

MISTAKES IN MAILING.

Where Are Many Large and Small Sums of Money That Go Astray in the Post Office.

An enormous proportion of gifts transmitted through the mails go astray on account of violations of the postal rules or carelessness in packing.

As an illustration of the fact that even in the best regulated concerns mistakes will happen, it is related that an employe of a large banking house in this city about three months ago was sent to do a number of errands.

Another busy man dumped into a letter box a bag containing \$450 in gold coin, upon which there was not a single sign or letter by which it might be identified.

It is not an unusual occurrence to find an envelope containing the weekly wages of some factory hand in the letter box of the post office.

Small sums of money in coin are often lost in transit through the mails. The person addressed gets a mutilated envelope that should contain 25 cents, but does not.

Those "thieving letter carriers" and there the matter ends. In cases of this kind the coin, slipping around loose in the letter, pressed by a heavy article, perhaps a book or an electrotype, is forced through the envelope; but, although it does not reach the person for whom it was intended, it has been neither stolen nor lost.

AMBITIOUS PORTO RICANS.

Men, Women and Children Are Intelligent and Anxious to Learn from Books.

The Puerto Rican is mentally acute. The children learn with surprising ease and quickness. Boys and girls eight and ten years of age will do a sum in long division on the board without showing the process; doing the multiplying and subtracting mentally, and only setting down the figures of the quotient with the remainder.

The fact of illiteracy is not due to lack of intelligence, but rather to lack of opportunity, and the lack, also, of a stimulus. The peasant has not been able to see how he could improve his condition by education. The mercantile and the banking business were almost exclusively in the hands of the Peninsular Spaniards.

Her Charm. He—She seems to have a lovely disposition. She—Why do you think so? "I never see her that she isn't smiling."

FRILLS OF FASHION.

New Features of Evening Costumes—Latest in Coats and Wraps.

One very distinctive feature of evening dress is the decoration of the hair, and a fashionably dressed head is absolutely essential to the success of any evening toilet no matter how simple the gown may be.

Long coats of velvet, a half-fitting loose saque, in shapes without any seam in the middle of the back, are one of the specialties in winter garments.

HONORS ARE EVEN.

Practical Jokes Two Maine Men Play on Each Other for Pastime.

In a certain city in the state of Maine, call it Lewiston, for example, live two men that for years have been playing practical jokes on each other, but so far it has been a "stand-off" between them.

On a rainy day not very long ago the grain man asked the truck man if he could tell him where he could find a rent for a friend of his that wanted to move into the city from a neighboring town.

"Well, where's the rent you promised to show me?" said the grain man, with considerable indignation.

"Why, there it is," said the truckman, as he pointed to a bag in the bottom of the wagon with a large hole in it, "there is the rent."

Time went on, and although the grain man was chaffed considerably about rents, he took it all good-naturedly, and patiently bided his time.

About a month later, after the joke had almost been forgotten, the truckman was employed by the grain man to go to the outskirts of the city and get a trunk and bring it to the store.

Liberty Hall Pudding. Four stale rolls, grated, one pound raisins, stoned and cut, half a pound beef suet, chopped fine, two cupfuls sugar, four eggs beaten light, one piece citron cut fine.

New Shirt Waists. The newest shirt waists have three narrow box-plaits on either side of the front, each covered with lace or embroidery, and small tucks fill in the center of the back.

JUST THEIR WAY.

How an Awful Tragedy Was Averted at a Critical Moment When Bad Men Met.

This is the way the affair began: A small, beetle browed man was coming down the street with two guns buckled around him and a necklace made of the teeth of grizzly bears around his neck.

"Humph!" growled the little man after looking the big man over.

"Humph!" echoed the big man as he spat over his shoulder.

"Don't rub agin me!" "And don't touch me!"

"I know a fighter when I see one!" "And you see one right yere!"

"Shoo! Goin' out to shoot rabbits?" "No. This ar' my day fur shootin' three men! Little one, don't you start no avalanche!"

"And maybe you don't want to start no cyclone!" "Humph!"

"Humph yourself!" "All wind!" "All blow."

"What ar' ye warin' them rabbits' teeth fur?" "What ar' ye doin' with that bread knife in yer bute-leg?"

"Don't ye git me mad or I'll bury ye." "And look out fur me about a minit before!"

"Shoo!" "Shoo!" "What's the riot yere!" demanded the city marshal as he came out of the saloon wiping his mouth on the back of his hand.

"I'm goin' to chaw him up!" shouted the big man.

"He can't even chaw my ear!" howled the little man.

"Say, you!" continued the marshal, as he pointed one hand up the street and the other down, "be a-gittin' to git!"

And they "humphed" at each other and got.—N. Y. Sun.

HIGH COLLARS.

Destroy Poise of the Head and Spoil Gracefulness of the Neck.

Artists assert that the high collars now worn by young women have destroyed the poise of the head and the lines of the neck.

The effect of the high collar is frequently hurtful from the health point of view. A very high band about the neck tends to strain the muscles and, incidentally, the cords of the neck and shoulders.

A PIE-MAKING SECRET.

Information Imparted by a Practical Housekeeper for the Benefit of the Cook.

A certain housekeeper announces that she has discovered the secret of having the upper and lower crusts of a pie adhere to each other.

It is a curious fact—well known, however, to weather experts—that heavy spring will generally cause rain, even though the sky was clear beforehand.

Nothing Against Pie. "Say, Mickey, de big kid on de corner called you a pie-face."

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

Japan has 53,872 Roman Catholics. Hartwell, Ga., was the scene of a "horse-swapping convention" recently.

The Moravian church in Greenland has transferred its work to the Lutheran Danish church.

The salaries paid in the Chicago high schools annually average \$55.56 for each pupil taught in them.

At Cornell university the percentage of college graduates in the professional schools is the largest in their history.

Harvard's library has been enriched with Count Paul Riant's collection of books relating to the crusades and the history of the Latin east.

New York has a school in connection with the fire department, where firemen are taught to scale buildings, catch dummies and handle furniture.

In 1853 51 out of every 1,000 marriages in England and Wales were performed by Roman Catholic priests.

Dr. Joseph Parkes of the City Temple, London, said the other day that if every curate were a saint, if every dean were beyond reproach and if archbishops were in point of excellence almost archangels, he should still be a strong Protestant evangelical dissenter.

Macaulay declared in the house of commons that if anyone would search the Oxford calendar or the Cambridge calendar for the past 500 years, he would find that the men who had been first in the competition of the schools had been first in the competition of life.

TRUE GREATNESS.

How It Is Distinguished from Learning in Men Who Achieve Eminence.

It is a common error to confound learning with greatness. The fact that a medical student of this day knows more of the sciences of medicine than Dr. Abernethy did does not prove he is a greater man.

John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" has been read by more people, and will in years to come be read by more people, than any book written by the most learned man of his own or subsequent times, and yet Bunyan was a tinker by trade and was ignorant of the rules of grammar as he was of the binomial theorem.

There was among the great men of the past an individuality which distinguishes few living men. The average ability of physicians was as great, perhaps, in Abernethy's time as it is now.

Among the usual crowd of new arrivals at the counter of one of the big hotels, after the through trains came in the other evening, was a portly gentleman with a smooth-shaven, jovial countenance and a twinkling smile in the knot of his cravat.

GUESS AT HIS BUSINESS.

All the Loungers in the Hotel Lobby Were Wrong with One Exception.

When a young Tyrolese courting in earnest he carries with him a bottle of wine, of which he pours out a glass and presents it to the object of his affection.

It is a curious fact—well known, however, to weather experts—that heavy spring will generally cause rain, even though the sky was clear beforehand.

At Waterloo rain came down in torrents. So did in several of the big battles of the civil war—Gettysburg, for example. The tremendous concussion shakes the little globules of water which are always present invisibly in the atmosphere together, and so brings them down.—N. Y. Sun.

"I dropped in to tell you," said the smart little man, "that I don't propose to pay for the paper you've been sending me for the last five years. You can keep on sending bills long after I'm dead and gone if you think it worth while."

How Does Coo. Many birds form their sounds without opening their bills. The pigeon is a well-known instance of this. Its cooing can be distinctly heard, although it does not open its bill. The call is only rendered audible by resonance.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

Young Soldiers and Sailors Who Set a Fine Example of Reverence for the Flag.

An inspiring incident occurred lately at the football game between the Annapolis and West Point cadets on Franklin field in Philadelphia.

The Annapolis players had been cheered when they dashed upon the field and they were tumbling about, awaiting their rivals' appearance, when the band that had come with the sailor lads began to play "The Star Spangled Banner."

At once every cadet within sound of the music, whether sailor or soldier, stood at attention and uncovered, as he was bound to do by regulation.

The criticism had been made, with some degree of justice, that the people of the United States are sometimes lacking in their show of respect for national symbols.

Macaulay declared in the house of commons that if anyone would search the Oxford calendar or the Cambridge calendar for the past 500 years, he would find that the men who had been first in the competition of the schools had been first in the competition of life.

Probably the impression, altogether too general, that this country has no real national air is the cause, to a large extent, of this condition of affairs.

The old reliable train of cars, for instance, now passes through tunnels, over bridges, and stops at a station. Along the track is a perfect telegraph line.

The doll houses are marvels. One of them, a three-story affair of ten rooms, is lighted throughout with genuine electricity.

The educational toys are characterized by permanence and practicality. The old style of paper-covered spelling block has given way to a new variety, made of a cement-like composition that will last.

There is a spelling tablet, made in the style of a Chinese counting device. The letters—there being many of each—are on disks that move in a groove, which holds them fast, and which extends around the outer rim of the tablet.

INDEBTED TO PEACOCK.

Geometrical Figures Suggested by the Spreading of the Bird's Beautiful Train.

It is highly probable that our ancient and honored friend Mr. Euclid discovered his ideas of geometry by inspecting the outspread tail of a strutting peacock.

With such a statement as a beginning for a story, it is well to back it up with evidence. Only the best evidence is admissible, as one knows who has read Mr. Greenleaf on this branch of the law—that is, if the best can be produced.

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