

It is contrary to the regulations of the postoffice department that portraits of any living American be placed upon a postage stamp and for this reason Mr. Roosevelt may be barred. If, upon the same theory, President Loubet's portrait should be ruled out, it has been suggested that the portrait of Louis XIV. of France, in honor of whom Louisiana was named, may be considered as next in line.

HUNDREDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN have been sold for \$2 each in Kwang Si, China, by their starving husbands and fathers, according to a report on the famine, which report has recently been made to the state department by United States Consul McWade at Canton. The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Republic presents an abstract of this report showing that Mr. McWade says that unless the rice crops for July, August and September are plentiful, the distress now slightly alleviated by American missionaries and others will continue. Consul McWade says: "Reliable information from American missionaries and native sources has come to me from Kwang-Ping, Wuchow and other places in Kwang Si, that the destitution and consequent suffering in certain parts was appalling, and that in their desperate condition the heads of families were selling children and men for from \$2 to \$5. One missionary says the famine is increasing and thousands are suffering and that it is very sad to see the thin, sallow creatures steadily dying. She says boys, girls and women are sold for \$2, \$3, \$5, \$8 and \$10, and that there are so many offered that it is difficult to find purchasers. From Ping-Nan to Nanning, a distance of 300 miles, there has been no crop for three seasons. Well-to-do people have become poverty-stricken, and household goods, farming implements and clothing have all been sacrificed."

IT WAS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT THE original emancipation proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871. William Barnes, sr., writing to the Albany Evening Journal, corrects this statement. Mr. Barnes says: "The original emancipation proclamation was issued on September 22, 1862, and the supplemental one on January 1, 1863. The January proclamation declared the states and districts to which the September proclamation was applicable. If any proclamation was sent to Chicago it must have been the January one. The original emancipation proclamation was sent by the Hon. Frederick W. Seward to Mrs. Emily Weed Barnes for the benefit of the Albany bazaar of 1864 for the United States sanitary commission. It was put up to be drawn by tickets at \$1 each. About 1,100 tickets were sold. The lot fell to Gerritt Smith, of Peterborough, N. Y., (one of the noblest of nature's noblemen that ever lived), and he returned it to the bazaar to be sold over for the sanitary commission. The undersigned sold it to the state for \$1,000, and it is now framed and deposited in the New York state library, with Mr. Seward's letter to Mrs. Emily Weed Barnes. The following is a copy of this letter: 'Washington, Jan. 4, 1864.—My Dear Mrs. Barnes: I have the pleasure of sending you with the president's permission the original draft of his September proclamation. The body of it is in his own handwriting, the penciled additions in the hand of the secretary of state, and the formal beginning and ending in the hand of the chief clerk. Yours very sincerely, F. W. Seward.' The original, as above stated by Mr. Seward, is in the bold round handwriting of Abraham Lincoln, except the formal attestation clauses and some interlineations in the handwriting of William H. Seward. One of the most important and historic documents ever issued is thus to be preserved forever in the custody of the state of New York."

A ST. LOUIS BANK HAS A "HOSTESS" IN its list of officials. This position is held by Mrs. R. Graham Frost. Mrs. Frost's duty is to meet the women depositors and explain to them banking methods. The creation of this position was an experiment, but it is a successful one. The bank's officials say that they have discovered that women generally need instructions as to clipping of coupons, the renting of safe deposit boxes, and other matters intimately related to the banking business. This particular bank has already 6,000 women depositors and the large increase in this class is attributed to the effective work of the "hostess."

THE IRONY OF FATE IS REVEALED IN THE discovery that the grandson of the man most hated by Napoleon wears the badge of the order founded by Napoleon. The Paris correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "The grandson of Sir Hudson Lowe, the jailer of Na-

oleon the great in St. Helena, has been discovered in the French army under the name of Love. His father, the son of Sir Hudson Lowe, was a distinguished homeopathic physician, but was executed in England. He came to France, and, thinking that his name might militate against his practice, he changed the 'w' of Lowe to 'v,' and thus made the word Love out of it. Dr. Love's son is a physician in the army of France and is a knight of the Legion of Honor. Thus the grandson of the man whom Napoleon most detested wears the decoration of the famous order which Napoleon founded. He is very proud of it, and invariably wears his decoration."

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE NAVAL board of construction, Admiral Bowles declared that on each battleship there were 350 tons of luxuries. The Washington correspondent for the New York Times says that this statement startled the members of the board. According to the Times correspondent, included in these so-called luxuries are materials of every description that cannot be classified as necessities, such as furniture, ice machines, refrigerators, radiators, and the machinery required for them. It is pointed out that flagships are supplied with two bathrooms and appurtenances for the flag officer, while one bath tub is deemed sufficient for the wardroom, in which fifteen or twenty officers live. There will be undoubtedly a protracted discussion as to what constitutes luxuries, but officers generally believe that much of the weight which Admiral Bowles described might be abolished and the space given to what may be called necessities. There will be little discussion outside of the flag rank as to the necessity for two bath tubs in the elegant and spacious quarters set apart for the admiral. The additional bath is provided for the guest of the admiral in case he should have one, which seldom happens.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WILL SOON BE required to appoint a commission whose duty it will be to dispose of the coal and asphalt regions now belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes in the Indian territory. The value of these lands is estimated at \$25,000,000. The Washington correspondent for the New York Tribune explains that under the provisions of the treaty, which was ratified by the last congress, these lands were segregated and will be sold by a commission to be appointed by the president and composed of a member of each of the tribes named and a citizen of the United States. The Dawes commission, to which the allotment in severalty of the lands in the Indian territory was confided, has nearly completed its labors, and it is regarded as important that the commission which will dispose of mineral lands should get to work. As the salary provided by law for each commissioner is \$4,000 a year, and the work is likely to last several years, considerable interest attaches to the president's choice. The area to be sold approximates 500,000 acres. Of this amount about 100,000 acres of coal lands are already leased in tracts of 960 acres or less, and the leases will be sold separately. The remainder will be sold in tracts not exceeding 640 acres to the highest bidder. It is understood that a New York syndicate recently offered the government \$26 an acre for the entire area to be sold, but the offer was rejected.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT HAS ADOPTED A new set of standards and regimental, battalion, and other colors for the army of the United States. Several important changes have been made and are described by the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald in this way: "The main feature of the new flags as well as of the buttons and ornaments, is in the representation of the coat-of-arms of the United States. This coat-of-arms is the great seal of the United States, and its incorporation in the standards of colors is for the purpose of making them more representative of the nation than is the case with the present designs, and at the same time makes them more uniform in general design. The new flags, according to the samples, will be beautiful specimens of the art. They are made of the best quality of silk, in solid colors, and the United States seal and the insignia and scroll inscriptions and other emblems are embroidered in colors in the most artistic manner. The United States seal is the principal feature of each of the standards, the other emblems being merely accessory."

ACCORDING TO THE SAME AUTHORITY, the different standards adopted are as follows: The standard of the secretary of war is scarlet, with white fringe, and contains the United States seal embroidered in colors and four white

stars, one near each corner. The cord and tassel are scarlet and white intertwined. The cavalry standard is yellow and the fringe and the cord and tassel are also of the same color. Under the embroidered seal is a scroll in red, with the regimental designation in letters of white. The artillery standard is red, with red fringe, cord and tassel. Below the seal is the insignia of the arm, crossed cannons above a yellow scroll containing the regimental designation in letters of red. The infantry standard is blue, with yellow fringe and blue and white cord and tassel. Below the seal is a red scroll bearing the regimental designation in letters of white. The standard of the engineers is scarlet, with white fringe and scarlet and white cord and tassel. Below the seal is the insignia of the corps—a battlemented castle—embroidered in white and a white scroll with the battalion designation in letters of red. The signal corps standard is orange, with yellow fringe, and cord and tassel of orange and yellow. Below the embroidered seal is the insignia of the corps—crossed flags and torch—embroidered in yellow and white, under which is a blue scroll, with designation in letters of white.

AN INTERESTING STORY COMES FROM THE little Scotch village of Croft Head, Bridge of Weir, and is presented by the London correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. According to this correspondent, John Carruth, age thirty years, who has been blind from birth, recently recovered his sight through an operation performed by Dr. Maitland Ramsey. Carruth was taken to the Glasgow Ophthalmic institute. The operation was successful. In describing the sensations when light first dawned upon him, Carruth said that the first face he saw was that of Dr. Ramsey. He was bewildered, but thought he must be looking on a face for the first time. Then he saw the face of the nurse and knew she must be a woman, for her face was so pale and smooth. The first meeting with his mother under the altered conditions is described as a most pathetic incident. "Lovely," was the word Carruth used when he gazed upon his mother's face, and the mother's joyous cry, "Eh, laurie, you can see, you can see," made the hearts of those who heard it throb with sympathy.

A WOMAN WHO SERVED IN THE FAMILY of two presidents died recently at her home in New York city. This woman's name was Eva Bates. At the time of her death she was said to be 104 years of age. She was known as "Mammy Bates," and was born in Flushing, L. I., as a slave of slave parents. She served in the family of John Adams and subsequently in that of James Monroe.

THE GREAT ARMY DEPENDING ON TIPS for a livelihood is very happy these days because of the fact that the United States government has officially recognized the tip. This interesting bit of information is conveyed by the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle. This correspondent says that in fact the government has declared the tip to be one of the prime necessities for the comfort and convenience of travelers. It is explained that this decree is promulgated by the secretary of the treasury. The decree is a very lengthy document, the meat of which is contained in the following paragraph defining what are the actual traveling expenses essential to the ordinary comfort of travelers: "All persons traveling upon the official business of this department will hereafter be allowed their actual traveling expenses usual and essential to the ordinary comfort of travelers, embraced in the following items of expenditures: Actual fares on railroads, steamboats and other conveyances by the shortest practicable route; the hire of special transportation where there is no regular means of conveyance; street car, omnibus or transfer coach fare to and from depots and hotels, and where there are no such conveyances, moderate and necessary hack fare and reasonable fee for porters and expressmen. Sleeping-car fare for one double berth for each person or customary stateroom accommodations on steamboats and other vessels; one seat in parlor car and lodgings and actual board in hotels at a rate not greater than \$5 per day; reasonable allowance for baths and reasonable expense for laundering where the travel continues for a week or more." The correspondent adds: "So porters, chambermaids, expressmen and all others concerned are expected to take notice and be governed accordingly. They will keep their eyes on government officials and if they don't get tipped will know the reason why."