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# WASHINGTON LETTER.

How the Franking Privilege Is Abused. Gold by Registered Mail-Dynamite Proof Safes.

[Special Correspondence.]

An important provision in the laws of the recent session of congress attracted little attention outside Washington, though it is likely to make a decided difference in the receipts of the postoffice department. The new law provides that nothing but written or printed matter shall be carried as mail matter under a frank. It has been the custom of the departments for some years to send all sorts of supplies under official frank in postal ears. When a party from the geological survey went to the west on an exploring expedition, the tools, the tents, the picks and shovels were sent in mail cars and were handled by the postal clerks under the department frank. When the party came home, the specimens of ores, sometimes weighing hundreds of pounds, were transported in the same way. The attention of the postoffice department was called to this abuse at a time when a particularly heavy shipment of freight was made over a road on which the mail was being weighed officially. The weighing of the mail on the railroad routes occurs once in four years in each section of the country, and on this weighing the government's payments for mail transportation are made during the ensuing four years. The heavy shipment of freight raised the average of the mail matter carried over one of the routes for the entire four years and cost the government probably hundreds of times what it would have cost to send the single

shipment by freight or express.

Franking Soiled Linen. This provision ought to have been in the law years ago, when congressmen used to ship their soiled clothing home to be laundered and have it sent back to them clean under a frank. Not long ago a New York congressman sent a bundle of laundering home under his frank and as it was examined in transit the fact became known to the postal authorities and he was warned not to do it again. Congressmen have no right to frank anything but parts of The Congressional Record, public documents and letters on public business. The new law will prevent the treas-

ury department repeating the great gold shipment which was made four or five years ago from the Pacific coast. The treasury wanted the gold on storage at the San Francisco mint transferred to New York. Application was made to the Wells-Fargo express for a rate, as San Francisco is out of the district of the United States Express company, which has the contract for handling the government money. The rate named was very high and the secretary of the treasury determined to ship the gold by registered mail—that is, to send it east under guard on a special train which was hauled by the railroad companies at the special rate made for postal shipments. The total cost of handling it was about one-tenth what the express company would have charged. If the shipment had been made east of the Missouri river, the government would have had to pay the United States Express company even more than the Wells-Fargo people asked, because under its contract with the government the United States company has the exclusive right to transport the government currency. It is only on the big shipments that the express company makes any money. There is no profit in handling

small sums because of the great risk in-Dynamite Proof Safes. A few years ago the publication of a newspaper story called attention to the fact that the United States company was hauling the government money and almost immediately afterward the company had its first experience with train robbers. A train was held up and the express car was robbed. Fortunately it carried a comparatively small sum. But the experience led the agent in charge of the government shipments, who was at that time Mr. Edward Platt, to institute experiments for the purpose of obtaining not a burglar proof safe-for it is admitted that such a thing is impossible to procure—but a safe which would withstand the attacks of safe robbers for

a certain time. The express company asked safemakers to submit safes which they would guarantee for a certain number of by measuring the moment of resistance hours. This the manufacturers refused to do. They said they were doing business on borrowed capital and that they could not get credit if they had hanging over them a guarantee which might involve them in a million dollar loss at | belts may be calculated, the conclusion almost any time. The express com- being that rope gearing absorbs from pany then called for a trial of safes to resist dynamite attacks for a certain period. As a result of the tests, a safe was selected and introduced in the government service. Not long afterward an attack was made on an express car on the Lake Shore road and the safe was "dynamited" without effect. The express company thinks that for the present it is protected reasonably well from train robbers. It has not been molested

Departments Short of Money. The fiscal year ends on the 80th of June, and as usual some of the departments of the government find them-Good accomodation for the traveling | selves pretty short of money. This is less the case in the even than it is in the odd years. Congress is usually in session until June 30 on the even years, while on the odd years it adjourns March 4. There are some departments of government work in which preparation for the expenditures of the year must be vague. Congress can appropriate money for a public building, limiting the expenditure, or it can decide what salaries shall be paid for the next fiscal year, But it cannot determine what may be needed for the payment of fees, for example. So it often happens in the odd years that cases cannot be

tried in the federal courts for want of

funds to pay witnesses and to pay the

CARL SCHOFIELD.

fees of marshals and their deputies.

# CURRENT MISCELLANY.

Henriette's whole life seems to have been a willing slavery for her family, but chiefly for this brother, whom she idolized. For his sake, to provide him with the clothes on his back and with food for mind and body, she became a school drudge in the provinces and in Paris, and even banished herself to Poland for a lucrative appointment; and the sacrifice was all the greater in her case, because she appears to have been endowed with an intellect worthy of her brother. She was an indefatigable reader and a woman of much originality, and her brother declares that much of his own exquisite style and much of his fine critical judgment were formed by her taste and her advice-a declaration which gains credence from these

It is good to know that she had her period of happiness in the years that she spent with her brother, a rising Hebrew scholar and critic, in Paris, and during the expedition on which he was sent to Syria, where the book by which he is best known to the world, his "Vie de Jesus," was tossed off in the white heat of imagination. At the close of this expedition she died of fever, and there is much pathos in that final scene described by her brother, when they were both lying ill a few feet from one another, both unconscious, and she taking her "endlesse leave."

Without a sad look or a solemn teare, from the brother for whom she had sacrified everything-even a happy marriage—in life.—Athenæum.

Names In Marriage. The practice of the wife assuming the husband's name at marriage, according to Dr. Brewer, originated from a Roman custom and became the common custom after the Roman occupation. Thus, Julia and Octavia, married to Pompey and Cicero, were called by the Romans Julia of Pompey, Octavia of Cicero, and in later times married women in most European countries signed their names in the same manner, but omitted the "of." Against this view it may be mentioned that during the six- Journal. teenth and even at the beginning of the seventeenth century the usage seems doubtful, since we find Catharine Parr from the Scriptural teaching that husband and wife are one. This was the rule so far back as Bræton (died 1268). former name and legally receives the name of her husband. Altogether the —Philadelphia Ledger.

Blanche Pierson. Of the actresses of former days, Blanche Pierson was one who possessed some magnificent jewels. When she appeared in the part of Mme. de Terremonde in the "Princess George," there was just then living in Paris a real Prince George, who had put at her feet a casket full of marvelous gems. She hesitated about the dress she was going to wear and cover with \$200,000 worth of diamonds. At last she chose the toilet in which she was painted by Carolus Duran-black faille, covered with chantilly lace. On the left side was a quille of green velvet, on which was a cascade of roses, the heart of each being a diamond. The bodice was simply smothered with the same stones, and it is said that the Empress Eugenie, at the sight of that blond beauty, could not help frowning and saying, "Oh, what a

who had most of the crown diamonds broken up for the purpose. -San Francisco Argonaut. Rope and Belt Pulleys. Experiments made with ropes and belts by M. Fauquier and published in the proceedings of the Societe des Ingenieurs pulley running on carefully prepared prisoners. bearings he determined the weight required to maintain a constant speed of rotation when attached alternately to loaded belts and loaded ropes passing around the rim. The added effect of the grooves of a rope pulley was ascertained due to the sticking of the rope in the groove. Pulleys of three different diameters were tried. From the results he derives a formula by which the loss of power due to the stiffness of ropes and 11/2 to 3 times the total power that is lost in belt gearing.

scandal!" But Blanche Pierson enjoyed

the great honor of having her dress

copied almost exactly for the sovereign,

The Age of Brook Trout. How long will brook trout live is a Dexter gentleman, now middle aged, a dead faint. says that when he was quite a small boy them in his father's well. Two of them were probably sacrifices before a very ties of their mate, but the latter con- know how the baseball game came tinued to live and thrive in that well out." until last summer, when he died, probably of old age. The gentleman is unable to fix the exact length of time, but he thinks the trout must have been to 20 years old.—Lewiston 'well on'

Journal. Found at Presidential Corners. Some one tried to puzzle the Chicago

Chicago." lives on the North Side glanced at it and said: "Try that at the crossing of Lincoln. Garfield and Cleveland avenues." The letter was sent there and the ad-

dressee found. wags," said Secretary Cahill, "but we the story, however."—New Orleans generally solve them."—Chicago News

## SHORT NEWS STORIES.

A Strange Story of a Snake's Wonderful Power-Real Women Outlaws-A Few Patricts Still Left.

Miss Brown of Simona, Fla., went for a short walk in the fields to gather wild flowers. She did not return when expected, and her brother Arthur, armed with a shotgun, set out in search of her. After a time he saw the girl in the distance sitting on the grass. He noticed the curious manner in which she seemed to be swaying to and fro, as if keeping time to music. He approached cautiously, and peering over her shoulder was filled with horrer when he saw the head of a large rattlesnake waving from side to side directly in front of her. Arthur Brown moved cantiously to one side, raised his gun, and taking careful aim shot off the head of the rattlesnake. At the sound of the explosion the girl shrieked and fell to the ground uncon-

On recovering she said she wandered growing tired, she seated herself in the car. front of the clump of white flowers which she intended to gather. She admired their beauty and kept her eyes fixed upon them until gradually she ness creeping over her, such as one ex- is a chance for misapprehension. periences after gazing fixedly at the embers of a dying fire.

Presently, although conscious that the flowers were pure white, they began to take on the colors of the rainbow and lose their outline. From this iridescent mass at regular intervals a tongue of | be mentioned. - Chicago Tribune. livid flame darted forth that almost blinded her with its brilliancy. She was possessed with a feeling of horror and had a presentiment of evil, yet was powerless to use her voice or move her limbs. How long she was under this ex-Nor was she conscious of its nature till. coming to herself after the shock of the gunshot had thrown her into a faint, she saw the dead snake. - New York ion tossing in his berth, muttering in

Real Women Outlaws. so signing herself after she had been but they do exist in the wild and woolly sergeant, major, oh, only eighth cor- made corn whiskey? at D. H. Hally M. twice married, and we always hear of southwest. The St. Louis Star dwells poral; brigadier general, brigadie Lady Jane Grey (not Dudley), Ara- at length on the capture of two of this eral, ugh, heutenant general, a-a-a-h:" three years old, cheaper than ever bella Stuart, (not Seymour), etc. Some species recently at Guthrie, O. T. One persons think that the custom originated Belle Black, whose husband was a friend in some alarm as the sufferer member of a gang of outlaws, is small, | looked piteously up at him after his heavy set, has dark hair, blue eyes, with | last gasping "a-a-a-h!" a rather pleasant look upon her face and and it was decided in the case of Bon no appearance of being a desperate crimthat a woman by marriage loses her eloped from her husband with the leader eight lieutenant generals within the of the gang, Zip Wyatt, is tall, slender, last 20 minutes!"-Youth's Companion. with snapping black eyes, thick, black custom is involved in much obscurity. hair and a sinister, peculiar expression on her face. For the last year the gang has defied sheriffs and has robbed right and left. It was not known that there were women with them, as during the raids the two women always dressed like men. Afterward, dressed as farmers' wives, they would enter towns and sell plunder and buy provisions, all without arousing suspicion.

Mrs. Black and her husband went to western Kansas six years ago and were financially embarrassed through failure of crops. They took to stealing cattle and were obliged to hide to escape arrest. A gang of desperadoes gradually joined them. Zip Wyatt, the leader, was a cowboy who came to Guthrie once a month to spend his wages in high liv- whip you are not having so much to ing, and it was here that he met Mrs. Freeman, who was an Illinois girl who had formed the incorrect idea of the glories of a bandit's life from too many trashy novels. He persuaded her to elope with him after he had killed two or three men and gone into hiding. He has often puzzled the sheriffs, as they have fired their rifles at him point blank and he has always escaped injury. Since does escaped. The two women are now in the Guthrie jail and pass their time Civils show that with a smooth rimmed | playing cards or chatting with the other

# A Few Patriots Left.

The telephone bell jingled noisily. It was the nine thousandth time the telephone bell had jingled that night. "Tell that fellow there was no nomination made today," growled the telegraph editor to the office boy, who started for the telephone box.

"Hello!" said the obedient vonngster. "I tell you there's been no nomination made today.'

"No nomination made! No nomination made! Can't you understand

me? And then something came which made the office boy drop the receiver as nuestion one often hears discussed. A if he had got a shock and fall back in

"Great Scott, boys," he gasped as the he caught three brook trout and put staff poured water on his face and brought him to his senses. "That fellow said he did not give a tinker's repair long time to the cannibalistic propensi- kit for the nomination. He wanted to

> There are some patriots left in the country after all. -Buffalo Express.

## A Convenient Arrangement. "I saw a combination of corners the

other day," said a gentleman, "that beat the athletic club, drug store, livery stable and graveyard neighborhood all postoffice people. He directed a letter to pieces. There is a candy shop on a New Orleans corner, and across from to "John James, Presidential Corners, it is a dentist's office. A physician's of-The letter was hung up in the city fice occupies the third corner, and across division for half an hour. A carrier who the way is an undertaking establishment. The transitions are easy: Sweets, bad teeth, doctors-death. Should there be any doubting Thomases I can name the corner. I heard that the candy man and the dentist were brothers and the "We are plagued with a number of loctor and the undertaker double first these puzzles perpetrated by local bousins. I won't vouch for that part of

# HUMOR OF THE HOUR.

These common mistakes in the use of language and their corrected forms are taken from the next book on rhetoric to be adopted by the public schools of Chi-

1. The clerk politely showed her the ribbon.

Corrected: She examined the ribbon. 2. On Sunday, the day of rest, he took his children to the park.

Corrected: On Sunday he took his children to the park. There is no possible connection between the expression "day of rest" and taking children to the park.

8. The conductor took the fares. Corrected: The conductor took part of the fares. No conductor ever had nerve enough to keep them all. 4. He took a cab home.

Corrected: This is obviously incorrect, for in such a case he must elready have had all that he could carry. It should read, A cab took him home. 5. Knowing the ways of the city, he

signaled to the gripman to stop the car. Corrected: Knowing the ways of the through the fields picking flowers until, -city, he put a brick on the track to stop 6. The upright politician again set

up the drinks. Corrected: The politician, who could still stand up, again set up the drinks. began to feel an uncontrollable drowsi- In the use of the word "upright" there

7. The people elected him alderman. Corrected: The first part of this sentence should be omitted, as it conveys an erroneous impression. The sentence should read simply: Alderman, The way in which he got there should not

## They Were Great Waves.

A traveler who crossed the Atlantic in company with an army officer says that in spite of his sympathy for his companion's suffering from the pangs traordinary influence she had no idea of seasickness he could not help derive Bargains! Bargains! ing considerable amusement from it. Going into the statercom one particu-

what at first appeared to be a sort of delirium. Stooping over to catch his words, the Women outlaws are rare in reality, friend heard him say, "Serge ant, major,

"What are you saying?" asked the before.

"Assigning the waves their rank." said the military man, rolling over toversus Smith, in the reign of Elizabeth, | inal; the other, Mrs. Freeman, who | ward the wall again. "There have been

> Between the Tea Set and Ma. China, china, blue and white This must be my fatal night. Tell me, or I'll lot you fall, Does she care for me at all!

You are her supreme delight. How I've raged your bliss to view When her fingers fondled you. China, china, blue and white, I am cold and nervous quite. If she spurned me, for her sake

# Frozen Out

The pugilist was sitting moodily in a dark corner when an acquaintance ap- OLD ROCK BRIDGE Thought daily trains fetwern Raisigh Char proached him with the remark. proached him with the remark: "You and the man who says he can

say about each other as usual." "Naw. What's ty use? Desc politicianers hez cornered all ty free advertisin space dat's goin dese days."-

# The Invisible.

Washington Star.

"Yes, I was scared," rejoined the burglar who had fallen into a reminiscent mood. "I thought I must certainly her capture Mrs. Freeman says Wyatt be discovered after that, but happily always wears steel plates over his back, nobody came near me except the lady of front and thighs and will never be taken | the house, who couldn't see any one to alive. The rest of the gang of despera- whom she had not been introduced."-Detroit Tribune.

# Work For All.

"You don't seem to show any enthusiasm whatever," said the anxious looking man to the delegate. "That's all right," was the reply.

'We are willing to divide up. We'll let the other fellows do the hurrahing and we'll do the nominating."-New York Press.

Their Faulty Instinct. "You didn't stay long at that hotel

the vicinity." "No. The hotel man explained that it was a fine trout stream, but he

couldn't help it if the trout hadn't sense | patronage solicited. enough to find it out,"-Chicago Rec-

An Important Item of Expense. "I guess country board will be cheaper this summer than usual," said Mr. Meekton.

Kind to the Aged.

"The price of canned goods has gone

"Isabel, why did you give your self."-Chicago Record.

Giving Him His Due. Barber-Pardon me, sir, but you have paid me only half. Customer-See that slash on my chin? Well, I'm giving you cut rates -

The Bottomless Pit.

New York Press.

"Real estate," answered the evil one guardedly, "was very active here with us until the bottom fell out of everything."-Detroit Tribune.

Simple Enough. teeth extracted for nothing?" "Oh, he has a pull with a dentist " -Detroit Free Press.

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larly rough day, he found his compan-Whereat? D. H. Taylor & Co. for cheap Whiskeys, Brandies, Wines & Beers.

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WARRANTED 4 YEARS OLD?

D. H. Taylor & Co. Who keeps see A M old Virgina Club, D. H. Taylor! Italy Co., and he also keeps the finest 406 P M and cheapest home-made Brandy in town, other liquors of all kinds 1106 A. M. that are good, and cheaper than ROOF M ever before. Special prices to all wor A M Sure my heart, like you, would break my customers, come one, come all. Ex Sun Polite and prompt attention and skillful bar-tenders.

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Is guaranteed pure and is prescribed by the leading physicians throughout the country, and the resident physicians of Louisburg. Read the following

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A cream of tartar baking powder. Highest of all in leavening strength. Latery Univer Brates Covernment Food Report. ROYAL BAKING PUWDER CO., New York.

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IN EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1896

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TRAINS LEAVE RALEIGH, N. C. 190 A. M. Connects at Greensboro for all points for North and South, and Winston-Ssiem and points on the North western North Carolina Rall. Clarksville and Keysville except Sun lays. At the majoro, with the Washington and Southwestern Vessioned Limited, and the New York and Fioraia Short Line limiwith main line train No. 13 for least the Elehm of and intermehate loval stations are has conwith main line train No 35 fast mail for Charlotte Spartanburg Greenville, Atlanta and all points harriest in Naventah, Jackson, and all points in Fortia.

> ing car for Augusta and Jackson chieves at wima for Payetteville taly soulstore for Newternamp Morehead City baily except Sun-ey for Wilmington and inter-mediate stations on the W. & W. t R Daily numerts at Seima for Wilson,

He and at Charlotte with slews

R-ky Mount, Tarkero and keal stations in Norfolk and Carolina Railroad, arrives at Goldak ro-lied P M K-yeville Blommed at Greens brown for Washington and Kx suntay position metal

TRAINS ARRIVE AT RALEIGH, N C 3.14 P. M.: From Atlanta. (harlotte: Green or and all prints worth From Greenstore and all points North and South Sleeping car Greenstorn to Raisigh. From to side or . Wilmington. Pay-thevine and ad points in Easern (armina From New York, Washington,

Lynchiurg Danville Greenstoro Fr in Goldster and all points Leval freight trains also carry passengers. Fullman cars on afternoon train from Rai righ to Greenste ro, and on morning train from Greenstero

L Hopkins T P A . Barbotte N C. W A. TIBER General Manager



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