

Post Office Curiosities.

There are a great many people in all parts of the country who seem to be firmly impressed with the idea that postmasters, and others connected with the post office, should at all times, and under all circumstances, hold themselves in readiness to act as general agents for the public. Indeed, there seems to be a wide spread impression, particularly in the remote interior districts, that a postmaster, in addition to all his other duties, should act as a sort of walking directory and universal giver of advice. Nor is he thanked for any efforts which he may make to meet the public requirement. On the contrary, in nine cases out of ten, if he attempts in good faith to answer some of the many questions put to him by unreasonable correspondents, he need not be surprised if he is roundly abused for his lack of detail and the brevity of his communication. In fact, it has grown to be a proverb in the New York post office that all mail men and women in the country have personal grievances against Postmaster James or some of his efficient and hard worked assistants. For instance, it is no uncommon occurrence for some harmless, but none the less tiresome, lunatic to take up his or her stand beside the desk of a busy superintendent and go into an elaborate and detailed history of a dark and of course imaginary, conspiracy entered into by letter carriers and clerks for the suppression or destruction of a correspondence involving immense sums of money and the happiness of many deserving people. From long experience the unfortunate officers who have to do with the class of visitors described have discovered that the only way to get rid of them is to take copious notes of the astonishing revelation contained in their narratives, express consternations at the wickedness of the clerks and carriers, and promise close investigation and then swift punishment of those engaged in the conspiracy. These assurances having been given, the class of visitors referred to usually go away satisfied that they are in a fair way of having justice done them. In due time, however, they nearly always return with such additions as alterations to their stories as further thought may have suggested.

Still another class of harmless madmen who give the post office employees great trouble, is made up of quite a numerous company of gentlemen who are filled with mysterious plans for the improvement of the postal service. It was only last week that one of these unfortunate—a very well dressed, well spoken, and respectable looking old man—gravely assured the postmaster that he had been "magnetized by the angels and had acquired the power of swift and invisible aerial flight." This power he proposed to utilize in the conveyance of the mails. He was informed with as much seriousness as possible that because of "a lack of appropriations"—most convenient and much employed excuse—that his valuable service could not be secured. He seemed to be very much surprised at this, and left the office declaring that he "would see the authorities in Washington about it."

Still another class of post office heroes who are, perhaps, not classed among the lunatics, are those who, upon receiving spiritual advice upon employees, and making minute inquiries regarding the religious belief of themselves and their families. One of these good people—a maiden lady of uncertain age, who drops down suddenly upon some overworked box clerk or other accessible official—has a very disagreeable habit of saying, in a very melancholy tone, "Well, I called to pay my respects. I see you're here yet; are you prepared to go?" It is some what remarkable that the lady never waits for an answer to this question, so distasteful to an office-holder. Having asked it, she departs at once, without explaining whether the "preparation" she seems so anxious about is for another world or merely for some sphere of earthly usefulness other than the postal service.

The humors of a delivery window at the post office are almost endless. Some days ago, for instance, a very pompous-looking person came to the foreign window, and asked:

"What steamer sails for Germany tomorrow?"

"Don't, Sir," replied the clerk in a hurry.

"You don't know?" exclaimed the other angrily, and walked off muttering about the idiocy of post office officers.

Not long ago, one of our German fellow citizens went to the same window with a very pale face, and the frightened exclamation:

"Vell, I have done it!"

"Done what?" asked the clerk.

"Vell, I have put me die letter for my sister, in Hamburg, in dot post office for Spain," replied the German.

He had, indeed, put a letter for Germany into a drop marked "Spain," and he would not be comforted until it was taken out and put into the German box.

The same clerk who relates this incident tells of a fastidious person who asked a post office employee to "rub his tongue over the gum" on a postage stamp.

"What for?" asked the astonished employee.

"Oh, because I am afraid I might contract some disease if I were to lick it myself," was the curt reply.

UNSATURABLE MATTER.

In spite of official warnings and notices almost without number, people still continue to send to the post office articles which cannot be handled or delivered. In the New York office within the past month the searcher department has found in the mail bags and held as unmailable matter the following:

Received Alive.—Rattlesnakes, black snakes, copperhead snakes, moccasins, snakes, cats, grasshoppers, bees, hornets, wasps, alligators, canary bird, potato bugs, horned frogs, tortoise, turtles.

Received Dead.—Mice, butterflies, humming birds, rats, insects, squirrels, quail, bugs, pheasant.

Cooked Articles.—Pump pudding, boiled quail, ham sandwiches, bread and butter, cake, crackers, bread pudding, jelly, cheese, sausages.

Miscellaneous.—Pistols, loaded

cartridges, torpedoes, medicines, glassware, clothing, soiled undergarments, baby clothes, hosiery, hair brushes, combs, carpenter tools, pieces of machinery, fence wire, gold and silver watches, jewelry, novelties and notions of all kinds, shrubs, roots, scions, herbs, fresh and dried, fruits and flowers, six cases of dynamite, which were thrown into the East river to prevent serious disaster.

But it is not only in posting matter which cannot be mailed that the public is careless to a degree almost beyond belief. Hardly a day passes that letters unsealed, unaddressed, and containing sums of money, checks, and other valuables are not dropped into the boxes. During the past six months 1,153 unsealed registered letters were received at the New York office. They contained in cash, \$6,849 21, and in checks, drafts, etc., \$203,615 56, making a total of \$212,464 77 posted in unsealed envelopes. Not long ago a well known city bank posted \$1,300,000 worth of United States bonds, which were unregistered and easily negotiable in an envelope so flimsy that it broke open before it left the stamper's table. Similar instances of carelessness could be repeated almost without number. Indeed, it is hardly to be wondered at that the office who related these circumstances felt called upon to exclaim in conclusion: "The post office has to deal with a great many curious people."—N. Y. Times.

A Strange Arctic Region.

When the ice closed up in the Vega, and left the stout ship ensnared in these northern solitudes, Professor Nordenskjöld wrote a letter to Dr. Oscar Dickson, the main contributor toward the fitting out of the expedition, describing the scenes along the coast. The letter, dispatched on the 20th of February, has at last reached its destination, and is now published in the London Standard. The letter calls attention, in the first place, to a group of islands which are very remarkable from a scientific point of view. These islands, the new Siberian, open the book of the history of the world at a new place. The ground there is strewn with wonderful fossils. Whole hills are covered with the bones of the mammoth, rhinoceros, horses, ur, bison, oxen, sheep, etc. The sea washes up ivory from the sea shores. In this group is possibly to be found the solution of the question of the ancestry of the Indian elephant, and important facts with regard to the vertebrates which existed at the time of man's first appearance upon earth. How came horses and sheep in a region now locked in the fetters of an eternal winter, uninhabited by men, not supporting animal life in any form, and almost impossible of access? Professor Nordenskjöld was unable to solve the question himself, and he suggests that it is of the utmost importance to science to send a light draught steel steamer to those islands for a thorough examination.

At Cape Schlegelskoff the Vega passed the point where the Siberian merchant Schmalzoff ended his persistent and intrepid attempts to reach Behring Strait from the river Lena, by a lonely death, with his whole company of men in a hut on the snow clad shore. Upon rounding this cape Nordenskjöld met the first natives seen along that whole coast. They spoke a tongue utterly unknown. Not a comprehensible sentence could they utter in any European language. They lived in tents pitched on the sand banks separating the lagoons peculiar to this coast from the sea. A hardy, jovial, handsome race, far clad, keen at barter, ignorant of the value of money, and preferring a red flannel shirt, a few brass buttons and the piece of tin foil on a cake of soap to golden roubles and silver coins; they live an active and healthy life, untroubled by implements, and are without a trace of religion in their customs. Their tents are double, one within the other. The children are totally naked within the inner tent, and were often seen outside, running about on the frozen ground with the temperature down below 32 degrees.

The women wear nothing when within the tents except a girdle, and the men have shaven heads. A remarkable similarity was noticed between the implements, dresses and customs of these people and those of the Esquimaux and North American Indians. These people are the Tchuktchies. Though armed with stone and bone weapons, and, though wild and itinerant, the evidently have a history. They drove off the original inhabitants of the region 200 years ago, the Onkions, whose houses, places of sacrifice, circles of moss-grown bear skulls and weapons are still to be found almost everywhere on the coast. Lieut. Norqvist devoted himself to learning their language. These Indians are on the original highway between the cradle of the human race and the home of the aborigines of the northern part of North America, and it is not thought that the resemblance between them and the Greenlanders is accidental. The arrival of the Vega on the Tchuktchies coast was an event like the landing of Columbus in the New World. It was an unprecedented occurrence and made a sensation throughout the region.

East of the Lena, Prof. Nordenskjöld found on shore no scattered blocks of stone such as are distributed over a continent by glaciers and such as are found elsewhere in Siberia. This fact was held to point to the absence of land out to sea north of that coast, and it excited anticipations as to the possible discoveries which are to be made by the Jeanette. Not the least of the peculiarities of this strange region is the fact that the coast appears to be rising slowly out of the sea. The inhabitants have to shift their villages at times nearer to the edge of the water, which is gradually receding from them. Prof. Nordenskjöld's letter is full of facts like these, and the scientific world will wait with impatience the further publication of the results of his discoveries.

One of the saddest and most vexatious trials that comes to a girl when she marries, is that she has to discharge her mother and depend upon a servant.

Six of the most eminent physicians in London have signed a paper to the effect that the music of brass bands may cause nervous fevers.

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Decaying Races.

The native difficulty in New Zealand again calls the attention to the fast-dwindling Maori people, one of the most remarkable races of savages with which Europeans have been brought in contact. The race will vanish because there are not enough children born to supply the gaps caused by death. It is a curious fact that this tendency to die out, observable in so many savage races, does not depend upon their capacity for civilization, nor even upon their willingness to abandon the life of hunters and to cultivate the soil. Certain branches of the human race have a robust vitality, rendering them capable of withstanding any change in their condition of life, and causing them to send up fresh shoots like hardy plants, under the most disadvantageous conditions. Of such races are the African negroes, who cannot be exterminated, and who are increasing in all countries to which they have been brought as slaves or to threaten in some instances to swamp entirely the white and colored population. The Kaffirs, also, when brought under British rule in such a colony as Natal, show a distinct tendency to increase. Other races lacking the robust vitality pine away and die.

The Caribs of the West Indies, once numbering many millions have vanished, leaving only a faint trace here and there of petty communities formed by escaped negro slaves who married Carib women. The allied races in Central and South America have also dwindled at a rate which cannot be accounted for by any amount of war and massacre. The sentence of death which seems to lie on whole branches of the human race appears to issue from the action of some unknown physical law, and not be averitable by any improvement in their condition. We have a striking illustration of this law under our actual observation. Leaving out of consideration our own aborigines, it is evident that the whole Polynesian race is liable to succumb under the same mysterious blight that destroyed the Caribs. As a people they are remarkably ready to accept the lessons of civilization, not merely with the parrot-like acquiescence of the American negro, but with intelligent appreciation of men who understand what they learn. The Maoris illustrate our meaning, but the Hawaiians give a more striking instance of it. The short history of this interesting little people since Capt. Cook discovered their group of islands discloses an adaptability never before displayed by any community; no such complete change from utter savagedom has ever been made in so short a space of time, and in no other instance has a race taken the initiative in self-improvement in so marked a manner. Yet the civilized Hawaiians are dying out as swiftly and surely as the more barbarous Maoris. That school of social philosophers which is so often and so greatly troubled by the probable future overcrowding of human beings on the face of the globe does not give sufficient attention to the rapid process of depopulation which in one quarter of the world equals the increase in another.

Yet we may be allowed an occasional short pause in the hymn of self-laudation which we are eternally chanting, in order to consider for a moment the fate of the millions of our fellow creatures who are withering and dying away before our boasted advance; more particularly in the process in Queensland accompanied by so very little trouble and expense.—Brisbane, England, Courier.

What a Woman Can Do

As a wife and mother, woman can make the fortune and happiness of her husband and children, and, if she did nothing else, surely this would be sufficient destiny. By her thrift, prudence and tact she can secure to her partner and to herself a competency in old age, no matter how small a beginning or how adverse a fate may be theirs. By her cheerfulness she can restore her husband's spirit shaken by the anxiety of business. By her tender care she can often restore him to health if disease has overtaken his powers. By her counsel and love she can win him from bad company if astray. By her example, her precepts, and her sex's insight into character she can mold her children, however adverse their dispositions, into noble men and women. And, by leading in all things a true and beautiful life, she can refine, elevate and spiritualize all who come within reach; so that, with others of her sex emulating and assisting her, she can do more to regenerate the world than all the statesmen or reformers that ever legislated. She can do much, alas! perhaps more to degrade man if she chooses to do it. Who can estimate the evils that woman has the power to do? As a wife she can run herself by extravagance, folly or want of affection. She can make a demon or an outcast of a man who might otherwise become a good member of society. She can bring bickering, strife and discord into what has been a happy home. She can change the innocent babes into vile men and even into vile women. She can lower the moral tone of society itself, and thus pollute legislation at the spring head. She can, in fine, become an instrument of evil instead of an angel of good. Instead of making flowers of truth, purity, beauty and spirituality spring up in her footstep, till the earth smiles with a loveliness that is almost celestial, she can transform it into a black and arid desert, covered with the scorn of all evil passions and swept by the bitter blast of everlasting death. This is what woman can do for the wrong as well as for the right. Is her mission a little one? Has she no worthy work as has become the cry of late? Man may have a harder task to perform, a rougher road to travel, but he has none loftier or more influential than woman's.—London Journal.

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A Home Industry.

An Excellent Description of the Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Company—One of Oregon's Great Industries.

The following description of the Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Company appeared in a late number of the Portland Daily Bee, and will be read with great interest:

The pioneers of Oregon who first struck their axes into the trees of this State to form their rude huts and benches, the maples, ash and cedars into benches, tables and other rustic household furniture, little dreamed that in so short a time as the year 1879 a grand fair would be held on the Willamette in which would be displayed some of the most elegant furniture that had ever adorned the palatial residences of the most favored sons of the East.

In the department of furniture in the north gallery of the Pavilion are three rooms devoted to the exhibit of the Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Samuel Lowenstein is President, and Mr. William Kapus is Secretary. Nearest the northeast stairway we have a room, in which is displayed a bedroom set of the old English style, made of black walnut, veneered with black walnut burl, and carved richly with moldings and carvings of tasteful design. An elegant bedstead, a gorgeous full sized dressing case with enormous heavy French plate mirror, large marble pier, beautiful side boxes containing three drawers, each and all richly ornamented with elegant draw pulls. A permanent washstand elegantly carved in walnut and full white marble top, having the patent combination faucets for hot and cold water. An elegant footstool with lead and silk inlaid work of beautiful design and elegant finish wrought by Miss Hattie Jagger, for whom the O. F. Co. has done the upholstering, and is shown as the exhibit of both.

The chairs and other furnishing of this elegant room correspond in richness and tasteful display with those already described. The bed is made up with white Marseilles covering, and a pair of lace work shams, the admiration of all the ladies made by Mrs. Breeden of this city.

Before leaving this room our attention is attracted by a splendid capacious bath tub in heavy black walnut casing and moldings with maple panels, and lined with prepared copper sheeting that shines like silver. The newly invented attachment for letting the hot water in is here applied. Both hot and cold water is made to bubble up from the bottom, and by the turn of another faucet from the top the waste water is let out apparently from the same plug as that by which it entered. The plumbing of this and the bath stand was done by Mr. John Barrett, and is a part of his excellent exhibit.

THE PARLOR.

Then we descend to the middle room, which is fitted up as a parlor, and is fit for the reception room of a queen. In the center appears a monster mantle mirror, French plate, with gilt frame, and many a handsome belle casting admiring glances at her pretty face and fine figure as she passes in review before this perfect reflector. Ever since the day our grandmother Eve beheld herself reflected in the mirror pools of the garden of Eden, her daughters have an irresistible impulse for looking in a mirror.

Here are sofas, easy chairs, patent rockers, ample in size and elegant in style, covered with raw silk of a uniform pattern, and the latest colors and designs. One of the most elegant things ever put on exhibition in Oregon in the way of a chair, stands in the right hand corner of this room, being an Egyptian style chair upholstered in black satin with a broad stripe running down through the center richly embroidered in a magnificent row of really beautiful and natural looking flowers, by a Portland lady.

On an elegant center table are placed the first class models awarded to this company for their superior furniture exhibit at the Oregon State Fair in Salem, the Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, 1876, and the Exposition Universelle, Paris, 1878.

Leaving against this table is a charming sofa cushion made by an apprentice of the Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Co. It is of satin body with a center-piece beautifully embroidered in silk representing a bouquet of the prettiest flowers, roses, lilies, etc., as natural as life and twice as pretty. A book case and cylinder desk combined stands in the corner and is a rich piece of furniture, which may not be so attractive as some of the others but to our mind as rich as any here. It is heavily ornamented but not gaudily looking. The circular part has an exceedingly rich front, being inlaid with different kinds of wood forming a most beautiful figure.

The third room has a

LIBRARY SET.

Made entirely of ash, covered with horse hair, finished to a color to harmonize with the peculiarly rich warm hue of our celebrated Oregon ash. These are upholstered in the most substantial manner, and are a credit to their house.

A Grecian lounge of peculiar pattern, easy chairs, patent rockers and small chairs of the Pompadour pattern, and another of those elegant, combined, cylinder desk and book cases very appropriately and harmoniously designed, make up the substantial furniture of this room. Here is an ottoman of walnut, covered with wrought silk, and worsted and satin tufted stands in front.

DRAPERIES.

The most elegant lambrequins of raw silk and silk plushes with Swiss lace curtains, are displayed in the rear of the room, and the walls draped in the richest raw silk hangings of peculiarly soft colors and unique designs form a splendid background to the whole of the Oregon Furniture Company's grand exhibit.

An elegant carpet of the finest body Brussels covers all the floors, and enormous

carpets, with life-like figures of striking designs, complete the floor ornamentation.

Our State and city justly feel a pride in a company of home manufacturers like this, that produces such splendid work, that competes so successfully in style, finish and prices with any manufactory in any part of the world. Mr. Lowenstein, the President, is a practical manufacturer, who is thoroughly posted in all branches of the business, having been in the business in Portland since 1861, then of the firm of Emil, Lowenstein & Co. After the great fire he took in other firms who were financially ruined, and about five years ago organized the Oregon Furniture Company. Mr. Kapus, the secretary, is one of our most respected citizens and a thorough business man. The company has been constantly gaining and now employs not less than sixty hands most of whom are heads of families, thus giving support to two or three hundred persons, and distributing their well earned money throughout the community.

RATTAN FURNITURE.

We must call attention to the fine rattan furniture manufactured by the celebrated Heywood manufacturing company of Massachusetts, of which the O. F. Co. is the sole agent for this coast. And we cannot omit to note the unique card case standing in the center of their exhibit. It is an enormous maple burl polished on three sides, while the side with the natural burl cut has a mortice for holding their cards, and all visitors are invited to "take one."

ANCIENT WONDERS.

Nineveh was fourteen miles long, eight miles wide and forty-six miles around, with a wall 100 feet high and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was fifty miles within the walls, which were seventy-five feet thick and 100 feet high, with 100 brazen gates. The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, was 420 feet to the support of the roof—it was 100 years in building. The largest of the pyramids was 481 feet in height, and 853 on the sides. The base covered eleven acres. The stones are about sixty feet in length and the layers are 205. It employed 350,000 men building. The labyrinth of Egypt contains 300 chambers and twelve halls. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins twenty-seven miles around, once containing 350,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The Temple of Delphos was so rich in donations that it was plundered of \$50,000,000; the Emperor Nero carried away from it two hundred statues. The walls of Rome were thirteen miles around.

A Wonderful Record.

Myriads of so-called "specifics" and "cures" for Rheumatism have already brought before the public, and many of them have even been inducted into the certificates of respectable and prominent citizens, who have derived benefit from such preparations. There is no doubt that a great many of these "Linctives," "Oils," etc., so widely advertised and freely recommended for Rheumatism and painful complaints of a similar nature, have genuine merit, and will relieve certain types of the complaints named; but when Rheumatism, Neuralgia and kindred diseases have become chronic and threaten serious results, you may rest assured that they will help but very little. Although not recommended as "infallible," the peculiar qualities of St. Jacobs Oil especially adapt it to those cases which may be termed "chronic" and which have previously withstood all known "specifics" as well as the prescriptions of the best physicians.

We would mention as an example, the case of Mr. A. Heilmann, Editor of the Pittsburgh Republican, who suffered from Rheumatism for two years. After vainly using all the best recommended remedies, and exhausting the skill of the most experienced physicians, without even temporary relief, it required only two bottles of St. Jacobs Oil to effect a permanent cure. Mr. C. Hanni, a well-known citizen of Youngstown, Ohio, secured for his wife, who for twelve years had been a constant sufferer from Neuralgia in the head, the services of the ablest physicians of the land, but they were unable to do anything for her; half a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil cured her. Mr. Wm. Reinhardt, Elmore, Wis., reports the case of a neighbor who for twenty-four years had suffered so terribly with Rheumatism that, at times, he could hardly move around; a few bottles of St. Jacobs Oil cured him.

To cap the climax," however, Mr. A. Neiger, of Taylorville, Pa., writes, that his mother, who had been a continual sufferer with Rheumatism for the past thirty years, used one bottle of St. Jacobs Oil and was immediately relieved of all pain. These are results which truly deserve to be brought to public notice; but they are not exceptions, as will be seen by the numerous other certificates from all parts of the United States. It should be the duty of every one to call the attention of his suffering friends and neighbors to this wonderfully efficacious preparation, especially as the low price of 50 cents a bottle places it within the reach of all persons, rich and poor.

I. G. Davidson, photographer of Portland, did not mislead his customers by promising \$6 worth of photo work for \$5, but simply charges \$2.50 per doz. for cards and \$4 for cabinets, and turns out the very best work. oct-2w

If you are going to paint your house, barn, wagon or machinery, the wonder, full Imperishable Mixed Paint is surely the best, for it is warranted by their agents in your own town not to crack, peel or blister; to cover better and work easier than any other paint. The Imperishable Paint was awarded the first premium, over all other paints, at the California State Fair, 1894, and the gold medal at the Oregon State Fair, 1895. (See a circular from their Agent, who will explain this wonderful discovery. Try the idea and you certainly would have no other.

A new portable family fruit drier best style, may be bought for \$85, by applying at the Bee office, Portland, Oregon. au 22-tf

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Nineveh was fourteen miles long, eight miles wide and forty-six miles around, with a wall 100 feet high and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was fifty miles within the walls, which were seventy-five feet thick and 100 feet high, with 100 brazen gates. The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, was 420 feet to the support of the roof—it was 100 years in building. The largest of the pyramids was 481 feet in height, and 853 on the sides. The base covered eleven acres. The stones are about sixty feet in length and the layers are 205. It employed 350,000 men building. The labyrinth of Egypt contains 300 chambers and twelve halls. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins twenty-seven miles around, once containing 350,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The Temple of Delphos was so rich in donations that it was plundered of \$50,000,000; the Emperor Nero carried away from it two hundred statues. The walls of Rome were thirteen miles around.

A Wonderful Record.

Myriads of so-called "specifics" and "cures" for Rheumatism have already brought before the public, and many of them have even been inducted into the certificates of respectable and prominent citizens, who have derived benefit from such preparations. There is no doubt that a great many of these "Linctives," "Oils," etc., so widely advertised and freely recommended for Rheumatism and painful complaints of a similar nature, have genuine merit, and will relieve certain types of the complaints named; but when Rheumatism, Neuralgia and kindred diseases have become chronic and threaten serious results, you may rest assured that they will help but