

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS

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DEATH CLAIMS LITTLE SON

Friends of Jay Bowerman through-

out the state will today mingle their sorrow with his over the accidental death of his little son, Thomas Benton, who yesterday was killed by an elevator in one of the office buildings of Portland.

To lose a boy at tender age must be the acme of human misery and any man who is a father can in a measure know what bitter grief Mr. and Mrs. Bowerman are experiencing. It is a blow that would shake the strongest, and may a kind Providence aid and assist these parents at this time.

RED FOR THE NAILS.

Frank Hitchcock, the Beau Brummel of Washington society, is not a gay blade, but the announcement has gone forth that he is going to paint this country red from one end to the other. Not a pale, sickly red, nor a ladylike wine color, nor yet a new-fangled cerise, but plain, bright red, like the red in the grand old stars and stripes.

Mr. Hitchcock will paint the country red by virtue of his position as postmaster general. Every mail box in the United States will be a brilliant red as will every postal wagon, postal street car and rural deliverer's buggy, and red will in the future be the prevailing tinge of the whole department. In order to carry out the color scheme Mr. Hitchcock will himself, undoubtedly, put on a red necktie.

The action of Mr. Hitchcock, taken on the eve of his departure from the postmaster generalship, is one which must be commended. For a great many years the postoffice department has been rather fickle as to its color schemes.—It has switched from green to red postage stamps and the mail boxes have, in years past, been painted almost every color in the rainbow. Rural delivery men who have been in the habit of painting their wagons any old color and not infrequently the rural eye has been offended with a fawn colored body and yellow running gear chasing up and down the country road. Uniformity in color has long been needed and it is hoped Mr. Hitchcock will stick to his guns. Of course, almost everybody will believe he could have improved upon the color, but the demand for a uniformity in hue will be unanimous.

MILLER HAD ODD CAREER

A SQUAW MAN BUT OUTGREW THE STIGMA.

London Society First Made Odd Poet Popular—Married Often.

MILLER REMAINS CREMATED
Oakland, Feb. 19.—Remains of the late Joaquin Miller were cremated today. At the home of the poet, on Oakland Heights, before the body was borne to the crematory, simple services were held.

Pacific coast states have never produced a more strange character than that of "Joaquin" Miller, the late poet, to be buried this week. Cincinnati's Heine Miller, better known by his pen-name "Joaquin" Miller, the "Poet of the Sierras," was one of the most picturesque characters in the literary world of the United States in his day. He was born from Scottish-American parents in the Wabash district of Indiana, November 10, 1842. He was scarcely 10 years old when his father emigrated to Oregon, then a wild and sparsely settled country. He received little education and lived a wild and adventurous life. Three years later Miller, then a boy of thirteen, left home to try his fortune in California. Very little of a reliable nature is known of young Miller's life during the seven years he roamed aimlessly

through the wilds of northern California and Southern Oregon. Gold-treated with contempt, like all the diggers, lumbermen and trappers, "squaw men" are and retailed by Indians and outlaws were his companions. The erratic nature of the young poet was unintelligible to the rough adventurers with whom he came in contact and they considered him cracked-brained. When he became a "squaw man", sharing the tent of a young Indian woman whose tribe he had joined he lost caste with the white men altogether. He was despised and treated with contempt, like all the "squaw men" are and retailed by Indians and outlaws were his companions. After his return to his home in Oregon he began to study law in the office of George H. Williams at Eugene, Ore., who afterward became attorney-general of the United States. The following year he became an express messenger in the gold-mining districts of Idaho, which position he resigned to become the editor of the "Democratic-Register", a weekly newspaper in Eugene, Ore., which was suppressed by the authorities shortly afterwards because of the scurrilous character of its editorials. It was while he was editor of the "Democratic-Register" that he became acquainted with "Minnie Myr-

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