

THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.

NO LESS THAN 25,000 LETTERS WENT DOWN WITH THE ELBE.

Divers to Search for Mail—How the Lost Letters Will Be Treated if Recovered—The Sea Post Office—Hard Work for the Postal Clerks.

Twenty-five thousand letters at the bottom of the sea! No fewer, and possibly, twice that number went down with the Elbe. Of these at least a couple of thousand were registered, and perhaps as many more contained money or other inclosures of value, though not registered. The damage and distress involved by the loss of those 250 sacks of mail matter may hardly be calculated. How often do life and death hang upon the prompt arrival of a written message! The delay of such a communication for a week may cause the failure of a firm. Drafts and other paper representing large sums are in some of the missing letters. Only the other day a man wrote from Germany inquiring about a missive containing \$4000, which he had sent by post to this country. Fortunately, it had already been returned to him, the address being defective. Divers will seek for the mail of the Elbe. Presumably only a part of it will be recovered. The ship sank in water not so deep as to make the quest for the missing letter bags a hopeless one, but some of them are not unlikely to drift away with the currents of the tempestuous North Sea. When the Oregon went down in the harbor of New York, skillful men in diving gear had no difficulty in fetching up from the wreck 215 of the bags of mail which she carried. There were 598 sacks in all, but most of them floated off and out to sea. They were picked up during the next six months at various points along the Atlantic coast from Portland, Me., to Cape Hatteras.

IF RECOVERED.

Such mail as may be recovered from the Elbe will be forwarded immediately to New York, where it will be examined with a view to its delivery to the addresses at the earliest possible moment. Much of it will be reduced to the condition of paper mache; wrappers will have disappeared, and addresses will be beyond deciphering. What can not be made out will be treated by experts who have had experience in this sort of business. They accomplished wonders with the stuff that was brought from the Oregon, but few of the letters recovered failing to reach their intended recipients. The letters were first dried by furnace heat, while the packages and printed matter were spread out in the sun. The Oregon disaster occurred on March 7, 1886. All but 134 of her sacks of mail were saved by divers or recovered as flotsam and jetsam. Incidental to their inspection of the water-soaked stuff, it was discovered that the smuggling of jewelry and other dutiable articles in newspapers was being carried on to an extent previously unsuspected. Laces, fine handkerchiefs, and, more particularly, gloves were being sent across the water in this fashion in enormous quantities, evidently. No doubt the same sort of practice goes on to-day, for the Post Office authorities can do very little toward preventing it. It is not possible to examine every newspaper and parcel of printed matter for contraband goods.

ANOTHER GREAT LOSS.

Another great loss of mail at sea occurred in 1892, when, on the 31st day of January, the steamship Eider was wrecked off the Isle of Wight. She carried 387 sacks of postal stuff, none of which would have been saved probably but for the heroic behavior of William H. Hall, the postal clerk in charge. While the vessel was sinking and all was confusion, the passengers taking to the boats and anxious only to preserve their own lives, he stood at the post of duty and got out the mail bags, all of which save forty-seven were safely landed. For this act Hall received a testimonial from the German Government. Two postal clerks lost their lives on board of the Elbe. The men who do this kind of service have no easy life. They are chosen from the railway mail service, or sometimes from among the clerks who have had an experience at post offices in the handling and sorting of foreign letters. The space allowed for them on board ship is usually ill-ventilated and too small for comfort—a room over the screw or opposite the steerage kitchen. Perhaps the quarters will measure 2x10 feet, with a case of sixty boxes for distributing mail at either end. Every ship that carries the mail across the ocean has a completely equipped post office. Though crowded into small space, it is provided with everything of importance that is to be found in a post office on land. The clerk in charge is the postmaster of the sea post office. He must be proof against seasickness, and it is preferred that he shall be unmarried. On an average trip he has to sort 75,000 letters, and, in addition, the contents of perhaps fifty bags of printed matter. With plenty of room and better facilities he could accomplish this task in a day or two, but, conditions being unfavorable, more time is required. The sacks, on being placed aboard the ship, are put in the storage rooms, from which they are brought by the deck hands as they are wanted.

THE SEA POST OFFICE.

The sea post office on board of a ship of the North German Lloyd Line, such as the Elbe, has two clerks, one who speaks English and the other a German. The Elbe on her ill-fated voyage carried mail not only from Germany, but also from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia and Austria. The British staff was not to be taken on board until the ship reached Southampton, and thus it escaped. It was the business of Clerk Hall to sort all of the letters and other materials, making them up in packages for the various cities, so that they might be forwarded by fast trains without delay as quickly as the steamer should arrive at New York. The clerk of the sea post office must get along with a berth in the room where he does his work. The bad air is made worse by the smell of the

mail, some of which is not over clean. He must sort his letters frequently when the ship is rolling and pitching so that it is difficult to maintain his footing. On the other hand, his toil is less hard than that of a railway postal clerk. He has excellent food, and may partake of five meals a day if he wishes. There is plenty of jollification on board if he chooses to take part in it. Every evening there is a concert and a dance. On this side of the water and at the European end of his voyage he has from five days to a week of leisure, and during this time, he does nothing except dodge telegrams which may convey orders for extra runs. If employed on the Hamburg-American Line, his board is paid at an hotel in Hamburg while he is there.

Queensland's New Voting System.

Chief Justice Griffith, of Queensland, Australia, has written to a friend in this country concerning the working of the new method of voting adopted in 1892, which provides for minority representation. It allows the voter to dictate his first and second choice candidates by placing the figure 1 opposite the name of his first choice and the figure 2 opposite his second choice. Then, if the first choice candidate proves to be unpopular, the first choice is disregarded, and the vote is given, according to the second choice, to some other candidate. By this means a great economy of votes is effected. Where there are three candidates the least popular candidate would fail of election, and the votes of his supporters would go to one of the two remaining candidates, according to the wish of the voter. In this way two minorities may become a majority. Chief Justice Griffith thinks that the system is entirely practicable, and says, "The only objection I have seen made to it came from persons who are conscious that they can not command a majority of the votes, but still desire to be elected."

Where No One Ever Walks.

The city of Buenos Ayres has the largest street-car system, in proportion to its population, of any city in the world. The total number of passengers carried last year was 71,346,564, while the monthly average was 5,955,547.

The Retort Social.

Little Miss Mugg—I just want you to know that I don't associate with the likes of you.
Little Miss Backcourt—You needn't be so uppish, just because your nose is.

Blessings of Ignorance.

Visitor—Is that cat really so old as you say? She plays around like a kitten.
Little Girl—Yes; cats hasn't any family Bibles, and they never knows how old they are.

Neatly Done.

Gus De Smith—By the way, Hostetter have you two fives for a ten?
Hostetter Mc Ginniss—I have.
Gus De Smith—Then lend me one of 'em

A Decided Success.

Dora—What is that D. R. A. that you belong to?
Clara—The Dancing Reform Association gentlemen dance with gentlemen, and ladies with ladies.
Is that idea a success?
Yes, indeed. At our last dance no one danced at all. We just promenaded about the conservatories.
Do you call that a success?
Do I? Look at this ring.

A Little Too Regular.

St. Peter—I hardly know whether to let you in or not.
Mrs. Veragood—You don't! I never missed a church service, no matter what the weather.
St. Peter—Yes, and your husband worked himself to death paying doctor's bills. Wait, and I'll see if he want's you.

A Wonderful Gift.

Fortune Teller—You may in time make a good income, but you will never be rich.
Young Man—Oh? Why not?
You are not saving. You are wasteful.
My! My! I'm afraid that is true. You have a wonderful gift. How did you know I was wasteful?
You have just wasted a dollar getting your fortune told.

Cold and Calculating.

She—Mr. DeCade has such a cold and calculating look.
He—And no wonder. His landlady has quit giving him a fire, and he is calculating how he can get his trunk out of the house without paying his board bill.

Proverbs.

It is easier to break silence than to mend it.
The church cannot help you to trade tenement-houses for heavenly mansions.
Practical wisdom avoids big words.
There would be more murders if men hated persons as ferociously as they do opinions.
To-morrow's advertising may be a day too late.
Nature never hurries, never halts and never fails.

MR. S. F. RYCKMAN.

Hamilton's Well Known Contractor Cured of a Severe Attack of Sciatica in Five Days.

"I had so severe an attack of sciatica in May, '94, that I could hardly walk. I was recommended by G. W. Spackman, druggist, to use South American Rheumatic Cure. I followed his advice and within five days was completely cured. Three years before when troubled with same complaint, it took doctors three months to cure me."

S. F. Ryckman, Hamilton, Ont.
The first dose of South American Rheumatic Cure gives relief, and absolutely convinces that a cure is certain.

SOME FEMALE POISONERS.

IN THE MIDDLE AGES THEY OPERATED ON DIFFERENT SYSTEMS.

When Victims Die of Poison, the Drug Has Been Generally Administered by Women—The Secret of the Ancient Poisons Has Not Been Transmitted to Us.

The trial of the woman aptly called "the Antwerp Brinvilliers" culminated in the only possible conclusion. Mme. Joniaux was sentenced to death, being found guilty on all counts, and if she escapes with her life and the sentence be commuted to one of perpetual imprisonment, it is only because the present King of the Belgians never as yet has been persuaded to ratify capital punishment with his signature, and practically has abolished it.

Belgium has of late years been the theatre of several sensational poisoning cases of an equally revolting nature, taking into consideration the rank and status of the accused. Count Visart de Bocarme, belonging to a noble family, poisoned his brother-in-law, and died on the scaffold, while the perpetrators of the Risk Allab murder in 1887 and the Peltzer assassination in 1888 are still in the prison of Louvain.

The birth and antecedents of Mme. Joniaux seemed at first to be guarantees of her innocence, for she was not only the wife of a high Government official, but the daughter of Gen. Ablay, formerly aide-camp to King Leopold I. However, it is an ascertained fact that when victims die of poison, the drug has been generally administered by women, the motive being mostly

AN ILLICIT OR THWARTED LOVE.

and their chief object to carry out their murderous intention as promptly as possible. Nor is this form of crime modern. We can trace it to the remote periods of history, from the fair and elegant Geese Parisiades, who, when she got tired of her lovers, invited them, with others, to a sumptuous repast, and carrying some dainty dish with a knife, the blade of which was poisoned on one side only, helped them to the fatal portion, and saw them die before the end of the feast, while the remaining guests escaped unharmed. Cleopatra, an artistic epicure, lightly dropped poisoned rose leaves into the wine-filled cups of the enemies she had doomed. The secret of these ancient poisons has not been transmitted to us. It is only of the compounds used by Lucezia Borgia that we have formed some accurate idea. There is little doubt that the beautiful Duchess of Ferrara employed a white powder closely resembling sugar, which was an arsenical preparation. The famous aqua tofana was only a variation or adulteration of the same drug.

In the middle ages the female poisoners operated on different systems, but always in a graceful and elegant fashion. Catherine de Medici sent death in dainty perfumed gloves, and Diane de Meridor in juicy golden oranges. In the seventeenth century, an epoch when poisons were freely used, they were currently called by the cynical and ironical appellation of "poudre a succession." Mme. de Brinvilliers and la Voisin used an immense quantity of this "inheritance powder," which placed many a fortune within their grasp. The trial of the former caused great scandal, although she persistently refused to give any explanation or to betray her accomplices. "If I spoke," she repeatedly declared "the whole town would be compromised."

The woman Voisin was less reticent, admitting that to her trade in poisons she had added the profession of witchcraft, and that "on stormy nights she summoned the devil to St. Denis." Mme. de Sevigne in her "Letters" alludes to her trial and sentence.

SHE WAS BURNED ALIVE

on the Place de Greve, struggling with extraordinary ferocity against the executioners till the flames suffocated her.

But it is Mme. Lafarge, nee Marie Capelle, who remains the modern type of female poisoner. She was the daughter of an officer of the Imperial Guard, well married, happy at first, then tired of her husband, and madly in love with another man. She had by letters warned her husband that he had become hateful to her, and that she would get rid of him at any price. She made him eat a piece of cake thickly powdered with arsenic, was tried, found guilty, and condemned to prison for life. However, in 1832 she was pardoned, and died a few months after her liberation, leaving a book of memoirs called "Prison Hours." After reading it Alexandre Dumas the elder wrote: "Was Marie Capelle guilty or not? The secret lies between her judges and God. She eternally said 'No.' The law once said 'Yes,' and before this sole affirmation all her denials went for nothing. Guilty or innocent, Marie Capelle is dead, with the stone of the tomb and the rehabilitation of the tomb."
Mme. Lacoste was more fortunate. After a long trial for the same crime she was acquitted. Lydie Fougines, Countess de Bocarme, arrested under suspicion of having assisted her husband in the murder of his brother-in-law, was found not guilty. Her self-command was prodigious. When told that the Count had ascended the scaffold in dress trousers, a cambric shirt, and patent leather shoes, she remarked coldly: "He has done well; it will be a good example for our people."

WOMEN OF LOWER RANKS

have been guillotined for similar crimes hastily and clumsily executed. A few years ago, Mme. Weiss, a lady by birth, poisoned her husband, a public functionary in the province of Oran, with the "Fowler liquor," keeping her promise to M. Roche, who shot himself on hearing of the murder. Mme. Weiss took poison herself in her cell on the day following her sentence of death. To-day arsenic is exploded; modern science has made it too easily discoverable in the bodies of the victims; in fact, mineral poisons are only resorted to by the ignorant or by passionate, reckless women, who have not the patience to wait for the slower

effects of vegetable poisons in their mad impulse to remove the living obstacles between them and their guilty loves. If the latter drugs are safer on account of their rapid and complete elimination from the system, they require more careful and subtle handling in their administrations, for they have a decided and often unpleasant taste, which is difficult to conceal, and which is apt to arouse the suspicions of the intended victims. Vegetables and nictotine poisons have been prime favorites and the chief factors of most violent deaths lately, but Mme. Joniaux was the first woman to use morphia as a criminal agent.

FOR THE BUSINESS MAN.

A Few Hints as to When and How to Advertise.

Advertise such things as the season suggests.

Advertising is the champagne sparkle of business.

Time is one of the most important elements in advertising.

Once in each advertisement is enough for the firm name.

The retail ad that is fresh to-day is liable to be stale to-morrow.

At the advertiser's store Hard Times looks in but dares not enter.

If you have a good thing, you owe it to the public to advertise it.

The advertisement brings the customer and the salesman gets the credit.

No man can talk about advertising not paying like the man who has not tried it.

Do not illustrate anything you offer for sale unless the illustration will do it credit.

The most important secret to know after knowing how to advertise is to know how to wait.

How are people going to know why they should trade with you if you don't tell them.

To advertise "Money back if wanted" is the very best advertising when such advertising is possible.

The man who is convinced the public ought to buy what he has for sale can make the public think so, too.

The advertisement that may be good to-day may be poor to-morrow. Times change and ads should be changed with them.

All the business sense, all the common sense, all the advertising sense that can be condensed into an ad is just what it needs.

There are bad spots in the best ads, the same as there are weeds in the best gardens. You can't cultivate your copy too often.

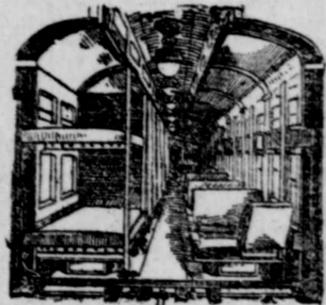
What you've got to say may have been said by others a million times; the way you say it is what convinces and counts in advertising.

People think they don't want to read advertisements. That's why it takes art and literature combined to make people read them.

Not everyone is succeeding in his advertising. In fact, advertising success is harder now than a few years ago. Hence the necessity of using the best advertising possible to secure, if you wish to be classed among the successful ones.

A Trainful of Air.

Pneumatic cushions and mattresses for combined parlor and sleeping cars form the basis of one of the most recent inventions. The cushions and mattresses are each connected with pipes containing compressed air which may be turned on or off by means of valves. By means of these valves they



may be inflated or collapsed and compactly stored against the sides of the car according to the daily or nightly requirements of the car and its passengers. Both cushions and mattresses are made with folds like an accordion and immediately when the air vent is opened they are drawn with their collapsing frames against the side of the car by means of springs. Under each section is a place for storing blankets, pillows, etc. The new arrangement makes the cars much more comfortable for either night or day use and much more sanitary as well.

Incomprehensible.

"What is that young man whomakes all the noise on the third floor trying to do?" asked the boarder who came from the country.

"He's cultivating his voice," replied the star boarder.

"Gosh! I don't see what he's doin' that for. I shouldn't think he'd want it to grow."

Found an Angel

Husband—Got a new girl, I see.
Wife—Yes, and she's an angel, too.

How can you know that? She hasn't been here half a day yet.

True, but she tells me that she once lived with your mother, and stood it for three weeks.

Sympathy.

What's this? asked Li Hung Chang.

It's a photograph, sire, of an American society lady in evening costume.

Poor thing! How deeply in royal disfavor she must be. She appears to have lost almost as much wardrobe as I have."

A Negative Accomplishment.

Has Miss Gildingby any accomplishment? asked the young man.

I should say so, replied her enthusiastic admirer. She can refuse to play the piano and stick to it.

SUNSHINE HAS RETURNED.

The Shadows Overhanging a Niagara Falls Home Have Vanished.

Little Mabel Dorety Cured of St. Vitus' Dance After Four Physicians Had Ineffectually Treated The Case.

From the Niagara Falls Review.

In speaking to a friend recently we were asked if we had heard that little Mabel Dorety, the eight-year-old daughter of Mrs. Dorety, Ontario avenue, had been miraculously cured of St. Vitus' dance. We replied in the negative, but stated that we would investigate the case and ascertain the facts. Accordingly we visited the home of Mrs. Dorety, when she related the facts as follows:—My little girl has had a miraculous experience. It is about two years and a half since Mabel was stricken with St. Vitus' dance caused by the weakening effects of a gripe and rheumatism. Three local physicians were called in as was also one doctor of considerable reputation from Niagara Falls, N. Y., but in the face of the prescriptions of these physicians and the best of care, Mabel grew rapidly worse. She could not be left alone an instant and was as helpless as an infant as she had no control of her limbs at all. She could neither walk without assistance nor take food or drink. At this stage one of the attending physicians said, "Mrs. Dorety, there is no use in my coming here any more. There is nothing that I know of can be done for your little girl." Well, matters went on that way for a short time, with no better results, till one day I was sure the poor child was dying. I remembered having seen accounts of St. Vitus' dance cured by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and I determined to try them. I was skeptical as to the effect and only tried them as a last resort, but was soon agreeably surprised at the result. It was not long before they had a good effect and I then felt certain I had found a remedy that could cure my little girl if anything could. In less than three months she was so much better that the dread disease had almost disappeared, and the pills were discontinued. In a few months, however, she showed that the symptoms had not been entirely eradicated from her system, so I had her again commence the use of the Pink Pills. I feel certain that all traces of the awful malady will be swept away, for she goes to school now and we have not the slightest anxiety in leaving her alone. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills is certainly a grand remedy and I would not be without them under any consideration, for I think they are worth their weight in gold, as in my little girl's case they have been true to all they advertise. I am only too glad to let others who may be unfortunate know of this miraculous cure through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

When strong tributes as these can be had to the wonderful merits of Pink Pills, it is little wonder that their sales reach such enormous proportions, and they are the favorite remedy with all classes. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. Sold in boxes (never in loose form by the dozen or hundred, and the public are cautioned against numerous imitations sold in this shape) at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y.

McSwatters—"Talk is cheap. McSwatters—"Not when you talk back to a justice in court."

Hood's Cured After Others Failed

Scrofula in the Neck—Bunches All Gone Now.



Blanche Atwood, Sanguerville, Maine.

C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:

"Gentlemen—I feel that I cannot say enough in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla. For five years I have been troubled with scrofula in my neck and throat. Several kinds of medicines which I tried did not do me any good, and when I commenced to take Hood's Sarsaparilla there were large bunches on my neck so sore that I could

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures

not bear the slightest touch. When I had taken one bottle of this medicine, the soreness had gone, and before I had finished the second the bunches had entirely disappeared." BLANCHE ATWOOD, Sanguerville, Maine.

N. B. If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced by any other.

Hood's Pills cure constipation by restoring the peristaltic action of the alimentary canal.

FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
DUNN'S BAKING POWDER
THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND
LARGEST SALE IN CANADA.