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sults quickly absorbed it gives
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THE THIRTEENTH SUPERSTITION.

It is said this strange superstition
extends away back to the time of King
Arthur. When the good British king
founded the famous Round Table, he
requested Merlin, the enchanter, to ar-
range the seats. Merlin arranged one
set to represent the apostles; twelve
Christ and the thirteenth for the traitor
Judas. The first were never occupied
save by the knights distinguished for
their achievements, and when a death
occurred among them the seat remained
vacant until a knight, surpassing him in
heroic and warlike attainments,
should be considered worthy to fill the
place. If an unworthy knight sought
the vacant chair he was repelled by
some magic power. The thirteenth
seat was never occupied but once. This
story goes that a hostile and insolent
Saracen knight sat down upon it and
was immediately swallowed up by the
earth. Ever after it was known as the
"perilous seat," and hence as the cele-
brated knights of the Round Table are
said to have been, not one ever had the
courage to sit on the thirteenth chair,
and the superstition against it still sur-
vives.

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REGISTERED MAIL
Many Clerks Handle and Verify Each
Package.

In the New York post office, when a
letter is presented for registration it is
inspected by the receiving clerk to as-
certain whether it is in good condition,
firmly sealed, properly addressed and
sufficiently prepaid, and that the name of the sender has been
indorsed on it. These requirements be-
ing met, the clerk records the letter in
a book composed of alternate thin and
thick leaves, a manifold copy of the en-
try being obtained by means of a sheet
of carbon paper placed between the two.

The thin sheets are perforated in ob-
long sections for ready separation, and
constitute the receipts issued to the
public. Each receipt bears a distinct
number in a series running from one to
one hundred thousand, and every letter
registered has the number of the receipt
issued for it indorsed on its face.
The condition of the letter envelope is
now inspected by another clerk, and
if perfect, the imprint of a hand stamp
is impressed across the edge of the flap
to betray any tampering.

These preliminaries being completed,
a card known as the return receipt is
prepared and attached to the letter by
means of a rubber band. On one side of
the card appear the number, date of
mailing, name of addressee, and des-
tination of the letter; on the other, the
name and full address of the sender, to
whom the receipted card will be re-
turned when the letter has been deliv-
ered.

In its numerical order the letter
passes to a separating clerk, and with
99 others, composing an even 100, is dis-

Something to Depend on.
Mr. James Jones, of the drug firm of
Jones & Son, Cowden, Ill., in speaking
of Dr. King's New Discovery, says that
last winter his wife was attacked with
La Grippe, and her case grew so serious
that physicians at Cowden and Pana
could do nothing for her. It seemed to
develop into Hasty Consumption. Hav-
ing Dr. King's New Discovery in store,
and seeing lots of it, he took a bottle
home, and to the surprise of all she be-
gan to get better from first dose, and
half dozen doses later looked her usual
well. Dr. King's New Discovery for
Consumption, Coughs and Colds is guar-
anteed to do this good work. Try it.
Free trial bottles at Conser & Brook's
Drug Store.

ODD WEDDINGS.

Franks Who Have Been Joined
Together in Wedlock.

One Couple Married by Proxy White
Thousands of Miles Apart—Some-
times of the Queer Franks of
Cupid.

The conventional idea of a wedding
does not agree with the tastes of some
people, and occasionally very eccentric
and sometimes romantic marriage
ceremonies are solemnized. Men and
women entirely opposite in disposition
and character frequently unite in the
holy bonds of matrimony—sometimes
much to their mutual regret. This
peculiar fact is noted every day, also ap-
plies to oddities of human nature. In
many of the traveling shows the freaks
who help to draw money from the pub-
lic intermarry, and it is not an unusual
thing to find the fat man wedded to the
skeleton woman, and the tattooed man to
the bearded lady.

Mrs. Hannah Battersby, who at one
time toured the country as a fat woman,
was married to a Pennsylvania man,
and it is stated as a curious fact that no
sooner were they married than she ap-
peared to lose flesh and to gain it. His
weight increased so rapidly that he soon
took to exhibiting himself as a fat man.
An exception to this rule of contrast,
however, was Col. Glover, the giant,
who stood six feet seven inches. He was
wedded to Martha Peabody, the Ameri-
can giantess. Several years ago, when
they appeared in public together, they
used to receive as much as \$750 a week.

The Italian consular agent at Cin-
cinnati performed the most peculiar
marriage ceremony on record. The
groom was a well-to-do resident of the
Ohio city and his bride lived in Italy.
The contracting parties were thousands
of miles apart when the wedding was
performed, the marriage being by
proxy. The consul filled in a blank
certificate, which he forwarded to au-
thorities in Italy, who in the presence
of the parish priest exhibited it before
the bride, who affixed her signature,
accepting it as her action. The mar-
riage was perfectly binding.

A very similar ceremony was per-
formed some time ago. The affair took
place by proxy, and Miss Maple was
married by a clergyman in New York to
a man who at the time of the marriage
lay dying in a Texas town. The bride-
groom was represented in the cere-
mony by the bride's cousin, who made
the necessary responses and signatures
as his proxy. The two lovers had been
engaged for a long time, and Miss Maple
wished to bear the name of her be-
trothed even though she could do so
only as a widow.

The all-important ring is sometimes
forgotten, and one case the door key of the church has had to do
duty, but it is not often that portions of
the marriage service are omitted. In
southern towns, however, a little while
ago, after the party had left the church
it was discovered that the clergyman
had forgotten the words, "with this
ring I thee wed," etc., thus relieving
the bridegroom of the most serious
part of his obligations, and the fat
bride was minus a wedding ring. In-
stead of sitting down to breakfast the
party hurried back to the church and
were thus practically married twice in
one day.

Cupid ran amuck some time ago
among the old folk of a Georgia town
an old soldier, 78 years of age, led to his
altar an aged damsel who had seen 7
summers. There were three brides
maidens, whose ages respectively were
50, 65 and 70. They were all spinsters.
The best man, who was 75, brought
the combined ages up to 423 years.

An unusual kind of marriage was
celebrated in New York recently. The
bride was between a couple both deaf and
mute. They held prayer books which a
friend pointed out the different
passages in the service as they yet
spoken by the clergyman, and the
made the customary responses in a
deaf and dumb alphabet.

An ingenious couple once conceived
the idea of being married by phono-
graph. In the place where the bride
groom resided he and the minister wen
over the marriage service, and he recites
the proper responses into the instru-
ment. The phonograph was sent to the
bride, she willingly supplying the re-
quisite "I do" and "I do" in the pres-
ence of her partner, who then pro-
nounced the pair united in matrimony.
No explanation is given of how they go
over the difficulty of the ring.

A well-known anthropologist, in de-
scribing various marriage customs, re-
fers to a strange sort of symbolical mar-
riage which is supposed to have origi-
nated in India. It is a marriage with
trees, plants, animals and inanimate
objects. If anyone proposes to enter
upon a union which is not in accord-
ance with traditional ideas, it is be-
lieved that ill luck which is sure to fol-
low may be averted by a marriage of
this kind, the evil consequences being
borne by the object chosen. In various
regions a girl must not marry before
her eldest sister, but the difficulty is
overcome by the eldest daughter mar-
rying the branch of a tree. Then the
wedding of the younger daughter may
safely be celebrated.—Buffalo Express.

HOW DOGS ARE STUNTED.
Methods Employed in the Manufacture of
Toy Terriers.

There is an era of toy dogs in Eng-
land. The more diminutive a
parcel of canine flesh that you can pos-
sess the more are you a swell, says the
Toledo Blade. But, alas! How many
feminine readers who delight in the
miniature loggies know that they are
an artificial product.

There is in London an establishment
devoted entirely to the stunting of the
animals. The proprietor is an ex-
plorer of fighting dogs, but he now
finds more profit in rearing the lili-
pution creation, for which he has a wide
reputation. He does not claim to be the
originator of the process, for he says
that all dog men know of the dwarfing
powers of alcohol, but he asserts that he
is the only man in London to adopt the
principle systematically.

His method is as follows: The pup
destined to be stunted is taken from its
mother when a few hours old and when
it begins to whine for sustenance it is
fed with a warm solution of gin and
water. Deprived of milk, it takes to
this readily. When it reaches a certain
age alcohol in various forms constitutes
the animal's sole diet. The pup does not
die, nor do they develop. They soon
come to grow at all. After a generation
of toy of making the much-prized
lilipution creation is obtained.

Held His Ground.
According to a local paper, Lancaster,
Pa., had a visitor who believes in stand-
ing up for his rights as a pedestrian.
He was a commercial drummer, and
was making for a railroad station
when he encountered a hawk standing
on the street crossing. He refused to
walk around the vehicle, and called to
some passer-by to send him a police
man that the way was not cleared.
No bluecoat appeared, so he checked
his grip at the station and returned to
the crossing, declaring that he would
linger there until the carriage was
moved. He did so, too, though it took
him an hour and a half in all, and he
wisely his train.

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horses will be well looked after. Prices
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