

A POST OFFICE ROMANCE.

Mr. John H. Halsetti, one of the oldest public servants in the New York Post Office, remembers that in 1833 a young woman used to call every week for a letter addressed to Miss Mary H. Russell, Post office. The regular service had been discontinued, but the young woman, in her impatience, continued to give her account of herself, elicited much curiosity among the clerks, but their impatience was never gratified. Years passed away and gray hairs appeared on the woman's head, but she made her calls as regularly as ever, and the expected letter was always waiting for her. Near the year 1850 her claspings and caresses addressed to her name, although the intervals between them were longer than in the old time. These letters have of course been opened, but they contained no clue to the identity of either the writer or the recipient. Each contains a \$5 bill with a line of writing on it, which the next remittance would be made to. No address, no date, no signature. The handwriting is that apparently of a man feeble with age, and another letter with the usual superscription is at present waiting, lying unopened at the Post office. Maria H. Russell, an elderly woman, ten years ago received a letter from a man who said his contents were sent to Washington, but no one can guess who the anonymous writer is who so faithfully maintained his correspondence. Post offices are essentially practical places, but little bits of romance may sometimes be found even in their files.

MIXED MARRIAGES.

Not a bad instance of the evil effects of mixed marriages, contracted even with the best intentions, can be found in Glasgow, Scotland. Some time ago a Catholic tailor married a dressmaker who belonged to that description of Protestant known as "Free Church." It was agreed by both parties before marriage that their confiding with their respective friends should not be allowed to interfere.

All similar marriages, the result was as satisfactory as the couple expected. Domestic disputes and unhappiness soon made their appearances, and eventually the husband became so excited on one occasion at his spouse's talk about the state of the window, several

arts-and-crafts of exterior under the respected Catholic dignitaries that he trampled upon a picture of William of Orange. The female Free-Churcher could not stand such an insult to her religion as this, and she forthwith brought a complaint against her husband for alienation at the rate of \$100 a month.

The sheriff considered the couple justified and granted the Free-Churcher £2 a week as alimony. It was acknowledged by the sheriff that the conduct of the Free-Church had been characterized by a lack of every feature becoming in a wife, and that the husband ought to have shown a forbearance that was perfectly hardy consistent with the duty of ruling his own household. So much for Catholic forbearance and patience and Free church female amiability and Christianity. The moral of all this is— Beware of mixed marriages.

HOW THE QUEEN DID IT.

The late Doctor Norman Macleod was a most famous man, and was noted for his love of a good joke. The following story is told in every one's mouth, and deserves remark. Shortly after he had returned from his visit to Balmoral, it happened that he was invited to a dinner party at Glasgow. When the day arrived, circumstances in connection with his pastorate caused him to prevent his being present at the appointed hour. Accompanying him to the house, the doctor had been served, but was not very far advanced.

Having apologized for his want of punctuality, the lady of the house said those at the table would wait a few minutes, and she would soon overtake them. While waiting for the Queen, and, indeed, she asked several questions as to how Her Majesty conducted herself at table, and so forth. The doctor told them he would answer them all with his answers, if in the meantime he could be allowed to proceed.

Soup was first served, and the doctor partook of both. When this was which contained the latter was being removed, the doctor, casting his eyes over the table, said "It was just at this stage of the dinner the Queen said to me, 'Noo, Norman, I think you'll be the better of a dinner if you eat more, which is on the sideboard, was speedily produced, and the doctor partook of his dinner, amid shouts of laughter from the guests.

DRUIDISM STILL PRESERVED IN WALES.

London Correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial.

I have just obtained, through a Welsh friend, a few items concerning a mysterious sect in the South of Wales, concerning which no record whatever exists, but which I believe to be the very last remnant of the ancient Druidic religion.

The people belonging to this little sect, are few and poor, they dwell scattered among the hills in the neighborhood of Pontypridd. They gather together only twice in the year—the summer and winter solstices. They then ascend a mountain called Erywysian. This mountain is a name seems to come from Erygys (French Eglise), church, and then, however, but the mysterious religions say that the latter word, *Ran*, is the name of their leader. The mountain is connected with antiquity by having on its top a holy (rocking) stone, and near its base the remains of a small (Druidic) temple, circular, built of large stones, lined with stones, such as are thought by some to be a reliquary of serpent worship. When these brothers assemble at the mountain's base at the solstice, they are headed by an aged man, who bears in his hand a long staff. At the top of this staff is a small spire, or three prongs, like diverging rays, issuing from one point. An informant asked one of the solitaires what was the meaning of this sphere and its three prongs. He replied that the sphere was "the sphere," and as for the three prongs, "you will find three in everything," he said; "in leaves and trees particularly." After the assembly, the leaders, their aged leader with the staves up the mountain, and when they arrive there he preaches to them a strange sort of mixture of materialism and fetishism.

SILVER IN MASSACHUSETTS.—A silvermine in New England is not, as a rule, the kind of establishment which large returns could be expected, but there is one which we publish to-day describes one of extraordinary promise. There have been many instances of discovery of the precious metals in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, but the variable experience has been that the cost of production continually increased, while the product in metal tapered down. So far, the result in this Massachusetts mine seems to be the reverse of the usual record, but whether the glowing anticipations of the yield will be justified when the excavations are proceeded with further, the question which even the geologists of the State School of Technology are not competent to decide. At all events, the discovery of silver in Essex County, unless perhaps in the form of buried spoons, is an occasion for surprise; but it has been said it would not have been so remarkable.

THE LATEST NOVELTIES.

Don't forget the place, it is

76 Sparks Street,

THOS. LAWRENCE.

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ALSO,

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HARNESSES, ROSES, &c.

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