### WASHINGTON LETTER.

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Correcting Little Abuses In the Postal Service Money Saved For Ungle Sam - An Envied Man.

[Special Correspondence.]

People who rent postoffice boxes in large cities have received recently noties to turn in their box keys and receive 80 cents of the 50 cents which they deposited on each, the keys to be reissned. Luck boxes, while they are net used so much proportionately as in the time when free delivery was an-'known, are still an important feature of the postal service. They are furnish-

First -- Fer postoffices in government buildings by the treasury department. Second .- At first and second class postelloss, the lessor, by agreement in The lease, usually furnishes the box out-

Third.--- Under existing law patrons d sosiefloss may provide lock boxes and fingk drawers for their own use under mitions stated

Feurth.-In all other cases boxes meant be furnished and kept in repair by in postmaster.

#### Why Boxes Ars Provided.

Benes are not furnished by the govmment to presidential offices of the bird elass except where offices of this class are in government buildings. At the present time 28 third class offices are situated in government buildings. Boxes are provided for postoffices to accommodate the patrons, for the conwenishes of the postmaster and as a genree of revenue. Under existing law. presidential offices, or offices of the laws, second and third classes, the box rents collected are included in the gross faceipts accruing at the offices in makag the annual adjustment of salaries of postmasters. These postmasters there-Fre indirectly receive a part of their fraction the sam allowed as comensation. Under the act of congress pproved March 9, 1889, at fourth class Mees the box rents are practically alpwed as a part of the compensation of te postmasters. The regulation of box mt rates by the department has resultin better accommodations to the pubc, more uniformity in rates and an inrease of revenue.

#### Key Deposit Forfaits.

Key deposits are collected by postmatters as a security against the loss of toys. The rate of deposit at postoffices focated in government buildings was redinced on April 18, 1895, to 20 cents. At all other postoffices it was reduced recently to the same figure. Deposts are held in trust by postmasters, but on return of keys in good condition they are returned to depositors within 30 days after the boxes to which they belong have been vacated. Deposits on keys not returned within 80 days are declared forfeited and revert to what is own as the key deposit forfeiture



Curious Customs but Little % sewn in This Country

> Among the most pleasing features of the universal good will that prevails at Christmastide in the old world is the kindly disposition shown to ex.

ænd the enjoyment of the festivity to. the dumb animals, which just at this season of the year may be said to be brought into more friendly and intimate front of their cottages on Christmas day a pole to which is fastened a large sheaf of oats or corn for the benefit of the little birds, while in many districts grain is spread outside on the doorstep and window sills on the evening of Dec. 24. The Albanians, the Montenegrins and in fact nearly all the races of the sontheast of Europe, irrespective of creed or nationality, make a point of distributing their first large Christmas meal cake among the cattle, after having broken it on the horn of an ox, while during the siege of Paris, when each soldier of the beleagnering German army managed to have his little Christmas tree, however scant or poor, set up on Christmas eve in remembrance of the loved ones at home, nearly every. trooper made a point of leading up his master's ration of bread in honor of the oocasion. Only in certain districts of southern Italy and in the isle of Man are excep-Calabria it is customary among the peasantry at Christmas time to place cake upon a table and to drive the oren around it, those who attempt to taste the food being slaughtered on the spot. In the isle of Man the cruel pastime known as "hunting the wren," and which dates back to pagan times, is still practiced every Christmas morning, all the villagers turning out, every one armed with two sticks-one for beating the bushes and the other for

How Christmas Gifts Can Bo Made Mish

It is no waste of time to bestow thought and pains upon the doing to of Christmas gifts. Half of the grade of the present is lost if it comes from the hands of the giver to those of the receiver carelessly wrapped in a turnbled brown paper, or, worse still, in a newspaper. The daintiness of white or tinted tissue paper, of bright ribbons and of neat boxes should always be called in to add to the attractiveness of the gift. The narrow baby ribbon that comes at 10 cents for a piece of ten yards is

within the reach of most purses, although for those who have many gifts net. tory, although charming effects may be produced by the use of colored paper. A clever young woman put her wits to practical use in the fashion she chose for doing up some cups and saucers she sent to a friend at the last holidays. There were four of them and a tray. This last she wrapped in soft green tissue paper and tied with narrow ribbon of the same shade. Then she turned the cups upside down in their saucers, that they might stand more steadily. She set each saucer in the middle of a round piece of violet tinted tissue paper, large enough to bring around and over the oup and wrong. have a large frill standing above. She gathered the paper together just above the cop with a bit of violet ribbon, and spread out the frill-she had previously out the edges in scallops-so that it Then she set the onps on the green covered tray and did the whole parcel up, first in a big double sheet of white tissue paper, and then in a neat brown hand, and it is easy to imagine the pretty effect that was seen when the outer wrappings were thrown back and the violets were seen on their green bed. Be a little lavish with your ribbon at Christmas time. If you give a teapot, tie the cover on with a pretty ribbonnot too narrow a one either. Secure your cards to your presents by ribbons. Tie one around the book or photograph case you give your friend. Put a bow of it on the handle of the whisk broom throwing at the birds. The origin of the or the handglass. What if it must soon come off? It will be an adornment while it stays on, and the ribbon can always be put to some use afterward.

# WOMAN AND FASHION. latest Parisian Style Revived From

Pashions of 1845 - Evening Wraps. Some Fashion Notes.

The new bordered waist which has the glory of being the latest Parisian style is in point of fast a revixal from the fashions dating back to 1845. The from top to bottom in order to make th French mediate Paquin suggested the sides stand up. Leave the upper gather rovival, and Bernhardt lent herself to ing loose. It can be squeezed in without the idea, and now, says as good authoraffecting the appearance of the bag and ity as the New York Herald, small sleeves, tight, stiff bodices and fall fle. A hand of r - and a how placed skirts are en fait accompli. The authority quoted says: Indeed, the tight over the gathering make a very preis deeves "arrived" with the initiated in fashion's mysteries some little time ago,

but the straight lines from built to waist are yet little worn. Paquin last year Christmas gift which some young givis got the straight, stiff effect by having are making is a white allk cravat cro shaped pade of hair worn between cheted in orany stitch with heavy white



### THE BOARDED WAIST

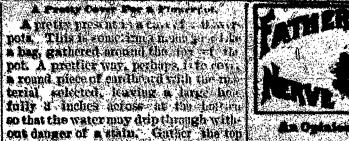
ing. I am a brewer down Brighton one's gown and stays, the bottom of the way. I want an active and promising V, of course, pointing toward the waist line and the top part rising to be much the business. I have no family, the level of the busit. These pade this and if he does well there is a partner. non to not as manager under me and season have developed into three alender akip ahead in the inturs. Now, is that boards-almost to flexibility -- plan- a good offert", "An excellent one," re-chettes, Paquin calls them. They are plied Lord Barton, "and I am only three to four inches wide at the top and servy that I cannot avail myself of it. tapering to a point at the waist line. The fact is that my name in Bass. T These planchettes are inserted in the have a little brewary of my own down. middle and front sides of the corrage, Burson way which domands all my at after the fashion of whalebones, and the contion.

satin or velvet of which the cornage is formed oan be drawn tightly over them, to that their surface is unmaried by crease or wrinkle, and the stiff, straight experience the other night, simost at line from bust to waist is maintained. the threshold of her home when the in a manner that would have moved the was stopped by a footpad, who demandwomen of 1845 to the deepest envy. 🔅 ad her money. The sleeves worn with these corsages

are an elaboration of the old fushioned avenue, Ohioago, and there are no other baby sleeves, and the bust is outlined houses within a quarter of a mile. She with solt folds of monseline de sole or alighted from an Evanston avenue oar, ohiffon. The newest skirts to wear with these

promed Hazel avenue and proceeded by poranges are accordion plaited and are the shortest and lonelies route home. made of monsseline de soie, chiffon or Suddenly a man sprang from behind an oak tree and shouted :

."I want your money!"



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An Easily Made Necktle.

A dainty novelly in the way of

Me Understood Brewing .---

It is said that while Lord Burton was

well posted on the subject, the stranger

observed : "Look here, my friend, you

mem to know a good deal about braw-

Wine Field and the Foelped.

Miss Mary French Field, daughter of

Miss Field lives at 2339 Olarendon

For Sale at 185 North Citaton St Rochester, N. Y.

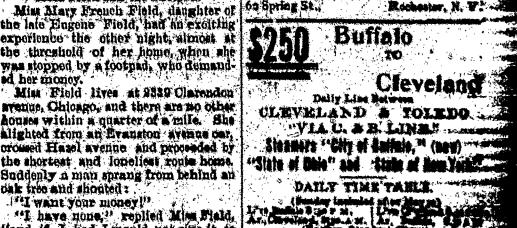
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fund. The key deposit forfeiture fund is used to purchase new keys to replace those lost, broken or withheld, which enables postmasters to keep up their full complement. In the past a surplus has accumulated under this account by reason of the fact that the amount deposited to cover the key was considerably in excess of its cost.

#### Loose Methods Corrected.

The amount involved in each transpotion was small, and postmasters therefore did not give the matter the attention it deserved. In numerous instances postmasters were found delinquent to the amount of several hundred dollars at the expiration of their term of office by reason of loose methods. The department was compelled to take action in the matter and demand of them or of their surcties that this amount be refunded. During the 15 months ended Sept. 30, 1896, surplus funds to the amount of \$16,486.67 have been turned into the United States treasury as miscollaneous receipts. The difficulties above referred to will in the future be obviated by the reduction of the key deposit to a uniform rate of 20 cents per key.

#### A Businesslike Department.

This is only one of many reforms which First Assistant Postmaster General Jones has brought about. In a department employing hundreds of thousands of men and women and spending so many millions of dollars every year it is impossible to prevent abuses and injustice. In one item alone-the hire of clerks at first and second class offices and special work in third and fourth class offices-\$11,000,000 is involved. Rent, fuel and light in first, second and third class offices cost \$1,600,000 a year. Last year inspectors were put at work examining the work done and equalizing it. The result was a distribution of work so as to make a gain in efficiency, while \$36,400 was saved on leases and \$28,718 on clerk hire.

The postoffice department is one of the most businesslike of the executive departments. It needs in every branch of the service men of fine business judgment and executive .ability or the government will be cheated constantly. It is mearer to the people than any other department, too, and the postmaster general is the envy of all the other members of the president's cabinet. CARL SCHOFIELD.

# "What's In a Name?"

The Swiss name for mistletce is donperbesen-thunder besom-and, when suspended from the rafters, is believed to protect the house from fire.

custom is to be found in the legend according to which "there formerly lived in the isle of Man avery beautiful fairy who exercised great influence over the male population by means of her voice. enticing them into the sea, where they were drowned. So long did this continue that fears were entertained that the island would be depopulated. Eventually, however, a knight errant of King Arthur's Round Table appeared upon the scene, and he, having discovered a means of overcoming the fairy's charm. pressed her so hard with a plot for her destruction that she could only save herself by taking the form of a wren. While the was in this form a spell was cast upon her which compelled her to assume the bird's form on each Christmas day and decreed that she should ultimately "die by human hands;" hence the cruel hunting of the wren is kept up, and after the birds have been killed the children place them on ivy bushes and carry them around in procession.

The biggest gold nugget known was found in 1869 some 40 miles north of Ballarat and was named "Welcome Stranger"-a very appropriate designation. It weighed 184 pounds and repre-

sented over £9,500 in value.

## A Parisian Trick.

The latest and most ingenious trick of Parisian pickpockets was recently played on a visiting Englishman.

The tonrist took a seat at a cafe table. A Frenchman sat on the other side of it. He began to play with the lever of a selters syphon, when suddenly, and seemingly by accident, a stream of the aerated water struck the Englishman in the face. The Frenchman apologized profusely and wiped off the water with his own handkerchief. After the polite Frenchman had gone the Englishman discovered that his purse, containing nearly £500, had also disappeared. -Paris Correspondence.

#### The seven wonders of the ancient world were: The pyramide of Egypt, the mansoleum of Artemisia, the temple of Diana of Ephesus, the hanging gardens of Babylon, the Colossus of Rhodes, the statue of Jupiter Olympus

"I have none." replied Miss Blaid. Mrs. M. E. Saugster in a lecture on "and if I had I would not give it to women in journalism is reported in the you. I'll poke your eyes out!" New York Times as saying that the qualities which inhere in good house vantage of this the young woman batkeeping come to the front in good news, tened on, and the lootpid made no st paper work-qualities which the speak- tempt to follow her. 'er summed up something in this way: The newspaper woman must be systomatic, though she caunot be the slave

of system. She must grasp details, make quick decisions and learn how to say no with every possible infloction. Shemust be graiet manuered and self controlled. not losing her temper when things go

Mrs. Sangster is also disinclined to ever supersede men in any very perceptible degree. Women have published as well as edited newspapers and periodthe americon that women cannot compete with men in this particular than

to serve as a precedent. Evening Closks.

Cloaks for the opera and other evening functions are decidedly elegant this season and furnish suggestions for less costly wraps in localities where these expensive ones are not in request. Evening wraps are in every possible size. shape and color. Silks, velvets and



FOR EVENING WELFL oloth are all employed in their making, and furs and laces are employed as trim-

minga. An example in long cloaks is furnished in pale green satin lined with oherry. silk and having a cape of black and sorn lace applique surmounied by a rull of white tips. A cape in brocade silk trimmed with mink and having a satin lined. hood represents a fashionable short wrap. A charming little head wrap is of cream colored lace with satin bow,

The fellow heritaged, and, taking ad-

Tashion Motes. The miroir moire silks are popular

and much used for theater gowns. Long and demi trains have made their

appearance again in the ballroom. Volvet blouses are in great favor and made with extreme severity.

Opera glasses and lorgnettes are deaidedly in evidence. This is their seathink that women in journalism will son, and they are resplendent with an ameling and gems.

Scalakin coats are short, moderately full around the bottom, plose ditting in icals, but in such exceptional and rare the back and loose and double breated ly recurring instances as to rather point in front, with deep ravara and a high rolling collar.

> He Is Coming. Yos, ho, thy King, is coming To chil thy work and wronm. To give thes for for mouraing. To turn thy sight to sought

To lift then from thy mainem 

Name Cards For Disser.

Exquisite name cards to be need in dinner giving are made of bolting cloth placed over deligate colors of ribbon. Pale pick, blue and yellow are much used, but the volor should be in keeping. with the decorations. On the bolting cloth are suitable quotations.

Eat, drink and be marry. Should suid acquaintance be forgos? A large and magnificent series of original drawings of longi, by Edwin Wheeler of Bristol, has recently been presented to the trustees of the British museum.

Elephants in Africa are becoming so scarce that it is proposed to establish protected reservations for them on servitory under British protection, like Somalland.

The state of Indiana furnished a great many tall men for the army Out of 118,094 mon whose descriptions ware taken at the time of sullatment 11,899 ware 6 feet in beight

The Atlas moth, a gigantic fur coated, might figing insect of control Branil. is said to be the very largest winged "bug" in the world. He measures 14 inches from tip to tip.

Spain is very rich in all kinds of metals used in manufactures, especially iron, copper, tin, quicksilver and lead, and in 1895 she exported them to the amount of \$13,000,000.

and the state of the states

Tabe the "O. AND R. BINS encouse to Cleveland. Tob Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Descrit, Lain resours, or any Ohio, Indian Wallarn po at. Send 4 peets past age for taninine ge

For further information mak your Coupon Ticket Agent, or address W. F. Merman.

Cleveland. C.

john H. Ashton Old, Tried and Hel Lotter Promiting Paid Rothe OFFICE SINT SEL RIMMERS

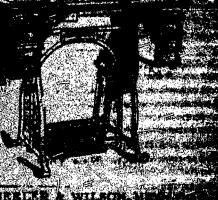
SHALIDARENY & LEAD

27 Frenklig St., neur Hate. T









WHERE DER & WULSON 10. DECIMANT SAL BONN 10. M. Harrison, ORM



by Phidias and the Pharos or watch tower of Rhodes.

