

ENTERED AT THE POST-OFFICE AT RICHMOND, VA., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

The post office department suggests that all letters of importance, and especially those containing checks or other papers of value, shall have plain directions for returning the same to the sender printed on the outside. If this plan is followed at all, it will soon do away with the dead letter office.

The largest locomotive in the United States is being built at Sacramento, Cal. Its weight will be, when in running order, about 60 tons, or about one-half greater than the present strongest engines. This is exclusive of tender; but including the latter, and the fuel and water for use, the weight of the engine will be about 90 tons.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which furnished transportation to President Garfield from Washington to Long Branch last summer, now refuse to make any charge for the service. President Roberts, referring to the matter, says: "Our company had not at the time, nor have they now, any intention to make a claim for compensation for the courtesies extended to the late President, and his family, or to the government. We felt it would be not only a duty, but a pleasure to do what we could to increase the comfort and aid in restoring the health of President Garfield."

Troy, N. Y., March 15.—Bank bills ranging in denomination from \$2 to \$20 have been accepted at banks in this city, which is discovered as an inch short of the regular size. The persons engaged in the fraud are unknown. They have reaped a rich harvest. The device consists of cutting two-thirds from a bill and then one-eighth is cut from another bill of the same denomination, and the two pieces are pasted together, making an apparently genuine bank note. Five \$2 bills in this way yield \$12, and five \$10 bills make \$50.

The venerable ex-Senator Simon Cameron attained his 83d year on Wednesday, the 8th inst. He is a native of Lancaster county. As it was but recently mentioned in this paper of his eventful career as a public man and prominent factor in business undertakings in the state of his nativity, an extended mention is not necessary in noting this fact. For one of his advanced age, he is vigorous in mind and body, as quick to comprehend an idea and advance opinions, as he is active and alert in his movements. Having from boyhood been temperate in his habits, not easily excited, the cares of life have not wasted his physical strength, and he approaches the close as a veteran in the contest, erect and in possession of his mental and physical resources, to a remarkable degree.—Harrisburg Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The following is the text of the Edmunds amendment to the Post Office Appropriation bill, extending the franking privilege, which already covers Congressional documents and all correspondence between Congressmen and the Executive Department:

And the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, shall have power to use official penalty envelopes, authorized by law, prepared by themselves, for all official business of their respective offices; and the use of such envelopes for any purpose other than such official business shall be punished by the same penalties imposed by law for the illegal use of such envelopes already existing; and each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, and each Delegate from a Territory, shall have the right to send through the mail any letter or package containing only printed or written matter not exceeding two ounces in weight, identified by his own handwriting, without the payment of postage.

Suing for the Wedding Presents.

(St. Louis Republican.)  
A case came up yesterday before Justice Campbell, showing the amazing uncertainty of wedded bliss, and the exceeding tenacity of those dreams which young lovers are accustomed to cherish just before entering on matrimony—it was a case, in short, where a very young ex-husband was suing his young ex-wife and his ex-mother-in-law for the value of the wedding presents. Some two years since the plaintiff, Mr. George Draude, and a youth of eighteen, son of a wealthy citizen, of the West End, wooed Miss Laura Jones, who was very willing, and they made a match in opposition to the wishes of the young gentleman's parents. The presents were numerous and costly—all coming, as is now claimed, from the friends of the groom. They were separated after a little over a year's married life, during which twins were born to them and died. Last fall the lady applied for and obtained a divorce; at the time of the separation she had retained all of the personal property, including the gifts of silver at the wedding, which she said would balance the account between them. When the last spark of affection had died out of the breast of the young husband he demanded the return of the silver, and when the lady refused to comply with the demand, he brought the present suit. Its trial before Justice Campbell is said to have been as lively as a Sunday-school picnic, the bride and bridegroom making some home-thrusts at each other, and disclosing family secrets quite recklessly. The bride testified that she had "enough of George," and that she intended to keep not only her own presents but his too. The good-natured Justice took the case as a matter of course.

The Best is the Worst.

(Philadelphia Press.)  
The two appointments of President Arthur which have commended themselves and unqualified praise are those of Justice Gray and Judge Blatchford, and they are confessedly the best two. They have won him more popular favor and secured him more positive strength than any other. Without being at all political in their character, they have given his Administration more standing than any of the distinctively political selections which may be supposed to have been made with a view to the support they would bring.

This is another practical demonstration of the truth that the best politics consists in doing the best thing. It is a fresh illustration of President Hayes' maxim that "he serves his party and himself best who serves the people best." Machinery and personal forces count as far as they go, but they are limited in their reach. They move and sway only a proportion of the great mass which makes the public judgment, and which in the end determines the fate of men, measures and movements. The influence exercised by the dependents of power may be very potent when it does not touch the mass with any earnest public feeling; but when it is opposed to deep popular convictions it crumbles, as the storm snaps the tree that will not bend before it. The great constituency to which any general movement in this country must address itself is so large, and the personal official forces bear so small a proportion to it, that the appeal strongest when it most clearly places itself on the highest ground of public reason.

In the case of the President we have referred to the impression made by the President's action is very marked. Men have differed about many of the political appointments, and it is doubtful how much return they will have brought. But these two selections have done so much to increase the strength and elevate the standard of the Supreme Court, have left a very deep and decided impression on the public mind, and have secured for the Administration gains largely before the people by a recognition of the best service on a vital public interest. The lesson of the policy of such good principle applies equally in State and city affairs. Let the public men more thoroughly learn it!

Snow as Red as Blood

A BOTTLE FILLED WITH CRIMSON CRYSTALS TEN THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE SEA.  
(San Francisco Call.)  
At a meeting of the Microscopical Society, held Monday evening, Dr. Harkness presented a bottle of "red snow," which he gathered last June on the Alps in the mountains. The red snow was found on the north side of a spur which rose about 10,000 feet above the sea level. When fresh, the snow had the appearance of being drenched with blood, as though some large animal had been trampled on it. The color was caused by the presence of a one-celled plant called *protococcus nivialis*, which reproduces itself by subdivision—that is, the cell divides itself into several new cells. This is done with great rapidity, and a few cells teeming in the snow, under favorable conditions, soon will give it the appearance called red snow.

It was remarked that the phenomenon of red snow has been observed from the earliest times, as Aristotle has a passage which is thought to refer to it. The subject was, however, lost sight of until brought up by the investigations of Saussure, who found it on the Alps in 1760. The chemical tests which showed him that the red color was due to the presence of vegetable matter, which he supposed might be the pollen of some plant. In 1810 an Arctic expedition under Captain Ross brought some specimens from the cliffs around Bathin's Bay, and they were examined by eminent botanists, some of whom mistook the nature of the plant; and there was a long discussion as to its proper classification, until a few cells teeming in a glass, some a lichen; but it was finally set at rest as one of the unicellular algae.

It is of interest also that some of the early explorers pronounced the color due to animalcules, but this was disproved. Dr. Harkness said that during his last visit to England he saw the original bottle of specimens brought from the Arctic more than half a century ago, and in which the *protococcus* could still be seen with the microscope.

Enforcing Borough Ordinances.

(Renovo Record.)  
Over in Phillipsburg, where the town ordinances are strictly enforced, \$421.25 were collected last year in the way of fines and licenses to hawkers and peddlers. Out of that fund a police force was maintained at a cost of \$873.30, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$47.35. At least one police officer should be employed in a town of the size of Renovo. By a strict enforcement of the borough ordinances, the fines and license will pay nearly the entire cost of securing the services of such an officer. And should acts of lawlessness cease, the people could well afford to pay the bill of expense. We have frequently shown up the dastardly outrages that have been committed from time to time on peaceable and law-abiding citizens, by drunken and devilish ruffians. Women have been repeatedly insulted while walking along our streets, and windows have been demolished with stones in the dead hour of night, and thefts committed in public houses, yet no one has been arrested or punished for these crimes. Last Thursday evening we had another repetition of the same sort of lawlessness. The wife of Mr. J. R. Kendig was denounced upon and terribly frightened by a ruffian while walking along Huron avenue, about nine o'clock in the evening. The lady exhibited her Spartan pluck and drove the fellow away.

The reason why such a state of out-lawry continues is because we have no officers willing to suppress it. The High Constables are brought in to special service at no great outlay of money. The ordinances could then be enforced and law and order preserved. The Chief Burgess is the proper officer to execute the laws. Let him demand of the law-makers power of appropriation to employ and pay special officers who will faithfully attend to their duties. The time has really gone by for further child's play.

The court room at Dallas, Texas, was altogether too small to admit all trial before Justice Campbell is said to have been as lively as a Sunday-school picnic, the bride and bridegroom making some home-thrusts at each other, and disclosing family secrets quite recklessly. The bride testified that she had "enough of George," and that she intended to keep not only her own presents but his too. The good-natured Justice took the case as a matter of course.

Sergeant Mason's Case.

(Philadelphia Press.)  
AN APPEAL TO THE CIVIL LAW TO SET ASIDE THE SENTENCE.  
Washington, March 15.—Mr. J. G. Bigelow, attorney of Sergeant Mason, has prepared a petition for writ of habeas corpus on the ground that the court martial had no jurisdiction in the case; that, even if the court had jurisdiction, it exceeded its powers in imposing the sentence aforesaid, besides dishonoring a discharge from the military service of the United States.

Mr. Bigelow visited the prisoner at the barracks this morning, taking with him the habeas corpus petition. Mason signed and made oath to the petition and Mr. Bigelow subsequently filed it and made formal application to Judge Wylie, of the Criminal Court, for the writ. Just before the court adjourned this afternoon, Judge Wylie rendered a decision denying the prayer of the petition, but he afterwards reconsidered his judgment, and allowed Mr. Bigelow to withdraw the papers, the latter wishing to present them to the court in Banc to morrow. In the meantime Mason has been sent in irons to the Albany Penitentiary under guard of four soldiers.

Sergeant Mason, referring to an article printed in this country, says in a card addressed to the *Citizen*: "I must say that the court was wrong in my presence. I was asked if I had any objection to any officer—all in obedience to law. Mr. Bigelow was not present at the trial. He was for him, and he came in after all had been sworn. I had made no plea. Only I wanted to plead guilty, for I knew that the court would find me guilty, and I would have the same years in the Penitentiary for missing that wretch Guiteau." In a postscript to his letter Mason says: "I must say that I do not want to be pardoned by the Guiteau President. All I ask is for my darling wife and child to be placed by your want. Right is right, and wrong is wrong. Yet, if I wasn't right, I could not say that I am treated wrong. Call me what they may, all I want is fair play. Mr. Bigelow is a great lawyer, but he is not a public man more thoroughly than I am."

Frank's Farewell.

(Harrisburg Patriot.)  
Frank Rumberger, the youngest of the Troutman murderers, who will suffer death on the 24th inst. in explanation of his terrible crime, has written his farewell letter to his parents, his brothers and his sisters, and it was mailed to them yesterday. Its contents may be the means of opening the eyes of young men who are traveling the same path. I have written a few words, and they are here as follows:

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 14, 1882.—  
Dear Mother: I write this letter now as my last. Farewell to you, father, my brothers and sisters, and to all my relatives. I want to say to you, mother, particularly, that whatever I have been to the world and the world to me, I have been your loving son and you have been my loving mother. Had I taken your advice, dear mother, I could not have been where I now am. I would have been a good man, I would always tried to put me in honest and virtuous way, but I didn't heed your good advice. It was not because I did not love you. It was not that you did not look after me always. I wanted to care more for bad women and low company than I did for my good mother, and now I suffer the awful consequence. I was tempted and I fell, to my sorrow. Had I listened to you, mother, I would have been a good man. You did all in your power to make me a good man. I bless you now for what you did, mother, and I will die blessing you with my last breath. We all love and respect you, and I would like to see you all, but I would not like to see you all, because you would always advise me to do what was right. O, that I had taken your advice. But I did not, and now I must die an ignominious death. My suffering will not be so great as you, my mother, for I am not afraid to die. What I most fear now is for you, mother. I have repented, I know God has heard my prayers for mercy. Be comforted, then, mother, for we all love and respect you, and I would like to see you all, but I would not like to see you all, because you would always advise me to do what was right. O, that I had taken your advice. But I did not, and now I must die an ignominious death. My suffering will not be so great as you, my mother, for I am not afraid to die. What I most fear now is for you, mother. I have repented, I know God has heard my prayers for mercy. 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