

POSTOFFICE CURIOSITIES.

Funny Names for Offices—"Our Carter Honored."

This great country has now over 50,000 postoffices for its 50,000,000 people, or about one for each 1,000 persons. There are some curious facts connected with the administration of so large an institution as this. The employees of the department number over one hundred thousand. Of course the sum required to run so large an establishment is something enormous. The salaries of postmasters alone amount to nearly \$10,000,000, and the sum paid for transportation of mails \$25,000,000. The number of postoffices is increasing steadily at the rate of over 2,000 a year. The task of the fellow who fixes names for all these is a pretty serious one. Of course the people of the section where the offices are to be located are allowed to fix a name so far as possible, but in many cases they select a name already given to some office in the State, and of course it cannot be used. Then they are permitted to make some other selection, and so on almost indefinitely. It often happens, however, that the postoffice officials are compelled to finally select, or that in their despair the citizens who have the selecting of the name, by having frequently some name already in use in the State, jump at some ridiculous name altogether unheard of before, or select one suggested by some peculiar surroundings. Some of the old names are as follows: Dismal, Thump, D-ybook, Bald Ax, Calico, Rocks, Windfall, Rare Avis, Seven Stars, Leap Year, Haphazard, Boy, Odd, Rawhide, Difficult, Baby Mine, Bean Blossom, Yankee, Pay Up, Hard Money, Happy Home, Wide Awake, Alligator, Needy, Moon, Padlock, Gnatville, Blowhorn, Lububub, Cloudland, Butterfly, Zib, Quidnunc, Rainbow, Scrub, Ty Ny, Pucker, Bush, Soonover, Bumble Bee, Zula, Sopchoppy, Zero, Jamboree, Marrowbone, Slickaway, Negro Foot, Jump, You Bet, Greenhorn, Tenderfoot, Sunshine, Muck, Shoofly, Kumtak, Oil Trouth, Nine Times, Blowout, Gunpowder, Patagumpus, Last Chance, Clear Grit, Greasy, Talla-Ho, Mary Esther, Why Not, Samper, Veto, Round Bottom, King of Russia, Gi, Joy, Hayfork, Picnic, Land of Promise, Squak, Snailope, Mouse Tail, Pocket, Port Wine, Side View, Good Luck, Bug Hill, Worms, Due West, Fair Play, Coin, Coal, Fire, Sodoin, Hurt, Sleepy Eye, Drone, Bird Song, Black Bear, Pinafore, Buttercup, Unique, Sunflower, Wormwood. The South and the West have the much greater number of unique names, although many may be found in New England and the Middle States. In Texas is an office named "J. Bob," the familiar cognomen of a citizen in the community. "Bald Hornet," an office in Tennessee, is the suggestive nickname of a gentleman residing in the county. Chicago's Mayor, Hon. Carter Harrison, is honored in Kansas with an office called "Our Carter." "Best," "Cloudy," "Cutlips," "Dull," and "Toadrine" are other offices bearing names of individuals. Initial letters sometimes form the name of an office, like that of "T. B.," in Maryland. When the first house in the place was erected these initials were found on a stone near by, and were, probably, those of a very early settler and owner. "O. Z.," in Colorado, is taken from a brand used for marking cattle, and "O. K.," in South Carolina, from the humorous suggestions of an interested gentleman. The people of Sugar Grove, in Tennessee, refused to suggest other names after their own had been rejected, and the department established the office under the initials "A B. C." There is a "Buss" in Michigan to match "Sweet Lips" in Tennessee, but there is a "Maiden" in North Carolina, a "Bachelor" in Mississippi, and "Widows" may be found in Alabama. There is a "Comfort" in North Carolina, and also in Texas, and "Tribulation" in Tennessee. The Tribulation was in selecting a name acceptable to the department, and they ended their tribulation by making it "Tribulation." "Charity" is found in North Carolina and Tennessee, and "Hope" exists in fourteen States besides that of "Adversity." There are "Wells" in several States, but only one "Cistern," in Texas. They have a "Concert" in Iowa, and Louisiana contributes a "Violin," Minnesota a "Cornet," Iowa a "Horn," Pennsylvania "Drums," and "Ohio and Virginia" "Fifes." There is a "Dark Corner" in Georgia, but "Dawn" appears in Michigan and Ohio, followed by "Day" in Michigan and New York.—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch.*

The Gulf of Mexico and Its Stream.

At the American Science Association in Philadelphia, Prof. J. E. Hilgard read a paper on the "Relative Level of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico." He exhibited a relief model, showing the western part of the North Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the United States, east of the Mississippi River. The principal feature to which he directed attention was the fact that the actual continental outline does not correspond to the present accidental limits of land and water, but to the one-hundred fathom curve, so that the continental limit is far out under the sea. Florida and Yucatan have more than twice their geological limits, while the West Indies and the Antilles appear as a vast submarine continuation of the Florida peninsula, the mountain summits of which only appear above the sea, extending to the southeast, forms, with the coast line of the United States, a great bight nearly as large again as the Gulf of Mexico, which Prof. Hilgard designated the Great Bay of North America. Whatever the causes which produced the gulf stream, they must give rise to an elevation of the gulf above the Atlantic in order to occasion the stream—a physical fact demonstrated by the most accurate measurements. The explanation of the stream was that the North Atlantic trade winds set the water of the Caribbean Sea against the "Spanish Main" (Central America), deflected northward along the coast of Yucatan, where the flow is through the straits between Yucatan and Cuba, and thence through the Bemini Channel into the Atlantic Ocean, thus forming what is known as the "Gulf Stream." The part which

the Gulf of Mexico has in this, is mainly that of a reservoir or "accumulator," maintaining the outflow at a more uniform rate than the assigned cause would admit of without such a reservoir.

Their Methods.

Tennyson lately gave to a newspaper correspondent an account of his method of composition. Whenever he sees a picturesque scene in nature, he jots down the four or five words which describe it most perfectly, to be worked afterward into his poems. "A full sea glazed with muffled moonlight;" "Its stormy crests that smote against the skies;" "Slow dropping veils of thinness lawn," are examples of these "studies from the life."

The last line, applied to a vapory waterfall in the Pyrenees, was sharply condemned when it appeared, the critic stating that "Mr. Tennyson evidently studied waterfalls in the theater, where they were represented by sheets of lawn."

Dickens had precisely the same patient, laborious habit in preparing material for his novels. A peculiar or marked house, name, or manner never escaped his keen eye. A word scrawled on the back of an envelope, a fact sketched on his thumb-nail under the dining-table, were the dry bones which grew into vivid, breathing reality, to enchant the English-speaking world.

This slow, careful method of piling brick on brick in the building of an immortal work is very different from the idea of most youthful writers. They imagine that all the creations of genius are dreamed into the world like Cole-ridge's "Temple of Kubla Khan."

If the patient accumulation of material and nicely of detail are necessary to a poet or novelist, how much more are they essential to a scientific man. Frome, a pupil of Abernethy, was accustomed to grow extremely weary of that great physician's habit of taking down every symptom of every case, "Petty diseases of petty people!" he grumbled. "One might as well copy the king's head on a dozen shillings!"

Frome at last began to practice for himself, and came one day in great excitement to Abernethy. He had been called to attend the child of a royal duke, ill with scarlet fever. The symptoms were peculiar. After relating them to Abernethy, the great physician did not lift his eyes from his writing, but simply said:

"Case number ten. Volumes lettered S. F. You will find there diagnoses of several hundred cases. You cannot fail to get what you need. Petty people have the same blood, livers and stomachs as the children of royal dukes."

With the aid of his master's notes Frome gained a more satisfactory view of his case, and by the lesson he had thus received was made to entertain more respect for his teacher's thoroughness and attention to the minute details of his professional work.—*Youth's Companion.*

Marriage.

Somewhere in the Northeast, from one of the springs that abound in the Appalachian system, there bubbles out, pure and clear as crystal, a drop of water. It sings along the rivulet way, now sparkling in the large stream, later floats along the banks of the Ohio—past hills and meadows, cities and farms—till it reaches the Father of Waters.

Somewhere in the Northwest, under the shadow of the Rockies, another drop issues into the rill that flows toward the Yellowstone. The drop reaches the river, then the Missouri, and for hundreds of miles it travels past plain, city, and green slope, till at last it plays with the sunbeams on the bosom of the Mississippi.

The two drops unite. Henceforth they are one. They yet exist, but no one can divide the drop formed by their union and say, "This came from the East and that from the West."

Thus united they journey to the sea; and when the journey is complete, they rise to heaven. And when they are part of the tinting of the East, or of the evening rainbow, they make the earth glad.

So it is with two lives. They start wide apart and unknowingly journey toward each other. They meet and become one. Thus they journey to the sea of eternity and ascend to heaven.—*South and West.*

Bird's-Nest Soup.

The introduction of real Chinese bird's-nest soup to Londoners, to which we adverted last month, may raise the question as to what material such nests can be made of. An English naturalist, living at Yokohama, has lately published a very interesting account of a visit which he paid to Gormanton caves, which are situated among the tropical forest of North Borneo. From these caves come the bulk of the nests of which the soup is made, and they are the only place in the world where they can be obtained in any quantity. The caves are of immense extent, and are several hundred feet in height. They are covered with nests, which are built by swallows and bats, the material being a soft fungoid growth which incrusts the limestone in which the caves are formed. The yearly value of the nests is between £5,000 and £6,000 on the spot. The value when they reach China is, of course, very much more. It is perhaps as well, considering the expensive nature of the luxury and its scarcity, that the consumption is not likely to increase from its introduction into Britain. To our barbarian palates it is decidedly insipid.—*Chambers' Journal.*

A Mystery Solved.

"Whatever became of Morgan?" said a little boy to his father, who had just become a Mason.

The father smiled.

"He was never heard of afterward, was he?"

The father still smiled.

"Then, if he was never heard of again I know what must have happened to him."

"What?" asked the father.

"He must have been elected Vice President."—*Puck.*

Stage-Fright and Diffidence.

Stage-fright is an ailment by no means confined to novices in public speaking.

Charles Dickens, after many years of both reading and acting before large and critical audiences, told a friend that at times just before going on the platform, he lost his voice altogether, from a certain inexplicable terror which even to himself seemed ridiculous. The words literally "stuck in his throat."

Sheridan, in the very height of his power as an orator, it is said was never free from these sudden spasms of nervous fear, which is the more remarkable as his effects were carefully prepared, and there was little spontaneous fire in his oratory.

When Madame Cataline was the first cantatrice in the world, she was seized with a sudden trembling and chill when coming before a London audience, and was forced to retire for a moment to recover herself. It was caused by a familiar face known to her in her childhood.

"It was not ze Ingles," she said. "It was zat leetle Antonia in de gallery vat make me a foolish child again."

Almost every young man on his first entrance into society has experienced the nameless horror of stage-fright in a modified form. No matter how manly or bold the young fellow may be when with his companions, there have been times when the presence of a single good, motherly woman or two or three silly girls reduced him to imbecility. Cold shivers ran down his back, his legs and arms grew suddenly heavy and unmanageable, his brain was paralyzed with the terrible question, "What to say next?"

It is not, as a rule, the most modest men or those who have an humble opinion of their own social powers, who suffer from this torturing weakness of diffidence. It is usually the self-conscious young man, whose own personality weighs him down.

"As soon as a lad finds out his own insignificance," said Sidney Smith, "he will lose his diffidence."

Another writer in the same spirit advises a bashful boy to "consider before entering a room, that nobody in it cares a goat whether he is a Solomon or an idiot."

But the self-conscious young man is not likely to be convinced of his own insignificance so easily. A more practical help in cases of this paralyzing diffidence is for the victim to at least assume an interest in his companions and their affairs. He will thus start a subject of engrossing interest to them, in the discussion of which he and his spasms of stupidity will be unnoticed. Self-love is so invariable a trait of human nature that it can always be relied on in an emergency.—*Youth's Companion.*

A Bequest of the Marchioness of Bute.

The late Marchioness of Bute left a large sum of money (about £15,000) to trustees, who were directed to build several houses on a piece of land at Colinton, near Edinburgh, which were to serve as homes for poor widows or orphans of officers of the British or Indian armies. The houses are to be occupied free of rent and taxes, and they are to be kept in repair by the trustees. Six excellent houses, thoroughly well built, in a very picturesque, old-fashioned style, have now been completed, and each has a lawn in front and a productive garden at the back. The site is an excellent one, being within a pleasant walk of Edinburgh and 500 feet above the sea, at the foot of the Pentland Hills. Several thousand pounds have been expended in the work. The houses will be known as the Lady Flora Hastings Home, as they have been raised in memory of that unfortunate and blameless lady by her sister.—*London Truth.*

Indian Milk.

"I see, aw, that this is Indian milk, aw," said a dudie to a dairyman.

"No, sir," said the dairyman, "this is first-class cow's milk, fresh from my farm."

"I beg pardon, sir; I do, weakly, aw. It looks, aw, like Indian milk."

"The dicens it does! What makes you call it Indian milk?"

"I—aw—welly, now, don't it look like it was chalked, aw?" (Choctaw).—*Paris Beacon.*

The Most Obstinate of Endemics.

Of all endemics—that is to say, of maladies which arise from causes incident to the localities where they occur—chill and fever is the most obstinate under ordinary treatment with the sulphate of quinine. That dangerous drug does not eradicate the disease—it simply braces up the paroxysms for the time being, and never yet was known to prevent their recurrence. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, as a matter of contrast, uproots the germs of the malady, counteracts its terribly weakening and nerve-shattering effects upon the system, and prevents the long train of evil which not only the disease itself, but also its remedies, can bring about. Unlike them, it is not unsuitable and nauseating, but agreeable. Unlike them, too, it produces permanently beneficial effects, and it differs also from them in being safe. There is, moreover, no more reliable curative for constipation, rheumatism, liver complaint, dyspepsia, and debility.

There are now 314 cotton mills in the Southern States, having 1,276,432 spindles and 24,873 looms, while at the time the census was taken in 1850, the South had only 180 mills, with 713,988 spindles and 15,222 looms. The largest increase in the number of mills was made in North Carolina, where a gain of 43 mills and 110,595 spindles are experienced, while Georgia made an increase of 169,156 spindles and 22 mills. In 1850 the value of the manufactured cotton produced at the South was a little over \$21,000,000, while in 1853 the value had risen to between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000. During three years and a half about \$20,000,000 has been invested by new and old Southern cotton mills in machinery.

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