribune.

Specially low subscription rates for all new readers
who subscribe before August 1st. Send for circular.
Mention the UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST

ENGLISH AND GERMAN EDITIONS
The Favorite of the Postmasters
BECAUSE it proves a source of Great
Revenue.

THE BEST PAPER
FOR WIVES, OR HUSBANDS,
OR MOTHERS, OR FATHERS,
OR GIRLS, OR BOYS,
OR YOUNG WOMEN. OR YOUNG MEN.

The Postmasters of the United States have
for many years been our

Warmest Friends and Most Active Agents.

Mention the UNITED STATES MAIL.

A Bonanza for Postmasters.

THE GREAT FAMILY PAPER,
THE CHICAGO

Weekly Inter-Ocean,

THE MOST
POPULAR FAMILY PAPER
IN THE UNITED STATES,
AND HAS THE

Largest Circulation of any Journal West of
New York.

40 PER CENT.

Commission allowed to all Postmasters who will solicit
trial subscriptions to

THE WEEKLY DETROIT FREE PRESS

We offer to send THE FREE PRESS

Four Months on Trial for 25 Cents.

If properly approached, nearly every family can be
induced to subscribe for four months. The paper is
well known and exceedingly popular everywhere, con-
sequently it is easy to secure subscribers. Remember
that every subscription will net you 10 cents.

THE FREE PRESS, as an additional inducement to sub-
scribers, has secured the exclusive right to publish W.
Clark Russell's latest and greatest story of the sea, en-
titled:

The Frozen Pirate:

A
Thrilling Story of Adventure in the
Antarctic Regions.

It will be commenced about July 16th.

We desire every Postmaster to send for Agent's out-
fit. It will pay you. As we appeal to you through
your own organ, we shall expect a liberal response.

Address,

THE FREE PRESS CO.,
Detroit, Mich.

Democratic Postmasters

WORK FOR THE

WEEKLY

MISSOURI REPUBLICAN.

TEN PAGES.

The best Weekly in the World.

If you have not received posters and circu-
lars giving commissions, and sample copies,
send for them.

The United States Mail is
the great medium of com-
munication between Pub-
lishers and Postmasters.

Leaders of Low Prices!!

DO NOT PAY HIGH PRICES FOR DATERS OR LINE STAMPS WHEN WE SELL THEM OF BETTER QUALITY FOR LESS MONEY.

- No. 1 OFFER.** For \$2.50 cash we will send you, postpaid, our best Eureka Dater. Dates for ten years. Pads, Ink, Tweezers, and 15 Line Stamps. This Dater alone we retailed formerly at \$3.00.
No. 2 OFFER. For \$2.00 we will send you our Eureka complete without the Lines.
No. 3 OFFER. For \$2.00 cash we will mail you our unequalled offer, consisting of one Flexible Rubber Dater and Canceled, combined or separate; dates for ten years. Pad, Inks, Tweezers, and everything complete, ready for use. Also the 15 Line Stamps shown below.
No. 4 OFFER. For \$1.00, Flexible Dater and Canceled, with Fixtures, without the 15 Lines.
No. 5 OFFER. For \$1.00 the 15 Lines and Ink Pad suitable, any color. Until further notice we will send with each of the above offers a nice self-inking Pad, inclosed in a decorated tin box. Postage stamps taken in any quantity when wrapped in tissue paper to avoid sticking.

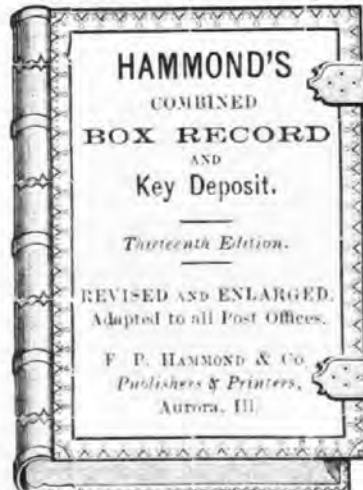


STYLE OF TYPE USED ON THE 15 LINES STAMPS—First three we will change to any wording and use fancy type if desired. Last twelve will change to stamps of common use in post-offices, such as Any Money Order Office, "Call for Letter," "Call for Paper," etc. Lines ordered singly will cost 10c each for first three, and 5c, each for the balance.

J. T. STEVENS, P. M.
UTICA, N. Y.
THIRD CLASS MATTER.
RETURN TO WRITER.
REGISTERED NO.
POSTAGE DUE.



See U. S. P. O. Guide for complete list, or our Circulars.

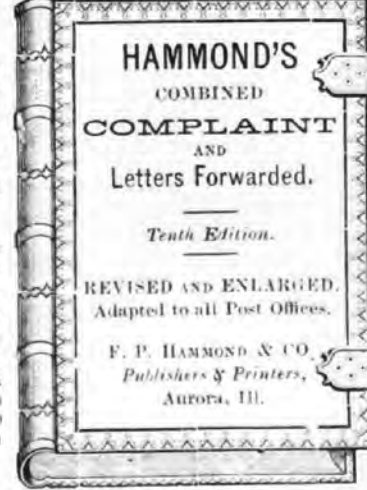


YOU NEED BOOKS

To keep the accounts of your office in shape. We have a complete line of all class post-offices. STANDARD WORKS, GOOD MATERIAL AND RELIABLE. We lead in this business, others follow on as fast as they can, or copy after us. Before you buy, write us what you desire, and we will mail you sample sheets.

Box Record and Key Deposit Account, good for 10 years' use. Contains two accounts combined in one. Price, bound in cloth and leather; adapted to 500 or 1,000 Boxes, \$1.50; 2,000 Boxes, \$2.00; 3,000 Boxes, \$2.50.

Complaint and Letters Forwarded contains 150 pages; will hold 2,000 requests for forwarding, and 400 complaints. Price, bound in cloth and leather, \$2.00. Address



F. P. HAMMOND & CO., AURORA, ILLINOIS.

A BINDER FOR THE United States Mail.



The Best yet offered and the Cheapest.

It is Perfect, Durable and Handsome.

COSTS BUT 35 CENTS.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLISHER.

ADDRESS

BAKER, VAWTER & CO.

103 E. Van Buren St.

CHICAGO.

Situation Wanted As clerk or Asst. P. M. in third-class office by a thoroughly competent young man. Best of references. Address, C. M. HARVEY, Puxico, Mo.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS!

Send 25 cents to B. S. Leach, Community, N. Y., and get a set of **CANCELLATION CARDS**. Read this: "Have used them seven years, and would not be without them." "A. D. WRIGHT, P. M., Community, N. Y."

A NY POSTMASTER in the State of Nebraska, desiring the services of an experienced and reliable assistant in his office, can secure such a one by addressing L. METTS, Grand Island, Nebraska.

O UR POSTAL KNIFE has made *hundreds of Postmasters* happy in the last two months, since its introduction. All who wish to secure this desirable aid to their work, can by sending 25 cents to the manufacturers, **OAKES & PAIGE**, Southbridge, Mass. P. S.—See description of Knife in *Postal Guide* for May.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

POSTMASTERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Newspaper Subscription Department of the United States Mail will be formally opened July 1st. All our plans and purposes regarding it are rapidly assuming shape. Publishers are giving us better rates than any other subscription agency in the country, for they understand that we are in the service of the postmasters, and they make their reductions as a special favor to you. We attach this to our business because it is in our line, just as flour is for a grocer.

By working together we can be of great service to each other. Every postmaster should lay his plans to canvass every patron of his office to take one, two or three papers each. You ought to clean out all the news agents who are interfering with your business in the way of procuring subscriptions for newspapers and we will aid you to do it.

A CARD THAT IS A CARD.



The undersigned Postmasters, appointed to office by President Cleveland, having become subscribers to the UNITED STATES MAIL, published at Chicago, take occasion to commend that journal to their brethren in the service as entirely worthy of patronage. It is conducted with spirit and energy, and is not only enjoyable as giving the news and gossip of the service, from one end of the country to the other, but is also valuable for the instruction it imparts in regard to existing postal laws and regulations. Newly-appointed postmasters will find it especially serviceable in giving timely hints in the manner of transacting business with the Department, and none can fail to be benefited by its perusal. Postmasters should not hesitate in subscribing for such a paper. It is greatly needed, and their support should not only be prompt, but cordial.

Very respectfully,

C. R. Chapman, Hartford, Conn.
 R. B. English, New Haven, Conn.
 T. J. Bunn, Bloomington, Ill.
 G. W. Martin, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 J. F. Mayberry, Cortland, N. Y.
 John Warner, Peoria, Ill.
 S. B. Chase, Osage, Kan.
 A. H. Morgan, Way Cross, Ga.
 J. Talliferro, Winchester, Ky.
 S. W. Hobbs, Storm Lake, Iowa.
 S. W. Cobb, Hanover, N. H.
 G. W. Thomas, Canton, Miss.
 H. L. Kenyon, Northfield, Vt.
 I. G. Van Riper, Rutherford, N. J.
 Val. Ringle, Wausau, Wis.
 Samuel H. Smith, Winston, N. C.
 P. S. Fulkerton, Lexington, Mo.
 J. B. Hutchinson, Hazelton, Pa.

Henry C. Cassidy, Youngstown, O.
 Myron H. Peck, Jr., Batavia, N. Y.
 John Milehan, Topeka, Kan.
 Lloyd Reed, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 Ben P. Brown, Franklin, Ind.
 R. W. Cowan, Ashland, Ohio.
 C. Philbrick, Halstead, Kan.
 Jerome L. A. Due, Westfield, N. Y.
 J. Mayberry, Burlingame, Kan.
 O. V. Hensley, Grove City, Ill.
 P. W. Kinsley, Utica, Ohio.
 A. Shepherd, Waverly, Iowa.
 Henry C. Shannon, Erie, Pa.
 D. C. Brown, Brandon, Vt.
 H. D. Beach, Coshocton, Ohio.
 J. L. Lindley, Ansonia, Conn.
 James T. Wiley, Elizabeth, N. J.
 George T. Grass, Allentown, Pa.

AND FIFTY OTHERS.



POSTMASTERS MAKE THE BEST AGENTS IN THE WORLD!

THIRD AND FOURTH-CLASS

POSTMASTERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION

TO BE HELD IN

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 13, 1887.

THIS CALL for a convention of Third and Fourth Class Postmasters is made in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the National Convention held at Chicago, in February, 1886, which gave to the National Committee the power to select the time and place for its meetings.

Our first convention was a success, not only in numbers but in enthusiasm. Our meetings were held in the Grand Opera House, and though we came together as strangers we parted as friends, more than ever determined to seek that legislation which would grant us the relief to which we are entitled. Though we have not as yet succeeded in our endeavors to induce Congress to pass a law favorable to our cause, yet we have succeeded in attracting public attention to the wrongs under which we suffer, and secured the general favorable attitude of the press throughout the country. Much labor has been expended in furthering our movement. House Bill 7,474 was drawn by the Committee sent to Washington having in charge our interests. It was introduced into the House by Judge PETERS, of Kansas, and into the Senate by Senator WILSON, of Iowa. It was read twice and referred to the Post-office Committee, when it was again referred to sub-committees for consideration and report. Circulars, newspaper articles and other printed matter were placed before Senators and Representatives, and many personal appeals were made in its behalf. Visits were made to the press of Philadelphia, New York and other Eastern cities, to secure their support of the Bill; and while all the editors seen did not promise to aid us, yet those who would not advocate it, agreed most willingly not to oppose it. When the situation of the third and fourth-class postmasters was fully explained to them, there was a feeling of surprise manifested that the Government would treat its most trusted and honored servants in a manner so penurious and narrow minded. As before stated, Congressmen were written to and appealed to to vote for our Bill, and had it only have been reported to the House, it would have passed almost without discussion. The sub-committee having it in charge, we are told, was unanimously in favor of its passage and would have reported it favorably but for political reasons. There was a pressure brought to bear to withhold the report, until finally an adverse report was presented because another Bill, and a better one, as it supposed, was introduced that had been prepared by the Department, or, at least, under its direction. That Bill, however, died with the ending of Congress, and as it was quite objectionable in several of its features, it is doubtful whether it will ever be re-introduced.



A NEW BILL.—This, brethren, is the situation at the present time. As our own bill was lost as well as the one fathered by the Department, the question is, shall we try it over? Shall we make another effort? Shall we formulate a new bill, one more perfect and complete than was that drawn by our own committee? We know full well what your answer is to these questions, for we would not be true Americans if when we fail in our first effort, we did not make a second and in a far more determined spirit than characterized the first. A new bill, then, is

what we want and what we will have! But *where* and *how* shall it be drawn and by whom? We consider a Postmasters' National Convention the only proper body to formulate such an important document, and, therefore, you are hereby called to meet in Washington City, in convention assembled, on the second Tuesday in December, and consider your interests in connection with this and other matters. You know best what changes should be made and what additional compensation you should have; then, is it not best that we come together in great numbers and compare views and come to a careful conclusion as to the form and nature of the bill we desire to lay before Congress?

There are also many other questions pertaining to the interests of the postal service which should be considered and reported upon by the convention, that is, in its practical workings. You should be able to make valuable suggestions as to where reforms could be instituted so that the efficiency of the system could be increased and the public benefited.

The chief cause of our assembling, however, will be to determine how our compensation should be computed and upon what basis; whether by actual salary or commission; whether we are to be furnished with light and fuel and have our rent paid; whether we are to have any allowance for clerk hire or for "separating" mails passing through our offices. And, too, we shall examine into the money-order system and see if it can not be simplified, at least to a slight extent, so that our labor shall be lessened or our fees increased.

NOT KICKERS.—We are not "kickers" in the sense in which that word is generally understood by the public; but simply seekers after reasonable compensation for the labor we perform, the responsibility we assume, and the risks we run in conducting this intricate and delicate business for the government and the people. We feel that as free and independent American citizens we have the right of appeal, and with that object in view we propose to come together in national convention and frame a just and equitable plan of compensation.

There is no need to recite our grievances in this call, for you are all only too fully personally acquainted with them.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.—We have entrusted to Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, Chicago, the duty of preparing a statement of the grievances of third and fourth-class postmasters and embody them in the form of a MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS, which will be ready for distribution by the 31st of July. It will present our side of the case fully, and will be copiously illustrated in a conspicuously striking manner, exhibiting the unfairness and injustice of the laws governing our compensation.

The purpose of that document is to impress Congressmen in advance of the convention with the justice of our cause, so that our labor may be materially lessened when our bill shall have been framed and introduced into that body. It will also be sent to the leading papers of the country and by that means seek to make more firm our newspaper friends who came to us during our first efforts.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN DISTRICT.—We ask the postmasters of each Congressional district to look after it and see to it that a District Convention is held. Hold your District Convention without any further formal notice from us. Make up your mind to attend and especially look after the postmasters in your county. Any live, progressive postmaster is duly authorized to proceed to work up his county or district so as to secure one or more delegates. Let all this be done not later than August 15th, so that we may know what action has been taken. Do not wait for some one else to make the start, but go ahead yourself and thus show your interest in the cause.

TALK IT UP.—Talk up this convention movement not only with brother postmasters, but also with the patrons of your office and with the editors of your county papers. Try and induce them to espouse our cause by giving favorable notice of the justice and equity of our demands.

COMMITTEE OF ONE.—Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, was designated at the last meeting of this Committee as a committee of one to have charge of all the arrangements for the meeting of the Convention, and all communications relating to it should be addressed to him at 196 La Salle Street, Chicago.

(Continued on page 149.)

Leaders of Low Prices!!

DO NOT PAY HIGH PRICES FOR DATERS OR LINE STAMPS WHEN WE SELL THEM OF BETTER QUALITY FOR LESS MONEY.

- No. 1 OFFER.** For \$2.50 cash we will send you, postpaid, our best Eureka Dater. Dates for ten years. Pads, Ink, Tweezers, and 15 Line Stamps. This Dater alone we retailed formerly at \$3.00.
- No. 2 OFFER.** For \$2.00 we will send you our Eureka complete without the Lines.
- No. 3 OFFER.** For \$2.00 cash we will mail you our unequalled offer, consisting of one Flexible Rubber Dater and Canceled, combined or separate; dates for ten years. Pad, Inks, Tweezers, and everything complete, ready for use. Also the 15 Line Stamps shown below.
- No. 4 OFFER.** For \$1.00, Flexible Dater and Canceled, with Fixtures, without the 15 Lines.
- No. 5 OFFER.** For \$1.00 the 15 Lines and Ink Pad suitable, any color. Until further notice we will send with each of the above offers a nice self-inking Pad, inclosed in a decorated tin box. Postage stamps taken in any quantity when wrapped in tissue paper to avoid sticking.



STYLE OF TYPE USED ON THE 15 LINES STAMPS—First three we will change to any wording and use fancy type if desired. Last twelve will change to stamps of common use in post-offices, such as Any Money Order Office, "Call for Letter," "Call for Paper," etc. Lines ordered singly will cost 10c each for first three, and 5c, each for the balance.

J. T. STEVENS, P. M.
UTICA, N. Y.
THIRD CLASS MATTER.
RETURN TO WRITER.
REGISTERED NO.
POSTAGE DUE.

See U. S. P. O. Guide for complete list, or our Circulars.



YOU NEED BOOKS

To keep the accounts of your office in shape. We have a complete line of all class post-offices. STANDARD WORKS, GOOD MATERIAL AND RELIABLE. We lead in this business, others follow on as fast as they can, or copy after us. Before you buy, write us what you desire, and we will mail you sample sheets.

Box Record and Key Deposit Account, good for 10 years use. Contains two accounts combined in one. Price, bound in cloth and leather; adapted to 500 or 1,000 Boxes, \$1.50; 2,000 Boxes, \$2.00; 3,000 Boxes, \$2.50.

Complaint and Letters Forwarded contains 150 pages; will hold 2,000 requests for forwarding, and 400 complaints. Price, bound in cloth and leather, \$2.00. Address



F. P. HAMMOND & CO., AURORA, ILLINOIS.

A BINDER FOR THE United States Mail.



The Best yet offered and the Cheapest.

It is Perfect, Durable and Handsome.

COSTS BUT 35 CENTS.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLISHER.

ADDRESS
BAKER, VAWTER & CO.
 103 E. Van Buren St. CHICAGO.

Situation Wanted As clerk or Asst. P. M. in third-class office by a thoroughly competent young man. Best of references.
 Address, C. M. HARVEY, Puxico, Mo.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS!

Send 25 cents to B. S. Leach, Community, N. Y., and get a set of **CANCELLATION CARDS**. Read this: "Have used them seven years, and would not be without them."

"A. D. WRIGHT, P. M.,
 "Community, N. Y."

ANY POSTMASTER in the State of Nebraska, desiring the services of an experienced and reliable assistant in his office, can secure such a one by addressing L. METTS, Grand Island, Nebraska.

OUR POSTAL KNIFE has made hundreds of Postmasters happy in the last two months, since its introduction. All who wish to secure this desirable aid to their work, can by sending 25 cents to the manufacturers.

OAKES & PAIGE,

Southbridge, Mass.

P. S.—See description of Knife in *Postal Guide* for May.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

POSTMASTERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Newspaper Subscription Department of the United States Mail will be formally opened July 1st. All our plans and purposes regarding it are rapidly assuming shape. Publishers are giving us better rates than any other subscription agency in the country, for they understand that we are in the service of the postmasters, and they make their reductions as a special favor to you. We attach this to our business because it is in our line, just as flour is for a grocer.

By working together we can be of great service to each other. Every postmaster should lay his plans to canvass every patron of his office to take one, two or three papers each. You ought to clean out all the news agents who are interfering with your business in the way of procuring subscriptions for newspapers and we will aid you to do it.

A CARD THAT IS A CARD.



The undersigned Postmasters, appointed to office by President Cleveland, having become subscribers to the **UNITED STATES MAIL**, published at Chicago, take occasion to commend that journal to their brethren in the service as entirely worthy of patronage. It is conducted with spirit and energy, and is not only enjoyable as giving the news and gossip of the service, from one end of the country to the other, but is also valuable for the instruction it imparts in regard to existing postal laws and regulations. Newly-appointed postmasters will find it especially serviceable in giving timely hints in the manner of transacting business with the Department, and none can fail to be benefited by its perusal. Postmasters should not hesitate in subscribing for such a paper. It is greatly needed, and their support should not only be prompt, but cordial.

Very respectfully,

C. R. Chapman, Hartford, Conn.
 R. B. English, New Haven, Conn.
 T. J. Bunn, Bloomington, Ill.
 G. W. Martin, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 J. F. Mayberry, Cortland, N. Y.
 John Warner, Peoria, Ill.
 S. B. Chase, Osage, Kan.
 A. H. Morgan, Way Cross, Ga.
 J. Talliferro, Winchester, Ky.
 S. W. Hobbs, Storm Lake, Iowa.
 S. W. Cobb, Hanover, N. H.
 G. W. Thomas, Canton, Miss.
 H. L. Kenyon, Northfield, Vt.
 J. G. Van Riper, Rutherford, N. J.
 Val. Ringle, Wausau, Wis.
 Samuel H. Smith, Winston, N. C.
 P. S. Fulkerton, Lexington, Mo.
 J. B. Hutchinson, Hazelton, Pa.

Henry C. Cassidy, Youngstown, O.
 Myron H. Peck, Jr., Batavia, N. Y.
 John Milehan, Topeka, Kan.
 Lloyd Reed, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 Ben. P. Brown, Franklin, Ind.
 R. W. Cowan, Ashland, Ohio.
 C. Philbrick, Halstead, Kan.
 Jerome La Due, Westfield, N. Y.
 J. Mayberry, Burlington, Kan.
 O. Y. Housley, Grove City, Ill.
 P. W. Kinsley, Utica, Ohio.
 A. Shepherd, Waverly, Iowa.
 Henry C. Shannon, Erie, Pa.
 D. C. Brown, Brandon, Vt.
 H. D. Beach, Coshoccon, Ohio.
 J. L. Lindley, Ansonia, Conn.
 James T. Wiley, Elizabeth, N. J.
 George T. Grass, Allentown, Pa.

AND FIFTY OTHERS.



POSTMASTERS MAKE THE BEST AGENTS IN THE WORLD!

THIRD AND FOURTH-CLASS

POSTMASTERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION

TO BE HELD IN

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 13, 1887.

THIS CALL for a convention of Third and Fourth Class Postmasters is made in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the National Convention held at Chicago, in February, 1886, which gave to the National Committee the power to select the time and place for its meetings.

Our first convention was a success not only in numbers but in enthusiasm. Our meetings were held in the Grand Opera House, and though we came together as strangers we parted as friends, more than ever determined to seek that legislation which would grant us the relief to which we are entitled.

Though we have not as yet succeeded in our endeavors to induce Congress to pass a law favorable to our cause, yet we have succeeded in attracting public attention to the wrongs under which we suffer, and secured the general favorable attitude of the press throughout the country. Much labor has been expended in furthering our movement. House Bill 7,474 was drawn by the Committee sent to Washington having in charge our interests. It was introduced into the House by Judge PETERS, of Kansas, and into the Senate by Senator WILSON, of Iowa. It was read twice and referred to the Post-office Committee, when it was again referred to sub-committees for consideration and report. Circulars, newspaper articles and other printed matter were placed before Senators and Representatives, and many personal appeals were made in its behalf. Visits were made to the press of Philadelphia, New York and other Eastern cities, to secure their support of the Bill; and while all the editors seen did not promise to aid us, yet those who would not advocate it, agreed most willingly not to oppose it. When the situation of the third and fourth-class postmasters was fully explained to them, there was a feeling of surprise manifested that the Government would treat its most trusted and honored servants in a manner so penurious and narrow minded. As before stated, Congressmen were written to and appealed to to vote for our Bill, and had it only have been reported to the House, it would have passed almost without discussion. The sub-committee having it in charge, we are told, was unanimously in favor of its passage and would have reported it favorably but for political reasons. There was a pressure brought to bear to withhold the report, until finally an adverse report was presented because another Bill, and a better one, as it supposed, was introduced that had been prepared by the Department, or, at least, under its direction. That Bill, however, died with the ending of Congress, and as it was quite objectionable in several of its features, it is doubtful whether it will ever be re-introduced.

A NEW BILL.—This, brethren, is the situation at the present time. As our own bill was lost as well as the one fathered by the Department, the question is, shall we try it over? Shall we make another effort? Shall we formulate a new bill, one more perfect and complete than was that drawn by our own committee? We know full well what your answer is to these questions, for we would not be true Americans if when we fail in our first effort, we did not make a second and in a far more determined spirit than characterized the first. A new bill, then, is

what we want and what we will have! But *where* and *how* shall it be drawn and by whom? We consider a Postmasters' National Convention the only proper body to formulate such an important document, and, therefore, you are hereby called to meet in Washington City, in convention assembled, on the second Tuesday in December, and consider your interests in connection with this and other matters. You know best what changes should be made and what additional compensation you should have; then, is it not best that we come together in great numbers and compare views and come to a careful conclusion as to the form and nature of the bill we desire to lay before Congress?

There are also many other questions pertaining to the interests of the postal service which should be considered and reported upon by the convention, that is, in its practical workings. You should be able to make valuable suggestions as to where reforms could be instituted so that the efficiency of the system could be increased and the public benefited.

The chief cause of our assembling, however, will be to determine how our compensation should be computed and upon what basis; whether by actual salary or commission; whether we are to be furnished with light and fuel and have our rent paid; whether we are to have any allowance for clerk hire or for "separating" mails passing through our offices. And, too, we shall examine into the money-order system and see if it can not be simplified, at least to a slight extent, so that our labor shall be lessened or our fees increased.

NOT KICKERS.—We are not "kickers" in the sense in which that word is generally understood by the public; but simply seekers after reasonable compensation for the labor we perform, the responsibility we assume, and the risks we run in conducting this intricate and delicate business for the government and the people. We feel that as free and independent American citizens we have the right of appeal, and with that object in view we propose to come together in national convention and frame a just and equitable plan of compensation.

There is no need to recite our grievances in this call, for you are all only too fully personally acquainted with them.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.—We have entrusted to Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, Chicago, the duty of preparing a statement of the grievances of third and fourth-class postmasters and embody them in the form of a MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS, which will be ready for distribution by the 31st of July. It will present our side of the case fully, and will be copiously illustrated in a conspicuously striking manner, exhibiting the unfairness and injustice of the laws governing our compensation.

The purpose of that document is to impress Congressmen in advance of the convention with the justice of our cause, so that our labor may be materially lessened when our bill shall have been framed and introduced into that body. It will also be sent to the leading papers of the country and by that means seek to make more firm our newspaper friends who came to us during our first efforts.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN DISTRICT.—We ask the postmasters of each Congressional district to look after it and see to it that a District Convention is held. Hold your District Convention without any further formal notice from us. Make up your mind to attend and especially look after the postmasters in your county. Any live, progressive postmaster is duly authorized to proceed to work up his county or district so as to secure one or more delegates. Let all this be done not later than August 15th, so that we may know what action has been taken. Do not wait for some one else to make the start, but go ahead yourself and thus show your interest in the cause.

TALK IT UP.—Talk up this convention movement not only with brother postmasters, but also with the patrons of your office and with the editors of your county papers. Try and induce them to espouse our cause by giving favorable notice of the justice and equity of our demands.

COMMITTEE OF ONE.—Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, was designated at the last meeting of this Committee as a committee of one to have charge of all the arrangements for the meeting of the Convention, and all communications relating to it should be addressed to him at 196 La Salle Street, Chicago.

(Continued on page 149.)

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Leaders of Low Prices!!

DO NOT PAY HIGH PRICES FOR DATERS OR LINE STAMPS WHEN WE SELL THEM OF BETTER QUALITY FOR LESS MONEY.

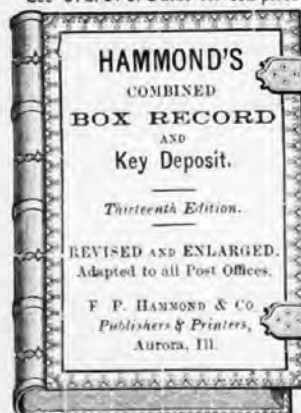
- No. 1 OFFER.** For \$2.50 cash we will send you, postpaid, our best Eureka Dater. Dates for ten years. Pads, Ink, Tweezers, and 15 Line Stamps. This Dater alone we retailed formerly at \$3.00.
No. 2 OFFER. For \$2.00 we will send you our Eureka complete without the Lines.
No. 3 OFFER. For \$2.00 cash we will mail you our unequalled offer, consisting of one Flexible Rubber Dater and Canceled, combined or separate; dates for ten years. Pad, Inks, Tweezers, and everything complete, ready for use. Also the 15 Line Stamps shown below.
No. 4 OFFER. For \$1.00, Flexible Dater and Canceled, with Fixtures, without the 15 Lines.
No. 5 OFFER. For \$1.00 the 15 Lines and Ink Pad suitable, any color. Until further notice we will send with each of the above offers a nice self-inking Pad, inclosed in a decorated tin box. Postage stamps taken in any quantity when wrapped in tissue paper to avoid sticking.



STYLE OF TYPE USED ON THE 15 LINES STAMPS—First three we will change to any wording and use fancy type if desired. Last twelve will change to stamps of common use in post-offices, such as Any Money Order Office, "Call for Letter," "Call for Paper," etc. Lines ordered singly will cost 10c each for first three, and 5c, each for the balance.

J. T. STEVENS, P. M.
UTICA, N. Y.
THIRD CLASS MATTER.
RETURN TO WRITER.
REGISTERED NO.
POSTAGE DUE.

See U. S. P. O. Guide for complete list, or our Circulars.

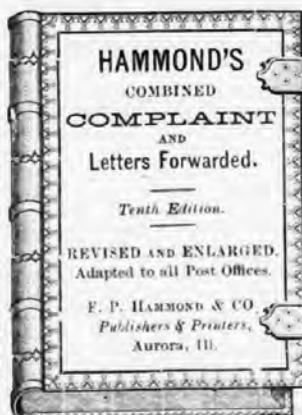


YOU NEED BOOKS

To keep the accounts of your office in shape. We have a complete line of all class post-offices. STANDARD WORKS, GOOD MATERIAL AND RELIABLE. We lead in this business, others follow on as fast as they can, or copy after us. Before you buy, write us what you desire, and we will mail you sample sheets.

Box Record and Key Deposit Account, good for 10 years use. Contains two accounts combined in one. Price, bound in cloth and leather; adapted to 500 or 1,000 Boxes, \$1.50; 2,000 Boxes, \$2.00; 3,000 Boxes, \$2.50.

Complaint and Letters Forwarded contains 150 pages; will hold 2,000 requests for forwarding, and 400 complaints. Price, bound in cloth and leather, \$2.00. Address



F. P. HAMMOND & CO., AURORA, ILLINOIS.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

POSTMASTERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Newspaper Subscription Department of the United States Mail will be formally opened July 1st. All our plans and purposes regarding it are rapidly assuming shape. Publishers are giving us better rates than any other subscription agency in the country, for they understand that we are in the service of the postmasters, and they make their reductions as a special favor to you. We attach this to our business because it is in our line, just as flour is for a grocer.

By working together we can be of great service to each other. Every postmaster should lay his plans to canvass every patron of his office to take one, two or three papers each. You ought to clean out all the news agents who are interfering with your business in the way of procuring subscriptions for newspapers and we will aid you to do it.

A CARD THAT IS A CARD.



The undersigned Postmasters, appointed to office by President Cleveland, having become subscribers to the UNITED STATES MAIL, published at Chicago, take occasion to commend that journal to their brethren in the service as entirely worthy of patronage. It is conducted with spirit and energy, and is not only enjoyable as giving the news and gossip of the service, but is also valuable for the instruction it imparts in regard to existing postal laws and regulations. Newly-appointed postmasters will find it especially serviceable in giving timely hints in the manner of transacting business with the Department, and none can fail to be benefited by its perusal. Postmasters should not hesitate in subscribing for such a paper. It is greatly needed, and their support should not only be prompt, but cordial.

Very respectfully,

C. R. Chapman, Hartford, Conn.
 R. B. English, New Haven, Conn.
 T. J. Bunn, Bloomington, Ill.
 G. W. Martin, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 J. F. Mayberry, Cortland, N. Y.
 John Warner, Peoria, Ill.
 S. B. Chase, Osage, Kan.
 A. H. Morgan, Way Cross, Ga.
 J. Talliferro, Winchester, Ky.
 S. W. Hobbs, Storm Lake, Iowa.
 S. W. Cobb, Hanover, N. H.
 G. W. Thomas, Canton, Miss.
 H. L. Kenyon, Northfield, Vt.
 J. G. Van Riper, Rutherford, N. J.
 Val Ringle, Wausau, Wis.
 Samuel H. Smith, Winston, N. C.
 P. S. Fulkerton, Lexington, Mo.
 J. B. Hutchinson, Hazelton, Pa.

Henry C. Cassidy, Youngstown, O.
 Myron H. Peck, Jr., Batavia, N. Y.
 John Milehan, Topeka, Kan.
 Lloyd Reed, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 Ben P. Brown, Franklin, Ind.
 R. W. Cowan, Ashtabula, Ohio.
 C. Philbrick, Halstead, Kan.
 Jerome La Due, Westfield, N. Y.
 J. Mayberry, Burlingame, Kan.
 O. V. Houzley, Grove City, Ill.
 P. W. Kinsley, Utica, Ohio.
 A. Shepherd, Waverly, Iowa.
 Henry C. Shannon, Erie, Pa.
 D. C. Brown, Brandon, Vt.
 H. D. Beach, Coshocton, Ohio.
 J. L. Lindley, Ansonia, Conn.
 James T. Wiley, Elizabeth, N. J.
 George T. Grass, Allentown, Pa.

AND FIFTY OTHERS.

A BINDER FOR THE United States Mail.



The Best yet offered and the Cheapest.

It is Perfect, Durable and Handsome.

COSTS BUT 35 CENTS.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLISHER.

ADDRESS

BAKER, VAWTER & CO.

103 E. Van Buren St.

CHICAGO.

Situation Wanted

As clerk or Asst. P. M. in third-class office by a thoroughly competent young man. Best of references.

Address, C. M. HARVEY, Puxico, Mo.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS!

Send 25 cents to B. S. Leach, Community, N. Y., and get a set of **CANCELLATION CARDS**. Read this: "Have used them seven years, and would not be without them."

"A. D. WRIGHT, P. M.,
 "Community, N. Y."

A NY POSTMASTER in the State of Nebraska, desiring the services of an experienced and reliable assistant in his office, can secure such a one by addressing L. METTS, Grand Island, Nebraska.

OUR POSTAL KNIFE has made hundreds of Postmasters happy in the last two months, since its introduction. All who wish to secure this desirable aid to their work, can by sending 25 cents to the manufacturers.

OAKES & PAIGE,

Southbridge, Mass.

P. S.—See description of Knife in Postal Guide for May.

 **POSTMASTERS MAKE THE BEST AGENTS IN THE WORLD !**



Vol. III.

CHICAGO—NEW YORK, JULY, 1887.

No. 34.

THIRD AND FOURTH-CLASS

POSTMASTERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION

TO BE HELD IN

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 13, 1887.

THIS CALL for a convention of Third and Fourth Class Postmasters is made in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the National Convention held at Chicago, in February, 1886, which gave to the National Committee the power to select the time and place for its meetings.

Our first convention was a success not only in numbers but in enthusiasm. Our meetings were held in the Grand Opera House, and though we came together as strangers we parted as friends, more than ever determined to seek that legislation which would grant us the relief to which



we are entitled. Though we have not as yet succeeded in our endeavors to induce Congress to pass a law favorable to our cause, yet we have succeeded in attracting public attention to the wrongs under which we suffer, and secured the general favorable attitude of the press throughout the country. Much labor has been expended in furthering our movement. House Bill 7,474 was drawn by the Committee sent to Washington having in charge our interests. It was introduced into the House by Judge PETERS, of Kansas, and into the Senate by Senator WILSON, of Iowa. It was read twice and referred to the Post-office Committees, when it was again referred to sub-committees for consideration and report. Circulars, newspaper articles and other printed matter were placed before Senators and Representatives, and many personal appeals were made in its behalf. Visits were made to the press of Philadelphia,

New York and other Eastern cities, to secure their support of the Bill; and while all the editors seen did not promise to aid us, yet those who would not advocate it, agreed most willingly not to oppose it. When the situation of the third and fourth-class postmasters was fully explained to them, there was a feeling of surprise manifested that the Government would treat its most trusted and honored servants in a manner so penurious and narrow minded. As before stated, Congressmen were written to and appealed to to vote for our Bill, and had it only have been reported to the House, it would have passed almost without discussion. The sub-committee having it in charge, we are told, was unanimously in favor of its passage and would have reported it favorably but for political reasons. There was a pressure brought to bear to withhold the report, until finally an adverse report was presented because another Bill, and a better one, as it supposed, was introduced that had been prepared by the Department, or, at least, under its direction. That Bill, however, died with the ending of Congress, and as it was quite objectionable in several of its features, it is doubtful whether it will ever be re-introduced.

A NEW BILL.—This, brethren, is the situation at the present time. As our own bill was lost as well as the one fathered by the Department, the question is, shall we try it over? Shall we make another effort? Shall we formulate a new bill, one more perfect and complete than was that drawn by our own committee? We know full well what your answer is to these questions, for we would not be true Americans if when we fail in our first effort, we did not make a second and in a far more determined spirit than characterized the first. A new bill, then, is

what we want and what we will have! But *where* and *how* shall it be drawn and by whom? We consider a Postmasters' National Convention the only proper body to formulate such an important document, and, therefore, you are hereby called to meet in Washington City, in convention assembled, on the second Tuesday in December, and consider your interests in connection with this and other matters. You know best what changes should be made and what additional compensation you should have; then, is it not best that we come together in great numbers and compare views and come to a careful conclusion as to the form and nature of the bill we desire to lay before Congress?

There are also many other questions pertaining to the interests of the postal service which should be considered and reported upon by the convention, that is, in its practical workings. You should be able to make valuable suggestions as to where reforms could be instituted so that the efficiency of the system could be increased and the public benefited.

The chief cause of our assembling, however, will be to determine how our compensation should be computed and upon what basis; whether by actual salary or commission; whether we are to be furnished with light and fuel and have our rent paid; whether we are to have any allowance for clerk hire or for "separating" mails passing through our offices. And, too, we shall examine into the money-order system and see if it can not be simplified, at least to a slight extent, so that our labor shall be lessened or our fees increased.

NOT KICKERS.—We are not "kickers" in the sense in which that word is generally understood by the public; but simply seekers after reasonable compensation for the labor we perform, the responsibility we assume, and the risks we run in conducting this intricate and delicate business for the government and the people. We feel that as free and independent American citizens we have the right of appeal, and with that object in view we propose to come together in national convention and frame a just and equitable plan of compensation.

There is no need to recite our grievances in this call, for you are all only too fully personally acquainted with them.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.—We have entrusted to Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, Chicago, the duty of preparing a statement of the grievances of third and fourth-class postmasters and embody them in the form of a MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS, which will be ready for distribution by the 31st of July. It will present our side of the case fully, and will be copiously illustrated in a conspicuously striking manner, exhibiting the unfairness and injustice of the laws governing our compensation.

The purpose of that document is to impress Congressmen in advance of the convention with the justice of our cause, so that our labor may be materially lessened when our bill shall have been framed and introduced into that body. It will also be sent to the leading papers of the country and by that means seek to make more firm our newspaper friends who came to us during our first efforts.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN DISTRICT.—We ask the postmasters of each Congressional district to look after it and see to it that a District Convention is held. Hold your District Convention without any further formal notice from us. Make up your mind to attend and especially look after the postmasters in your county. Any live, progressive postmaster is duly authorized to proceed to work up his county or district so as to secure one or more delegates. Let all this be done not later than August 15th, so that we may know what action has been taken. Do not wait for some one else to make the start, but go ahead yourself and thus show your interest in the cause.

TALK IT UP.—Talk up this convention movement not only with brother postmasters, but also with the patrons of your office and with the editors of your county papers. Try and induce them to espouse our cause by giving favorable notice of the justice and equity of our demands.

COMMITTEE OF ONE.—Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, was designated at the last meeting of this Committee as a committee of one to have charge of all the arrangements for the meeting of the Convention, and all communications relating to it should be addressed to him at 196 La Salle Street, Chicago.

(Continued on page 149.)

A COMPENDIUM OF DOMESTIC POSTAGE FOR POSTMASTERS AND THE PUBLIC.

There are four classes of mail-matter divided as follows:

First-Class Matter.—Letters and all other written matter, whether sealed or unsealed, and all other matter sealed, nailed, sewed, tied, or fastened in any manner, so that it can not be easily examined.

Postage on matter of the first class is TWO (2) CENTS PER OUNCE OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Postal cards one cent each, but are unmailable with any writing or printing on the address side, except the direction, or with anything pasted upon or attached to them.

The following specified articles are among those subject to first-class rates, viz.:

- Accounts*, whether partly or wholly in writing.
- Autograph Albums* containing written signatures, or other miscellaneous written matter.
- Bank Books*, with entries in writing therein.
- Bank Checks*, when written, and whether canceled or uncanceled.
- Bills*, when written or partly written.
- Books*, when presented for mailing with letters attached or enclosed.
- Cartes de visite*, or visiting cards, with written addresses thereon.
- Checks*, when partly written, whether signed or not, or canceled or uncanceled.
- Contracts*, wholly or partly in writing.
- Copies*, made by type-writer or caligraph, or other similar processes.
- Copies of manuscript* for publication, when not accompanied by proof-sheets or corrected proofs of same.
- Correspondence*, when actual and personal, whether the communication is wholly or partly in writing, or is prepared by type-writer, caligraph, or other similar processes.
- Deeds*, wholly or partly in writing, whether executed or unexecuted.
- Designs*, or plans drawn or sketched by hand.
- Diaries*, with entries in writing therein.
- Drafts*, wholly or partly in writing, signed or unsigned, canceled or uncanceled.
- Drawings*, plans or designs, drawn or sketched by hand.
- Envelopes*, with written addresses thereon.
- Etching*, drawn by hand.
- Insurance Policies*, wholly or partly in writing, and applications therefor.
- Invitations*, wholly or partly written.
- Letters*, whether written or printed (except circulars), and whether written by hand, or type-writer, caligraph or other similar process.
- Old letters*, whether sent singly or in bulk.
- Manuscript Matter*, maps, music, or other manuscript designed for publication, unless accompanied by proof-sheets or corrected proofs.
- Mortgages*, real or personal, and other deeds or contracts, wholly or partly in writing.
- Photographs*, when matter is written thereon other than the name of the sender.

Packages, when sealed or sewed or otherwise closed against inspection. If one full rate be paid they will be forwarded, rated up with the deficient postage. If less than a full rate be paid, the package will be treated as a short paid letter.

Printed Letters, not bearing internal evidence of being sent to several persons in identical terms.

Promissory Notes, wholly or partly in writing, signed or unsigned.

Receipts, whether wholly or partly in writing, except receipts for subscription to, and inclosed with, second-class publications.

Signatures to personal communications, made by hand-stamp as well as handwriting.

Stenographic or short-hand notes.

Telegrams, when offered for mailing are letters, and not to be receipted for unless registered.

Pictures, Prints, when matter is written thereon other than the name of the sender.

Packages of third or fourth-class matter which bear writing thereon, (or on the inside) other than the name of the sender.

Drop Letters.—Drop letters require postage at the rate of two cents for each ounce or fraction thereof at letter-carrier offices, and one cent at all other offices.

When deposited in a post-office without stamps affixed, they are subject to double rates, but may be delivered upon the payment of the full single rate thereon.

A request for the return of a local or drop letter to the writer at some office other than the one at which it was mailed, if uncalled for, can not be respected unless one full rate of postage (two cents per ounce) has been paid thereon.

There is no difference between the regular and "drop" rate on third or fourth-class matter.

Second-Class Matter.—This embraces all newspapers and other periodical publications within the following conditions:

First, it must be regularly issued at stated intervals, as frequently as four times a year, and bear a date of issue.

Second, it must be formed of printed paper sheets, without board, cloth, leather, or other substantial binding, such as distinguish printed books for preservation from periodical publications.

Third, it must be originated and published for the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or some special industry, and having a legitimate list of subscribers.

Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to admit to the second-class rate regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates.

Second-class mail-matter can have no advertising sheets, notices, memoranda or circulars enclosed therein.

All advertisements in magazines must be permanently attached thereto by binding, printing, pasting, or otherwise, and must be of uniform size with the pages of the publication. Maps, diagrams, or illustrations which are referred to in the publication, or form a necessary part thereof, are admissible. There can also be enclosed in the paper, but they can not be mailed separately, supplements, with the name of the paper they supplement, and date of issue. There may also be enclosed bills or receipts covering subscription (not for advertising), on which the number and names of papers enclosed may be designated, or orders in blank for subscription (without additional matter), to be filled up and returned by the addressee. A supplement and order, bills, receipts, etc., can not be combined in one. Any other addition to a regular publication than those indicated above, subject the whole to higher rates of postage.

Sample copies, marked sample or specimen on the wrapper or paper itself, either singly or in quantity, may be sent by mail to one address, to any reasonable amount, and as often as desired by the publishers, if not sent continuously to the same names, or in such quantities as compared with paid subscriptions as to render the price of the paper nominal, or to names furnished by advertisers.

Second-class matter must not only disclose the name of the publisher or editor, but it must also have a known office of publication where the business of the paper or magazine is transacted.

Annual and Semi-annual publications are *third-class* matter; but university or collegiate publications that suspend during the summer months are legitimate, and are not to be debarred from second-class rates on account of such suspension.

An *Advertising Sheet* is one designed primarily for advertising purposes; which has no genuine paid up subscription list; which inserts advertisements free in consideration of the advertisers purchasing extra copies of the paper containing the advertisements; or, even though high rates are charged for the advertisement if the paper is practically circulated gratuitously. Advertising sheets are admitted only as *third-class* matter.

Publications issued at mere "nominal" rates or for gratuitous circulation are not regarded as second-class matter.

Papers asserting that they are furnished to subscribers at "no profit" are deemed as being furnished at "nominal" rates and must be charged for as *third-class* matter.

A *regular subscriber* is a person who has actually paid or undertaken to pay, a subscription price for a newspaper or magazine, or for whom such payment has been made, or undertaken to be made, by some other person.

A paper that is distributed among the members of a Society, Association, or a Club, upon the payment of regular dues, and with no independent, distinct or sufficient charge for said paper, must be deemed as being circulated at "nominal" rates or for free circulation and treated as *third-class* matter.

A publication can not be admitted at the pound rate when it is manifest from its contents that subscriptions thereto are not made because of its value as a news or literary journal, but because of offers of merchandise made as an inducement for subscription. The value of the subscription price being offered to the subscriber in something else than the publication, the subscription must be deemed at a "nominal" rate and postage charged at *third-class* rates.

Upon the wrapper of second-class mail-matter there may be printed or written instructions to the postmaster at the office of delivery, to notify the publisher of non-delivery, and the amount of postage required for the return of the publication, and, in the case of sample copies instructions to deliver to some other person, if the person addressed can not be found, or refuses to take the matter.

No printing is allowed on the wrappers of second-class mail-matter, except the name and address of the office of publication, publisher or sender, the title of the publication, the words "sample copy," the index figures of subscription book and date subscription ends.

Weekly papers of the second-class, except sample copies, published in a place where there is a letter-carrier office, can be mailed for local distribution by carriers, or points outside the city, at the rate of one cent for each pound.

Publications of the second-class, other than weekly papers, and sample copies of weekly papers, published where there is a letter-carrier office, must be paid for by postage stamps affixed at the rate of one cent for each paper, or on each periodical not exceeding two ounces in weight, or two cents on each periodical if weighing over two ounces, if they are to be delivered by carrier in the city of publication. If they are to be delivered through the lock boxes, or through the general delivery, they can be mailed at pound rates. Weekly papers of the second class can be distributed in the county where printed and published, free, provided

they are not to be delivered at letter-carrier offices or distributed by carriers.

THE POSTAGE ON SECOND-CLASS MATTER IS ONE CENT PER POUND. Special.—Newspapers and periodical publications of the second-class, when sent by other than the publisher or news agents, are mailable at the rate of one cent for each four ounces or fractional part thereof.

Daily and weekly papers and monthly magazines are generally second-class publications, and usually bear on the title page the words "Entered at the Post-office at — as second-class matter." They are subject to the above rate; but publications which are intended for advertising purposes or for free distribution, and circulars, books, and other miscellaneous printed matter of similar nature, are chargeable with third-class rates, *i. e.*, one cent for each two ounces or fractional part thereof.

Supplements.—A supplement need not be printed at the office of the publication it is intended to supplement, but it must be printed with the intention only of supplying an integral portion of the publication to which it is claimed to be supplemental. A supplement consisting entirely of literary matter may be regarded as being within the meaning of the law; but when a supplement is made up wholly, or in part, of advertisements, the publisher is obliged to make special oath as per *Postal Guide*, page 700. Hand-bills, posters, special advertisements, etc., can not be considered as supplements, but are admissible to the mails only at third-class rates; and when they are enclosed in newspapers and sent to regular subscribers at pound rates, they subject the entire package to postage at ONE (1) CENT FOR EACH TWO (2) OUNCES OR FRACTION THEREOF.

No supplement can be accepted as legitimate, which contains one or more large display advertisements not in common with the advertisements in the paper itself; or, in which the reading matter is composed almost entirely of clippings or recommendation of persons or things advertised.

A supplement can not be devoted entirely to advertising the business of the paper itself.

Advertisements in the form of separate sheets in the body of periodical publications, which are inserted for convenience and for the purpose of being removed, can not be regarded as legal "supplements," or as being "attached permanently" to such publications, and subject the entire package to third-class rates.

It is not the duty of postmasters to open packages of newspapers intended for a club of subscribers, and write the names of the subscribers upon the papers.

Undelivered second-class mail-matter should be held thirty days and then sold for waste paper.

Unclaimed or refused second-class matter may be forwarded at the request of the party addressed, or returned to the publisher (if so requested), but postage must be charged at the rate of one (1) cent for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

Publishers have not the right to sell one or more copies of their paper to the public or to advertisers, and then forward them at pound rates to addresses by or for such purchasers.

A publisher may send a package of papers for a club to one address, and the party addressed may call at the post-office and write the addresses on the papers, but they can not be removed and written and then brought back to the post-office for delivery.

Publishers and news-agents are compelled to deliver their packages at the post-office properly wrapped and tied into bundles or in sacks, so as to admit of their easy handling in the weighing in bulk.

It is the duty of postmasters to carefully and constantly scrutinize the character of the publications mailed at their offices at pound rates, so as to guard against publishers turning them into mere advertising sheets or in any way fail to comply with the conditions of the law.

Whenever an unusual number of sample copies of a paper are offered for mailing, so as to afford ground for the suspicion that they are to be sent in the interest of advertisers instead of for the purpose of securing subscribers, they should be detained until the facts are ascertained. Marks by pencil of any special "ad." would indicate the true nature of the purpose of the sample copies.

Whenever a large number of papers are received at a post-office by mail from the office of publication, it is well for postmasters to examine them and see if they contain anything in the way of marks to indicate that they are sent out in the interest of advertisers, and if they do, then to charge third-class rates and report the case to the mailing office.

Newspapers should not be received for mailing unless they shall have been properly directed and wrapped.

The liability of persons who take newspapers and magazines, etc., coming to their address, out of a post-office, for the amount of the subscription thereto, is not determined by any postal law or regulation. It is entirely a question between publishers and subscribers, and with which the postmasters have nothing to do.

Third-Class Matter.—This embraces printed books, pamphlets, circulars, engravings, lithographs, proof-sheets and manuscripts accompanying the same, transient newspapers and periodicals (except those belonging in the second class), and all matter of the same general character, the printing on which is designed to instruct, amuse, cultivate the mind or taste, or impart general information, and not having the character of personal correspondence. Circulars produced by hektograph or similar process, or by electric pen, are rated as third-class. Upon matter of this class, or on its wrapper, the sender may write his own name, preceded by the word "from;" may mark any printed passage to call attention to it, may write date of mailing, address and signature of circulars, correct typographical errors, and write on cover or blank leaf of any book, or of any other printed article of the third class, a simple dedication or presentation inscription not in the nature of personal correspondence. No other writing is permitted in or on third-class matter.

The limit of weight for mail-matter of the third-class is *four pounds*, except in the case of single books exceeding that weight.

Printed Circulars.—May bear the date of mailing, address, and signature in writing at third-class rates.

Reproduction by Electric Pen and Other Processes.—Reproductions from originals produced by the electric pen, papyrograph, metalograph, and chirograph processes, are entitled to pass in the mails in unsealed envelopes as third-class matter.

Proof-Sheets.—To send corrected proof-sheets by mail at third-class rates, the corrections are not limited to merely typographical errors. Any change of words or sentences, or the insertion of an entirely new sentence, is permissible and does not change its character as a "corrected proof-sheet." All necessary marginal notes necessary to the execution of the work are also allowable, only so it does not partake of personal communication. Any headlines necessary to be filled in may also be made, and instructions to the printer are also proper. Any portion of an article may be entirely re-written without subjecting it to a higher rate of postage; but the entire article can not be re-written and sent as third-class matter.

The only restrictions upon corrections to proof-sheets is that everything must be *germain* to the publication and not contain references to business or other matters.

"Printed Matter" is defined to be the reproduction upon paper, by any process except that of handwriting, of any words, letters, characters, figures or images, or of any combination of them, not having the character of an actual personal correspondence.

Photographs containing no writing other than the name of the sender, are third-class matter.

Canvassing or prospectus books containing sample chapters of or other printed matter in relation to the publication for which the books are used, may be sent at third-class rates.

The term "circular" is defined to be printed matter which is being sent in identical terms to several persons. A circular does not lose its character as such whenever the date or the name of the sender is written thereon.

Packages of third-class matter must not exceed 4 pounds in weight, and if sent in bulk to postmasters to be distributed to different persons, postage must be collected at regular third-class rates, and then the local or drop rate added at the office of delivery, all to be paid by postage stamps affixed.

Blank or printed postal cards may be included in third-class matter for reply without subjecting the package to a higher rate; but an envelope addressed in writing can not be enclosed in an open one of third-class matter.

Printed matter sent through the mails as samples of printing and for the purpose of securing orders for printing to be done by the sender, should be received at third-class rates.

THE RATE OF POSTAGE ON MAIL-MATTER OF THE THIRD CLASS IS ONE CENT FOR EACH TWO OUNCES OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Fourth-Class Matter.—This embraces photographic and stereoscopic views, photograph albums, reproductions by solar process, envelopes with or without printing, blank bills, letter heads, bill heads, blank cards, visiting or playing cards, address tags, labels, paper sacks, wrapping paper with printed advertisements thereon, and blanks of any kind, are rated as fourth-class matter.

Card-board and other flexible materials, flexible patterns, envelopes, maps mounted, merchandise, models, sample cards, samples of ores, metals, minerals, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, original paintings in oil or water colors, and any other matter not included in the first, second or third classes, and which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface or otherwise injure the contents of the mail bag, or harm the person of any one engaged in the Postal Service, are rated as fourth-class. Such matter may have to each separate article a label or tag attached, on which there can be printed or written ONE mark, name, number or letter, for the purpose of identification, and only one. If the matter be a sample sheet of cloths or prints, and has on it a number of samples, each sample may be numbered by pen or pencil as above, or the whole sheet may be designated by one mark, name, number or letter for the purpose of identification; where the sheet itself is numbered by pen or pencil, marks in writing by pen or pencil on each separate sample must be omitted. The price and size of the article may be printed or stamped on such tag or label; but more than ONE written mark, number, name, or letter, will subject the package to postage at letter rates.

All matter of the fourth-class is subject to examination, and must be wrapped or enclosed in such a manner that its character can be easily ascertained.

In case of such articles as medicines, powders, tobacco, fancy soaps, etc., postmasters are authorized to accept them as such when offered in their original wrappers, and so inclosed as to properly protect the articles. Any number of such packages may be put up as one package, only so it does not exceed *four pounds in weight*, and may be easily examined.

When two or more articles belonging to different classes of mail-matter are inclosed in one package, the higher rate must be charged upon the whole.

Postmasters are expected to inform themselves as to the nature of the contents of all third and fourth-class packages offered for mailing, so that they may be rated up in case they are found to contain matter of a higher class, or exclude them if they contain unmailable matter.

Letter rates must be charged upon all third and fourth-class packages if they are so wrapped that they can not be examined without destroying the wrapper.

Postmasters are expected to exercise care in receiving such packages

Continued on page 138.

Answers to Correspondents.

Questions pertaining to the Postal Service will be answered in this column, and should be written on separate pieces of paper from business correspondence.

Those who desire answers by mail must enclose postage.

Correspondents must write their answers on one side of the paper only.

Calvert.—(1) I keep money-order funds and postal funds in separate sacks. Would it violate the law to place the sacks of government money in the vaults of the private banks nightly for safe keeping and take them out every morning? (2) When a publisher sends a bundle of second-class matter to this office by mistake and then orders it forwarded to the proper destination, should postage be charged upon it, and if so at what rate?

Answer.—(1) We think not, if they were merely put in as a special deposit, and not entered upon the bank accounts.

(2) At one cent a pound. Your instructions on that point are given on page 734 January *Postal Guide*, 1887, par. 518.

Russellville.—(1) Why is it that the Post-office Department will permit some postmasters to use rubber daters and cancellers and others they will not? (2) Is a postmaster obliged to send circulars to the Dead-Letter Office that have been forwarded from some other office, when there is postage due on them and said postage has been refused?

Answer.—(1) The Department does not permit, but expressly forbids it. (*Postal Guide*, Jan., 1887, p. 747, par. 666.) If any postmaster uses a rubber stamp he does so contrary to orders.

(2) Yes, such is the express direction of P. L. and R., p. 480.

(3) You will have to apply to the Department for directions on this point. We understand that the order takes effect immediately; but receipts have not yet been supplied.

Saladin.—If a postmaster refuses to pay his clerk or assistant his promised salary when the clerk desires to resign, is there not some way he can collect it through the Post-office Department?

Answer.—No. The remedy is to sue the postmaster. The Department has nothing to do with paying the clerks where no allowances for clerk hire are made.

Ringgold.—A patron of my office gave me a general order to hold his mail till he called for it. He sometimes does not call for a month. Some of his letters bear return requests to return in 10 days. Shall I obey the return request or his order?

Answer.—Obey the return request. The writer is entitled to have his letter sent back if not called for within the ten days. So says the law.

Roanoke.—Is there any law prohibiting a postmaster from serving on an election board?

Answer.—No, if he is a fourth-class postmaster. (See P. L. and R., p. 321, 322.) The Executive Order forbids others than those paid \$600 a year or under from serving on such boards.

Barnard.—What rate of postage should be charged on blanks sent from the county superintendents to the different county superintendents?

Answer.—They are deemed printed matter, and are charged one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

Marionville.—Has a person the right to mail a letter requiring four cents in stamps on it, knowing such to be the fact, and making a practice of doing so?

Answer.—"All mail-matter of the first class upon which one full rate of postage has been prepaid shall be forwarded to its destination,

charged with the unpaid rate to be collected on delivery." Thus saith the law. (P. L. and R., Section 270. Two cents is one full rate.

Beaver Falls.—Is Sec. 132 and 134 of P. L. and R. to be construed: That a fourth-class postmaster also at a money-order office has the right to retain from his postage fund the amount of his box rents collected and the commissions on his cancellations up to date, at any time during the quarter; or, only at the expiration of the quarter, viz: when he makes out his quarterly account current?

Answer.—The postmaster can at any time take from the postal funds whatever is due him for commissions and box rents at that date, and is not guilty of embezzlement for so doing. Still it is better not to do so as he is liable to dip in too deep if he gets in the habit of it, and to draw more than his share. As to transfer to money-order account of postal funds see P. L. and R., 1078. He need not transfer moneys due to or previously taken out by himself, but if he can not meet orders, he can make draft for the amount required.

Delphi.—When I took possession of my office some two years ago, I placed it in charge of an assistant, in his store. He appropriated all the compensation. Can I make embezzlement of it? When I took the office from him he had cancelled some \$15 in stamps. He refused to hand it over to me at the end of the quarter, and I had to pay nearly \$10 to the government. Did he not embezzle this? What should I do to make the government take charge of this?

Answer.—This depends on what your agreement with the assistant was, which you do not state.

The government looks to you and not to him. Since you have balanced the account the government will hardly be likely to spend \$200 or more to punish your assistant for taking advantage of you, after your farming out the office.

Martinsville.—If I close my office on the 4th of July will I have to receive and dispatch mails, or can I leave them and be away all day. According to the *Postal Guide* I can close the office, but I am not certain that I have to receive and dispatch the mail.

Answer.—If the mail arrives on a holiday it must be received, opened, and the public served. Mails must also be made up and dispatched on that day according to schedule of departures. The *Guide* says that "in observing holidays postmasters must be governed by section 25, P. L. and R., relative to the observance of Sundays." That section says "when the mail arrives on Sunday, he (the postmaster) will keep his post-office open for one hour or more after the arrival and assortment thereof, if the public convenience requires it, for the delivery of the same only."

Potter.—(1) Can a mail carrier lawfully take letters from the village where the post-office is and carry them to the postal car for the clerk there to mail them?

(2) Can the ticket or depot agent take letters from the mail carrier, stamp them, and divide the profits with the postal clerk?

(3) What is the penalty for a postmaster putting letters into the boxes of the post-office directed to box holders on his own private business?

Answer.—"Every route agent, postal clerk, or other carrier of the mail shall receive any mail-matter presented to him, if properly prepaid by stamps, and deliver the same for mailing at the next post-office at which he arrives, but no fees shall be allowed him therefor." (R. S., 3980.) A railway post-office is a post-office. See, also, P. L. and R., 555, in which the law says: "Nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting any person from receiving and delivering to the nearest post-office or postal car mail-matter properly stamped." The

sum of this is that a mail carrier can receive letters on his route from one post-office to another and carry them to the next post-office or postal car at which he arrives.

(2) No, there is no chance for a division of profits. The postal clerk is paid a regular salary. It would add nothing to his pay if the station agent delivered a car load of letters. Neither he nor the agent could get a cent for their trouble.

(3) He is liable under P. L. and R., 271. He has no right to use the letter boxes to send his own private notices to his patrons. (See *Postal Guide*, Jan., 1887, p. 749.) He should pay the postage or collect it.

Greenwood.—What is to be done in case the mail is put off in the regular leather pouch or in a paper burlap sack, such as are used for papers, from catch pouch trains? Sec. 428, p. 100, P. L. and R.

(4) How can the postmaster send the mail out in a canvas pouch if the R. R. P. Clerk fails to throw off the canvas pouch. Also, what is the consequence if the postal clerk pouches the letters and papers both together in the regular burlap paper sack and throws it off at any catch-pouch station without any lock on, as there is no lock on such sacks? (Sec. 430, p. 110.)

(5) How can this irregularity be remedied after the postmaster has repeatedly notified division superintendent and the chief clerk of the fact, and still the leather pouches are used on these trains. Has not the Department been supplied with sufficient amount of these canvas pouches for such trains, etc.

(6) Would a postmaster be justifiable in not sending out mail on these catch-pouch trains if he has no canvas pouch to send out? Also, who is in fault in case the postal clerk has no other sack in the postal car?

Answer.—(1) If you have not a regular catcher pouch use the leather pouch or sack for dispatching mails and report the case to Div. Supt. Railway Mail Service.

(2) Fault in this case of course rests with the postal clerk and the postmaster must do the best he can. If he has not a catcher pouch he can use the leather pouch or sack that has been thrown off, keeping watch to see that said pouch or sack is caught by the clerks on the train and his mail safely deposited in the postal car. Such irregularity, in every instance, should be reported to the Div. Supt. of Railway Mail Service.

(3) The clerks can not always obtain the necessary canvas pouches; consequently they are obliged to use leather pouches. The division superintendent doubtless gives your reports attention, although he does not acknowledge them to you.

(4) Postmaster would not be justified in withholding his mail simply because he has not a regular canvas catcher pouch in which to dispatch it. It may, or may not, be the fault of the clerk that he has not a regular canvas catcher pouch in his car. He may have been unable to procure a supply and he has done the best he could.

Ellsworth.—Please let me know if the Post-office Department would have any objection to a postmaster at a money-order office acting as agent for an express company handling freight, said postmaster not selling their money orders nor allowing them to be sold in the same building.

Answer.—Probably not. The best way to find out is to inquire of the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Jonesville.—Is a postmaster held responsible for mail when he has delivered it to a man employed by the railroad company to carry it from the post-office to the depot?

Answer.—No. If he delivers it duly locked and in good order in a sound bag.

Spofford.—We have one mail each way from east and west, due at 12:35 P. M. and 2:59 P. M. The schedule time of the star route recently adopted is to leave here at 3:15 P. M., of course taking in both mails. It frequently occurs that one or both of these mails are late. Should I, in case one is late and the other on time, hold the star route contractor for the late mail or let him go and hold the late mail until the next day? There is considerable controversy over the matter and would be pleased to hear from you as soon as convenient.

Answer.—Let the contractor wait a short reasonable time, provided the mail thereby loses no connections with other routes. Waiting a few moments or even an hour would be justifiable if no connections were thereby lost by the star route contractor on his route.

McConnellsville.—(1) What is a mail messenger?

(2) Under what section of P. L. and R. are postmasters requested to distribute the papers published in their town free of postage?

Answer.—Section 239, P. L. and R. See also page 703, *Postal Guide*, Jan., 1887. "Publications of the second class, one copy to each actual subscriber residing in the county where the same are printed, in whole or in part, and published, shall go free through the mails."

Halifax.—(1) Is a postmaster compelled to weigh fourth-class mail-matter and hand it back to the parties to carry to the train to mail?

(2) If a letter is brought to a post-office after the mail-pouch has been closed and handed to the postmaster has he, the postmaster, the right to give it back without cancelling the stamp? If so, would he be compelled to do so by law? Parties frequently bring letters to the post-office and drop them in the boxes and before we have time to cancel stamps find out that the mail is closed and demand their letters returned with stamps uncanceled, so that they can take them to the train to be mailed. Must a postmaster comply with demands of this kind?

Answer.—(1) No, he is not compelled to, but may do so to oblige patrons, if he choose.

(2) Yes, he may give back the letter before cancellation, but can not do so afterwards. He must be satisfied as to identity before he gives back a letter, and be sure not to give it to the wrong party.

Dixon.—(1) When a postmaster in passing registered package to you will not indorse the same, as per instructions printed on every registered package envelope, what would you do, that is, after you had tried every way possible to supply the deficiency and he would not?

(2) Should the postmaster require the mail carrier on a little star route to arrive and depart strictly on schedule time, say when he makes trips twice a week and no connections to be made at either end of the route?

(3) Is there any penalty against a postmaster for allowing such mail to depart say 20 or 30 minutes before schedule time?

Answer.—(1) Report the delinquent postmaster to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

(2) The postmaster has no authority to change the schedule. The carrier is required to depart and arrive on schedule time, and the postmaster to report exactly all times of arrival and departure.

(3) There is no criminal punishment; but official decapitation will surely follow where postmasters disregard plain rules.

Yates City.—(1) Has a postmaster a right to cancel letters and send to a train by a sworn clerk?

(2) Can such clerk carry the pouch key and unlock the pouch and put letters in it after it has been taken to the post-office?

(3) Can a carrier of the railroad company demand 30 minutes' time to get the mail from the office to the train?

(4) Are railroad companies obliged to deliver the mails immediately into the post-office after they arrive, or can they wait until they have their work done about the office?

Answer.—(1) Yes, see *Postal Guide*, Jan., 1887, p. 681, Sec. 145, and p. 722, Sec. 422.

(2) Yes, if necessary; but if it is a postal car, or has a postal clerk in charge of the mail on the train it is not necessary to take the key, nor unlock the pouch.

(3) No, he can demand only reasonable time to carry the mail from the office to the train. The postmaster is required to keep the mail open until thirty minutes before the schedule time for the departure of the train.

(4) They are required to deliver promptly; and if they do not, the postmaster should report them to the Department.

Brockport.—Can a postal clerk issue money orders?

Answer.—No. Railway post-offices are not money-order offices.

Osakis.—A obtains a money order payable to B at the office of issue. Why should it be considered a repaid money order as long as it is paid to the second party and the application is carried out? To make it a repaid order, the way I see it, it should be paid back to A. It being issued and paid at the same office should not figure in the case as long as the party received payment which it was intended for. How would you look at it?

Answer.—The law establishing the money-order system says: "The postmaster issuing a money order shall repay the amount of it upon application of the person who obtained it and the return of the order; but the fee paid for it shall not be returned." (See P. L. and R., 1035.) An order presented and paid at the office of issue is called "repaid." The rule for repayment to the indorsee at issuing office is laid down in P. L. and R., 1038. The point in calling it "repaid," is that it is paid back at the office of issue instead of that on which it is drawn. It is therefore deemed by the law as having been paid to the person who obtained it.

Mt. Sterling.—(1) What should a postmaster do in case a registered letter should be returned to the office of mailing on account of the letter being addressed to a fraudulent firm or lottery, and the sender of said registered letter being a resident of another post-office from the one he mailed it at? Should he (the postmaster) notify the sender by writing on the returned registered letter or by letter at government expense?

Answer.—Notify him by mail of the return of the letter in a penalty envelope.

Mt. Sterling.—In case a drop letter is deposited in the post-office minus 1 cent stamp, should the postmaster deliver the letter to the one addressed by marking it "due 1 cent," or post it up and hold for postage?

Answer.—Deliver upon payment of the drop-rate postage. (See *Postal Guide*, Jan. 8, 1887, page 639, p. 201.)

St. Genevieve.—(1) Can circulars with 1 cent stamp be delivered to writer without additional postage?

(2) What must be done with unclaimed third-class matter, such as pamphlets, circulars, etc.? Section 489, P. L. and R. says that "dead" miscellaneous matter of no obvious value is not to be sent to the Dead-Letter Office. Is this meant to include pamphlets, circulars, etc.?

Answer.—(1) They are not to be returned. (See *Postal Guide*, 1887, page 735, p. 532.)

(2) Circulars need not be sent to the Dead-Letter Office. Pamphlets should be, as they may be of value.

Police.—Please inform me whether or not the postal laws prohibit postmasters from keeping on sale the *Pellissippi Gazette*. I am a newsdealer.

Answer.—No.

Vinton.—What is the penalty for a person, not a mail carrier, opening a sealed and properly stamped letter? For example: A gives B a letter to be mailed. B opens the letter and does not mail it and still has the letter.

Answer.—A fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment not more than one year or both; that is, if B is employed in any department of the postal service. If he is not so employed it would be a question for the courts to decide as to what is the nature of his offense. A letter can not be said to have come into possession of the Post-office Department until the said letter shall have been deposited in the post-office, or mail box, or other receptacle for the reception of mail-matter or handed to an employee of the postal service.

Hammond.—(1) If a postmaster should forward mail to my office upon which there is postage due, but which is not so marked, have I the right to do so and collect the same?

(2) If I send registered letters in the pouch to the train and the postal clerk should fail to receipt for them and say that they were not in the bag, what redress would I have?

Answer.—(1) Certainly, it is your duty to rate up all deficient postage and collect it before delivery.

(2) Get a receipt when it is possible. Otherwise do as directed in P. L. and R., page 179, ps. 831 and 834.

White Lake.—Is an assistant postmaster eligible to or is he allowed by the government to accept a municipal or township office and still act as assistant postmaster in a third-class post-office or in a fourth-class post-office?

Answer.—Yes, he can hold such a position. The order concerning such matters does not apply to him. (See P. L. and R., pages 321-322.)

Claypool.—Is a person designated by a railroad company to carry the mail from the post-office, less than 80 rods from the depot, compelled to receive letters and other mail-matter, fully prepaid by stamps, presented to him on his way to the train or at the depot or to take up a collection of letters in an open box at the depot, placed there with the expectation that he will mail them? The company's carrier at this point claims that he is not bound by Section 62, P. L. and R. as regularly appointed mail carriers are, as he is only an employee of a corporation and not an agent of the government. He therefore claims that every person must put their own letters on the train or mail them at the post-office.

Answer.—Such carrier is not obliged to take mail handed to him, nor is he required by postal laws to collect mail from the box in the depot. He may be required to do so by the company; but the postal laws do not compel it, nor the requirement of the Department.

Kelley.—Does the Department require an applicant for the position of railway postal clerk to be 21 years of age or is he compelled to be 16 or over by the post-office?

Answer.—The rule of the Department is that all applicants must be 18 years of age before their claims shall be considered.

New Richmond.—What class of offices are furnished printed facing slips?

Answer.—First-class.

Elgin.—(1) Is it right that a postmaster should observe the 30th day of May by closing the postoffice after 10 A. M.? Our mails come in between 1 and 3 P. M. Am I obliged to open the office at that time and hand out the mail? I closed the office yesterday with the understanding that it was required of me to do so, and now some of our citizens think I violated the law. What do you think of it?

(2) Am I obliged to keep the office open a certain time on Sundays—the last mail coming in Saturday at 3 P. M.?

Answer.—(1) Notwithstanding the permit to close the office postmasters should receive the mails whenever they arrive, and open the office thereafter for at least a few minutes, until the mail shall have been delivered.

(2) No.

Atchison.—I have been postmaster here for a number of years. It became necessary this spring to remove my office a short distance. I may say that I keep a grocery in connection with the post-office. It seems that the owner of the property on which the office was formerly located went into the same business and made application for the post-office, but failed to get it. Failing in that, he got consent from some of the patrons of the office to carry their mail from the office to his grocery, of course only to assist him in his business. There has been considerable complaint made that mail has been tampered with and detained. Now what is my duty in the premises? Of course there is a certain amount of competition which is natural. Is it my duty to call for a written order every day to deliver the mail to him for certain persons, or is one order enough to protect me? Should I ask for a written or a verbal order to allow the party to have the mail?

Answer.—Deliver according to order. The order, for your safety, should be in writing; and then it is good until it is revoked. The boycotters will get tired after a while.

Wallingford.—What must the compensation of a fourth-class office be before it can become a money-order office?

Answer.—\$250 per year.

McCook.—Will you have the kindness to inform me if a postmaster could certify to an application for tobacco license in lieu of a notary? I always keep a supply of blanks for the benefit of the public, and in most cases could fill up and certify if it would be legal.

Answer.—The certificate of a postmaster would not be valid in such case. He is not authorized to administer oaths or certify, etc., as a notary generally, but can administer only the oath of office to postal employees.

Continued from page 135.

for mailing so that the sender may know the rate chargeable and the full amount due thereon.

Postmasters are not permitted to receive closely wrapped and tied packages and accept the statements of the senders as to their contents; that is, unless he charges first-class rates thereon. If he does accept such matter without due examination and registers it and it is afterwards found to contain matter belonging to a higher grade, he is charged up with the deficiency.

The limit of weight for packages of Fourth-Class matter is Four Pounds.

THE RATE OF POSTAGE ON MAIL-MATTER OF THE FOURTH CLASS IS ONE CENT FOR EACH OUNCE OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Exceptions.—*Hard soap and pocket knives* may now be sent through the mails, if wrapped securely in heavy paper.

Candy, confectionery, glass and other articles liable to injure the contents of the mail bags, may be sent through the mails when they conform to the following conditions:

1. They must be placed in a bag, box or removable envelope made of paper, cloth or parchment.

2. Such bag, box, or envelope must again be placed in a box, or tube made of metal or some hard wood, with sliding clasp or screw lid.

In case of *sharp-pointed instruments*, the points must be capped or encased, so that they may not by any means be liable to cut through their enclosure, and where they have blades, such blades must be bound with wire, so that they shall remain firmly attached to each other.

Special Delivery.—By the act of March 4, the special delivery system has been extended to every post-office in the United States, and embraces every class of mail-matter. (See UNITED STATES MAIL, page 190, for 1886.)

The special delivery stamp must be in addition to the lawful postage, and letters not prepaid with at least one full rate of postage, in accordance with the law and regulations, must be treated as held-for-postage, even though bearing a special delivery stamp.

Registered letters will be entitled to immediate delivery, the same as ordinary letters, when bearing a special delivery stamp in addition to the full postage and registry fee required by law and the regulations.

Special delivery letters will be delivered by messenger within a radius of one mile from the post-office.

If a letter bearing a special delivery stamp is directed to an address beyond one mile from the post-office, such letter need not be specially delivered, unless the delivery can be made to the person addressed within the limits.

The hours within which immediate delivery is made are from 7 A. M. to 7 P. M., and further until the arrival of the last mail, provided that such arrival be not later than 9 P. M. This requirement as to the hours of delivery does not necessarily extend to the transaction of any other postal business after the usual office hours.

Postmasters are not required to make delivery of special delivery matter on Sunday, nor to keep their offices open in any different manner on that day from what is now provided by regulation. Postmasters are at liberty, however, to deliver special delivery letters and parcels arriving on Sunday, if they desire to do so.

Special delivery matter must be delivered to the addressee, or to any one specially authorized to receive his mail-matter. In his absence and that of any one having such special authority, such matter may be delivered to any responsible member of the addressee's family, or any partner, or clerk of his, or responsible person employed in his office; and to the officer or agent of any firm or incorporated company, or public institution to which addressed. In the case of registered matter received for special delivery, the usual registry receipts, in addition to the special delivery receipts, must be taken, and all other requirements of the registry regulations must be observed.

For every special delivery article delivered the postmaster must take a receipt from the party receiving it.

After a special delivery article has been taken out for delivery, and has been returned with the information that the person addressed has removed to the delivery of another office, and the article is then forwarded, it is not regarded as entitled to special delivery at the second office.

When an effort has once been made to deliver an article by special delivery, but such delivery is not made, through no fault of the messenger, employed, it is regarded by the Department as having been made, and a second attempt at delivery is not obligatory.

Special delivery stamps are to be sold by postmasters in any required amount, and to any person who may apply for them, but they can be used only for the purpose of securing the immediate delivery of matter. Under no circumstances are they to be used in the payment of postage of any description or of registry fee, nor can any other stamps be employed to secure special delivery, except the special-delivery stamp. The special-delivery stamp must be in addition to the lawful postage, and any article of first-class matter not prepaid with at least one full rate of postage, and any parcel of any other class of matter, the postage on which has not been fully prepaid, in accordance with the law and the regulations, must be treated as held-for-postage, even though bearing a special delivery stamp.

1. **The Registry System.**—This is one of the most valuable and important features of our postal system, and should be more liberally patronized by the public. It is just as expeditious as the express companies, while for small articles it is very much cheaper.

2. Any article regarded as mailable may be registered.

3. The fee for registering a letter or parcel is 10 cents, in addition to the regular postage, whatever that may be. For example, to register

a simple letter, on which the postage is 2 cents, the entire expense would be but 12 cents. If you desire to register an article of merchandise weighing five ounces, you would have to pay the regular postage of one cent an ounce and ten cents additional for registering, making 15 cents in all.

4. All articles belonging to the third or fourth class, presented for registering, must be so wrapped as to admit of examination *without destroying the wrapper*, for if it is not so wrapped, the postage will be charged at letter rates.

5. Two or more letters or parcels addressed to, or intended for, the same person, can not be tied or otherwise fastened together and registered as one.

6. Any post-office in the United States is duly authorized to receive and register mail-matter.

7. Articles intended for foreign countries included in the Universal Postal Union, may be registered just the same as if intended for this country, and the same fee of 10 cents is charged.

8. Postmasters may, if they desire to do so (but they are not compelled), transact any regular business on Sunday.

9. A single package of third or fourth-class matter, to be sent to one address, provided its weight comes within the limit fixed by law, may be registered by the payment of a single registry fee without regard to the number of articles it may contain.

10. But postmasters are not permitted to accept verbal statements from senders as to the contents of packages, but make an examination themselves and see to which class they belong.

11. If a package is presented for registering containing articles belonging both to the third and fourth-class, postage is charged upon the entire package at fourth class rates. Or, if it contains a letter or any writing whatever, the postage would be charged upon the whole at letter rates.

1. **Money Orders.**—The money-order system was established to promote the public convenience, and to secure safety in the transfer, *through the mails*, of small sums of money.

2. The regulations of the money-order system are very stringent, and postmasters are never permitted to depart from them.

3. After a money order has once been paid, no matter by whom presented, the Post-office Department will not be liable for any further claim therefor.

4. In sending a money order by mail, never inclose it in the same letter with the information regarding it.

5. In making an application for a money order, be sure and state the given name, as well as the surname, of the person in whose favor it is to be drawn.

6. Whenever it is possible, the correct address—such as street and number—of both the person taking out the order and the person to whom it should be given.

7. Money orders are never payable on the day of issue.

8. A money order can not be drawn for more than \$100, and when a larger amount is desired, additional orders must be obtained to make it up.

9. No one person can secure more than three money orders on the same office in one day, when made payable to the same payee.

10. Whenever a money order has been incorrectly drawn, or when the remitter desires to change the place of payment, the postmaster is authorized to take back the first order and issue another, but another fee is exacted on the new transaction.

11. If a new order becomes necessary on account of a mistake made by the postmaster, he is compelled to issue a new one and charge himself with the fee.

12. Postmasters are required to use every precaution to insure the payment of money orders to the right persons, and are authorized to compel satisfactory identification before paying them.

13. Any money-order office may repay an order issued by itself, *provided the order be less than one year old, and bears not more than one indorsement*; but repayment must be made to the person who obtained the order, except in special cases. The fee for the issuing of the order, however, can not be refunded.

14. When a money order has been lost, a duplicate will be issued by the Department free of charge.

15. The issue of money orders *on credit* is prohibited upon the severest penalties; and postmasters are not permitted to receive in payment for money orders issued by them, any money not a legal tender by the laws of the United States. Checks, drafts, or promissory notes can not be received.

16. The given name of both the remitter and payee should be introduced into money orders, as for example, JOHN H. PATTERSON instead of J. H. PATTERSON; and married ladies must be described by their own names and not by those of their husbands, as for example, MRS. FRANCES CLEVELAND and not Mrs. GROVER CLEVELAND.

17. When an applicant for a money order is unable to state the initials of the payee, the postmaster is not permitted to issue the order.

18. An order can only be made payable to one person or firm only.

1. **Post-Office Boxes.**—No box in a post-office can be assigned to the use of any person or firm, unless rent thereof shall have been paid *three months in advance*. THIS LAW IS IMPERATIVE.

2. When the rent of a box remains due and unpaid ten days after the expiration of the quarter, it is the duty of the postmaster to declare it *vacant* and place the mail belonging to the holder in the general delivery.

3. Two or more families or firms can not combine together and jointly rent a box.

4. A postmaster has the right to refuse to rent a box when he has

good reason to believe that it will be used to promote indecent or illegal enterprises. Whenever he finds that any person to whom he has rented a box or drawer is using it for the promotion of some such purpose, it is his duty to withhold its further use from him, and, at the same time, return a proportionate amount of the rent for the unexpired portion of the quarter.

5. Postmasters are not permitted to disclose to outsiders the names of persons renting post-office boxes.

6. In cities where the post-office building and fixtures do not belong to the government, private parties are allowed to furnish lock boxes or drawers, at their own expense; but, even in that case, when so furnished, they instantly become the property of the United States, and are subject to the direction and control of the Post-office Department.

7. All postmasters, without exception, are required to account quarterly to the Auditor of the Post-office Department for the full amount of box rents collected by them.

8. Postmasters are required to compel all box renters to keep their boxes securely locked and not jeopardize the mail in adjacent boxes by leaving the doors of their boxes open or unlocked.

9. At all post-offices where the building or fixtures are owned or leased by the government, a key deposit of 50 cents is required of all renters for each and every key furnished; but postmasters who provide their own boxes are permitted to exercise their discretion in regard to exacting deposits. They may avail themselves of the protection thus afforded or they may forego the same at their option.

10. In case a key has been lost by a box renter, or broken, or retained 30 days after a box has been surrendered, the key deposit therefor should be declared forfeited.

11. Postmasters are not permitted to sell box keys to box renters, but each one should be fully informed as to the necessity of the rule and the mutual protection it affords to all concerned. It would not be an agreeable thought to any box holder that there were two or three other parties in town who held keys to his post-office box. The key deposit is generally sure to secure the return of a key.

1. **Postal Cards.**—Postal cards issued by private parties are subject to letter rates when they contain any written matter in addition to the date and address.

2. An unclaimed postal card is not returned to the writer, even though his address is given upon it, but is sent to the Dead-Letter Office.

3. Postal cards that have been split open and written upon the inside are not mailable.

4. Postal cards are handled with as much care and promptness in the matter of dispatch and delivery as though they were letters, even though the matter there is printed.

5. There is nothing in the postal law prohibiting a "dun" or threat of prosecution being sent by mail.

6. A postal is regarded as unmailable if it has anything pasted or attached to it, but it can be forwarded if sufficient amount of postage is affixed.

7. A postal card is not mailable with any writing or printing on the address side except the address.

8. A postal card may be forwarded from one post-office to another if one full rate of letter postage be paid upon it.

9. Postal cards are never returned to writers from the office of address, when undelivered, and printed or written request upon the address side to so return it in case of non-delivery, renders it unmailable, except at letter rates.

10. A postal card may be forwarded from one post-office to another at the request of the addressee.

11. Postmasters are not permitted to redeem soiled postal cards.

1. **Postal Notes.**—A postal note, not presented for payment within three months from the last day of the month of issue, becomes invalid.

2. To get your money back on a postal note which has expired, it is necessary for you to present it at the issuing office and sign an application for a duplicate, to be issued by the Superintendent of the Money-Order System, Washington, D. C. This will cost you three cents.

3. If a postal note is lost or destroyed, no duplicate can be issued. This regulation is never departed from. It becomes necessary from the fact that postal notes are all made payable to bearer.

4. A postal note is also payable at the office of issue at any time within three months from the date of issue.

5. Postal notes are issued for sums of \$4.99 or less, and the charge is only three cents, no matter what the amount.

6. Never leave the post-office, after procuring a postal note, without first examining it to see whether it had been properly filled.

POSTAL POINTS.

1. Postage on a pair of boots would be at rate of one cent an ounce.

2. Clothing is classed as merchandise and can be mailed only at the rate of one cent an ounce.

3. Letter heads, bill heads and envelopes, blank or printed, are charged as merchandise and postage must be paid at the rate of one cent an ounce.

4. Every business man should use return request envelopes in all his correspondence. If everybody used them the Dead Letter Office would soon wind up its business.

5. Deposit as much of your correspondence at as early an hour in the day as possible. By so doing you get the benefit of out-going afternoon and early evening mails, and you avoid the mistakes of distributors made during the evening rush.

6. In all your correspondence, whenever it can be done, give the street and number as well as county and state. This saves much time and

is a sure preventive against errors of delivery. It is much better to spell the name of the state in full.

7. If you write a letter and address it incorrectly, or if it can not be delivered to the party addressed, by having your business card on the envelope you insure its return to you. Otherwise it will go to the Dead Letter Office.

8. Wedding cake can only be mailed when packed in a tin or wooden box. Confectioneries the same.

9. It will be of great benefit to business men for them to consult our table of *Domestic Postage*.

10. Every counting room should be supplied with scales for weighing letters.

11. A newspaper is not forwarded in the mails unless postage is fully prepaid.

12. A postal card is not mailable with any writing or printing on the address side, except the address, nor with anything pasted or pinned to the other side.

13. There are thousands of little articles now sent by express which can be more safely, quickly and carefully carried by mail if registered. The fee is only ten cents in addition to the postage.

14. No valuable package should ever be mailed unless it is registered. Don't forget this.

15. Nothing is received for mailing that weighs over four pounds, except in case of a single book, as for example, a bible, a dictionary, or history.

16. If you wanted to send a suit of clothes by mail which weigh six pounds, you would have to make two packages of it.

17. Don't forget that all parcels deposited for mailing must be so wrapped that they can be examined without destroying the wrapper, otherwise letter rates of postage are charged.

18. Photographs are third-class matter, but photographic albums are rated as merchandise and belong to the fourth.

19. An autograph album can be mailed at third-class rates, but if it contain any autographs, it would be subject to letter postage.

20. Tea, coffee, sugar and kindred articles can be mailed at the rate of one cent an ounce.

21. Send no cash money by mail. It is much safer and cheaper in the long run to buy a money order or postal note.

22. Any person who sends money or jewelry in an unregistered letter, not only runs the risk of losing his property, but places needless temptation before the persons who might not otherwise be tempted to commit a felony.

23. Postmasters are not obliged to accept coin or currency so mutilated as to be uncurrent. Don't try and get all your old, worn out bills upon them.

24. Never ask a postmaster for credit for postage stamps, envelopes or box rents. He is not allowed to grant it.

25. Third and fourth-class matter can be mailed in the same package, provided it does not exceed four pounds in weight, but it subjects the entire package to fourth-class rates.

26. Chromos, engravings or lithographs belong to the third class, and can be sent at the rate of two ounces for one cent.

27. Books, pamphlets and music can be sent at third-class rates.

28. In sending packages of the third or fourth class, be sure and write your name on it, as coming from you, and give your street and number, so that if it is undelivered it may be returned to you.

29. Never write an address on a letter or any kind of package intended for mailing, in a careless manner.

30. Never use envelopes made of thin paper in order to save postage, especially when the enclosures are of several pieces of paper. Being often handled and subject to much pressure, such envelopes often split open and lose their contents.

31. Poisons, explosives, or inflammable articles are not received for mailing, no matter how carefully wrapped.

32. Animals, reptiles, live or dead, (not stuffed) insects, except queen bee, when safely secured, are excluded from the mails.

33. Bank checks or drafts can not be accepted in lieu of money when purchasing a money order.

34. Two or more families, or persons, or firms, can not club together and rent a post-office box. They are intended only for one person, family or firm. Persons temporarily visiting your family, however, can receive their mail through you.

35. A postal note is good only three months from the last day of the month of issue. For example, a postal note issued in Cincinnati on Cleveland on the 15th day of December, 1886, would be good until March 31, 1887.

36. Postal notes are payable to bearer, but the person presenting it is compelled to receipt it. He is not required to identify himself.

37. When mail-matter is once deposited in a post-office or in a street letter box it is beyond the control of the person putting it there.

38. The delivery of mail is not controlled by any statutory provision, but by the rules and regulations of the Department, and the object is to insure and facilitate such delivery to the proper persons; so that the general public should not feel that in enforcing precautions to secure correct delivery, the Post-office Department is doing more than its duty.

39. The rules and regulations of the Post-office Department are not intended to embarrass and exclude legitimate correspondence, but only that which is criminal and unlawful.

40. The money-order system is a wonderful public convenience, intended to secure safety in the transfer of small sums of money through the mails. The principal means employed to attain safety is in leaving out of the order the name of the payee or the person for whom the money is intended.

Continued on page 146.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - - \$1.50
SIX MONTHS, - - - - - .75
SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - 15 CENTS.
TEN COPIES, - - - - - ONE DOLLAR.

UNITED STATES MAIL PUBLISHING CO.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, - - - President.

Remittance should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is the only journal in this country, of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.

Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago for transmission through the mails at Second-Class Postal Rates.

CHICAGO, ILL., 196 LA SALLE STREET.

THE CONVENTION.

The choice of Washington City as the place for the holding of the Second National Convention of third and fourth-class postmasters was a most happy one, and the selection of the second Tuesday in December as the time, was still more so. The sentiment in this respect was unanimous, or almost so, for we have not received five letters in favor of Chicago where we got forty in favor of Washington.

There can be no question whatever as to the propriety of the meeting of the convention in that city, and as we stated its advantages over all others in that respect in our May issue, there is no need to recount them now.

The watch word, then, is *On to Washington!*

This will give us the entire summer and fall to work up the interests of the convention to a fullness and completeness that will not admit of defeat next winter.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

The editor of this paper is now engaged upon a *Memorial to Congress*. It will be his endeavor to state the case of third and fourth-class postmasters so clearly and so completely that congressmen will quickly discover the inequalities of the law and seek to remedy them. It will be illustrated with striking cartoons so as to the more completely convey to them the true situation of affairs. It will be printed in the form of a circular and occupy the space of about two or three pages of the MAIL. It is our design to send it to congressmen about August 1, and to all the leading newspapers of the country, and by this means not only convince the law making department of the government that an injustice is being done to a most worthy class of public servants, but attract public attention to the subject.

This memorial will not be printed for general circulation, but will appear in the MAIL. The purpose is simply to put it where it will do the most good, and if we send one to each senator and member of the House and to five hundred leading newspapers, we think that will be sufficient.

It is our intention, also, to have it printed in full in some of the papers in the larger cities and by this means work up a feeling in behalf of the cause. Marked copies of favorable editorials upon the subject will also be sent to congressmen and senators and thus convince them, as it were, that the press is with us.

We do not propose to miss an opportunity to advance the good work and if our friends will stand by us through the contest we shall win.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

The Subscription Price Permanently Reduced to \$1.50 Per Annum.

On and after July 1, the subscription rate on the UNITED STATES MAIL will be \$1.50 a year, 75 cents for six months, 40 cents for three months and single copies 15 cents.

These rates are fixed permanently and no deviation will ever be made from them in the future.

This is done in order to place the paper within the reach of every man and woman in the postal service.

The circulation of this paper is now so great, so wide spread, that we can afford it at a less figure than formerly charged. It has reached a high *niche* in American journalism, and it proposes to go on in the path it has marked out.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTORS--THEIR TENURE OF OFFICE.

There is no branch of the public service that stands so much in need of the application of the rules of civil service as the division of post-office inspectors. Under the rules and practice of the Department these officers are appointed only for a year. Their appointment consists only of a commission, which serves as a railroad pass. At the beginning of each year these commissions or "passes" have to be renewed. To dismiss an inspector nothing more is needed than simply to withhold his railroad pass. No cause need be assigned. Nay, he need not even be notified of his dismissal. He is practically out at the expiration of the year. As the end of the year approaches these officers feel a natural anxiety to know if they are to be continued. At a time when it may be important that the entire energy of the officer be given to the public service, he is beset with anxieties as to his immediate future. He is probably a thousand miles away from home—his domestic affairs need adjustments that depend necessarily upon the question of his tenure of office—business opportunities present themselves and are set aside in the hope that he may be continued in the public service. Presently the old year expires; the new year comes, but the commission comes not. At first the expectant officer thinks that the matter has been overlooked at the Department, or that the clerk assigned to the duty of mailing the paper has been remiss, or that it has been lost in the mails. Finally the poor inspector realizes the truth that he has been "dropped" from the rolls; and that after one or two, or possibly three or four years devoted to hard work in the service of the Government, he is stranded, penniless and businessless on the desolate shore of a senseless system of civil service.

CAPTAIN CARRAWAY, a U. S. Post-office Inspector, found the stingiest postmaster in the world down in Florida. He asserts that this man, in order to save expense, uses a wart on the back of his neck for a collar button.

We are not averse to having it thoroughly understood that the UNITED STATES MAIL is published in the interest of third and fourth-class postmasters.

AS ONE MAN.

The UNITED STATES MAIL proposes to go further into the fight than ever for additional compensation to third and fourth-class postmasters, and make the contest warm and interesting. We do not ask for donations to meet the expenses of this movement, but we do ask for subscribers to the paper. Is that too much? *Is the call too great?* Do we go beyond the bounds of reason when we appeal to those we seek to benefit, to tender us this return for our effort in their behalf?

We must be united in this work! One man can not accomplish the task alone. *He must have his friends behind him!* One thousand dollars could be profitably employed in getting out circulars and other printed matter, but that is more than we can stand. To circularize forty thousand postmasters one time would cost \$400 for postage alone to say nothing of printing, envelopes, addressing, etc., which would raise it to \$550.00. The postmasters should all be thus circularized at least three times, and nothing less than twice will answer. *But where is the money to do it with?* Of course all matter of interest will appear in the MAIL every month, but if we had 30,000 subscribers, there would be no need of circulars. This is one reason why we want to extend our circle of readers; and, besides that, it is much easier to reach postmasters through the medium of the paper than by circular.

We have reduced our subscription rates now so that every postmaster can afford to take it.

We thank our friends sincerely for their interest and love, we may say, for the MAIL. Some have done nobly. Our friend KIMBALL, at Ipswich, Mass., has sent us 37 subscriptions from Essex County; JAMIESON, of Antrim, N. H., has sent us 26 subscribers from his county, Hillsborough; while JAMES A. KELL, of York, Pa., has managed to forward 17 from his district. We might go on and mention the names of two hundred others who have manifested deep interest in the work who have secured us from two to ten names each. It is really *not* their fault that their returns have not been greater. The trouble has been with the postmasters who are slow in responding to the appeal of our friends. But the fact should be made plain that the postmaster who fails to do his duty at this time is making a most serious mistake. Every man who may experience any benefit from the proposed legislation should come out and do his duty. Of course there are those in every department of life who are slow of motion and who always lag behind and at last drop out without making a ripple upon the sea of time; but those who are successful, who make things hum, who create a stir in the world, always take hold of and support every good movement.

We ask the support and patronage of the 51,000 postmasters of the United States, and if they will give it to us we will try to render value received.

Shall we have it?

THERE need not be any distress upon the part of the enemies of this paper as to its contents. We rather incline to the idea that it has been satisfactory.

WE have seen an effort at a postal publication, but very feeble, that hails from Iowa. It is in the interest of second-class postmasters.

A CASE IN POINT.

A Michigan postmaster addressed us a letter the other day making inquiry as to what his salary ought to be, based upon the following figures:

Receipts from box rents \$327.10
Gross receipts from postage, etc. \$3,537.40

According to the act of March 3, 1883, the salary of this gentleman would be \$1,500.00. Had the gross income amounted to \$4,200 his salary would have been \$1,600. As the gross receipts of his office were \$37.40 more than the amount necessary to entitle him to his salary of \$1,500.00, of course his income of \$327.10 from box rents is of no value to him in any respect, but is placed entirely to the credit of the Government. It may be said, then, that this gentleman is making a donation of \$327.10 a year to the United States Government for the privilege of expending \$600.00 in a post-office outfit, renting the boxes to the public, collecting all the money for the same, transacting all the business necessary thereto, without \$1.00 of profit. In other words, he does that for the honor of being a third-class postmaster.

The worst feature of this business is that this donation to the Government will not be confined to the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, but is liable to continue for one, or two or three years to come; at least until his town shall have grown sufficiently to raise the gross receipts of his office to \$4,200.00, that is including the box rents.

The facts are that out of about every \$400.00 the Government will take \$300.00 and kindly give the postmaster the balance, that is, those of the third-class.

Our position upon this question is that, inasmuch as the United States Government did not invest \$1.00 in the purchase of that post-office outfit, that it does not pay the insurance, nor the expense of keeping that outfit in order, it has no moral right to the receipts from the rent of the boxes. If the Government owned the building in which the post-office was located, or had the lease upon it, or if the fixtures were provided by some one other than the postmaster, then it would be proper enough for the Government to take the receipts from the rent of the boxes, but not otherwise.

Here is a man who loses \$327.00 in one year by the operation of this law, which is a large sum of money to one not possessed of great wealth; and there are hundreds of postmasters through the country similarly situated. There is certainly great cause for discontent with regard to the provisions of a law that debars a man from the rightful income from his own private property.

CUT THIS OUT.

Postmasters will greatly oblige us by clipping the following notice and have it published in their county papers:

POSTMASTERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The National Executive Committee of third and fourth-class postmasters have issued a call for a National Convention to convene in Washington City on the second Tuesday in December to take into consideration the question of increased compensation. The editor of the *United States Mail*, Chicago, has charge of all the arrangements.

A GOOD PORTRAIT.

We present herewith a most excellent portrait of the man who publishes or attempts to publish a paper in the interest of first and second-class postmasters. At the end of a month or two he will resemble a cancelled postage stamp.



His money will be gone, his credit will have flown and he will be left high and dry. We have never made any war upon them, but simply presented facts and when we stated that they were favored by the Government, we had plenty of backing to prove it. Here is what ex-Gov. WAKEFIELD, of Minnesota, wrote to us January 30, 1886, and he knew, for he was a member of the House Post-office Committee, and was posted:

The first and second-class offices have seldom found any difficulty in securing such appropriations as they asked for, because they have had standing at their backs the commercial and political influence of the populous and wealthy cities, within whose limits they are established. They have absorbed without compunction, all allowances for rent, fuel and furniture, and have, by their increased demands from year to year, so impressed themselves and their needs upon the Post-office Department that the claims of the hard-worked and poorly-paid officials in the third and fourth-class offices have been utterly and shamefully ignored. Under the plea of economy, and to make a record for careful expenditure, the money appropriated by Congress for clerk hire has been kept back from those for whom it was intended, for no other reason that I can conceive of than to be covered into the treasury as an evidence of economical expenditure.

Very truly yours,

J. B. WAKEFIELD.

DEMOCRATIC EXTRAVAGANCE.

The democratic campaign in 1884 was one howl over needed economy. In platform and on the stump democrats demanded a reduction of expenses. They told us that republican extravagance must be stopped, and the one way to do it was to put into power the democratic party that would apply the axe at the root of the evil. Democrats are in, but economy does not show up. They are altogether more industrious in grinding axes than in using them to cut down the tree of extravagance. It costs under this economical administration in 70 towns and cities of Massachusetts from one to five hundred dollars more per annum to pay democratic postmasters than it did to pay republicans. And yet the mugwump shouts for Cleveland and reform.—*Boston Evening Traveller*.

LABANON, N. H., June 27, 1887.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL:

Dear Sir—I inclose a clipping from the *Evening Traveller*, of Boston, which I think exhibits a fair specimen of the knowledge most people have of the law which regulates postmasters' salaries. There is no doubt in my mind but the writer of the article knows what the law is as well as any one, and to publish an article as misleading as the one in question, is a contemptible way to create party capital. Why don't they let the public know that the offices to which this enormous (?) increase of salary has been allowed has increased the revenue to the government from \$600 to \$800 for every \$100 increase of salary? If it is not a creditable showing for the present administration of the Post-office Department then I don't know what is.

Very respectfully,

W. M. KIMBALL, P. M.

DON'T forget the subscription rates to the UNITED STATES MAIL have been permanently reduced to \$1.50 per annum.

NOTICE!

It becomes our duty to announce the withdrawal from the UNITED STATES MAIL of Mr. SAM. A. RISLEY, which was necessitated by his protracted and severe illness. Mr. RISLEY was confined to his bed for two weeks in Chicago, and when barely able to travel, returned to his home at West Plains, Mo., where it was thought that he would soon rally and overcome his disease—rheumatism—but as he has not improved and as there is no likelihood of his doing so for weeks to come, he thought best to be relieved of his business cares, and has therefore retired.

We greatly regret to lose him for he was not only a thorough business man but a most agreeable companion. We are confident that many kind wishes will go out from our readers that he will soon be restored to perfect health.

The office of Secretary will be filled by appointment at an early day.

AT THE POST-OFFICE WINDOW.

Two Irishmen unknown to each other appeared at the delivery window one day at the same time. One stepped forward and asked: "Anything for Patrick Maloney to-day?" The clerk looked through a certain number of letters and replied: "Nothing for Patrick Maloney," and Patrick walked out. The second man then inquired: "Anything for Patrick Maloney?" "Just looked for Patrick Maloney," said the clerk, with a smile, "and there's nothing there." "Faith," exclaimed the waiting man cheerfully, "it's a different Patrick Maloney I am."

A highly-colored man stepped to the post-office window one day and asked the clerk if he would kindly direct a letter for him. The gentleman freely consented, dipped a pen into some good ink—the same color as the man—and wrote as dictated: "Miss Rosy Bell Washington." It was handsomely written, and the writer viewed it with satisfaction as he waited for further information. Finally he asked: "Well, my friend, where does 'Miss Rosy Bell Washington' live?" "Why, boss," answered the darky confidentially, "dat's jes' w'at I do' know. If I knowed I'd d'reck it myse'f and not bodder de pos'-office."

PADDY'S RUN.

Shall that Historic Name be Blotted from the Postal Guide Forever?

WASHINGTON, June 12.—While General Stevenson, of the Post-office Department, acted upon the papers filed, and the private recommendations made in the matter of blotting out from the list of Ohio offices the time-honored name of Paddy's Run, there seems to be good reason for believing that the underlying sentiment which started the movement for the change was that this name was too Irish, and that there was enough of that in Butler County in other forms without turning a U. S. post-office over to the race.

It is certainly very strange to see such a thing accomplished in a county as strongly democratic as Butler, and which, besides, is represented by as influential a democratic member as Mr. Campbell. As the question is soon to be decided, and as he can control it, it will be a very curious thing if he allows this insidious move on the Irish in old Butler to go unrebuked. Mr. Campbell is expected here in a few days, and the matter is then likely to come up for a final settlement. Meantime the citizens of New London should not forget that the Department has recently changed the name of an office in Pennsylvania to Scrubgrass, so that it can not plead any particular nicety about names as an explanation of dropping the ancient and honorable designation, Paddy's Run.

POSTMASTERS' MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A great many inquiries have been made as to an assessment to meet the loss upon the death of LEVI E. CURTIS, late postmaster at Cheshire, Ohio. We do not understand that an assessment is necessary, as each member paid one *advance* assessment when he paid his initiation fee. There would not, therefore, be any need of an assessment until there was another death. This, however, is simply our own view of the case and we can not speak officially.

We presume there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors soon when official action will be taken.

COMPENDIUM OF DOMESTIC POSTAGE.

It will be observed that a large amount of space in this issue is of wide measure. Ever since we published in the January number a brief digest of DOMESTIC POSTAGE, we have been receiving orders for that issue that we could not fill, and we have been asked repeatedly to republish it, and to meet that demand we have done so at this time.

In order to simplify it, however, and make it as available as possible, we have printed it in pamphlet form, making it a neat little book of 32 pages, or 36 with the cover. It is handsomely printed and makes an interesting little publication. It embraces almost everything in this issue of wide measure, illustrations and all, including that of last month entitled "What Shall the Answer Be?" There is also an accurate view of the interior of the Dead-Letter Office. The title of the book is: "A Compendium of Domestic Postage and Postal Literature."

The prices have been fixed as follows: One copy, 15 cents; 100 copies, \$7.50; 500 copies, \$25.00; 1,000 copies, \$40.00.

It will be used as a premium, also, to secure additional subscribers to the UNITED STATES MAIL. Those who send \$1.50 for a year's subscription will be presented with 25 copies, and those who subscribe for six months will be presented with 10 copies.

Any subscriber whose names are now on our books, who may desire 25 copies, can subscribe for another year and they will be duly forwarded.

THE local civil service examiners at various large cities met recently in Washington to formulate some new rules and questions for examination.

That is all very well, but then *who* are to examine the examiners? That is what puzzles us, especially in view of the fact that not one in five of them could solve their own problems or answer their own questions. When scholars shall have been placed upon these local examining boards, the system will have then passed out of the *farcical* to the practical.

TWENTY thousand copies of the call for the Convention have been printed for circulation in circular form, and ten thousand of them have been circulated. We are doing the best we can but we need all the assistance possible.

How many postmasters have spoken to their Congressman about the proposed Convention and more pay?

THE DALLAS, TEX., POST-OFFICE.

DALLAS, TEX., May 15, 1887.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, ESQ.:

My Dear Sir—If I had not long since become disgusted with chronic kickers, I would try to invent some kind of a kicking machine which would reach clear up to Chicago, and right into your office, for I feel that by the heading you gave my letter of April 12, 1887, published in your May issue, you manifested a want of proper knowledge and appreciation of my efficiency and ability as a postmaster.

No doubt the chronic kicker above referred to, has often in his heart said to himself, if not audibly repeated to himself, "second-class postmaster" (second rate). But sir, to my great astonishment and humiliation, and to the gratification and satisfaction of the chronic kicker, you have published me a "second-class postmaster." Oh, sir! you can hardly realize how this cuts a fellow's vanity. Why, sir, until I saw this, I was vain enough to have claimed to have been a first-class postmaster, even if my office had been reduced to a fourth-class office. I guess you have had experience enough, and that you are old enough to have learned long since, that a fellow did not relish being thought to be *only* a second-class chap, much less, to be told so; but you have gone and published and advertised me as such all over the country. Why, sir, you have furnished a sweet morsel for every fellow to roll under his tongue, and out of his mouth, who feels he has been mistreated by this office, for refusing to receive for postage stamps his defunct and luckless lottery ticket, as was the case here the other day. Besides, you have gone and told the enemies of the administration that Mr. Cleveland has *only* "second-class postmasters," where the people and the business of the office demand a first-class chap. But I console myself that neither Mr. Cleveland nor Mr. Vilas will ever see that article in the MAIL.

How big does a post-office have to get before you think it a first-class post-office? Are Chicago and New York the only first-class post-offices in the United States? Are you ignorant of the fact that Dallas is the metropolis of all Texas, and that Texas is the biggest State in the Union? No doubt Chicago is a big city, but then, you see, Illinois is not near so large as Texas; hence, Dallas, while she may not *now* quite equal Chicago, yet Dallas has a great deal more room to grow in than Chicago has, and Dallas is growing, too. Perhaps I would have overlooked this last mistake of yours if you had not before published me a double male sheep, as you will observe on [this letter-head (Coch-ramp). Well, you have about knocked all the vanity out of me, and prepared me not to be surprised at anything you may see fit to call me in the future. My only request now is that you call me, always hereafter, in time to send me the UNITED STATES MAIL.

I send you a partial statement of the business done in this office.

Very truly yours,

JOHN H. COCHRAN, P. M.

Answer.—It was our intention to have printed in this issue some figures in relation to the Dallas post-office, but we were compelled to carry them over to our next issue. Mr. COCHRAN's letter is too good to lose, so we publish it now instead of the other. Dallas is really a great city, and has a first-class postmaster.

THE MONEY-ORDER BUSINESS.

BLK RIVER, MINN., June 20, 1887.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL:

I am, of course, very much interested in the progress of the UNITED STATES MAIL, but like many others, I haven't been able to give it the time that it deserves, for the reason that I have been overworked all the time the past quarter. But I am now looking ahead to a little more leisure in the quarter to come. I have noticed, and taken great interest, in the discussions and opinions in regard to the money-order system. There is no doubt but it is a safe way of making remittances, but it is cumbersome and *slow*, and I can see by the business of our office that it is losing ground. In a small office like this it is hard for us to pay orders promptly. We, of course, are obliged to remit according to law, and it seems always to be our luck here to be drawn on in the very next mail. It is anything but pleasant for me to have a large order presented for payment just after remitting my last dollar. It seems to me that we are put under sufficient bonds to allow us money enough to do business in a business-like manner. Another feature of this business which tends to make the money-order business unpopular is that an order is payable only at the office of issue or at the office drawn on, while if they were made payable at any money-order office, it would render them bankable, and release the small post-offices of much trouble, besides giving the money-order system all the advantages of express orders, which are now given the preference in this town.

Yours truly,

H. E. THOMAS.

Registered—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Etc.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPT. R. M. S.,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 3, 1887.

General Order No. 256.

This office is advised that many postmasters throughout the New England section are in the habit of making up and addressing registered packages direct to postmasters in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edwards Island. The above described practice is a direct violation of the Postal Laws and Regulations, Section 898; and it is therefore

ORDERED, That postal employees shall turn in all United States registered packages addressed to postmasters in Canada, to the nearest post-office for registry exchange in Canada. (See Postmaster-General's Order No. 99, of May 16, 1887, *Daily Bulletin* 2198a).

Every instance of this kind must be reported to Superintendent Dame, who will cause a detailed report to be forwarded this office for the information and action of the Department.

T. E. NASH,
General Superintendent.

CHARGED WITH HOLDING BACK LETTERS.

NEW BRUNSWICK, Ga., June 20.—Ex-Postmaster R. Carson, of this city, will to-morrow make public charges against the present postmaster, Wm. H. Price, of having tampered with his mail by intentionally retaining it from May 5 until June 25, thus debarring him from answering communications from the Post-office Department relative to his accounts during the first quarter of the current year, and thereby bringing him into disrepute with the department officials, besides depriving him of an amount due him from the Department. Postmaster Price is out of town, and his answer to the charges can not be learned. His subordinates say that Mr. Carson's letters were overlooked and that there was nothing intentional in it. Mr. Carson says he thinks it very strange that his letters should be placed in his possession the day after the limitation allowed by the Post-office Department had expired for answering and not before. He says he has already secured affidavits bearing on the case and will demand an explanation.

VERY STRONGLY WORDED.

The UNITED STATES MAIL has some warm friends among the postmasters of the country, prominent among whom we may mention Mr. J. J. OAKES, postmaster at Southbridge, Mass., as the following will testify:

Post-Office, Southbridge, Mass., June 29, 1887.
BROTHER POSTMASTERS:

In May last I sent you a circular inviting you to subscribe for the UNITED STATES MAIL, but have received no response. While a considerable number have taken advantage of the very liberal inducement, still there is nothing like the general acceptance which importance of the subject demands; now it there exists any necessity for the improvement of the condition of third and fourth-class postmasters—and which fact is self-evident to us all—it seems to me to be the part of wisdom for us to be up and doing and to use the best available means to make our wants known to the proper authority; and I know of no agency now existing except this paper through which any effort can be concentrated and directed. It has already been instrumental in assembling one convention at Chicago which put the ball in motion and brought to the attention of Congress our actual needs, which were presented none too soon, as the Post-office Committee's Bill, which was reported but not passed, demonstrated that they did not realize fully our situation, as said bill would not give us what we wanted.

What is now desired is more agitation and pressure by the means of another convention of postmasters in Washington, in December next, where our delegates can meet and get in their work on senators and representatives, that some just bill may be perfected and passed for our relief. Let not the spectacle continue longer that is now presented of digging pits in the earth to bury the surplus millions of the Treasury, while postmasters are compelled to assume all the responsibilities of their offices for the pay of day laborers. Former administrations have had the credit of doing satisfactorily well with a deficiency of eight millions in the Post-office Department. Last year only three millions deficit and there likely would have been none at all if the rate of postage had remained the same. Eight millions ground out of the labor of postmasters!

If you believe that there is no reason that we should pay this penalty, but are entitled to a fair compensation, SUBSCRIBE FOR THE UNITED STATES MAIL. It is the only agency that has done anything for us, and is now actively at work for our interests. Give it your material aid and help yourself thereby.

Please let me know by postal card if you now take it, or are willing to subscribe. I propose to have grand old Worcester County take her usual leading position in this matter if earnest solicitation on my part will do it. Awaiting your reply, I am

Yours respectfully,
J. J. OAKES, P. M.,
AGENT UNITED STATES MAIL.

FREE-DELIVERY OFFICES.

WASHINGTON, June 30.—[Special Telegram.]—Superintendent Bates of the free-delivery service of the Post-office Department says that the cities of the country are showing great backwardness in calling for the service to which they are entitled under the law passed last winter giving it to towns of 10,000 inhabitants or whose post-office receipts reach \$10,000 per year. He said: "We get letters every day from towns entitled to the service indignantly referring to the fact that we have given the service to rival towns of the same size and neglected them. They will make no application for the service, and we send no inspector to the town except upon application. The fact of it is that a large number of these towns do not ask for the service because such a movement is discouraged by the postmaster. He is afraid that if the system is established his box receipts will fall off and his income decrease. He is aided by the gin-mill keeper near the post-office; by the dry-goods man, and by the man in whose store the post-office is kept, all of whom are interested in having the crowd come to the post-office for its mail instead of having it carried to them. As a result, citizens groan in despair because a neighboring town gets the service and their own town is neglected by the post-office authorities. Towns will get the free-delivery system when citizens take it into their own hands to make an application to the Department for it."

BRUTAL ASSAULT UPON A LADY POSTMASTER.

NEW ORLEANS, La., June 7.—The United States authorities here are investigating a brutal assault on Mrs. Hudson, postmistress at Clio, Tongipahoa Parish, La. Mrs. Hudson is a respectable-looking middle-aged woman, and when she appeared in the office of the United States District Attorney her face and body were horribly bruised, giving evidence of the fearful treatment to which she had been subjected. Her story is as follows:

Last Wednesday four armed men entered the cross-road store in which the post-office is situated. One of the men, after some angry black-guardism, struck her over the eye with a heavy club felling her to the floor, stamping upon her breast, and perpetrating the most indecent outrages upon her person. In the meantime two of the others, one with a revolver and the other with a dirk, had seized her grown-up son and threatening him with assassination if he attempted to interfere. She was finally allowed to escape and fled to the yard, where she hid herself in an out-house while the four brutes exercised themselves in the most violent and vicious abuse of her son, leaving, after an exhibition of their ruffianly vocabulary, with the threat that if either son or mother ever breathed a complaint of the outrage their lives would pay the penalty. The night following this assault the woman hired a colored man to take her in a boat down the Tangipahoa River fifty miles, to Manchac bridge, on the Illinois Central Railroad, whence she came to New Orleans. The preface to this story seems to date back for some years, to a quarrel between her husband and citizens of the place. She states that the feeling of the community was against her husband, who, according to her story, was forced to leave the country some time afterwards, and is now a resident in South America. The cause of the present trouble is said to be the action of young Hudson in intercepting letters written by a young man of Ohio to a young lady of the same town, with whom Hudson is enamored. Young Hudson was arrested for the offense and placed under \$250 to appear before the United States Court to answer. Mrs. Hudson has returned home under the protection of Government officials. No arrests have as yet been made.

TRAIN ROBBERY.**Masked Men Rob a Texas and Pacific Express Train Near Fort Worth.**

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, June 5.—[Special Telegram.]—A Texas and Pacific Railroad express train was robbed by four masked men eight miles east of here last night. One thousand three hundred and sixty dollars was taken from the express car and three registered letters from the mail car. Four robbers advanced on the engineer and fireman and ordered them to hold up their hands. After securing some money and valuables the engineer pulled out and left the robbers behind.

Officers with bloodhounds have been scouring the country all day for the train robbers. A heavy rain fell this morning, destroying the trail, and the bloodhounds failed to find it. The robbers are supposed to be in this city or miles away from the scene of the robbery. The amount taken from the express car was \$1,350. The exact amount in the three registered letters can not be ascertained.

BAD FOR KANSAS CITY.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 25.—[Special.]—The prosperity of Kansas City is well shown by the fact that Government positions go begging. Postmaster Shelly says that a present there are twenty or thirty vacancies existing in his department, vacancies which men alone can fill, and he can not get the men to take them. Many are inclined to believe that the reason for this dearth of applicants is caused by the fact that those who are capable of passing the examination do not care for the positions which stand as the reward.



COL. THOS. E. NASH,
Superintendent Railway Mail Service.

The above is a good representation of Mr. THOS. E. NASH, Supt. of Railway Mail Service. Mr. NASH only assumed the duties of his present position last February, but he is proving himself a capable officer. He is a man of brains and he will do well in whatever he undertakes. For pleasing personal qualities, he has few or no superiors. As we have often spoken of him in the MAIL, there is no need now to repeat.

LETTER THIEF FINALLY CAUGHT.

For some weeks past letters have mysteriously disappeared from carriers' tables in the post-office. During the latter part of last week it was ascertained that a clerk in the carriers' division, where he was assigned in 1886, was a frequenter of pool-rooms and a patron of the fascinating game of "French pool." A watch was put on him, and the consequence was that late Saturday evening he was taken into custody. When arrested he broke down and confessed, but declared that his speculations had not been profitable. His plan of operations was to filch letters from the carriers' tables, return to the basement of the premises, and after taking what was valuable destroy the letters. He had been engaged upon this scheme for some time, but protests that he received few returns. He was arraigned before Commissioner Hoyne Saturday, and waiving an examination was held in \$1,200 to await the action of the grand jury. His father furnished the required security and he was released.—Chicago Herald.

LETTER BOXES.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—[Special Telegram.]—Mr. Donovan, Superintendent of Letter Carriers in the Chicago post-office, pointing to one of letter boxes in Washington the other day, said: "That is an improvement which I intend to introduce into Chicago at once. It is a very useful device, and will be appreciated especially in the business district of the city." The device consists in painting the letter boxes red so that they make a sharp contrast with the lamp posts to which they are attached and can be more easily found. The other arrangement is a large tin hood placed upon the top of the letter boxes easily lifted with the hand, which serves as a receptacle for newspapers and packages which, even if the senders are wholly responsible for the loss until the packages go into the hands of the post-office officials, are not placed exposed to the water on top of the letter boxes.

POSTMASTER LILLIE, at Coopersville, Mich., has ordered a new outfit for his office and proposes to have a fine one.

The Fairburg, Ill., office has also come out in a new dress, and is a source of delight to all its patrons. There are 480 call and 150 lock boxes.

UNCLE SAM AND THE POSTMASTERS.

The illustration here given is a most striking and truthful one as representing the attitude of the Government toward postmasters of the third and fourth classes. Why it is so, we are unable to say; but it is not unlikely that it is largely because they have quietly and meekly submitted to every injustice put upon them without one word of protest. The compensation was small enough when postage was three cents for each half ounce, but when it was reduced to two and the unit of weight increased to an ounce, it was plain to be seen that if the compensation remained the same, *one-third more work would have to be performed.* Adding to this the fact that the postmasters of these classes are compelled to pay the rent of their offices, as well as to bear all the expense for light



UNCLE SAM AND THE POSTMASTERS.

and fuel, and, generally, of clerk hire, renders their position anything but a contented one.

Considering the intimate relation the country post-office bears to the business and progress of the country, it is a wonder that Congress does not see the injustice of standing upon these postmasters and invite Uncle Sam to step down.

HANDING OVER HIS BOX RENT REVENUES.

Uncle Sam not only does a wrong to third and fourth-class postmasters in the matter of compelling them to pay their expenses for rent, light, fuel and clerk hire, but he has the effrontery to compel every third-class postmaster to pay into the national treasury every dollar received for the rent of his post-office boxes. It don't make any difference whether they are the best make of the Yale & Towne Company or the Hexagon patent and cost \$50 or \$500, he demands the receipts from that source all the same, and says in effect that if you beat him out of any portion of it, he is liable to have you arrested and sent to prison as a felon! How comfortable a thought that must be to a postmaster! He may take a dirty, old, worn-out office where the box rents do not amount to a hundred dollars a year, and fit it up with all the latest appliances and fixtures and hereby run the box rent receipts up two or three hundred dollars; but



THIRD-CLASS POSTMASTER HANDING UNCLE SAM HIS BOX-RENT RECEIPTS.

about the only consolation he can have is, that he has done a nice thing for the patrons of his office, while Uncle Sam steps forward and relieves him of his money received from the renting of his own property. How nice this is in him! Note, if you please, his bearing as he relieves the postmaster of his cash. * * * This feature of the law is unquestionably one of the most flagrantly unjust that was ever enacted, as it absolutely deprives the postmaster of the benefits arising from the investment of his own money; and it reacts upon the public because it prevents hundreds of postmasters from purchasing new outfits who would otherwise do so. If the government owned the boxes, as it does those of the first

and second classes, then it should have the box-rent receipts, but surely it could have no moral right to rob even a third-class postmaster of the revenue derived from the investment of his private funds. Here is an opportunity for a wrong to be righted.

SCENES IN RURAL POST-OFFICES.

The country post-office is a great place. It is visited daily by almost every inhabitant. The question of getting a letter or a newspaper out of it never enters into their calculations, their one solitary idea being simply to go there and inquire and receive the same old answer: "Nothing!" You see the post-office belongs to the young and old, the rich and poor,



THE HOUR OF EASE.

the white and black, and to those who get mail and to those who don't, and those who average one letter a year think just as much of it as those who receive twenty a day. Did you ever spend a day in a country post-office? Well, I sat behind a big glass case with a postmaster lately, and, as we were chatting, girls and boys came trooping in asking for letters for "our folks." The postmaster was urbanity personified, and with a smile he would say again and again, "Nothing for you to-day." "Do you know that some of these children's parents, to my certain knowledge, haven't had a letter in three years?" And yet they come here every mail without fail, and chirp out, "If you please, sir, anything for our folks?" And do you suppose they are dismayed after a year's continued daily inquiries, and get nothing? Not at all! Day after day they bob up serenely, and it makes but little difference whether they ever get a newspaper from an absent friend, the "our folks" will be on hand regularly at the distribution of every mail, and they will not be discouraged if they do not receive even a scrap of paper for four years to come.

There is no question but that every live postmaster in the land is a regular reader of the *United States Mail*, and that they derive much comfort and pleasure in perusing its pages. When "the hour of ease" arrives, he lays himself back in his big office chair, and getting his feet higher than his head, he takes his favorite paper and has a royal feast. He never tires of the good things set before him, for it is a source not only of comfort and consolation, but of strength to nerve him to his daily task.

Oh, Lord! how some postmasters have to fairly jump to wait upon their patrons after the mails are distributed and office is opened. Everybody outside is in a hurry. They know there is a letter in there for them and they will die unless they get it within a minute or two. They act as if its contents would be utterly lost unless the letter is placed within their hands before Sam Jones gets his newspaper, and they crowd and push to get up to the general delivery, and yell for mail as if the postmaster was deaf. This poor baldheaded fellow is trying to wait upon two at a time, and he will continue to be foolish until he delivers the wrong letter some day, and then he will wish that he hadn't been so anxious to serve the "dear public." But even if he don't commit any blunders of that kind, he may get his arms out of joint, or he may work himself to death. Just look at the poor devil when his rapid delivery is over! He is almost used up, and is an object of commiseration. His pet poodle sits there before him and weeps at his discomfiture and wonders what it all means. The fact is, the outside world knows but little of the real labor incident to properly conduct a post-office, and it has no idea of the perplexities surrounding a postmaster who is honestly trying to do his duty.

Still, the post-office is the focal point in every community and everybody wants to be the postmaster. They think it fun to work for Uncle Sam in the handling of the mails, but if they knew of the trials and troubles of such a position, they would have none of it. It calls for constant duty, unremitting care and the exercise of the best of judgment.



"THANK GOD, IT'S OVER!"

THE LAW OF PUBLIC OPINION.

Some people have an idea that the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of the several States make laws. This is a mistake. True, these bodies adopt certain regulations which, being applied to the lesser affairs of life, are, by courtesy, called laws. But these enactments are not laws. In course of time some of them may become laws. But as an evidence that neither Congress nor other legislative bodies make laws, the fact may be noted that, notwithstanding that these are almost constantly in session, they create scarcely a ripple in the current of human affairs. Law, technically defined, is a rule of action prescribed by a superior for the government of an inferior. The law-making power in a republic is—public opinion. Congress may enact statutes, and the courts may undertake to enforce them, but these enactments must be backed by public opinion, or they fall stillborn. Hence it is that so many remain on our books a "dead letter." Under the laws of England it was at one time allowable to settle disputes by "wager of battle." The disputants fought it out. The contests were governed by rules prescribed with all the particularity that would be necessary in an action of trespass or ejectment. If the injured party or plaintiff, so to speak, were a man of low degree, he must needs get some one of equal station with his adversary to wage the battle. Now, however, the rule is reversed. The lawyer does the quarreling and leaves the fighting to be done by the client. But will some lawyer tell us when and by what statute the trial by wager of battle was abolished? Some of the best-settled principles of our jurisprudence are grounded in a long line of decisions which, in turn, grew originally out of public opinion, or, what amounts to the same thing, a supposed public necessity, or public want. Hence, if we would preserve good government and wholesome laws, we must have a properly enlightened public opinion.

Public opinion abolished the trial by wager of battle. Public opinion abolished the laws made to punish witchcraft. Public opinion abolished the whipping-post. Public opinion abolished imprisonment for debt. Public opinion abolished slavery. Public opinion is rapidly enfranchising the human mind and conscience. It is well, therefore, that this governor of all things should itself be governed by the highest order of enlightenment.

The most potent factor in the development of public opinion is the press, but the press unsupported by our Postal System, would be powerless. Its influence would be as nothing compared to what it is at present. The facilities it enjoys in a business way are far greater than those granted any other commercial pursuit. The concessions made to it are continuous, and yet public opinion approves of it; but it is all because the press itself moulds and fashions that opinion by the power it derives from the Government.

Is it any more than we can ask, therefore, that the press shall combine to sustain and support and to watch and guard the Postal system of our country?

A. M. SMITH, one of the post-office inspectors, yesterday caused this arrest of James Bagigalupo, who is charged with robbing post-offices during the last year at Balglen, Opdyke, and Belleville, Ill., and Chandler, Ind. He was taken before Commissioner Hoyne and held in \$1,500 to the grand jury.—*Chicago Herald*.

DELIVERING THE MAILS.

We receive many inquiries from postmasters relative to the delivery of mails between the post-office and depots, so we give the following order of the Postmaster-General touching that question:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9, 1885.

Order No. 178.

That Sec. 639 of the Postal Regulations of 1879, be amended so as to read as follows:

Sec. 639. Every railroad company is required to take the mails from and deliver them into all terminal post-offices whatever, except in cities where other provision is made by the Department, and also to all intermediate post-offices which are located at not more than 80 rods from the nearest station or railroad office at which such company has an agent, the distance to be measured by the shortest road. The length of the route will be computed and paid for from terminal office to terminal office, as at present, except in those cities where the Department causes the mail to be carried between the railroad and post-office, and in such it will be computed from the place where the mail is taken from and deliver to the company.

The Department will provide for the carriage of mails to and from other intermediate post-offices only. At all other points where mail trains do not make regular stops, the speed of trains carrying the mails must be slackened to admit the exchange of mails with safety.

The persons employed by railway companies to convey the mails between post-offices and stopping places, when required by this regulation, are agents of the companies, not employees of the postal service, and need not be sworn as such, but must be above the age of sixteen years and of suitable intelligence and character; and postmasters will promptly report to the proper Division Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, or the General Superintendent thereof, any violation of this requirement.

Ruling 752, on page 703, and ruling 129, on page 641 of the *Postal Guide* of January, 1885, and Order No. 166, dated October 13, 1885, are superseded by this regulation.

WM. F. VILAS,
Postmaster-General

DEPARTMENT ORDERS.

U. S. Postal Agency at Shanghai, China.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2, 1887

ORDERED: On and after this date, articles of every kind and nature which are admitted to the United States domestic mails, shall be admitted to the mails exchanged between the United States and the United States Postal Agency at Shanghai, China; subject, however, to the following rates of postage, which in all cases shall be fully prepaid:

First-class matter, 5 cents for each $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or fraction of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

Postal cards, 2 cents each.

Second and third-class matter, and samples of merchandise not exceeding eight ounces in weight, 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction of 2 ounces.

Fourth-class matter, 1 cent for each ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Registration fee, 10 cents; no additional charge for Return Receipt.

ORDERED FURTHER: That articles other than letters in their usual and ordinary form, shall never be closed against inspection, but must be so wrapped or inclosed that they may be readily and thoroughly examined by postmasters and customs officers.

WILLIAM F. VILAS,
Postmaster-General.

CLEAR POSTMARKS.

Can not somebody invent a machine for the use of postmasters that will always postmark a letter clearly and distinctly. There is not a day passes but we receive more or less badly postmarked letters, some so blurred that it is impossible to decipher the mark, and others where the postmarking clerk has only one-half done his duty, by striking but one-half or one-quarter upon the letter. The postmark is a matter of no small importance to business men, and we beg that every one connected with the post-offices whose eye this meets, especially in our great commercial cities, will keep this important fact in mind, and urge upon the stampers to do their work well.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

I'VE GOT THEM ON MY LIST.

As some day it may happen that a victim must be found, I've got a little list, I've got a little list,
Of people whom you'll all admit might well be underground,
And who never would be missed, who never would be missed.
There's the pestilential nuisances inquiring after stamps,
And the boys who stop the train so oft, those good-for-nothing tramps,
And the man who's always harping 'bout the latest change in schemes,
And the clerk in charge who frequently disturbs our pleasant dreams;
And the engineer who runs full speed 'round every curve and twist,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed.

There's the agent who throws in his pouch ere yet the train has stopped,
I've got him on my list, I've got him on my list,
And the other chap who holds for you a pile of stuff he's stopped,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed.
And the clerk who lays for you each month and "bills" you in the nick,
With a little slip of paper that the service calls a "check,"
And the man who whistles "chestnut" tunes while standing at the rack,
And the funny man who now and then puts dead cats in your sack,
I don't think he'd be missed, quite sure he'd not be missed.

There's the life insurance agent and others of his class,
I've got him on my list, I've got him on my list,
And the cunning "Con" who at your door inquires for your pass,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed.
And the fellow who to boycott brings his letters to the car,
And out of the little flapper on the side he knocks the tar,
And the transfer clerk who brings the mail at leaving time you know,
And chucks it at you thro' the door with action that's not slow,
And the silly clerk who on a tag writes "so and so and Dist."
I don't think he'd be missed, I know he'd not be missed.

There's the man who threatens to resign, but ne'er turns in his key,
The festive "kickerist" I've got him on my list,
And the "crank" who's rather stuck on mailing sample copies free,
He'd surely not be missed, quite sure he'd not be missed.
And the fellow that's well posted—the Railway Mail "Galoot,"
Who springs the little Black Book whenever in dispute,
And the "prune" who cleans your car at night and colors all he finds,
Tho' dirt on floor or lamps untrammelled, such things be never minds,
All clerks with long petitions our sympathies enlist,
But they'd none of them be missed, they'd none of them be missed.

There's the clerk who rushes to the door when'er he sees a girl,
The "la-de-da" artist, I've got him on my list,
And the dudelet clerk who on the streets a little doth twirl,
He hardly would be missed, I doubt if he'd be missed.
And the boys who wear boiled shirts and such while wrestling with the mail,
And the idiot always telling funny stories that are stale,
And the slouchy clerk who on his head wears something like a coop,
An R. P. cap which if boiled down would make mock postal soup,
And the "Jao. L." of the service who travels on his fist,
He never would be missed, he never would be missed.

I can not pass the postal clerk who dons outlandish clothes,
The swell tobogganist, I'll put him on my list,
Nor yet the blood who now and then to slugging matches goes,
I don't think he'd be missed, I don't think he'd be missed.
Nor the "greeny" at the "sweat-box" who takes off his coat and vest,
And says to Captain Perkins "I'm going to do my best,"
Nor the fellow that's been bragging 'round of what he's going to do,
And on examination scores percentage forty-two.
I could mention many others who would swell my little list,
But who never would be missed, who never would be missed.

M. J. DONNELLY,
Duluth & Brainard R. P. O.

THERE are no salaried officers in the Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association and never has been. It was organized to meet a public want, and it is doing exactly as was intended.

Continued from page 139.

41. The issue of a money order on credit is strictly prohibited, under the severest penalties. No postmaster should ever be expected to thus lay himself liable to criminal prosecution.

42. There is nothing in the postal law prohibiting a "dun" or threat of prosecution being sent by mail.

43. A postal is regarded as unavailable if it has anything attached to it, but it can be forwarded if a sufficient amount of postage is affixed.

44. Postal cards issued by private parties are subject to letter rates when they contain any written matter in addition to the date and address.

45. When any person is annoyed or expects to be annoyed by postal cards sent from any particular place or from any known place, he may direct the postmaster at the point named to destroy all postal cards addressed to him, and the same request may be made to the receiving postmaster.

46. Unclaimed letters enclosed in envelopes upon which hotel cards are printed, should not be returned to the mailing office unless such envelopes have written or printed thereon the words "return to," in addition to the hotel card.

47. A printed letter which does not bear internal evidence that it is being sent to several persons in identical terms, when sent by one person, is subject to letter rates. For example, we could not send the Postmaster-General a printed private letter and send it at third-class rates, but would have to pay letter postage.

48. A book presented for mailing with a letter attached to it would subject the entire package to letter rates.

49. An unclaimed postal card is not returned to the writer, even though his address is given upon it, but is sent to the Dead-Letter Office.

50. Postal cards that have been split open and written upon the inside are unavailable.

51. Postal cards are handled with as much care and promptness in the matter of dispatch and delivery as though they were letters, even though the matter therein is printed.

52. A box with its lid nailed on is held as being closed against inspection, and is therefore subject to letter rates. Postmasters have no right to pry open such a box and then nail it up again. Even if they had the right to do so, they have not the time.

53. Written visiting cards are regarded as first-class matter and subject to letter rates. If printed they can be sent at the rate of one cent for each two ounces; that is, if the card is of an embellished design.

54. Insurance policies, whether canceled or not, are first-class matter if they contain any writing.

55. A letter-press book with copies of written letters therein, is first-class matter.

56. A tax bill, a receipt, an abstract of title, a power of attorney, a promissory note, a mortgage, a draft or check, canceled checks, coupons, an invoice bill, a statement, a pension voucher, a telegraphic dispatch, a bank note or any document with writing upon it, is subject to letter rates.

57. In making a present of a book it is permissible to write an inscription or dedication upon the cover or one of the blank leaves, but it must not contain anything that partakes of personal correspondence.

58. In sending one, two, three or four articles of the fourth-class, or, in fact, any number of articles up to four pounds, you can indicate on such package the names of the articles enclosed. You can also write upon or attach to any such articles, by tag or label, a mark or number, name or letter, for purposes of identification.

59. All manuscript matter designed for publication in books, magazines, periodicals or newspapers, is subject to letter postage unless accompanied by proof-sheets of the same. Manuscript music is rated in the same manner.

60. Matter enclosed in a sealed envelope, though the corners may be cut or the ends notched, is subject to letter rates.

61. Sheet music is third-class matter.

62. By a ruling of the Department blank checks and drafts have been changed from the fourth to the third class.

63. If you are smart and "up to snuff," you will send \$2.00 for the UNITED STATES MAIL for one year, and thus keep posted in regard to postal affairs.

THE POST-OFFICE.

No one of the Executive Departments ministers so effectually to the every-day wants of the people as the General Post-office. By opening channels of communication between widely separated communities, and by the rapid dissemination of information adapted to instruct the masses, it becomes a highly valuable instrumentality for advancing the public virtue and intelligence. Its influence in promoting the civilization of new settlements is only surpassed by that of the pulpit, the school house and the press, whose issues it circulates. Wherever the mail-carriers, with their instructive packets, make their appearance, law and order generally supersede the rude customs and the violence of savage life. By means of the rapid interchange of thought which postal intercourse effects, the most distant portions of the body politic are closely united and firmly cemented. Besides the convenience to individuals and families resulting from its agency, the commercial prosperity of a nation is potentially advanced by a well regulated postal establishment. Further, its tendencies to break down the barriers interposed between nations by ignorance and non-intercourse, through the enlarged political thought and records of social progress which it transmits from one to the other are of inestimable value. In short, whether viewed in its influences upon families, communities or States, the post-office is entitled to be regarded as an immense benefactor. Its mission is one exclusively of peace and good will, and prosperity and happiness. Let us, then, extend our civilization and our influence by sustaining the postal system of the country and give it a liberal and generous support.—James A. Garfield.

HOW TO SEND THINGS BY MAIL.

There are a countless variety of articles sent by mail, from a dress to be laundered to a dainty flower; and when we consider how many careless hands there are, and thoughtless heads, too, set to this work, the wonder arises, not that so many are lost, but that so many reach their destination despite the loose manner in which they are done up and the many mistakes made in directing them.

Every one is, or ought to be, acquainted with the rules for sending various grades of goods through the mails. No parcels should be sealed, for they might contain contraband stuff. All writing inside is strictly interdicted, for good reasons, on all second-class matter. If you want to write so much as two words you must pay letter postage for it, or be liable to do so at any rate.

There may be a charm in evading the post-office laws, just as there is in evading the Custom-house laws, but it is attended with the same danger of discovery and punishment.

But your parcels must be fastened securely; so you generally take a piece of twine to tie up the package, which is quite right. But you should remember that it has to go through a great many hands, and very often is shaken together with other articles in a jumble worthy of a grab-bag at a country fair. The right way properly to secure a parcel, for instance, of dry goods, is to fold it in the smallest possible compass consistent with keeping the article from being creased; then roll a soft piece of paper around, secured with an elastic; this will not add much to the weight, and will ensure its not being soiled in case the outer wrapper is disturbed; then have a good, stout piece of brown paper, and fold that neatly around, turning the ends in on each side, and then up over the top, creasing them so as to make a square, compact, and neat package. Any one in doubt how to do this deftly had better observe the salesman in a dry goods store the next time she goes to buy a dress. Next take twine, but not too coarse—flax twine is the best, as it will not snap and break in tying—cross it over both sides, and tie it in the middle. Now direct your parcel clearly and distinctly with the name of the receiver in full, as well as the post-office address. Do not leave out the name of the county or the state. Lastly, take two pieces of twine of equal length, one for each end, pass each of these around the narrowest end of the bundle in such a way as to catch the longest cord both above and below, and tie them securely together. Any woman who is familiar with crochet-work knows just how this is done; the object is to prevent the long strings from slipping off, which is the reason nine-tenths of the packages sent by mail get lost. The last two cords must be passed around the main one, or else it will not be secure; and pray observe that you must tie your knot very tight, first a good, strong knot, then a small bow knot is advisable. For want of such care in simply tying a knot we have known handsome embroidery and delicate silk received half out of their wraps, the only wonder being that the contents ever kept company with the address at all.

If you are sending any fragile articles, such as shells, jewelry, fans, combs, or trinkets of any sort, by mail do not fail to put them in a box, and fill up the interstices with raw cotton, which will prevent their rattling, keep them free from the action of the atmosphere, and insure their not being broken. The same may be said of any china or glassware, which should invariably be wrapped in cotton batting before being boxed. Indeed, we strongly recommend that all delicate articles, such as lace, buttons, ribbons, etc., should be put in a box. Put an elastic over the box to keep the cover in place even if the wrap comes loose. Then do your box up in good, strong brown paper, and tie up as before suggested. Boxes are now made so light, of such a variety of shapes and sizes, that no one can fail to find a suitable one on occasion, and really they add very little to the weight in comparison with the security of your parcel. The expense is trifling. Who would grudge a few cents in saving as many dollars, perhaps ten times as many?

Now as regards plants. The conveyance of plants is a link between distant countries. The introduction of new plants is perhaps as efficient philanthropy as can be practiced, for they advance civilization and increase our knowledge; they fertilize waste places, and beautify barren ones. As plants, seeds and cut flowers can all be carried safely and cheaply by mail, every one should, in his or her humble sphere, endeavor to do something toward spreading useful and rare plants by sending them to distant friends, to mission stations, and out-of-the-way places, if travelers or explorers, to institutions of learning and museums of natural science. But what is the best protection for such in conveying them through the mails? If living plants, they should be very carefully spread out so that the roots should be as little disturbed as possible. Line a box of the proper size with fresh moss from the woods, free from earth or stones. Then place them on this mossy bed, and cover carefully with the same. Dampen it slightly. Close the lid of the box tight—a cigar box is best for these frail, delicate objects, as a paste-board one is best for other things. Put an elastic band around the box, tie up in stout paper with a piece of twine, and mark it distinctly as before directed, and in one corner put the words, "Plants only." When it can be procured, the Southern Spanish moss is the very best thing to use in packing plants.

Seeds need only be put in a dry, tight box, and as you can not put any writing inside let them be done up in different colored papers. For instance, blue, seeds of larkspur; pink, petunias; yellow, nasturtium, etc.; and then on a postal card sent separately designate what flowers are in such or such papers. There will then be no trouble. Or you might gum on the outside of your papers printed numbers or letters cut from newspapers—I, 2, 3, or a, b, c, for instance—and then send the glossary by mail on a postal card.

To conclude, in all packages and documents sent by mail remember as an invariable rule that unless the address and inclosure keep together there is no hope of identifying the goods sent.—Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, in *Harper's Bazar*.

GIVE THE FULL ADDRESS.

To prove that many thousands of our people disregard the implicit instructions laid down by the Post-office Department to the effect that you must "give the full directions in all cases, and thereby insure certain transmission of the matter mailed," note the following imperfect inventory of the articles now on exhibition in the post-office museum. The absent-minded traveler can find there is forgotten satchel; the negligent mechanic of whatever branch of trade can find his tools; the gossipy washerwoman her wash-board. Those who have lost umbrellas and parasols—and their name is legion—can observe here the heretofore absent parachute; the naturalist can revel in snakes, alligators, bugs and horned toads; the dude or fair girl can see the gold watch or diamond ring he or she has longed for; the geologist can be carried to the bowels of the earth, so to speak, by gazing to his heart's content upon a very fine collection of minerals and precious stones.

The anatomist or tragedian can study the human skull divine or mouth. The entomologist can wear his life away by cogitating upon the variegated coloring and indescribable shape of the dried butterfly; the duelist, or would-be murderer, can examine the different kinds of pistols, and the young lady of tidy-frame of mind can have her "crewel" soul stirred by the sight of needlework which surpasses masculine comprehension. The end man can look upon his favorite instrument, the tambourine; the timid one can look with feelings of inexpressible bliss on the centennial-hoofed creature denominated centipede, and the art student can lose himself in contemplating a fine array of pictures. Those persons interested in bottled liquids—and they are numerous—can see it all. Any one who is gone on ceramics can look upon various specimens of pottery; the aged and the fop can gaze on all kinds of cones; the archaeologist can twist his mind out of shape by investigating Chinese manuscript. Herr Most or any other invincible, nihilistical glass bomb thrower can observe with fiendish delight, a package of fire crackers and several boxes of percussion caps and matches. Telegraphers and meteorologists can look upon and examine the many receivers and thermometers; the photographer can be pleased by the innumerable array of photographs displayed. One of the most peculiar sights to be seen is a collection consisting of a saddle, stirrups, bridle, halter, bit, whip, and hitching-post. The horse and jockey are looked for in every mail.—*Washington Republican*.

CHRISTMAS DEAD LETTERS.

I went through the Dead-Letter Office of the Post-office Department the other day. I am rather sorry I did, although I have always wanted to look into its mysteries; but I ought not to have gone at Christmas time. If it had not been for the coolness and calmness of Major Dallas, the chief of the office, who is not easily affected by such things, the water would have stood in my eyes several times as I looked at Christmas packages that had been turned from the general current of the mails into the stagnant pool. It was really quite touching to see, after passing through the museum into the large room where the "dead" letters and packages are opened, letter after letter cut open by the dexterous hand of the expert clerk at the rate of 1,600 a day, each with its little message of love and cheer. Here was a little money, there a Christmas card or a souvenir in hair-work—all were full of Christmas spirit. At side tables sat other skillful clerks opening and cataloguing the misdirected or unstamped or unclaimed packages. Many of these had the Christmas flavor; they held all sorts of pretty things. One which touched me contained a fleecy pair of white hand-knit soft wool mittens and a Christmas card. Another was more elaborate. It contained a plush bag, cigar-case, pocket-book, and a half dozen other gifts, together with the inevitable Christmas card. But enough. The museum of the Dead-Letter Office is a small room, of which three walls are covered with cases containing odd things sent to the office as improperly mailed or entirely unmailable. Almost anything you can imagine of a queer sort is here, from Guiteau's photograph to a patent hitching post. The oddest thing in the Dead-Letter Office is the carelessness of letter writers as there exhibited. It seems improbable that last year 130,000 letters containing articles of value were received at the Dead-Letter Office containing nowhere within or without either the name of the sender or the person to whom sent. It's a fact, though, and only one of a dozen other strange facts. Nor does the carelessness here brought to light appear to be at all on the decrease. The gross receipts of undelivered mail-matter last year were 5,023,745. Of course the office manages, by its improved methods, to get much of this matter either to the people who mailed it or to the people for whom it was intended. But there is a great deal that never gets any further than the city of Washington. Some of the things were sold at auction, which occurs every winter.—*Philadelphia Record*.

THE COUNTRY POSTMASTER.

The postmaster is apt to be one of the leading, or at least one of the most trustworthy, men of the community in which he lives. As a rule the appointments are made in accordance with the expressed desire of a majority of the patrons of the office, and, in many cases, the postmaster, under republican rule, held office through several Presidential terms. The postmaster of the fourth-class office is as well known as any member of the community in which he lives. He is the servant of the public, and is more often than otherwise the favorite of the public. No man who holds office is held in so strict an account as the postmaster, and no other official in the civil service is closer to the people or meets more people than he.

The offices in the smaller towns call for more work proportionately than is done in larger offices, and the movement to have these smaller offices better provided for is in the nature of practical civil service reform.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

APPLYING FOR DEAD LETTERS.

Dead letters are such as have been advertised and have remained on hand one month. Missing letters should be first inquired for at the post-office to which they were directed, and unless found to have been returned to the Dead-Letter Office, applications to the Department will be useless. The disposition of dead letters being dependent upon the classification, according to the contents of value in money or other property, such contents must be specifically stated in all applications to the Department.

For identification of letters the following information is also necessary: Address on letter in full, name of writer, where mailed, when mailed, or when advertised, or when sent to the Dead-Letter Office, and whether held for postage, registered or not.

All proper names, including the full post-office address of the applicant, should be written with the utmost attainable distinctness, and all inquiries relative to dead letters should be addressed to the "Third Assistant Postmaster-General."—*United States Mail*.

BOYCOTTING.

No man worthy the name of citizen will try and break down his post-office by the unfair means of boycotting it. If a postmaster must perform the labor of handling all incoming mail, then he is entitled by every law of right to handle that which is outgoing. To compel him to perform labor without compensating him for it, is only a little less than robbery, and the good people in a community where such a system of fraud is practiced, should combine and put it down.

We are glad to announce, however, that this thing of boycotting postmasters is rapidly passing away, for it never paid the parties who did it and in some cases worked disastrously to them.

We say again, that no good citizen will boycott a postmaster or look with favor upon others who do so; for the post-office belongs to the people and the people are expected to sustain it, no matter who is the postmaster.

Let us have done with this relic of barbarism and slavery.—*United States Mail*.

HOW TO ADDRESS LETTERS.

Five million letters bearing a complete address are mis sent every year, yet 80 per cent. of them are mis sent because the address is not properly formed. The address on all mail should be complete enough to distinguish the person for whom it is intended from any one else, and each portion of the address should be distinctly separated from every other portion, and not mixed as shown in this example:

Never address mail like this.

Mr. Paul Sands, Scio,
Allegheny Co.,
N. Y.

In this address the name of the office, Scio, is not distinctly separated from Paul Sands, the name of the addressee. The wise heads of the Post-office Department and the heads of some other government departments, have the address on the envelopes used in the various departments formed similar to the following examples, but mail so addressed and going on a mission for the great United States, is mis sent just as readily as a pauper's letter similarly addressed:

Never address letters like this.

Postmaster, Wolcott,
White Co.,
Ind.

Never address mail like this.

Ed. S. Miller,
Newark,
County of Licking,
State of Ohio.

Continued on page 148.

In the previous illustrations the name of the county is written where the postal employees always look for the name of the post-office. They always look in that particular place because it is found there on 90 per cent. of the mail. Railway postal clerks have to distribute many pieces of mail while the train is running from one station to another, and must decide to what place to send a letter in a fraction of a second's time, and when he sees Aurora or the name of any post-office written in that place, he at once places the mail so addressed in the pouch for that office, without spending the time to see if it is preceded by the word county. There are very few if any counties but what there is a post-office of the same name.

Many of our institutions of learning teach their pupils to address their letters as in the following example, but it is a poor way:

Don't address mail like this.

Thos. Kane & Co.,
Chicago,
Cook Co.,
Ill.

When a letter is so addressed, the railway postal clerk is as apt to take Cook for the post-office of destination as Chicago.

Always address mail as shown in the following example, and it will very seldom go astray:

This is the way to address a letter.

Yale & Towne Co.,
Stamford,
Fairfield Co. Conn.

Use pen and ink, as pencil marks are apt to be erased before the office addressed is reached.

In this example the name of the post-office is written where the railway postal clerk always looks for it, and nothing else is written there to confuse him. He seldom needs to know the county, and if he does he finds it in the lower left hand corner, and separate from everything else. When the person written to lives in a city and rents a box, add the number and street or box number to the address. When the addressed lives in a small town and rents no box, add "north of village," or occupation of person addressed, or something similar that will distinguish him from another person of the same name. Mail intended for people who will be in the place only a day or two, should have "transient" added to the address to distinguish them from permanent residents. In making these additions care should be taken to keep them separate from the other portions of the address, and perhaps it is usually best to place them in the lower left hand corner above the name of the county and inclose them in brackets. Although if the preceding suggestions are complied with but very little mail will be misdirected, yet there are many little things liable to occur occasionally and start mail in the wrong direction. Letters that contain but little paper sometimes stick closely together, and are handled several times before the under one is noticed and separated, and it possibly may not be noticed until it has been delivered with the upper one to some one who may not be honorable enough to return it to the post-office. Sometimes they find their way into the large unsealed envelopes containing circulars, and are not discovered until they have been carried hundreds of miles and many hours of time from instead of toward the office of destination.

HOME LETTERS.

Alas! it is only too easy a dozen times a week, and in every variety of circumstance, to be selfish, unsocial or indolent. It is selfish not to be willing to put ourselves out of the way to help and gratify those who are willing to help us, and who, when they write to us, of course expect us to answer them. It is unsocial never to dare to interchange a single idea with relatives, or neighbors, or friends. It is indolence that refuses the expenditure of a little time and trouble to remind distant kinsfolk that we still belong to each other, and that we think it worth while to be at the pains of writing a letter, though we may have nothing very special to say. The secret of all this is to have a kind heart, and to be willing to please and to add to each other's happiness.

Have you a sick sister, whose lonely life has but few bright clouds in it? Now and then make her feel that she is not utterly forgotten by the friend and companion of her happy childhood.

Is there a servant, retired from your service, who has nursed your children, been a kind and true friend to you in sad and dark hours, who is growing old, as yourself will some day grow old, with few changes in a dull life, and few pleasures in a poor one? Occasionally send a mes-

sage to that dear friend, if not always in your hand, by your wife or child.

It will stir thoughts of slumbering happiness in a kind heart that has loved you with a love as good as a rich man's love, and served you with a service that no wages could repay. Or have you aged parents, living far away, it may be, in some remote home, whose monotonous and ever shortening life is never so pleasantly broken as by news of you; whose midnight thoughts and noonday musings are ever full of you; who grow young and brave in the thought of your success, and whose constant prayers have much more to do with it than you know of? Never let them feel that you are too busy to think of them, or too important to care for them. You will not have them much longer; but regularly take time to write. Make the evening of their lives sweet and mellow like a summer eve by the loving letters you may send them. Oh, how precious are home letters! They have the stamp of Heaven upon them and their postmark is so plainly impressed that their origin or destination is never a subject of doubt.—*Dr. Talmage.*

SERIOUS RESULTS FROM BOYCOTTING.

One of the meanest, most contemptible and unpatriotic things a man can do is to boycott his postmaster. He not only inflicts an injury upon the office but upon his neighbors as well, for everybody demands that the post-office shall be well kept and the public satisfactorily served; but how can that be done when the legitimate revenues of the office are cut off by depriving the postmaster of the business of handling the outgoing mail, upon which his compensation is based? It is neither fair, just, nor honorable for men to singly or combine together to cut down the income of a postmaster. It weakens the office and has a tendency to deprive the public of the service to which it is entitled.

An interesting story is told of a boycotter out in Iowa who had done everything he could to annoy his postmaster and induce people to mail their letters on the train; but one day he got the full benefit of a dose of his own medicine which completely cured him.

He had a note in a Kansas City bank that fell due on a certain day.



HOW A BOYCOTTER GOT LEFT.

Two of the three days of grace allowed had expired and the note had to be paid the next day before three, or it would go to protest. He went to his home bank and bought a draft on Kansas City with which to take up his note; but as he wanted to beat the postmaster out of his commission on the cancellation of the two-cent stamp on his letter, he concluded to carry it, as usual, to the train and hand it to the postal clerk, and there is where the joke comes in. He carried it around in his pocket all day when he could easily have dropped it into the post-office, but he wanted to punish the postmaster for some old grudge against him, and therefore would not let him have the benefit of cancelling the stamp. He waited, as he thought, until near train time, before starting for the depot. But what was his consternation to hear the whistle of the locomotive as soon as he came out from his store, and he ran as if the devil was after him to make the train before it pulled out. But he was too late. Railroad trains do not wait for people to mail their letters thereon, and this chappie got left. He struck the depot as the rear end of the train was just leaving it, and though he yelled like a Comanche Indian to stop it, yet it went on, and as there were no more mails for Kansas City until the same hour of the evening the next day, his note went to protest and his credit was at least tainted by his failure to take it up when due. He telegraphed the bank to hold his note and not protest it, but banks don't accept excuses of that kind and paid no attention to his request. The cost of the dispatch and of the protest was something over \$5.00, to say nothing of the impairment of his credit, but it cured him completely of his habit of boycotting the postmaster.

Our illustration of his arrival at the depot as the train was leaving, presents the matter in vivid form.

THE Postmasters' National Convention which will convene in Washington City on the second Tuesday of December, will be one of the largest bodies that ever came together in that city, as it will number not less than 3,000 delegates, representing 51,000 post-offices, from every State and Territory in the Union. A great time is anticipated.

CALL FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION.

(Continued from first page.)

ADVANTAGES OF WASHINGTON.—By having the convention meet in Washington we will come into direct and immediate contact with the men whose action we seek to influence; and there is no question but that we can accomplish more by that means than by any other. It is difficult to influence Congressmen who are hundreds of miles distant, by letters, papers or resolutions. It requires *personal intercourse*; and after we shall have come together in convincing numbers and considered fully the changes we deem essential to secure us a more fair and equitable compensation, we can each and all use our *individual influence* with our representative in Congress to vote for the measures we shall recommend.

Coming together in a tremendous gathering at the seat of government when we formulate our grievances and decide upon the redress to which we feel that we are entitled, it will then be an easy matter for the delegates to use their persuasive powers upon Congress and seek *immediate action*.

Everything depends upon the formation of the House and Senate Post-office Committees, that they are favorable to our cause, and we want those committees made up of men who are *pronounced friends* of third and fourth-class postmasters; and it would only be prudent upon our part to seek to induce the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to listen to the suggestions of the postmasters of the country as to the persons who should be placed upon those committees. By having our convention meet at the time and place indicated, we will be upon the ground ready to use our influence in that direction; and we are confident that the requests of two or three thousand postmasters in convention assembled, would receive the most respectful and considerate attention from any man or any body of men.

LARGE ATTENDANCE NECESSARY.—A small attendance at the convention would be fatal to our cause, and we beg of you, therefore, to so organize that we may go to Washington in a mighty throng, that our *presence*, even, in that city will, of itself, have a most beneficial influence in our behalf, to say nothing of our *united action*. Let us go there two or three thousand strong. Every postmaster in the land is invited to attend, but let those who remain at home see to it that they give their personal influence and aid to make the convention a success. Seek to send a representative if you can not go yourself, or join in with others of your county or congressional district and pay the expenses of a delegate. *We must have a crowd!* There should be immediate and united action in every congressional district west of the Ohio River and east of the Hudson; but in all States adjacent to Washington there should be a delegate from every county; and from all counties within one hundred miles, there should be two or three delegates.

UNITED ACTION.—If we all come forward and use our personal influence in favor of the convention and do our duty towards making it a success, we shall most certainly succeed in the movement we have inaugurated. It depends wholly upon ourselves. If we stand back and wait for others to do the work that should devolve upon each one separately, then we need not hope for satisfactory results. The Postmaster-General took strong ground in our favor in his last annual report, and his able First Assistant, General STEVENSON, also recommended that relief should be granted. The House and Senate Post-office Committees were undoubtedly favorable to us, at least a majority, especially the republican members like Judge PETERS, General WAREFIELD, and General BINGHAM. The only lukewarmness manifest was upon the part of our own party friends. The republicans had long ago put themselves upon record in behalf of such a measure, and would not go back upon it even though their party would reap no benefit from it. They have taken a general public spirited view of the question, and are not disposed to permit politics to influence their better judgment, especially as this is not regarded in the light of a partizan or political movement. If we fail, then, it will be simply because of the *hesitation* of our own party leaders, and of our own inactivity.

The question for us to decide is: Is it right for us to seek this additional compensation? Do we honestly feel that we are entitled to more pay than we receive? Are we fairly and honestly treated in the matter of rent, light, fuel, clerk hire and box-rent receipts? If we are, then let us abandon all our efforts in this direction and settle down to the belief that after all governments are fair toward its public servants; but if we feel that we are *right in what we have undertaken*, that we are *justly entitled to a more liberal compensation*, then let us go forward as one man and use every just and legitimate means to carry the convention to a successful issue.

NO FUNDS FOR EXPENSES.—We regret to say that we have no money in our treasury to meet the preliminary expenses of the convention, which, if it is properly advertised, will amount to a large sum. We do not make any appeals, however, for donations or contributions for this purpose, as Mr. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of the *United States Mail*, has volunteered to defray them all, whatever they may be, out of his own private funds. To him we have entrusted all our preliminary arrangements, and as he proposes to devote so much of his time and money to our interests, as he has his paper, can we do less than come forward and reciprocate by subscribing for the *United States Mail* for a year? *We think not*, and we ask that every postmaster who may have any interest in the good of the cause to do so, and at once.

At the National Convention held in Chicago, in February, 1886, a resolution of thanks was rendered the *United States Mail* for the interest it had taken in the cause of third and fourth-class postmasters, and it was tendered by a rising vote. Under the circumstances, further commendation from us would be unnecessary.

ACCOMMODATIONS, RAILROAD FARE, ETC.—All arrangements that may be made with the railroads and hotels in regard to reduced rates, will be announced hereafter.

NAMES OF DELEGATES.—The names of all delegates who may be selected should be forwarded without delay to the *United States Mail*, Chicago, and also all those who intend to go either as delegates or in their individual capacity. We beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,
J. G. HERZOG, Secretary. L. J. SACRISTE, President.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

E. L. BROWN, Eufala, Ala.	MISS E. J. PORTER, Summerville, N. J.
J. B. ROBERTS, Sandersville, Ga.	W. D. HOYT, Middleport, N. Y.
JOHN T. BRADY, Walcott, Ind.	J. G. HERZOG, Loudonville, Ohio.
L. J. SACRISTE, La Grange, Ill.	JAMES A. KELL, York, Pa.
GEO. F. CROUCH, Oxford Junc., Ia.	W. R. ANDREWS, Union City, Tenn.
H. C. CARTER, Baldwin City, Kan.	TOM G. BRADY, Buchanan, W. Va.
W. F. HOWE, Leominster, Mass.	W. H. CANNON, Merrill, Wis.
J. C. HUSKEY, Neehart, Montana Ter.	A. B. BAKER, Aurora, Dak.
NEIL CURRIE, Currie, Minn.	JOHN CARLOVITZ, Milton, Fla.
DANIEL E. SOPER, Newaygo, Mich.	R. H. PLATT, Nappa City, Cal.
E. P. LINZEE, Pierce City, Mo.	F. D. DENTON, Batesville, Ark.
L. A. SIMMONS, Cortland, Neb.	JOHN H. PATTERSON, U. S. Mail,
F. H. DANIEL, Franklin Falls, N. H.	Chicago, Ill.

HANDWRITING.

Of course *hand-writing* is meant. Where a man has the exceptional capability of writing with his toes he must be placed in a separate list. One's handwriting is interesting for this among other reasons: that many persons believe in the possibility of judging the mental character of a man from his calligraphy. It was Shenstone, if we remember rightly, who said, "Show me a man's handwriting and I will tell you his character." We can all of us say, each for himself, what kind of answer experience gives to this problem. We know harem-scarem men whose handwriting is small, neat and careful; and slow, cautious, methodical men who write a large, bold, flowing hand. Ladies can hardly have any characteristic in this particular, seeing that the fashionable angular hand is pretty much alike in all.

Whether or not we can really determine a man's character by his handwriting, we can certainly identify him by its means to a large extent. Not knowing a particular person we may be able or unable to judge what sort of a man he is by looking at his handwriting; but knowing both him and his writing, we have a much better chance of determining whether a certain letter or document may be safely attributed to him; or, not knowing him at all, we may judge whether two pieces of writing are by the same hand.

Watch narrowly the habits of persons whom you know in regard to peculiarities of calligraphy, and you will require much more power of identification than might at first appear attainable.

Making one sheet of paper serve for two by crossing the writing up and down as well as from left to right is often adopted in women's gossiping notes, though less frequently by men. It no doubt had its origin in the days when the postage of letters was charged per sheet instead of by weight, and was costly under any circumstances, especially for long distances; but why the plan should be adopted now that postage is so low and paper so cheap, those must explain who indulge in it; at any rate, such a habit might tend to identify the writer of a particular letter. The same may be said of the use of the P. S. Jokes and skits without number have been pointed at fair letter writers for their profuse use of postscripts; and theories have been advanced for explaining how it is that the most important part of a lady's letter often comes when the letter itself has been finished and signed with her name; but whatever fanciful explanations we may adopt, certain it is that some persons are more prone than others to this habit. Again, if one writer be more heedless than another the fact is likely to show itself in omitted letters, or letters shaped like numerals—vices due to inattention, and not to real ignorance. Hence the well-known story of a merchant who brought up and transmitted no less than a ton of capers, having been misled by the careless way in which the word copper had been written by his correspondent. In proportion as a writer is liable to perpetrate little gauderies of this kind, so will they form one among many means of guessing whether a particular letter is written by him. Another test is a want of attention to syntax in comparison; the spelling and the grammar may be correct, but the arrangement of the phrases and clauses may be wrong; and the sense may either become nonsense or obscure. The pronouns his, her, its, and their are awkward tools to use unless some circumspection be employed.

READING POSTAL CARDS.

A lady postmistress was asked, not long since, why it was that the mails were so much delayed of late. "Indeed, sir," said she, "there are so many of those postal cards for me to read that it takes my whole time, so that I can't attend to the mails." "Great heavens, woman! you don't pretend to read all the postal cards deposited in your office, do you?" said the anxious inquirer. "Why, of course I do," innocently answered the lady official, "for as nothing scurrilous, obscene, or wicked must be written on them, I must first read them myself in order to ascertain whether it would be proper to let them pass through the office. I stand here as a sentinel upon the watch-tower to guard the morals of the community. Business is only secondary to purity and virtue. To read these postal cards I am determined; yes, and carefully, too."—*United States Mail*.

A POSTAL CLERK'S PAY.

A great many people ask us, "What pay do you get?" On answering that we receive from \$750 to \$1,300 per annum they are astonished, and say, "Why, you ought to get rich." Now look at me; I work hard every day, much harder than you do, from early dawn till late at night, for one dollar a day. They seem to think we hold a very enviable position, but there are some facts to be taken into consideration, that people are not generally acquainted with. In the first place a man should have some educational qualifications more than for many of the ordinary pursuits of life, as well as natural adaptability for the service. Upon receiving his appointment he has some state assigned to him to learn, and by learning a state we mean to learn to know upon what route all post-offices in the state are located, and by what route mail should be dispatched to reach its destination in the quickest possible time. To learn all this is no small undertaking. Take for an example the State of Iowa, which has 1,655 offices and something over 200 junctions which must all be absolutely memorized, and he must then go into the "sweat-box" and pass a rigid examination upon the state, and also must have a knowledge of the instructions to postal clerks, and must pass 90 per cent. in order to hold his position. Then again, the clerk, if he be in charge of a car, must be responsible for all mail received, and must see to it personally that it is properly distributed, labeled correctly, and put upon the proper route to carry it to its destination. He must also be responsible for all registered matter in whatsoever form received, which is frequently very valuable. A great many people seem to think, and in fact the salary of men in most all the positions of life is regulated in proportion to the degree of responsibility.

Now, if the postal clerk does not hold a responsible position when nearly all the business of the country of a commercial and general character is conducted through the mails, who does?

The business man has the daily papers placed upon his desk for his perusal, containing the condition of the markets, the transfer of real estate, and all matters of a business character that have occurred the previous day. Just think for a moment of the many postal clerks that are toiling all night long while you are sleeping, and being whirled along from 20 to 40 miles per hour that you may enjoy these privileges, and reap the reward. Then the postal clerk's life is in constant danger, and it is generally considered worth more money to perform labor of a hazardous nature than any other not having this danger connected with it. The postal clerk's expense is another item to be taken into account in the reckoning, which every one knows to be no small item. Summing up all these things with many more we might speak of, and where is there a vocation subjecting the person to all the dangers, anxieties, responsibilities, expense and peculiar qualifications of the postal clerk that receive so small a salary? We do not wish it to be understood that we are saying this in a complaining spirit, but we simply give a very few facts on the subject, believing that did the people in general and our representatives in Congress know and fully realize our position in all its importance, measures would be taken to increase our salaries.

T. H. STUDEBAKER,
Chicago, McGregor & St. P. R. P. O.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

D. E. Stevens, Hedgewood, Kansas, sends us a copy of the *United States Mail*, published in Chicago and New York, which is quite an interesting paper to the general public and particularly to those connected in any way with the United States mail service. It gives a vast amount of valuable information concerning postal affairs, and is also the exponent of the Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association, of the United States, an association of which Mr. Stevens is a member. Mr. Stevens is agent for the *Mail* in this county and should be able to work up a good list of subscribers.—*Edmond (Kan.) Times*.

SWINDLING SCHEMES.

Letters Received at the Post-Office Department Showing Many Gullible People.

There is a huge scrapbook in the Post-Office Department in which are pasted letters from people who have been taken in through the mails by swindlers, and who find relief in sending their complaints to the Postmaster-General. These letters show that most of the old swindles which have been exposed again and again in the newspapers are still in successful operation, and that some new ones have lately been invented. Following are a few of the most recent complaints that have found their way to the Department:

A Kingston (N. Y.) man writes: "I seen an advertisement in the *New York World* from a man who offered to tell me how to make a fortune if I would send him 25 cents. I wanted a fortune, so I sent him the quarter, and I got this slip of paper next day." (The slip reads: How to make a fortune: Work hard, don't smoke, don't drink, don't marry, be saving.) "Now, Mr. Postmaster-General, don't you think it a shame to beat a poor man out of his munny this way, and can't you stop this swindling through the mails?"

A Keokuk (Iowa) man complains as follows: "I red in a paper how a man would send me a current picture of my future wife if I sent him the color of my eyes and hair and my height and forty cents. Now to tell you the truth I was just at that time doubtin' whether I liked Amelia or Mary best so I thought I would get the picture and whichever one it looked like most I would go ahead and marry her. I didn't get an answer for nearly two weeks, and I was beginning to think I was swindled when a package cum by mail one day. When I opened it there was nothin' but a piece of paste board with a face drawn on it with lead pencil, just like the boys draw in school. It didn't look like anybody in partickler at all. This is what was wrote underneath: Correct picture of your future wife—her eyes, nose, mouth, chin, and other featchers, as showed above. I wasn't the only one that got left though, nearly all the fellows that red the paper got caut, and you oughter stop this swindlin'."

A third contribution to this scrapbook reads this way: "I saw in the paper that a missionary who had traveled through India had discovered a remedy for consumption and will send it free to anyone who suffered from the disease. My wife was consumptive, so I wrote to the missionary. In answer I received a candid, sympathetic letter, such as some philanthropic old gentleman might write, and with it a prescription. In a postscript it was suggested that if I could not get the prescription filled in town I might apply to the writer and he would get the drugs and put up the medicine for any trifle that I should consider suitable. I found on going to the village drug store that the apothecary had never heard of some of the articles mentioned in the prescription, so I wrote to the missionary, inclosing two dollars, which amount I judged sufficient for the purpose. A box of pills came soon afterwards with a letter filled with religious injunctions to my wife to have faith, take the medicine regularly, and trust in God for results. After my wife had taken about half the pills without any apparent benefit, our druggist dropped in one day and asked to see the wonderful medicine that I had to send to Boston for. Breaking one of the pills open he commenced laughing heartily. When I asked what was the matter, he said: 'Taken in. Nothing but dough,' and so they were. The pretended missionary had swindled me out of two dollars. I write this so that you can guard the mails against swindlers of the same sort."

Several Catholics complain of having been swindled by the following advertisement in a religious paper: "Catholics: Help the poor Passionist Fathers who have been burnt out of their monastery at Catonsville, Md. Their home, after many years of patient toil, is taken away from them by fire just as they are settling down in it. The contributors will have masses said

for them three times a week, and the prayers of the homeless priests will daily ascend to the throne of God for them. Send all contributions to Father John, box 93, Baltimore, Md."

It seems that this swindle was soon unearthed, but before the exposure "Father John" reaped quite a harvest. The scheme was a very plausible one. The Passionist Fathers had really been burnt out at Catonsville just before the advertisement appeared. They did not apply for assistance through advertisements, however, and when they discovered that "Father John" was operating in their behalf, they at once informed the police, but too late. The bird had flown.

"The swindles recorded in this book are but a small portion of those practiced daily," said the official in charge to a *Republican* man. "Most people who are taken in prefer to let the matter pass rather than take the trouble of writing here, especially since they know that writing will not restore their losses. There are many, too, who are swindled in such a way that any exposure would show themselves up in a bad light, as well as the swindlers. 'The treasury plate' trick is one of the commonest, and one into which gullible people fall daily, yet no complaint is ever made. The reason is on the surface. The swindler in this case chooses his victims and writes to them that he has come into possession of a treasury plate from which he can strike off any number of greenbacks. In order to get the notes into circulation and avoid the suspicion which might arise from constant use of the same issue of bills, he offers to exchange any amount for bills of other denominations and allow a large discount. A specimen note is always inclosed which is, of course, a good greenback. The victim ascertains from his banker if the inclosure is genuine and finding it to be so generally falls into the trap. Whatever he sends is, of course, unheard of again, and he keeps very quiet about the matter, you may be sure.

"Women are often swindled by advertisements of alleged medical concerns which claim to be able to make the face and form beautiful. Some kind of a worthless treatment is received in return for a heavy advance, and the women complain as little as the 'treasury plate victim.' Why? Because no woman will allow that she is so indifferent looking as to require beauty specifics. I have observed one very curious thing in connection with the swindles reported to us. Fully two-thirds of the victims say that they read the advertisements in religious papers. I have no doubt that there are worthy people who live out of the cities and read nothing but weekly church papers. They certainly do not read the newspapers, for nearly all the swindles complained of have been exposed a hundred times."—*Washington Republican*.

LINCOLN AS POSTMASTER.

In the spring of this year, 1833, he was appointed postmaster of New Salem, and held the office for three years. Its emoluments were slender, and its duties light, but there was in all probability no citizen of the village who could have made so much of it as he. The mails were so scanty that he was said to carry them in his hat, and he is also reported to have read every newspaper that arrived; it is altogether likely that this formed the leading inducement to his taking the office. His incumbency lasted until New Salem ceased to be populous enough for a post-station, and the mail went by to Petersburg. Dr. Holland relates a sequel to this official experience which illustrates the quaint honesty of the man. Several years later, when he was a practicing lawyer, an agent of the Post-office Department called upon him, and asked for a balance due from the New Salem office, some seventeen dollars. Lincoln arose, and opening a little trunk which lay in a corner of the room, took from it a cotton rag in which was tied up the exact sum required. "I never use any man's money but my own," he quietly remarked. When we consider the pinching poverty in which these years had been passed, we may appreciate the self-denial which had kept him from making even a temporary use of this little sum of Government money.—*Nicolay and Hay, in December Century*.

THE NEWSPAPERS' TRAIN.

How Mental Pabulum Is Supplied Citizens of the West.

If one wants to enjoy not only a fast ride but an interesting one as well, he wants to get permission to go out on one of the fast mail-trains that leave here for the West and Northwest every morning at the early dawn. These trains carry no passengers and no express. They are Uncle Sam's own specials, and they run like streaks of lightning. Superintendent White of the United States Railway Mail Service the other day invited a newspaper friend to take a spin out on the Burlington fast mail as far as Galesburg. "You will have to get permission from the railway company to ride on the train," said Capt. White, and he added, with a smile, "I expect you will have to pay your fare." The Captain was quite right. Mr. Wylie, General Manager Stone's assistant, was much mortified at being compelled to demand fare on such an occasion, and he telegraphed Mr. Stone in New York to see if it could not be avoided, but the answer came back "No!" So, with an imprecation at the Inter-State law, Mr. Wylie issued permission to board the train provided the "proper transportation accompanied the order." The "proper transportation" did accompany the order, and at 2:30 o'clock A. M. a tired and sleepy man climbed into the postal. Mr. S. W. Stone, in charge of the postal affairs of the train, had only time to say "How d'ye." Just as his visitor was at his best in the Chesterfieldian act a huge red bag took Mr. Stone in the stomach, and he grunted, but he landed the bag where it ought to go. It looked a great deal like that huge chunk of old red sandstone that once took "Abner Smith of Angels" in a way that caused Abner no further interest in the proceedings.

It was about half-past 2 when the writer sat himself on Mr. Stone's work-table. "Sit there," he said, "I won't bother you," and he wiped away the perspiration. Bag after bag came pouring in, and Stone and his assistants grabbed and tossed them about. Wagon after wagon drove up. The drivers were all clamoring for right of way.

"You seem to be having a lively time," ventured the excursionist.

"Whew!—lively!—whew!—not much. You ought to be here of a Saturday, when we have something to do!"

Stone is a long, lean, lank kind of a chap. He wore on this occasion an undershirt, pantaloons, and a brass chain. The chain held the key to everything about the train save the engineer's throttle and the air-brake. But he found time between gasps to say a good many pleasant and instructive words. All the time he was piling up the newspaper bags till they threatened to burst the roof.

Pretty soon the last wagon had unloaded, and the natty conductor, who was watching it, chirped his whistle. The sizzling engine was already up at a white heat. It was No. 156, with George Watkins, president of the Cheltenham Beach Fat Man's Club, in charge of the air-brake. No. 156 is one of the fleetest engines that Mr. Potter ever had built, and Watkins says he takes nobody's dust except it be that of a gravel train that he may happen to run into.

"All right, George," said the conductor, and George opened the sizzling machine. There were only two cars. One, the first, Mr. Stone called a "working" car—the other was full of mental provender for the people west of the Mississippi. That carried the through fast mail-matter from New York and intermediate points for all the region west of the river. "We only keep a couple of men in there now. We have six in here," said Mr. Stone, and it was apparent that the six had their hands full. They were handling the Chicago morning papers for all stations and connecting stations between Chicago and Burlington; and what piles there were! Meantime Mr. Watkins on the engine was sliding the train out to the prairie. As soon as he had rounded the curve of Sixteenth street No. 156 began to climb. Ordinary trains hobble out as far as Lawndale before their bells

give surcease of sorrow, but the fast mail begins to spark the rails before it gets to Halsted street. At Ashland avenue the big engine is fairly under way, and Mr. Watkins opens wide everything. How that engine with its two white cars streak the dawn! It is a clean, straight double track to Aurora, thirty-eight and one-half miles. Lawndale is passed like a flash. One has hardly time to exchange a word with Stone or watch him for a moment as he dumps the papers into their bags with quick eye and methodical stroke until the reservoir at Riverside whizzes by like a Dakota chimney-pot before a cyclone. Stone glances out of the window. "She's a 'climbin'' a little, ain't she? Guess Watkins is showin' off."

Just then the conductor came in with a big silk handkerchief around his neck, and remarked that "George was steamin' pretty well." The train passed Downer's Grove at a mile a minute. Freight cars on the side track looked like the teeth of a woman's back comb, and the red lights on the switches went by with a "swish" like mortar shells. A wild screech, a roar, a bell with the sound away in the rear, showed that Naperville was passed. The engine and two cars went over the switch-frogs with a hiss that made one's blood curdle. Once the stranger opened the door of the postal-car and put out his head. If he had not had his head well in hand the swirl would have taken hat, head, and all. It was raining a little, and the rain swept in like a spray from a yacht's mainsail. Culverts, fences, bridges all passed like a shot from a cannon. The hiss of No. 156, the red glare of the furnace, which the fireman was feeding without intermission, the great and imposing form of Mr. Watkins, as he sat in the spectral light, the sway of the machine—the awful consciousness that a misplaced switch, a displaced frog, or a broken rail might, in a second, send all living people there into Heaven and the cars into tooth-picks, was not inspiring.

The visitor turned away from it and watched Mr. Stone in his great elbow act of throwing papers into 516 bags by instinct. There was not a mark on any of the bags that could be seen, but the way Stone and his assistants could scatter *Tribunes* with unerring aim was a mystery.

A wild and weird and tremendous shriek of No. 156 revealed the fact that the fast mail was coming into Aurora. The engine and two cars shot into the town, and as they passed crossings and switches it looked as if the fire flew from every frog. "We change engines here," said the conductor. Lanterns flashed. Loud voices hurriedly gave orders; No. 156 wheeled away from its air-brake couplings and shunted off to a side-track; No. 146, Capt. Joe Cooper in charge, all sizzling, and boiling, and fretting, backed up. Orders came from the telegraph office and the conductor gave a copy to Cooper and said, "Open her, Joseph." "Joe's engine," said the conductor, "is a light one, built for speed. Her drivers are spider-webs and she makes steam faster than a copper kettle." Just as the gray dawn poked its nose through the drizzling rain, and as he slipped out over the last switch west of Aurora, Mr. Cooper pulled the lever out and No. 146 began to dance. Once more the stranger ventured his nose out of the postal-car door, but quickly withdrew it, for the rain-drops struck it like hailstones. The glare of the engine (Mr. Cooper's fireman was working for dear life) shed a red lustre over such tree-tops as could be distinguished from the fleeting panorama. The fast-mail postal-car sits the track like a Pullman. It is heavy, is swung on twelve paper wheels, and when loaded as it usually is with tons of mail-matter, hugs the rails without a jar or a jolt. Passing Plano at a mile a minute, Mr. Stone was asked what he thought the rate of speed was, but the postal man simply uttered: "Speed be d—d. What I want is to get these morning papers fixed for Mendota," and with that the packages began to fill the air. Mendota was reached at 4:48 o'clock A. M., one hour and forty-eight minutes from Chicago, eighty-four miles away. "Pretty good time, eh?" said the conductor as he looked at his watch. "It took us ten minutes to get out of Chicago.

We had to stop at the Rock Island crossing, and we changed engines at Aurora. Here we are, one hour and three-quarters from Chicago, eighty-four miles."

It was broad daylight by this time and Mr. Stone and his six assistants put out their lights. By this time the paper mail had been shot into pouches, and Stone, wiping his face, remarked that if his guest wanted to know anything that was the time to ask it.

"I've always had a curiosity to see this grab-hook of yours work," said the visitor. "When do you put out the grab?"

"The grab-hook exists now mostly on the railroad advertisements. Whenever you see a lot of white mail-cars going by like the wind, a woman and a dog, and a grab-hook catching a mail-bag, you bet your life it is a chromo for a cigar box or a passenger agent's advertisement. This train takes nothing from grab-hooks, and leaves nothing, except as we throw it off. There is one exception. We do take a bag from the crane after we leave Galesburg—that's at Monmouth. Sometimes it catches, and sometimes it don't. If you are ever sending your likeness to your girl, don't ever—if you can help it—put it in a bag that has to be caught up by the grab. At the speed we run we cut even penknives in two." Taking this and that, and allowing for the enthusiasm of Mr. Stone, his words yet seem to have weight. The crane holds the bag out. Another catcher projects from the car. No weight of thirty or forty pounds can be so suddenly disrupted from its fastenings without a violent disturbance of its contents. "Why, sometimes out there at Monmouth, we nearly cut the bag in two," said Mr. Stone. "Bank drafts, checks, love letters, and dozens of other things are often so torn, and bruised, and maimed by the shock that the proper postal delivery is impossible. No, we have one catch-hook on this run, and I'll tell you quietly that the engineer slows down before we come to it. As to the work on the car, it may be said that for two or three hours it is a lively hustle. It is mostly newspaper mail we handle as far as Mendota. The letter mail by the fast mail, or rather that to which the fast mail is any benefit, is through pouches for points west of Burlington. Letter mail for points east of Galesburg and connections can be handled either by regular mail out of Chicago or by 'throw-off' packages from our train to be carried by the first east-bound train that comes along. We drop two of our men down here at Galesburg and they go back on No. 2 (the regular passenger), and will get to Chicago at 2 o'clock. But they come out again to-morrow morning."

"Pretty hard work, is it not?"

"Rather. I only run to Burlington, and there I transfer to a man who makes the run to Council Bluffs."

The postal-car by this time had got so that one could walk around in it. The newspapers for all points east of Galesburg had been thrown off, and the Iowa mail was being looked after. By this time everybody was getting hungry, and when Mr. Joe Cooper hauled in at Galesburg at 7:05 o'clock all hands were glad. Four hours and five minutes for 163 miles' run. "We get to Burlington at 8:28," said Mr. Stone, "and they have it so fixed locally that even in Burlington they have Chicago papers on the breakfast table—that is, if people don't breakfast too early. And Burlington is 207 miles from Chicago!"

At Galesburg Mr. Cooper turned over the two white cars to another engine, and prepared to haul "No. 2" back to Aurora. "Rather lively on your pins this morning, Mr. Cooper," was suggested to the engineer. Mr. Cooper said: "I'll take you back a little slower to-day, if that will suit you"—and he did.

GEN. LIEN, superintendent of second-class mail-matter, has stopped the matter of the *Western World* on account of alleged violations of the postal laws. He says that he is holding 12,000 copies of the paper, and that the stoppage will be permanent unless satisfactory evidence is furnished. Postmaster Judd of the genuineness of the subscription list.—*Chicago Tribune*.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTORS.

Work of the Secret Service Arm of the Department.

People often see in the newspapers how this humbug and that fraud are upturned in the post-offices, but few realize the power of the secret force that brings it all about. The post-office corps of inspectors are much more powerful than any force of detectives, and a good deal more respectable in some ways. The post-office inspector is a detective in one sense, but he is not a man that a detective in any other sense had better approach. The corps of post-office inspectors outrank any postmaster in the land—any route agent, any railway mail-carrier—he ranks everybody but his immediate chief and officials at Washington. His power for purposes of investigation is absolute. He can walk into any post office he chooses, demand the keys, and insist upon an accounting on the instant. He is provided with keys to the mail-bags, postal-cars, postal-stages, and stations, and he has no one to report to but his chief. He boards a train, and, in spite of the Interstate law, the conductor has to honor his star. If he refuses the inspector is instructed to pay his fare. The heads of the Post-office Department got mad some time ago when the new law went into effect. The railroads have been trying to make the law as odious as possible, and therefore sought to deny even the right of the postal officials to travel. Postmaster-General Vilas got an opinion from the Attorney General, and on the strength of that issued an order that whenever transportation was refused fare should be paid, the proper voucher forwarded to Washington, and the man who might have paid the money would be allowed to charge it up to the government. The latter would make the railroad company refund it, or no money or mail contracts. The government has a right to send at any time its own agents with the mails, or in postal cars, without extra cost, and that right it insists upon.

The largest postal inspection department in the country is that of Chicago. It is not only the largest but the most important. It comprises seven States and one Territory, and has thirteen inspectors. Col. George B. Kidder has charge of it, and, next to Mr. W. A. West, Chief Inspector in Washington, he is the most important man in that branch of the service. The Chicago division of inspection has over 10,000 post-offices under supervision and a great many thousand miles of railway. The Chicago division has always been efficient. Under Stuart, who was inspector in charge when Hatton was Postmaster-General, the Fleming-Merriam fraud was broken up; under Metcalf the Bolton business was brought to a head; and Mr. Kidder got at that Minneapolis stamp robbery in great shape. Kidder has also completely knocked out the Gardner publication humbug.

Post-office inspectors are directly under the orders of the Postmaster-General. They are paid \$1,600 a year and \$4 a day when on duty, and they give bonds for faithful performance of their duty. They are just as likely to be sent to Alaska to hunt up something as they are to be ordered down to Pullman to see what George M. may be doing with the post-office down there. If a mail robbery takes place in Dakota some poor devil upon whose person Kidder's eye happens to fall has got to jump quick. The life of the inspector may not be a happy one, but it has its joys and responsibilities.

The chief duties of the inspector are to see that the postmasters in his circuit do their duty; to see that they make their reports promptly; that they have no complaints from their patrons that can not be readily explained; that there are no missing mail packages; that frauds and humbugs, such as constantly impose on the newspapers with their advertisements, shall not swindle the public through the mails; and finally it is the duty of every inspector, whenever he finds the mails being used for evil or fraudulent purposes, to go for the perpetrators like a ferret after a gopher, if he have to travel 500 miles after him.

Probably the best work ever done by post-office

inspectors in Chicago was that performed by Col. Stuart and Dan Ray, when the two broke up the swindle of Fleming, Merriam & Co. That was a good piece of work, for not only was the fraud broken up but the guilty men sent to jail for a year and fined. Fleming & Merriam have had many imitators, and the inspectors are after these chaps all the time. T. S. Gardner seemed so like one of that kidney that Col. Kidder concluded to suppress him so far as his authority over the post-office would allow, and since then complaints from Gardner's victims have come in by the bushel. "Fakers" are under constant surveillance by the post-office inspectors. They never will know it absolutely until they find their mail stopped; then it is too late, for by that time the inspector knows what they are doing. So, too, with the victim in the country. If he have any doubts about the propriety of his proposed response to the alluring bait held out, let him first address his post-office inspector. Do not write the newspapers. Write direct to the post-office inspectors. There are a number of them in the country. For instance, in cases occurring in Ohio, write to the post-office inspector in charge at Cincinnati, O.; in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Northern and Central Illinois, and Dakota, to the post-office inspector in charge at Chicago, Ill.; in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Indian Territory, Kentucky, and Southern Illinois, to the post-office inspector in charge at St. Louis, Mo.; in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee, to the post-office inspector in charge at Chattanooga, Tenn.; in Texas, to the post-office inspector in charge at Austin, Tex.; in California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington Territory, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Arizona, to the post-office inspector in charge at San Francisco, Cal.; in Nebraska and Wyoming, to the post-office inspector in charge at Omaha, Neb.; and in Colorado and New Mexico, to the post-office inspector in charge at Denver, Col.

The inspector in charge at Chicago has the biggest bailiwick of all. He has seven States, one Territory, and thirteen inspectors under him. "The inspectors are on the road most all the time," said Col. Kidder the other day. "I try to get them in once a month to see their families if they have them here, but they are birds of passage. It is only peculiarly constituted people who are fitted for such a place. It requires intelligence in the first place, keen perception, ready tact, knowledge of human nature, quick adaptability, and the endurance of a mule; for a man has often to ride night and day over 'star' routes and other kinds of routes by stage, buckboard, and en caballo. I wouldn't live out West as an inspector for twice the salary."

One can understand how Col. Kidder might not be able to cut much of a figure on an Oregon cayuse, or a Southern California bronco, or even a New Mexican buckboard, or even yet a stage coach in the mountains, where the holes and ruts seem to be all on one side and the roots and stones on the other, but all recognize his ability to tackle a palace-car at all hours of the day or night.

They have to give bonds in \$5,000, have to pass a rigid examination, have to furnish testimonials by the score, and have to pass a medical examination. Even then they are appointed only on six months' probation. After that they can be promoted or not as the Postmaster-General chooses. There are now less inspectors in the Chicago division than ever before.

A POSTMASTER FOR THIRTY YEARS.

Alameda has the oldest postmaster, in respect of years of service, on the Pacific coast, if not in the United States. A. S. Barber received his commission from Franklin Pierce in 1854. He has held the office continuously ever since. He was last appointed by President Arthur, just before the present Administration went into office. When Mr. Barber was first appointed there was not a half dozen families on the peninsula, and the post-office was most generally in his hat. He is not only the first, but the only postmaster Alameda ever had.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

POSTAL TREATY WITH MEXICO.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—The postal convention between the United States and Mexico concluded here in Washington about two months ago has, it is understood, been approved by the Mexican Senate. By the time President Cleveland returns from the Adirondacks, which will be about the middle of this month, the respective governments will be ready to exchange ratifications of the convention. It will then be proclaimed by the President. Thirty days will elapse before it goes into operation, so that by the middle of next month, the 15th of July, this long-pending treaty—very important to the commercial interests of each nation—will be in practical force. In most essentials the treaty is based on the existing postal convention with Canada, which sends and receives our mail-matter on the same terms that govern the rates in the United States. The correspondence exchanged comprises letters, ordinary and registered, postal cards, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, books, maps, plans, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets, of music, etc., and patterns and samples of merchandise, including grains and seeds. Any article of correspondence may be registered. The weight of each package is limited to eight ounces and the postage charged is 10 cents per package, prepayment compulsory. They are subject to the regulations of either country to prevent violations of the revenue laws. At least one single rate of postage (2 cents) must be prepaid on ordinary letters. Newspapers sent from offices of publication in the United States to regular subscribers are subject to the same conditions and rates of postage as when sent to subscribers in the United States. It is expected that by this convention great advantages will accrue to the commercial intercourse of the two republics. It necessarily has long since been recognized and particularly since the completion of the Mexican Central Railway between El Paso and the Mexican capital. In the last few years the amount of mail-matter accumulating at El Paso, on the Rio Grande, has more than quintupled. Almost the same can be said as to other points on the Mexican boundary. The postal arrangements of Mexico have until recently been in a primitive condition, and mail communication with that country consequently far behind in the facilities offered for handling and transmission. Now every effort is to be made to bring that service up to the requirements of the times and in accordance with the large business demands which new regulations will develop.

CHANGE IN POST-OFFICE INSPECTORS.

An important announcement was made yesterday, one affecting the official positions of two gentlemen well known in Federal circles. J. T. Metcalf has been ordered to Washington, and his position of chief inspector of the postal service in this division has been assumed by G. B. Kidder, late chief assistant. Captain Metcalf left for the Capital yesterday afternoon, where he will act as member of a commission consisting of himself, W. P. Ryan, post-office inspector at Washington, and E. A. Alexander, superintendent of mails at Philadelphia. The object of the commission is to make "an analytical inquiry into the work of every kind required to be performed for the proper conduct of the public business at post-offices of the first and second classes, and the best means of measuring the services of officers and clerks," etc. Stripped of technical language, the duties of the commission are to classify the salaries of clerks and officers in the offices above designated. It will sit for three months in Washington, after which its future career will be determined. Captain Metcalf has been in the service six years, having been assigned to duty during that period in St. Louis, Washington, west of the Missouri River, and elsewhere before coming to Chicago. Colonel Kidder is a native of Wisconsin, and was appointed to the service about one year ago, and is considered a man of exceptional ability for the position. He entered upon the discharge of his duties yesterday afternoon, and will make no immediate change in the official routine or working force of the office.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

The Yale "STANDARD" New Style POST-OFFICE CABINETS —AND— OUTFITS.

Each Cabinet and Outfit a Working Post-Office, Complete in itself.

LOW PRICES AND FIRST-CLASS WORK.

SOLE MAKERS,

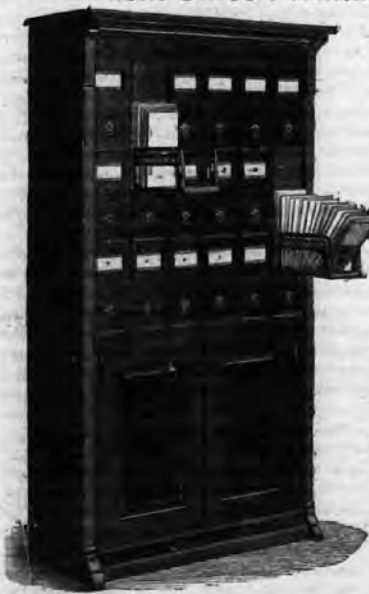
THE YALE & TOWNE MFG. CO.
STAMFORD, CONN.

CHICAGO, 25 WASHINGTON STREET.
BOSTON, 224 FRANKLIN STREET.
NEW YORK, 62 READE STREET.
PHILADELPHIA, 15 N. SIXTH ST.

THE NATIONAL FILES CABINET

FOR
LAWYERS, MERCHANTS, BANKERS, CLERKS, AND ALL STATE, COUNTY
AND FEDERAL OFFICES.

The Cheapest, Handsomest and Most Convenient Office Furniture ever Made.



Any paper can be found, examined and replaced in a moment.

The action in opening and in fastening is Automatic and Instantaneous.

Will contain double the amount of papers in the same space of any other device for filing papers.

Closes and opens without material weight or pressure, insures protection against dirt and vermin, and keeps papers smooth and clean.

The most elegant piece of furniture ever devised for filing papers.

Used in all the Departments in Washington.

Illustrated Price Catalogue and special designs and estimates Furnished free.

GORE, JANNEY & CO.

No. 929 F Street Northwest,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE HEXAGON PATENT Metal Box Post-Office Cabinets.

TWENTY (20) STYLES ALWAYS ON HAND



Special Cases Made to Order.

THE HEXAGON, THE ONLY PERFECT BOX BECAUSE:
THE HEXAGON ENABLES POSTMASTERS TO HANDLE MAIL EASILY.

THE HEXAGON BOX HOLDS MORE MAIL MATTER.
THE HEXAGON DISPLAYS THE MAIL TO VIEW.

THE HEXAGON OCCUPIES LESS SPACE.

THE HEXAGON BEING BUILT IN SECTIONS IS QUICKLY MOVED.

THE HEXAGON IS ALWAYS SOLID—NO WEAR OR TEAR.
THE HEXAGON IS 100 PER CENT. STRONGER THAN A WOODEN BOX.

THE HEXAGON INCREASES THE BOX RENT.
THE HEXAGON IS ENTIRELY FREE FROM DIRT.

The HEXAGON IS RECOMMENDED BY ALL WHO USE THEM.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE:

HEXAGON POSTAL BOX MANFG. CO., Norwalk, O.
Or, THOMAS KANE & COMPANY, Chicago, Ill.

Mention this paper.

The United States Mail

\$50,000.00 CAPITAL.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is now incorporated under the laws of Illinois, with a capital stock of \$50,000.

There are 5,000 shares at \$10.00 per share, only one of which is sold in any one County.

For the present each share of stock is sold for \$5.00.

Each shareholder is the Agent and representative in the County for which stock is sold.

He controls the subscriptions, etc., for that County, and gets his money back in liberal commissions, besides the dividends of the business of the corporation.

A pamphlet of 16 pages, detailing the plan of incorporation will be sent to all applicants in Counties not sold.

It is a magnificent opportunity to make from \$25.00 to \$40.00 a year out of \$5.00 invested.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTORS.

Work of the Secret Service Arm of the Department.

People often see in the newspapers how this humbug and that fraud are upturned in the post-offices, but few realize the power of the secret force that brings it all about. The post-office corps of inspectors are much more powerful than any force of detectives, and a good deal more respectable in some ways. The post-office inspector is a detective in one sense, but he is not a man that a detective in any other sense had better approach. The corps of post-office inspectors outrank any postmaster in the land—any route agent, any railway mail-carrier—he ranks everybody but his immediate chief and officials at Washington. His power for purposes of investigation is absolute. He can walk into any post office he chooses, demand the keys, and insist upon an accounting on the instant. He is provided with keys to the mailbags, postal-cars, postal-stages, and stations, and he has no one to report to but his chief. He boards a train, and, in spite of the Interstate law, the conductor has to honor his star. If he refuses the inspector is instructed to pay his fare. The heads of the Post-office Department got mad some time ago when the new law went into effect. The railroads have been trying to make the law as odious as possible, and therefore sought to deny even the right of the postal officials to travel. Postmaster-General Vilas got an opinion from the Attorney General, and on the strength of that issued an order that whenever transportation was refused fare should be paid, the proper voucher forwarded to Washington, and the man who might have paid the money would be allowed to charge it up to the government. The latter would make the railroad company refund it, or no money or mail contracts. The government has a right to send at any time its own agents with the mails, or in postal cars, without extra cost, and that right it insists upon.

The largest postal inspection department in the country is that of Chicago. It is not only the largest but the most important. It comprises seven States and one Territory, and has thirteen inspectors. Col. George B. Kidder has charge of it, and, next to Mr. W. A. West, Chief Inspector in Washington, he is the most important man in that branch of the service. The Chicago division of inspection has over 10,000 post-offices under supervision and a great many thousand miles of railway. The Chicago division has always been efficient. Under Stuart, who was inspector in charge when Hutton was Postmaster-General, the Fleming-Merriam fraud was broken up; under Metcalf the Bolton business was brought to a head; and Mr. Kidder got at that Minneapolis stamp robbery in great shape. Kidder has also completely knocked out the Gardner publication humbug.

Post-office inspectors are directly under the orders of the Postmaster-General. They are paid \$1,000 a year and \$1 a day when on duty, and they give bonds for faithful performance of their duty. They are just as likely to be sent to Alaska to hunt up something as they are to be ordered down to Pullman to see what George M. may be doing with the post-office down there. If a mail robbery takes place in Dakota some poor devil upon whose person Kidder's eye happens to fall has got to jump quick. The life of the inspector may not be a happy one, but it has its joys and responsibilities.

The chief duties of the inspector are to see that the postmasters in his circuit do their duty; to see that they make their reports promptly; that they have no complaints from their patrons that can not be readily explained; that there are no missing mail packages; that frauds and humbugs, such as constantly impose on the newspapers with their advertisements, shall not swindle the public through the mails; and finally it is the duty of every inspector, whenever he finds the mails being used for evil or fraudulent purposes, to go for the perpetrators like a ferret after a gopher, if he have to travel 500 miles after him.

Probably the best work ever done by post-office

inspectors in Chicago was that performed by Col. Stuart and Dan Ray, when the two broke up the swindle of Fleming, Merriam & Co. That was a good piece of work, for not only was the fraud broken up but the guilty men sent to jail for a year and fined. Fleming & Merriam have had many imitators, and the inspectors are after these chaps all the time. T. S. Gardner seemed so like one of that kidney that Col. Kidder concluded to suppress him so far as his authority over the post-office would allow, and since then complaints from Gardner's victims have come in by the bushel. "Fakers" are under constant surveillance by the post-office inspectors. They never will know it absolutely until they find their mail stopped; then it is too late, for by that time the inspector knows what they are doing. So, too, with the victim in the country. If he have any doubts about the propriety of his proposed response to the alluring bait held out, let him first address his post-office inspector. Do not write the newspapers. Write direct to the post-office inspectors. There are a number of them in the country. For instance, in cases occurring in Ohio, write to the post-office inspector in charge at Cincinnati, O.; in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Northern and Central Illinois, and Dakota, to the post-office inspector in charge at Chicago, Ill.; in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Indian Territory, Kentucky, and Southern Illinois, to the post-office inspector in charge at St. Louis, Mo.; in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee, to the post-office inspector in charge at Chattanooga, Tenn.; in Texas, to the post-office inspector in charge at Austin, Tex.; in California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington Territory, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Arizona, to the post-office inspector in charge at San Francisco, Cal.; in Nebraska and Wyoming, to the post-office inspector in charge at Omaha, Neb.; and in Colorado and New Mexico, to the post-office inspector in charge at Denver, Col.

The inspector in charge at Chicago has the biggest bailiwick of all. He has seven States, one Territory, and thirteen inspectors under him. "The inspectors are on the road most all the time," said Col. Kidder the other day. "I try to get them in once a month to see their families if they have them here, but they are birds of passage. It is only peculiarly constituted people who are fitted for such a place. It requires intelligence in the first place, keen perception, ready tact, knowledge of human nature, quick adaptability, and the endurance of a mule; for a man has often to ride night and day over 'star' routes and other kinds of routes by stage, buckboard, and on caballo. I wouldn't live out West as an inspector for twice the salary."

One can understand how Col. Kidder might not be able to cut much of a figure on an Oregon cayuse, or a Southern California bronco, or even a New Mexican buckboard, or even yet a stage coach in the mountains, where the holes and ruts seem to be all on one side and the roots and stones on the other, but all recognize his ability to tackle a palace-car at all hours of the day or night.

They have to give bonds in \$5,000, have to pass a rigid examination, have to furnish testimonials by the score, and have to pass a medical examination. Even then they are appointed only on six months' probation. After that they can be promoted or not as the Postmaster-General chooses. There are now less inspectors in the Chicago division than ever before.

A POSTMASTER FOR THIRTY YEARS.

Alameda has the oldest postmaster, in respect of years of service, on the Pacific coast, if not in the United States. A. S. Barber received his commission from Franklin Pierce in 1854. He has held the office continuously ever since. He was last appointed by President Arthur, just before the present Administration went into office. When Mr. Barber was first appointed there was not a half dozen families on the peninsula, and the post-office was most generally in his hat. He is not only the first, but the only postmaster Alameda ever had.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

POSTAL TREATY WITH MEXICO.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—The postal convention between the United States and Mexico concluded here in Washington about two months ago has, it is understood, been approved by the Mexican Senate. By the time President Cleveland returns from the Adirondacks, which will be about the middle of this month, the respective governments will be ready to exchange ratifications of the convention. It will then be proclaimed by the President. Thirty days will elapse before it goes into operation, so that by the middle of next month, the 15th of July, this long-pending treaty—very important to the commercial interests of each nation—will be in practical force. In most essentials the treaty is based on the existing postal convention with Canada, which sends and receives our mail-matter on the same terms that govern the rates in the United States. The correspondence exchanged comprises letters, ordinary and registered, postal cards, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, books, maps, plans, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets, of music, etc., and patterns and samples of merchandise, including grains and seeds. Any article of correspondence may be registered. The weight of each package is limited to eight ounces and the postage charged is 10 cents per package, prepayment compulsory. They are subject to the regulations of either country to prevent violations of the revenue laws. At least one single rate of postage (2 cents) must be prepaid on ordinary letters. Newspapers sent from offices of publication in the United States to regular subscribers are subject to the same conditions and rates of postage as when sent to subscribers in the United States. It is expected that by this convention great advantages will accrue to the commercial intercourse of the two republics. It necessarily has long since been recognized and particularly since the completion of the Mexican Central Railway between El Paso and the Mexican capital. In the last few years the amount of mail-matter accumulating at El Paso, on the Rio Grande, has more than quintupled. Almost the same can be said as to other points on the Mexican boundary. The postal arrangements of Mexico have until recently been in a primitive condition, and mail communication with that country consequently far behind in the facilities offered for handling and transmission. Now every effort is to be made to bring that service up to the requirements of the times and in accordance with the large business demands which new regulations will develop.

CHANGE IN POST-OFFICE INSPECTORS.

An important announcement was made yesterday, one affecting the official positions of two gentlemen well known in Federal circles. J. T. Metcalf has been ordered to Washington, and his position of chief inspector of the postal service in this division has been assumed by G. B. Kidder, late chief assistant. Captain Metcalf left for the Capital yesterday afternoon, where he will act as member of a commission consisting of himself, W. P. Ryan, post-office inspector at Washington, and E. A. Alexander, superintendent of mails at Philadelphia. The object of the commission is to make "an analytical inquiry into the work of every kind required to be performed for the proper conduct of the public business at post-offices of the first and second classes, and the best means of measuring the services of officers and clerks," etc. Stripped of technical language, the duties of the commission are to classify the salaries of clerks and officers in the offices above designated. It will sit for three months in Washington, after which its future career will be determined. Captain Metcalf has been in the service six years, having been assigned to duty during that period in St. Louis, Washington, west of the Missouri River, and elsewhere before coming to Chicago. Colonel Kidder is a native of Wisconsin, and was appointed to the service about one year ago, and is considered a man of exceptional ability for the position. He entered upon the discharge of his duties yesterday afternoon, and will make no immediate change in the official routine or working force of the office.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

The Yale "STANDARD" New Style POST-OFFICE CABINETS —AND— OUTFITS.

Each Cabinet and Outfit a Working Post-Office, Complete in itself.

LOW PRICES AND FIRST-CLASS WORK.

SOLE MAKERS.

THE YALE & TOWNE MFG. CO.
STAMFORD, CONN.

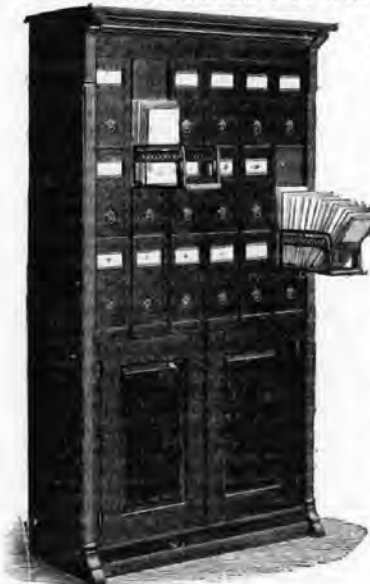
CHICAGO, 25 WASHINGTON STREET.
BOSTON, 224 FRANKLIN STREET
NEW YORK, 62 READE STREET.
PHILADELPHIA, 15 N. SIXTH ST.

THE NATIONAL FILES CABINET

FOR

LAWYERS, MERCHANTS, BANKERS, CLERKS, AND ALL STATE, COUNTY
AND FEDERAL OFFICES.

The Cheapest, Handsomest and Most Convenient Office Furniture ever Made.



Any paper can be found, examined and replaced in a moment.

The action in opening and in fastening is Automatic and Instantaneous.

Will contain double the amount of papers in the same space of any other device for filing papers.

Closes and opens without material weight or pressure, insures protection against dirt and vermin, and keeps papers smooth and clean.

The most elegant piece of furniture ever devised for filing papers.

Used in all the Departments in Washington.

Illustrated Price Catalogue and special designs and estimates Furnished free.

GORE, JANNEY & CO.

No. 929 F Street Northwest,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE HEXAGON PATENT Metal Box Post-Office Cabinets. TWENTY (20) STYLES ALWAYS ON HAND



Special Cases Made to Order.

THE HEXAGON, THE ONLY PERFECT BOX BECAUSE:
THE HEXAGON ENABLES POSTMASTERS TO HANDLE MAIL EASILY.

THE HEXAGON BOX HOLDS MORE MAIL MATTER.

THE HEXAGON DISPLAYS THE MAIL TO VIEW.

THE HEXAGON OCCUPIES LESS SPACE.

THE HEXAGON BEING BUILT IN SECTIONS IS QUICKLY MOVED.

THE HEXAGON IS ALWAYS SOLID—NO WEAR OR TEAR.

THE HEXAGON IS 100 PER CENT. STRONGER THAN A WOODEN BOX.

THE HEXAGON INCREASES THE BOX RENT.

THE HEXAGON IS ENTIRELY FREE FROM DIRT.

The HEXAGON IS RECOMMENDED BY ALL WHO USE THEM.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE:

HEXAGON POSTAL BOX MANFG. CO., Norwalk, O.
Or, THOMAS KANE & COMPANY, Chicago, Ill.

Mention this paper.

The United States Mail

\$50,000.00 CAPITAL.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is now incorporated under the laws of Illinois, with a capital stock of \$50,000.

There are 5,000 shares at \$10.00 per share, only one of which is sold in any one County.

For the present each share of stock is sold for \$5.00.

Each shareholder is the Agent and representative in the County for which stock is sold.

He controls the subscriptions, etc., for that County, and gets his money back in liberal commissions, besides the dividends of the business of the corporation.

A pamphlet of 16 pages, detailing the plan of incorporation will be sent to all applicants in Counties not sold.

It is a magnificent opportunity to make from \$25.00 to \$40.00 a year out of \$5.00 invested.

CASH IN ADVANCE WILL TELL.

ROCK BOTTOM PRICES.

No. 1 Outfit includes any Dater and Canceled combined, or separate: Ink and Pads and 15 one line Stamps shown on this page, for \$2.00. No. 2 Outfit, any Dater and Canceled, Ink and Pads, for \$1.50. No. 3 Outfit, 15 line Stamps, for \$1.00.

TERMS—Cash or Postage Stamps with Order. These goods will not be sent on approval at these prices. Parties wanting goods on approval read proposition below.



These are the 15 stamps given in my \$2.00 Outfit. (See above).

**A. J. AUSTIN, P. M.
A. S. REED, Asst. P. M.
POPLAR BLUFF, Mo.
REGISTERED NO.
ADVERTISED.
Held for Postage.
UNCLAIMED.
CORRECT.
DUE 2 CTS.
DUE 4 CTS.
MISSENT.
FORWARDED.
Third Class Matter.
POSTAGE DUE.
Returned to Writer.**

If less than 15 of these stamps are wanted, the first 3 on the list will be 15 cents each, cash with order, or 25 cents each if sent on approval, the remainder 5 cents each, as we have them in stock.



Mr. F. S. MILLER, Dear Sir: The Dater and Stamps you manufactured for this office are received and tested, for which I enclose \$2.25, balance due for same. You will please accept my thanks for your promptness, and allow me to say they are decidedly the best thing for the price I have seen. Every letter and figure is clear and distinct, saving much labor. Twice the price could not induce me to be without them.

HENRY C. GILLIAND, P. M., Cartersville, Texas.

E. S. MILLER, Dear Sir: I like the Dater very much. WARREN P. HUNT, P. M., Lewiston, Idaho.

GENERAL ACCOUNT BOOK. FOURTH-CLASS ONLY.

Is issued expressly for keeping account of all Expenses, such as Stamped Envelopes, Postal Cards, Newspaper Wrappers, Postage Stamps, Periodical Stamps, Postage Due Stamps, Salary, etc. 100 pages. Half-leather binding, \$2.00; Manilla cover, \$1.50. Postage paid on receipt of price.

Sending goods on approval makes us much work in the way of book-keeping, and loses us many dollars through unprincipled parties, still we are willing to do so at the following prices:

No. 1 Outfit will be sent on approval for \$3.00; No. 2 Outfit for \$2.00, and in ordering either, send 75 cents for postage and packing, and the balance on arrival of goods.

These stamps never need cleaning and will always give a perfect impression, if my ink is used.

As to my responsibility, I refer you to Bradstreet's or Dun's Commercial reports. Look the matter up before ordering of irresponsible parties.

Send 7 cents in stamps for our Catalogue of Stamps, and Alphabets, Pen Stamps, Name and Business Stamps, and samples of Comic Envelopes, Bill Heads, Post-Office Note and Letter Heads, Statements, etc. Address,

E. S. MILLER'S Stamp, Stencil and Printing House, NEWARK, OHIO.

Please mention United States Mail.

THE VICTOR POSTAL SERVICE SAFE.

Patented December 29, 1885.

Expressly made and fitted up for Postmasters. Strictly fire-proof, with patented burglar-proof combination lock.

32x22x22. Weight 800 lbs.

Inside iron door, duplicate key lock, sub-treasuries, pigeon holes and book spaces.

Indorsed by more than 3,000 Postmasters.

FISHERS, N. Y., March 14, 1887.
My safe received on the 6th, and gives good satisfaction. Please send me one No. 1, several farmers want them.

JOSEPH GIFFORD, Postmaster.
FREEPORT, N. Y., March 17, 1887.
I received safe "O. K." to-day, am well pleased.

E. B. BEDELL, Postmaster.
LAWRENCE, KAN., March 26, 1887.
Safe arrived to-day. It is perfect in all respects, and is fully up to my expectations.

F. L. WOODRUFF, Postmaster.
HARRIS MILLS, Ill., March 28, 1887.
My safe came to hand Saturday, and I think it is a "daisy."

J. H. SCHROEDER, Postmaster.
Special price to Postmasters. 60 per cent. under any prices ever offered before.

If you can take a local agency for us you can make a fortune selling our FARMER'S SAFE at \$24. Send for catalogue, prices, etc.

**THE VICTOR SAFE AND LOCK CO.
CINCINNATI, OHIO.**



WILLARD'S HOTEL.



WASHINGTON, D. C.

This well-known and favorably-located Hotel at the Great Winter Resort of the Country, is First-Class in all its appointments. A description of the Hotel with a brief guide to the city will be sent on application. Board by the month according to location of rooms. Headquarters for the convention.

O. G. STAPLES, Proprietor,
(Late of the Thousand Island House.)

WASHINGTON CITY ILLUSTRATED.

A DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH AND GUIDE BOOK TO ALL POINTS OF INTEREST.

Beautifully Printed and Elegantly Illustrated; something every person will need who proposes to visit Washington. It will be sent FREE to all subscribers of the UNITED STATES MAIL who will send a two cent stamp. Address,

O. G. STAPLES,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mention U. S. MAIL.

THE EBBITT:

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ARMY AND NAVY HEADQUARTERS.
Four Iron Fire Escapes.

TERMS—\$3.00 and \$4.00 Per Day.

All Postmasters Should enjoy the comfort of using the Postal Knife advertised by us on page 9 of the *Postal Guide* for May, '87. You will be surprised that so small an investment could possibly give such abundant satisfaction. We have a good thing and we want you to know it by trial. Investigate this at once and you will have occasion to thank
OAKES & PAIGE, Southbridge, Mass.,
Mfrs. of Postal Knife.



Parker's Spavin Cure

IS UNEQUALED

As an application to horses for the cure of Spavin, Rheumatism, Splint, Navicular Joint, and all severe lameness. An excellent thing for track use when reduced.

The attention of Druggists and all Dealers is especially called to this article, as we are confident that its merits when known will be sufficient advertisement to secure a ready sale. Price \$1.00 per bottle. The usual trade discount.

Your orders are solicited.

PREPARED BY
E. W. BAKER, Sole Prop.
ANTHIM, N. H.

Boston, May 12, 1887.

Mr. E. W. Baker, Dear Sir:—I consider Parker's Spavin Cure one of the best stable liniments in use, and should recommend it to all. I have found nothing better.
Yours, J. C. WARNER.

