

OLD POSTAL USAGES.

CURIOUS PHASES OF THE MAIL SERVICE SIXTY YEARS AGO.

Notes on Ordinary Letters in England Were Almost Prohibitive—Adoption of the Penny Post and the Queer Arguments Against It.

When Queen Victoria ascended the throne, there were no telegraphs in this country and few railways. The mails were forwarded by coach, and the postage rates were to all but the well-to-do prohibitive. It cost from 4d. to 1s. 8d. to send a "single" letter under an ounce in weight from one part of the kingdom to another. There were some 40 charges, varying according to distance, the average rate being 9d., or half the day's wage of a laborer. A "single" letter meant a single piece of paper (adhesive envelopes had not been invented), and the addition of a second scrap of paper made the letter a "double" one. The postage was paid on delivery by the recipient, and as no credit was given the incursion of a postman into a poor neighborhood was watched on all sides with fear rather than hope.

Coleridge, the poet, saw a poor woman declining to accept a letter on the score of inability to pay. The good natured bard (doubtless with some difficulty) found the required ninepence, despite the woman's remonstrances. When the postman had gone away, she showed Coleridge that the letter was but a blank sheet of paper. Her brother had arranged to send her at intervals such a sheet, addressed in a certain fashion, as evidence that all was well with him, and she as regularly, after inspecting the address, refused to accept it. Some humorist on one occasion sent out large numbers of letters, each on a sheet as large as a tablecloth, all of which had to be delivered as "single" missives.

This system practically stifled written intercourse among the working class and pressed with severity upon the middle-class, but the rich and highly placed entirely escaped postal taxation. The privilege of franking covered the correspondence not only of ministers, peers and members of parliament, but of their relatives, friends and acquaintances. While in one year early in the queen's reign no less than 7,400,000 letters were franked, a single London firm paid annually £11,000 for postage and a writer in The Quarterly referred flippantly to "so slight and rare an incident in a laborer's life as the receipt of a letter." Among the "packets" franked was a grand piano. An army of clerks was employed to fix the charges to be collected, and the postal revenue remained stationary between 1815 and 1835, although in the same period the population increased from 19,500,000 to 35,600,000.

Moved by this state of things, parliament in 1839 adopted Rowland Hill's proposal of uniform inland penny postage, which came into operation on Jan. 10, 1840. The writer possesses a copy of The Quarterly Review of 1839, in which a contributor (believed to be Croker) fiercely denounces the scheme. "Will clerks," he says, "write only to their fathers and girls to their mothers? Will not letters of romance or love, intrigue or mischief, increase in at least equal proportions? We doubt whether social and domestic correspondence will be more than doubled. A gigantic exemplification of the old proverb—Penny wise and pound foolish," etc.

Macaulay says that the penny post, when first established, was the object of violent invective, as a manifest contrivance of the pope to enslave the souls of Englishmen. It was described as "sedition made easy." The postal authorities, who in 1784 had opposed the institution of mail coaches, were implacable enemies of penny postage. The postmaster general of 1839, Lord Lichfield, based his objections on the curious ground that the building at St. Martin's-le-Grand would not be large enough. The secretary, Colonel Maberly, constantly repeated, "This plan we know will fail."

As we know, it succeeded, and the penny rate has been generally adopted in Europe as well as in the United States. The number of letters rose from 80,000,000 in 1837 to 299,000,000 in 1847, and for the year ending on March 31, 1897, about 1,900,000,000. The postal surplus was in 1839 £1,659,510 and in 1896-7 £3,082,133. The number of letters, which was in 1837 about 3 per head and in 1854 15 per head, is now 77 per head.—Fortnightly Review.

High Titles Without Cost.
English folk are copying the American custom of conferring titles upon their children in baptism by using such names as Lord, Earl, Baron, etc. This will mean more to the English child than it has to the American.

One parent in the midlands bestowed on his progeny military as well as social rank. One of his children is christened Baron, another Captain, another Colonel and another Major General. London Truth has this statement from one who knows this titled family, and they are to be found at the present time in the neighborhood of Birmingham. At this rate every Tommy Atkins in the next generation may be a field marshal.

Every Time.
Master—Tombs, this is an example in subtraction. Seven boys went down to a pond to bathe, but two of them had been told not to go in the water. Now, can you tell me how many went in?
Tombs—Yes, sir. Seven.—London Tit-Bits.

Justin McCarthy is quite gray haired. His beard is bushy, and his gold rimmed spectacles impart a benign air to his face, which indeed well suits his mild manner. As for his energy, one would say that it was inexhaustible. He is a politician, a journalist, a novelist and a historian.

OLD TIME SWEETNESS GONE

Molasses is Now Made Into Rum and Brown Sugar Can't Be Bought.

"The old fashioned molasses is rapidly disappearing as an article of commerce," said a prominent grocer, "and in its place have come a number of sirups which are more costly and by no means as satisfactory, especially to the little ones, who delight, as we did when we were young, in having 'lasses on their bread. Most of the molasses goes into the distilleries, where it is made into rum, for which, notwithstanding the efforts of our temperance workers, the demand is constantly on the increase, especially in the New England states and for the export trade. The regular drinker of rum will take no other liquor in its place if he can help it. It seems to reach the spot more directly than any other dram.

"The darker brown sugars have also disappeared, and they are not likely to return, owing to the methods of boiling and the manufacture. Granulated sugar is of the same composition, as far as saccharine qualities are concerned, as loaf, cut loaf cube and crushed and differs from them only in that its crystals do not cohere. This is because it is constantly stirred during the process of crystallization. The lighter brown sugars taste sweeter than the white, for the reason that there is some molasses in them. Housekeepers have difficulty these days in finding coarse, dark sugars, which are always preferred for use in putting up sweet pickles, making cakes and similar uses. As they cannot get brown sugar any more, it may be well for them to remember that they can simulate brown sugar by adding a teaspoonful of molasses to each quarter of a pound of the white granulated sugar. This combination does as well in all household recipes that call for brown sugar as the article itself, and besides it saves them a great deal of hunting for brown sugar, which, as said before, has disappeared from the market."—Eastport Sentinel.

HE COULD FORGIVE HER.

For In His Opinion Mrs. Siddons Did Not Marry an Actor.

Mrs. Siddons, the actress, was born in 1755 at the Shoulder of Mutton inn, Brecon, South Wales, of parents connected with the theater, her father, Roger Kemble, being a strolling manager. The child Sarah, was reared in a theatrical atmosphere, and at 10 she was playing Ariel.

As she grew up she became very beautiful and had many admirers, among whom was Henry Siddons, a young actor in her father's company, who had little difficulty in winning the girl's heart. Mr. and Mrs. Kemble had made up their minds that Sarah should not marry in the profession, in consequence of which they strenuously opposed the marriage, and young Siddons, in a fit of retaliatory humor, composed a song detailing their opposition and his trials, which brought about his speedy dismissal from the company. Sarah left the company, too, and hired out as lady's maid in Warwickshire for two years.

During this time the lovers carried on a lively correspondence and finally, gaining the reluctant consent of the Kembles, were married at Trinity church, Coventry, in 1773, when Sarah was 18.

It is said that Mr. Kemble told her if she ever married an actor it would make him discard her forever. After her marriage he said, "I may forgive you without breaking my word, for you have certainly not married 'an actor,' whatever the gentleman himself may think is his vocation." This is on authority of Lady Eleanor Butler, who knew the persons.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

His Bread Upon the Waters.

Fifteen years ago Carrie Burch was a servant girl in a California household where William F. Hastings was also employed. The girl became ill and had to leave, but had no money. Hastings loaned her \$200, and she went away. The years rolled by without the \$200 being returned, and Hastings had forgotten the occurrence when he received a letter from a barrister in London stating that an estate of \$78,000 had been left him by a Mrs. Hall, formerly Miss Carrie Burch of California. Hastings could hardly believe what he read, but he has the money now, and for his generosity to a strange girl years ago he has become independently rich. When the girl left California, she went to Australia as a nurse and there married a retired English merchant, who died some years afterward, and the widow then returned to London and lived there until her death.—Exchange.

A Good Reason.

The general passenger agent of one of the Chicago trunk lines received a letter from a Kansas man the other day requesting a pass for himself to Chicago and return. There was nothing about the letter to indicate that the writer had any claim whatsoever to the courtesy he requested, but the railway man thought that perhaps the Kansas had some connection with the road in some way, possibly as a local freight agent. So he wrote back, "Please state explicitly on what account you request transportation." By return mail came this reply, "I've got to go to Chicago some way, and I don't want to walk."—Exchange.

A Bakeshop Machine.

One of the latest appliances for use in a bakeshop oven consists of a machine which takes the whole meat and grinds it, mixes water with it and kneads it into dough ready for the oven.

Open the doors of opportunity to talent and virtue and they will do themselves justice, and property will not be in bad hands.—Emerson.

In 1620 the first large copper coins were minted in England, putting an end to private leaden tokens.

Does It Pay to be Sick?

Besides the discomfort and suffering, illness of any sort is expensive. Hundreds of people consult the doctors every day about coughs and colds. This is better than to suffer the disease to run along, but those who use Otto's Cure for the throat and lungs do better still. It costs less and the cure is certain. You can get a trial bottle free of our agent, H. Alex. Stoke. Large size 25c. and 50c.

DR. HENRY BAXTER'S MANDRAKE BITTERS,
CURES CONSTIPATION AND BILIOUSNESS.
A delightful tonic and laxative. Can be taken by young and old. No dieting necessary. Eat anything you like and plenty of it. Builds up "run down" people making them well and vigorous. Try it.
At Druggists. Only 85c per bottle.
Henry, Johnson & Lord, Props., Burlington, Vt.

For sale by H. A. Stoke.

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Neat Work Done on Short Notice!

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The editor of a leading state paper writes: "If you had seen my wife last June and were to see her to-day you would not believe she was the same woman. Then she was broken down by nervous debility and suffered terribly from constipation and sick headache. Bacon's Celery King for the nerves made her a well woman in one month." H. Alex. Stoke will give you a free sample package of this great herbal remedy. Large size 25c. and 50c.

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A. D. DEEMER & CO.

for the next ten days offer Ladies' Oxford Ties, worth

- \$1.00 at \$.80
- 1.25 " .98
- 1.50 " 1.00
- 1.75 " 1.00
- 2.00 " 1.50

- LANCASTER GINGHAMS, 5c.
- NORMANDIE " 6c.
- BEST CALICO PRINTS, 4 and 5c.
- CHALLIES 3c., LAWNS 6, 8 and 10c.
- EMBROIDERIES that were 8c. reduced to 5c.; 10c. and 12½c. kind to 8c.
- GENTS' DRESS SHIRTS that were 50c., 75c. and 85c., reduced to 37c.
- STRAW HATS, 50c. kind at 33c.
- A Few DRESS PATTERNS that were \$6.00, \$6.50 and \$7.00, to go in this sale at \$4.00.

Ladies' Shirt Waists will be sold regardless of cost or quality.

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I will close out my entire stock of

DRY GOODS, Clothing and Furnishing Goods

at less than mfg. prices.

HENRIETTAS, sold at 75c. and 85c.,	now 57c.
" " 65c.	49c.
" " 60c.	42c.
" " 50c.	39c.
SERGE, " 65c.	49c.
" " 60c.	45c.
" " 30c.	21c.
DRESS FLANNEL, " 90c.	57c.
" " " 75c.	57c.
" " " 50c.	40c.
RED FLANNFL, " 50c.	38c.
" " " 25c.	19c.
" " " 20c.	15c.
White Flannel at the same price.	
LADIES' RIBBED WAISTS, sold at 25c.,	now 19c.
" " " 15c.	10c.
" " " 10c.	08c.
RED TABLE DAMASK, " 25c.	20c.
" " " 50c.	40c.
WHITE " " 75c.	57c.
" " " 50c.	39c.
" " " 40c.	32c.
" " " 25c.	20c.

CORSETS formerly sold at \$1.00 now 79c.; formerly 75c., now 57c.; formerly 50c., now 39c.
CAMBRIC at 3¼c. a yard.
TAFFETY at 8 and 10c. a yard.
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CLOTHING

Childs' Suits \$1.00, now .75	Boys' Suits \$7. 8.00, now 5.50
" " 1.50, " 1.10	" " 5.00, " 3.75
" " 2.00, " 1.50	Men's " 4.98, " 3.85
" " 2.50, " 1.85	" " 5.00, " 3.75
" " 4.00, " 2.75	" " 5.00, " 2.75

Men's Fine Worsted Suits reduced from \$10.00 to 6.50.
GRAND ARMY SUITS reduced from \$8.50 to 5.50; from \$10.00 to 7.50.
Shirts reduced from \$1.00 to 75c., from 90c. to 67c., from 75c. to 62c., from 50c. to 42c., from 35c. to 25c.

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