## THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE-TUESDAY MORNING. MARCH 5, 1894.

THE

## MONEY IN THE MAILS.

MISTAKES MADE, THEFTS PERPETRAT-ED AND REMEDIES SUGGESTED.

Carclessness In Elg Business Concerns. Honesty of Women Department Clerks. Objections Raised to a Proposed Postal Currency.

Twelve hundred letters without a word in the outside of the envelopes reach the dead letter office every month. It is certainly a remarkable fact that these are among the most precious missives lost in the mails, containing the most valuable inclosures. As a rule, they are from business men in hig cities. It is supposed that in many cases the senders are interrupted when about to address them. The boy comes in, sweeps them off the office desk, carries them away to the postoffice or latter box and drops them in without noticing that the envelopes are blank. Not long ago an envelope containing \$4,000, without address or written inclosure, came in among the dead letters. The sum was in bank notes. The Chicago man to whom it belonged got it back after much trouble in proving ownership.

Greater precautions against stealing are taken now than formerly in the dead let-ter office, because there have been a good many thefts. In one instance a girl was the guilty party. During the last 80 years, since women were first employed by the government, only two cases of dishoaesty in petticoats have been recorded. The other one was that of a female clerk in the treasbry who earned money at the rate of \$10,-660 to \$15,000 a year for awhile by practicing a patchwork system of her own invention for making ten bank notes out of nine. General Splaner asserted that the reason why women did not steal was not because they were too good, but because they lacked the requisite nerve. Probably he was mistaken. At all events, their temptations are greater, their salaries being smaller. Their opportunities are unex-celled, inasmuch as they do all the counting of the cash.

If a bill must be sent in a letter, the safest plan is to roll it tightly in the shape of a lamplighter and lay it in the fold of the sheet inclosed. Arranged in that fashion, the fact that it is money cannot well be distinguished by the "feel." A thread with a knot at the end will not be so likely to fetch a telltale fragment of the fiber paper when drawn by means of a needle through the envelope, and the smell of it will be less perceptible. So peculiar is the effluyium belonging to the bank or treas-ury notes that experts at the bureau of engraving say they can distinguish them when sealed in envelopes by the nesservery time. A thief once showed to government detectives who had caught him that he could pick out from a pile of 400 letters every one of seven which contained paper cash, blindfolded, merely by scent. All postoffice buildings, by the way, are provided with peepholes, through which clerks may be watched while at work. Out of 15,000,000 registered missives and packages transmitted annually through the United States mails less than 300 are stolen by dishonest postal officials. During one congress five bills for the os-

tablishment of a postal fractional currency were offered. None of them passed. All of them were declared unsatisfactory by the postoffice department, which regards the plan as open to many objections. To begin with, several thousand small postoffices are burglarized every year. If they kept sums in postal currency on hand, an additional incentive to robbery would be furnished. The postmasters would have to give larger honds, and they would hardly be able to do so. In 45,000 offices the business transacted is so small that the

possible. The stenographer took it down and then went to har machine and began operating it. The attorney watched her closely and saw that she never stopped her work. He waited for a half hour, then he turned to his typewriter and said:

ument, trying to make it as difficult as

"Miss So-and so, I think you have for-gotten to give Miss Blank that dictation I gave you for her." "Oh, no," replied the young lady. "Miss Blank has it finished and waiting

for you out there.' This nonplused the attorney. He was sure his private stenographer had not left the room and did not see how it could be possible for such a completated agreement to be transferred by telepathic communi-cation. He went out to Miss Blank, who handed him the agreement completed. The attorney could not contain himself any longer as he said: "Miss Blank, I have been noticing something strange for the past month. Will you tell me how you receive my instructions from Miss So-andso without her leaving my room? Here you have transcribed a very difficult dic-tation, and 1 am sure you have had no communication with her." The young

lady began to smile and said: "Mr. —, you should not be so sure that we have had no communication. We can converse with each other when the door is open just as well as if we were in the same room. No, it's not thought transference, but plain telegraphy. You see Miss So and so and I have learned telegra phy recently, and we practice in this way. "We found the space bars of our type

writers made perfect telegraph keys, se that we can send messages just as well as with a regular telegraph instrument. So it's not so mysteroius after all."

The young lady showed her employer the manner of sending a message, and he began to think how easily some mysterious incidents could be explained if we only knew the truth. Pittsburg Dispatch.

Sang His Father Out of Jall.

Little Davie Councily, the sweet voiced Ind who is known all over the Pacific const, sang his father out of jail in the Spokane police court once. David Connelly, Sr., had been arrested for being drunk and had been fined \$1 and costs by Judge Miller. Then Davie appeared. Inspector Gough was an admirer of the lad, and se was Prosecutor Plattor.

At their request the little fellow sang in n voice of nifecting sweetness, "Kiss and Let's Make Up." Judge Miller listened, and when he had concluded asked his

"Davie Connelly," said the lad. "Why-ahem-who's your father"' ask ed the judge, with a suspicion of tenderness in his voice.

"Why, be's the man you just sent to jail," said the little fellow. "I think we had better let the father go

for the boy's sake," said Mr. Platter. "Sing' My Mother's Picture," "suggest-ed Inspector Gough, and the boy saug with tender emotion the appeal of the child not to sell his mother's portrait. It was a sweet, pathetic refrain that brought emotions to the heart.

"Does your father get drunk often?" asked the judge as he looked sympathetic ally at the little singer. "No, sir. This is the first time in a

year," he replied. "And, judge, if you will let him go, I'll work at the Louvre next week and bring you the money for his fine. "You? Why, what do you earn?"

"Seventeen dollars and a half a week," replied Davie. And in another minute it was arranged, and the parent was allowed to go .- Portland Oregonian.

An Oddity of Skin Grafting. After a series of observations extending over a period of 12 years and experiment-





The sound of his money enhancing; To get something that's quite as entrancing. You Can Do It! BY SNIPPING AND CLIPPING YOU GET \$24 VALUE FOR

Just to think of the delights of a trip all over our own country. from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico!

pensation is less than \$200 per annun In 30,000 the pay does not exceed \$100, and there are a great many in which the comuneration of the postmaster is not over \$10. If the currency was made purchasable and redeemable only at money order offices, the purpose in view would be defeated to a great extent.

The matter of expense must be considered. The fractional notes would have to be printed on the best bank note paper. with first rate engraving, and they would cost \$3 per 1,000. Estimating the issue for the first year at 12,000,000 pieces of postal currency, the expenditure thus involved would be \$35,000. Commissions to postmasters on sales would amount to \$30,000. There would have to be an agency for dis-tributing the notes, just as there is for postage stamps, and for its support not less than \$5,000 per annum would have to be skin, is never as fine and soft as its ebony appropriated. Counting the pay for an extra clerical force in Washington, stationery, etc., the entire cost of the business would be at least \$120,000 for the year, or 2 per cent of the face value of the notes, supposing that they averaged 50 It is more than probable that the cents. fractional notes would be counterfeited, and rural postmasters could not be expected to detect clover imitations by skilled engravers. The currency would drive the subsidiary coins out of circulation to a large extent. Its establishment would multiply the present money order accounts threefold. Money in that shape would be transmitted by mail with no socurity unless sent in registered letters. In day, fact, it would be no safer in the post than treasury or bank notes. Finally, the post-office department asks: If a fractional currency is wanted, why should not the trens-

ury issue it? As a substitute for the plan described the postoffice department offers a recommendation. If the redemption of stamps with money at postoffices be authorized, there is a postal currency ready made. They to do with it, doctor'' suggested the boy might be redeemed at a reduction equal to as the physician stepped into the adjointhe commissions allowed to postmasters on sales of stamps. In the United Kingdom postage stamps are redeemed. This privilege is limited to stamps in strips. Single stamps are not redeemed, lest people abould steal them from letters for the purpose of exchanging them for money. The stamps offered for redemption must not be soiled or torn, and they are taken only at a discount of 2% per cent. Great Britain issues postal notes from 1 shilling to 20 shillings, the difference in no case being less than six-pence, but they are made to answer for re-mittances or intermediate sums by attaching stamps to them, which are redeemed with the notes. The same system might be adopted in this country, though it would add to the temptation to steal letters. This, in the opinion of the postoffice department, is the best solution of the probem thus far offered. Postage stamps can be got everywhere. Being unsuitable for currency, they could not circulate far .-Boston Transcript.

## NOVEL TELEGRAPHING.

It Leoked Like Thought Transference, but the Explanation Was Simple.

A prominent lawyer thought he had discovered a wonderful instance of thought transference the other day. He has two typewriter operators. One works in his private office, and the other has a desk in an adjoining room. Of late he has been puzzled upon giving instructions to his private stenographer, to be delivered to the other typewriter, to find that she never guit the room, yet the girl in the next room would always excente the order just as if she had been told explicitly what was required.

The attorney for a long time had been trying to account for this seeming telepathic communication between the two young ladies. Yesterday he thought he would make a test of the matter, and calling his stenographer he said, "I want you to take down this article of agreement and give it to Miss Blank to transcribe." He then dictated a lengthy and technical doc-

ing on 23 individuals of both sexes and of opposite colors Professor Thiersch of Leipsic has given the following as th result: If a piece of negro's skin is grafted on the flesh of a white man or woman, the transplanted piece, as soon as it begins to properly adhere, gradually changes in col or and texture until it becomes indistin guishable from that of the surrounding cuticle, the process of change usually occu ying a period of from 92 to 112 days to make the complete transformation. On the other hand, when the skin of a white person is grafted to the flesh of a negro the change, which it has already been ad-mitted finally takes place, is not nearly so rapid, usually occupying a period of up ward of a year. As to texture, it can be truly said that the white piece, though it changes to all appearance to real negro

surroundings. The question now arises: Should further experiment prove this to be true beyond a doubt, will the belles of the future have their faces denuded and patched up with negro skin in order to give them a fash ionable texture?-St. Louis Republic.

## That Sinking Feeling.

A Detroit dector is laying for a boy about 16 years old, who came into his office on day last week, and after getting the doo tor's advice disappeared and has not since been seen, at least by him. "Doctor." said the boy, "I have a sink-

ing feeling all over a great many times a

'Ever at night?'' asked the doctor. "Hardly ever."

"Let me see your tongue."

The boy showed his tongue. The doctor felt his pulse, sounded his chest, worked a stethoscope on him, listened at his heartbents and then told him what was the matter with him and what to take for it. "Maybe my business has got something

ing room to get a vial "Hardly that, I think," cheerily sang out the physician from the other room. "What is your business?"

"I run an elevator," responded the lad. And before the doctor could get to him he had disappeared, as above stated .- Detroft Free Press.

He Sizes Them Up.

There are points in the ability of sales men to dispose of goods which are not commonly remembered by employers in summing up the worth of their men. A single instance of this will serve to illustrate

Walking into a clothing store, a busi ness man, who generally likes to go direct ly to the heart of a matter, said succinctly 'Moderate priced suit." "Black cheviot, sir?"

"Yes." In five minutes or less the first suit shown the customer was purchased by him. The salesman had gauged the price and the man instantly, so much so that as the buyer started to go out he was con-strained to inquire, "Did you ask me what kind of a suit I wanted as a result of sizing me up?"

"That's correct, sir." 'I suppose your experience enables you

to do that?" "I can say modestly enough," was the reply, "that that came from 19 years' ex-

perience." "Will you be kind enough to give me

some of your individual cards?" was the parting suggestive request of the pleased practical man of business, and the sales man went back to his work with a cheery spirit, which, however, was the only dif ference as receiving compensation between him and the perfunctory men who repulsed customers .- Philadelphia Call.

Frogs' eggs are generally found in bunches fastened to grass or sticks in the water near the shore. The black specks are the real eggs, and the jelly keeps them to the source when together and gives food to the young when

For Sale byC. M. HARRIS, Druggist, 127 Fenn Avenue.