

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

There are but three persons in the United States, other than those holding public office, who are allowed to receive and send mail matter free of postage, writes a Washington correspondent. These three persons are the widows of the late president Polk, Garfield and Grant. An act of Congress is required to grant this privilege to any one, and it has been so granted to the widows of the Presidents since 1836, when the first act was passed conferring the distinction upon Mrs Dolly P Madison.

According to the United States Postal Laws and Regulations, which a compilation of the rules published for information and guidance of postmasters and other officials, Mrs. Tyler was not entitled to the benefits of franking mail matter, and it is true that no law was ever passed in her case. She was, in a sense, a victim of one of those peculiar overights of Congress which are of frequent occurrence. The Post-Office Department, however, appreciating the fact that Mrs. Tyler was in equity entitled to the privilege which had by law been granted to Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Grant, accepted her frank in lieu of postage and collected nothing upon matter mailed to her address.

There is a rather peculiar fact connected with the case of Mrs. Polk also. The act granting her the privilege of free postage was passed in 1850. Since that date all laws conferring the franking privilege have been once or twice repealed; the last time in 1873, and no act has since been passed in favor of Mrs. Polk. There is no law on the statute books to-day, therefore, entitling her to the benefits of free postage, but it is allowed her arbitrarily by the department, and the Postal Laws and Regulations name her as one of the persons legally entitled to the benefits of the franking law.

It is not generally known that the law extending the franking privilege to these ladies also provides explicitly that mail matter, including letters, newspapers and packages addressed to them, is exempt from the payment of postage. The only explanation of this somewhat peculiar provision of law is that when Congress passed the first of these private acts it failed to notice that free postage to the senders of mail conferred no sort of benefit upon the persons addressed. Mrs. Polk, for instance, is not benefited in the slightest degree because some person who wishes to write her a letter is not required to affix a stamp to it. Yet when the laws in favor of all the President's widows who came after Mrs. Polk were passed, the same language was used and stands upon the statute books to-day.

A sort of fatality in the direction of making mistakes seems to have followed the course of law-making on the subject of the franking privilege, and the most stupendous error of all that Congress made in the first general act passed has never yet been corrected. This is the failure to provide a penalty for a violation of the law. Although there have been as many as fifty franking privilege acts passed by Congress since 1879, not one of them provides any penalty for their infringement or evasion. This very singular oversight is a cause of much inconvenience and annoyance to the postal officials, and because of it very few arrests have been made, although the one of franks by unauthorized persons and on unfrankable matter is of very frequent occurrence.

A country gentleman correspondent wonders why people suffer themselves to be overrun by the gnawing rodents when an effective trap, with which he captured a bushel in one night, is so easily available: "Fill a barrel one-third full of bran and water mixed stiff enough to hold a rat on it; let them feed a couple of nights, then make them another mess in the barrel (after emptying first lot) in same place, but make this most all water. When one jumps in, down goes Mr Rat, and the next, not knowing his brother's bad luck, follows suit. In the morning the barrel will be full if the rat supply holds out."

A philosopher says that "happiness is found in chasing after something, not in catching it." When a man's hat blows off he may enjoy more happiness while he is chasing it down the street than when he catches it, but he doesn't look that way.

Cured in One Day.
Dr Holden: A few nights since I was taken with a sore throat, cough and stiff neck. I used your Eibereich Cough Syrup, and by morning I was nearly well, and by night cured.
JAMES TATTERSON,
Supt. Woolen Mills, Stockton.
Large size, \$1.00, small 50 cents. For sale by H C Hubbard, Druggist.

STRUCK OIL.—At \$1.25 per 5 gallon can best Standard coal oil, at the Willamette Packing Co's store.

Some fine honey looking for customers at C E Brownell's.

Ladies shoes, mens shoes, misses shoes childrens shoes, mens boots, boys boots, at less than cost to make room for other goods at C E Brownell's.

An elegant line of new designs of shirts just received at Fortmiller & Irving's.

A Nuremberg firm is bringing out a new kind of sole for boots and shoes, for which it claims great solidity and convenience. The sole consists of a sort of trelliswork of spiral metal wire, interstices being fitted with gutta-percha and ammoniac resin, which gives them both strength and suppleness. They are fixed with special nails on to ordinary soles, and can be produced 50 per cent. below the ordinary prices for leather ones. They have already been used in the army, and it is stated that the result of the tests are very satisfactory. The soles were found in good condition after long and severe usage.

Bismark hates anything imported from America, and those who know this best are quietly chuckling at the fix his country is in this Winter. Germany is short on wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, beef and pork, and if the Iron Chancellor doesn't come down off his high horse there will be lots of his subjects going hungry before Spring.

The refusal of a Detroit street car company to receive coppers from passengers brought out the fact not generally known that one, three and five cent pieces are legal tenders up to twenty-five cents while ten, twenty, twenty-five and fifty cent pieces are legal tenders up to \$10.

Children Saved from Severe Sickness.
Dr Holden: I notice by the papers that you are placing your valuable Eibereich Cough Syrup before the public. It is a charitable act. I have used it in my family for many years, to my satisfaction. I believe the use of it in time, to my children, has saved them from sickness.

RBLANE
Large size \$1.00, small 50 cents. For sale by H C Hubbard, Druggist.

UPS AND DOWNS.—Some of the principal ups and downs in business life is to keep quality up and prices down. This is being done very successfully at LaForest & Thompson's, and those dinner sets to be distributed among our customers Jan. 1st is creating no little interest as well as our prices.

TO THE LADIES.—Mrs S A Wayne will leave in about one week for the East, when she will lay in a new and elegant stock of Millinery of the very latest styles which she will be able to offer to the ladies of Albany on or about the 20th of March.

A SHARP ITEM.—The finest line of cutlery and shears in the city at Stewart & Sox's. Their goods are the very best and will stand the test.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TAKEN UP.—City Marshal Hoffman took up yesterday a brown mare, eight or nine years old, and three two year old colts. They await the owner at Schmeer's livery stable.

WANTED.—A girl to do general house work. Call at the residence of D P Mason at the corner of Ferry and Sixth street.

FOR SALE.—Three bull calves of the Short Horn stock, registered. Two are five months old and one four months old. They all came from the Young Mary family. Call on the undersigned at the old Mercer Thompson farm at Roberts bridge, on the Cal-spoola, two miles north of Shedd. H: ARNOLD.

FRESH FISH.—Having opened a fish market in the Saltmarsh Block, we are prepared to supply the trade with fresh fish of all kinds, at reasonable prices. WILSON & BOSQUET.

FOR SALE.—A good second hand organ for sale or rent. Call at W T Hearst's.

FOUND.—On Ellsworth Street this afternoon, by J E Hallan, Odd Fellows' Reg. Call at this office, pay charges and secure ring.

RICHTER'S.—If you desire them no use in toasting away time on things that don't pay; but send \$1.00 at once for magnificent outfit of our Great New Stanley Book. It book and terms not satisfactory we will refund your money. No risk. No capital needed. Both ladies and gentlemen employed. Don't lose time in waiting. "Step in while the waters are troubled." Days are worth dollars. Address B. F. Johnson & Co., 1009 Main St., Richmond, Va.

FOR SALE.—A new milch cow, a horse eight years old, and a buggy, almost new. For particulars call at this office.

FOR SALE.—A No 1 milliner stock in an A No 1 location in the thriving city of Albany. Low rents and splendid rooms. For particulars address Firm, P O Box 99 Albany, Or.

MONEY TO LOAN.—The undersigned has home capital to loan on good real estate property.
GEO HEMPHREY.

SEVERAL SMALL TRACTS of land near town for sale on easy terms. Inquire of H. Bryant.

Dissolution Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the copartnership heretofore existing under the name of Deyos & Robson has been dissolved, Mr L W Deyos retiring. The business will be continued by Price & Robson. All accounts should be settled with the old firm, by whom all debts will be paid.
Please call and pay up.

L. E. BLAIN,

The Leading Merchant Tailor

The Leading Clothier.

Keeps the leading stock of Clothing, Gents Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Wet Weather Goods and the Leading Tailoring Department, in the Valley.

THE LEADER. THE LEADER

G. W. SMITH,

—ALBANY—

"Superior," "Argand," "Garland" STOVES AND RANGES.



ire backs. Warranted for 15 years, All sizes and styles.

The World's best. More than hundred--7 hundred different styles coo ks and heaters

Roofing, Job Work, Plumbing, Eave Trough. Range Boilers Conductor Pumps.

CORNER DRUG STORE. OLD FELLOWS TEMPLE

G. L. BLACKMAN

The Leading Druggist,

ALBANY OREGON.

DRUGS, MEDICINES STATIONARY & C.

Specialties—Fine Toilet Articles, Perfumery and Musical Instruments Prescriptions Carefully compounded day and night. Our elegant line of

UNRIVALLED ATTRACTIONS

NOT ONLY IS

ALBANY ATTRACTING ATTENTION

But as well the immense stock of

General Merchandise

Kept by

SAMUEL E. YOUNG

For the winter trade, consisting of a large and choice stock of the latest patterns of

DRESS GOODS,

An unrivalled line of

Cloaks and Jackets,

in all styles and sizes, a well selected stock of Men's, Children's and Ladies'

BOOTS AND SHOES,

A large assortment of

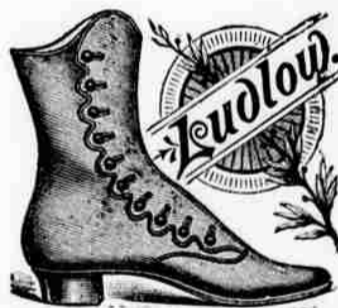
CARPETS,

And a choice selection of

GROCERIES.

Barrows & Searls Dry Goods, Notions, Gents Furnishings and BOOTS AND SHOES

AGENCY for The Ludlow Ladies Fine Shoes and for M. D. Wells & Co's Boots and Shoes.



BARROWS & SEARLS,

Humbert's New Block.

1889 FALL AND WINTER 1889

Just received a large invoice of Foreign and Domestic woollens in

Overcoatings, Suitings and Trouserings.

We make a specialty of FULL DRESS for Balls and Parties or regular evening wear. A perfect fit guaranteed at

THE LEADING MERCHANT TAILORS,

ZACHES BROS.,

Opposite Post Office.

WILL & LINK

—Dealers in all the Leading—

Guns, Pistols, Sewing Machines, Organs and Pianos

A full line of sheet music, musical merchandise, ammunition, fishing tackle, etc. Warranted razors, cut-throats and pocket knives. The best kind of sewing machine needles. Oils and extras for all machines supplied.

Repairing of sewing machines, musical instruments, guns, etc., neatly done.

ALBANY; OREGON.