A MOTHER'S GRIEF.

- "All that is left of my darling
 Is hid in this little space."
 And the mother drew with trembling
 The drawer from its resting place,
 And I saw a beby's garments,
 Fashioned with dainty grace
 Out of the finest fabric,
 Edged with the richest lace.
- And tiny, bright-hued stockings.

 And little shoes, half-worn,
 And broken toys, and picture books
 That baby hands had torn,
 She touched them with trembling fingers,
 Her eyes were filled with tears,
 These are all," she said, "that is left to me
 Through all life's weary years.
- "These and a little mound of earth,
 O, God, how can it be!
 That of all the treasures my baby had
 Only these are left to me.
 For hushed is the merry laughter,
 Folded her dimpled arms.
 And hidden beneath the comin-lid
 Are all her countless charms.
- I could not comfort; my lips were dumb; I could only her sorrow share. Why should I whisper of Heaven above, She knew that her child was there.
- She knew it was "well with her little one,"
 But she longed to see its face,
 And to fold once more its precious form
 In a mother's fond embrace.
- And her heart will never be satisfied.
 Till the River of Death is crossed,
 And she finds again in the other world
 The child that in this she lost.
 —Mrs. E.V. Wilson, in Chicago Inter Ocean.

"Openers" at Work-An Hour with the Experts-The Returning Bepartment-Some Odd Notions.

In my last letter we stood for half an

"Here is where the opening is done," thing that enables us to complete it. thin, sharp knife. With a rapidity acquired by long practice, he slips his knife through the fold of the envelope and takes out the letter. A glance shows whether it contains an inclosure shows whether it contains an inclosure of any kind. If it has money or anything of value it is laid aside and passed into the hands of a clerk whose duty it is to take charge of such letters. Those which contain nothing, or only photographs—as 50,000 every year do—locks of hair and such articles, are carried, each with its own envelope, to the 'return department,' which we will visit have to go to the openers.

running behind in spite of all we can do. Each man opens from 1,500 to 1,800 letters a day. That man"—pointing to one who seemed to handle knife and letters with a singular adroit-first appearance.

the exception of two or three years that he published the Baltimore Patriot, he has been here ever since. He has served this department for more than fifty years. He was editor of the Patriot when the war broke out. He was strongly opposed to slavery, and during the ex. citement, early in 1861, a mob completely destroyed his press, types, etc., and he very narrowly escaped with his pletely destroyed his press, types, etc.. and he very narrowly escaped with his life. Mr. Evans has seen some changes tell at a glance what that was intended since he first came into the post-office."

"Yes," remarks the pleasant-faced patriarch, laying down his knife for a moment, "I was here when two men did all the business that now keeps two hypothesis and a grance what that was intended for "—covering the corrected address—"I will pronounce you a first-class expert."

And it does seem as hard as the "fifteen puzzle." It is written "Corrected address—

"I will pronounce you a first-class expert."

hundred busy.' I may remark in passing that the em-ployes are not permitted to converse with visitors. One of the clerks did speak to me and I replied briefly, or

sible to do it, the misdirected letters, and deciphers the awful penmanship that has floored the postmasters from Maine to Texas. I will leave you with her for a little time. Ah! I see what you are going to ask. You may talk with her as much as you please; we make an exception to the rule in such a

The sacredness of the mails is duly regarded in the highest degree possible, in all departments of the Dead Letter Office. No letter is opened if it can be delivered without it, to either the writer or the person addressed. In the case of dead letters there is no alternative; they can only be opened and returned to the senders. But those bearing incomplete or erroneous addresses, or so badly written as to almost set human skill at defiance, call for different treatment. Many of the errors are easily The sacredness of the mails is duly ment. Many of the errors are easily in the way of penmanship: corrected and the letters immediately forwarded to their destination. Others tax to the utmost the ingenuity of the experts. Sometimes a "guess" is made and the letter is sent off to try that admired by the control of the co dress. If this fails it comes back and bracill inde another is tried. There have been cases of letters sent out four or five times, the result of as many different guesses, and finally, after months of wandering about the country, being delivered to the right persons. Clerks are forbidden, on pain of instant dismissal, to divulge the material contents of any letter opened and examined.

But the lady to whom we have been introduced invites us to a seat beside her. We are soon convinced that she is most truly an "expert." Her pleasant face betokens the quick intelligence necessary to success in such perplexing another is tried. There have been cases of letters sent out four or five times, St Tullia, il.

ant face betokens the quick intelligence necessary to success in such perplexing employment. She retains in her mind the names of post-offices, the counties and States in which they are situated, and streets in the various cities to an extent that is almost marvelous. Thousands of these are at instant command, while for reference when necessary, she has a library of directories. Before her is a pile of letters gone astray for lack of legible or sufficient address.

Gwilfort.

Pinicreak.

Langbrach.

Houdgel.

Mustwiggen.

Fairfeld, hiway.

Farefell, Texas.

Knew Birge, I. N. D.

Ind dit oples.

Cigako.

Avestro.

Pitchie Bek, Cansess.

Bryfell, Alibimor.

Thanking the lady in so agreeably enter

"Now here is one that should not have been sent here at all. Any postmaster ought to be able to read that." It is addressed "Tuppke, Kance." I venture the suggestion that the design of the writer would be carried out by sending it to Topeka, Kansas. "That is undoubtedly right," says the lady, and the letter properly addressed is tossed into the box.

"This one is directed to the 'Wood the same way as other dead to those countries. Letters from Italy are said to be more difficult to correct than any others, owing to the illiteracy of the people, and a greater portion have to be returned as illegible.

Here are also received the pouches of letters mailed in foreign countries. Letters from Italy are said to be more difficult to correct than any others, owing to the illiteracy of the people, and a greater portion have to be returned as illegible.

"Here is one of a kind that somenumber, but no city or State is given. States to other countries as are received This is directed to '2518 St. Mary's from them. This is due to the moving Avenue, corner Twenty-sixth Street,' of emigrants from place to place before and that is all. I look at the directories they get finally settled. The same disthoughtless many people are in addressing letters, and then they blame the the fifteen principal countries these ex-

Post-office Department because they do changes are made weekly, and with not go. There is more excuse for those the others once a month. PEAD LETTERS.

make anything at all of them. Such letters have to be opened, and if we get no clew by that means they are de-

hour at the sorting table of the Dead- there. Here is another with nothing ceived from and 38,000 returned to for-Letter Office and listened to our guide as he told us of the different classes of letters that are sent here from all the post-offices in the country. We will continue our stroll and note what is done with these fugitive letters.

THE "OPENERS."

there is another with nothing but '210 Woodward Avenue;' that goes to Detroit. If in an address of this kind the name is a common one such as 'Washington,' or 'Jackson,' we are at sea, for it may go to any one of twenty cities. By opening such letters we often find the full address, or something the translate with nothing but '210 Woodward Avenue;' that goes eign countries.

We will pause just for a moment as the lady clips the string around a package of misdirected foreign letters just at sea, for it may go to any one of twenty cities. By opening such letters we often find the full address, or something the countries.

THE "OPENERS."

proach a long table around which are dently written by an Englishman. He seated eight men. "Each has a pile of wants it sent to 'Eyewood, Hillinoie,' letters before him and is armed with a but 'Highwood, Ill.,' will do better and ing border, mailed at Bristol, Eng., ad-

THE HARD ONES. 1,800 letters a day. That man"—
pointing to one who seemed to handle knife and letters with a singular adroitness—"has opened 3,000 in a day, but there are not many who can do that.

A VETERAN.

"You see that old gentleman at the head of the table? His name is F. S. Evans. He is nearly eighty-three years old, but he is just as spry as any of them in opening letters. He was appointed to the Post-office Department by Andrew Jackson in 1829, and with the exception of two or three years that

> "Now let me show you how comparatively easy it is, sometimes, to correct an address that at first sight seems ut-

And it does seem as hard as the "fif-teen puzzle." It is written "Ocreg, Alla." Without hazarding a guess we turn an inquiring eye to the lady.

"You give it up? Well, I don't won-der at it. We take a word like that and

Brazil, Ind. Stewartstown.

Cerro Gordo, Jewell Co.
Aurora.
Vallejo.
Arcadia, Hamilton Co.
Great Crossings.
Lawrenceburg.
Guilford.
Pine Creek.
Long Branch.
Houtzdale.
Muskegon.
Fairfield, Iowa.
Fairfield, Texas
Newburg, Ind.
Indianapolis.
Chicago.
Haverstraw.

THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT. astray for lack of legible or sufficient address.

"They call us the 'guessers,'" she says, "but it isn't all guess work. Every day a thousand of these letters come in for us to correct or decipher the address. Let us look at some of those that 'have just been laid on my table."

A FEW RIDDLES.

Here is one directed to "Mount Isela" and distributed to our numerous postpicks up her pen and writes in red ink, "Monticello." "There can't be much question about that," she says, as in so agreeably entertaining us, we pass for a few minutes into the department of orthography, one to 'Josey Phine duffey,' and one to 'Sharleot White.'

"Could you suppose a man could write a letter and address the letter to himself? I have seen three or four cases of that kind. A day or two ago I unfolded one containing a large dose of fine red pepper. It filled the air and distributed to our numerous post-offices at the various seaport cities.

From these large packages of illegible and misdirected letters are sent here for the experts to work upon. It is for. Cleveland Herald. Thanking the lady for her kindness Ocean,' and, as unique specimens of

THE JOURNAL, she tosses it into the box ready for re- essential that those employed in this she tasses it into the box ready for remailing.

"Thus is a harder one. Let's see what can be done with it." The postoffice is written "Frank coalyoun." She looks intently for a moment or two, refers to a directory and writes "Franconia." "That corresponds with the State and county and I think it will go."

"When here is one that should not countries are very read unonessed to

"This one is directed to the 'Wood treated the same way as other dead County Sentinel, O.' That paper is published, I believe, at Bowling Green.

That is easily fixed.

That is easily fixed. which might at first excite surprise that more than three times as many dead times trouble us. It has the street and letters are returned from the United and I find that several cities have streets | parity exists in the number misdirected so designated; but these streets cross and illegibly addressed. The superior each other in Omaha. So St. Mary's intelligence of our people will, in a Avenue, corner of Twenty-sixth Street, great measure explain this. Dead letmust be there. It is strange how ters are returned to and received from

who make mistakes through ignorance. Upon the floor of the room are a large We get a good many so badly written number of pouches that have arrived that we are utterly baffled; we can't by recent mails, and many of them have in the fact that the pouches used for "This letter is addressed '496 Tchoupi- dead letters in all countries under the toulas Street,' and no city, county or British Government are black-the color State is given. But we know that that is always associated with death. street is in New Orleans and we send it Each month about 12,000 letters are re-

less vague, "Conn. Box 140, U. S. A." "This is a comical one. It was evi-lently written by an Englishman. He "Trumbull County, O.," and nothing more. Here is one with a heavy mourn-

turn department,' which we will visit before we get through.

"It keeps the boys pretty busy," says the guide, "to open letters as fast as they are carried in. In fact we are they are carried in spite of all we can his letter.

This is pretty good: 'Pat O'Donnell, State of West Sconsen, Oirentown, Sea Co.' I think if I change that to 'Ironthat extends entirely around the main office, we see sixty ladies at their desks. Their part in this wonderful machine in spite of all we can his letter. is to examine the opened letters and to "In many cases it is not nearly as dif- remail them to the writers, as far as

> necessary information, and the letter. with its original envelop, is soon ready for its return trip. There are many in which the post-office is not given in the heading. In business as well as social letters the writer often uses perhaps a name by which the neighborhood is commonly called, or some romantic name which he chooses to apply to his farm or residence. In such cases the lack is frequently supplied by the post-mark on the envelop. In thousands of cases when the letters are between relatives and friends the signatures are of the familiar and affectionate sort, such as "Dick," "Sallie," Mother," "Sister," or "Ducky"—all proper enough in their way, but quite too indefinite to be of any

service to the examiner. Such letters are generally of no real with visitors. One of the clerks did speak to me and I replied briefly, or rather started to do so, when the attendant gently took me by the ear, figuratively speaking, and politely informed me of the existence of this rule. I begged his pardon, remarking that I was but answering a question by the clerk to me. "Of course it's all right as far as you are concerned," said he, "but that clerk knows what the rules are."

At the desk of a "guesser." "All the letters opened at this table," he resumes, "are dead. They have been advertised according to law at the various offices where received and returned here as uncalled for. Now I will introduce you to one of our experts, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters, who I am sure will be able to do it, the misdirected letters and the 'Yound like that and the yeldent that this the sound the 'Yo hard, we can make nothing of it. We will try it and the 'Yo hard, we can make nothing of it. We will try it and the 'Yo hard, we can make nothing of it. We will try it and the 'Yo hard, we can make nothing of it. We will that suggests the fiames. When the flames. When the flames. When the suggests the flames and the flames. When the suggests the will flame, and the suggests the suggests the will flame, and the sound that this flam value, and are of necessity consigned to "You can readily understand that we have much difficulty with letters from writes to his friend and gets no answer foreign countries. They come addressed in all languages, and the writers make sad work with our town and county names. But you will learn more of this class of letters if you will visit the foreign department."

writes to his friend and gets no answer it will be a satisfaction to him to know that his friend did not receive it. Indeed the administration of the Post-of-fice Department in every branch is governed by the idea, to its fullest extent, that it is wholly for the benefit and convenience of the records. venience of the people QUIPS AND CRANKS.

"Yes," says a lady with whom we are permitted to converse, "we see many very touching letters that make us regret the impossibility of sending them to either party. Letters between par-ents and children, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, often appeal to our husbands and wives, often appear to our sympathies. We are really sorry to see them destroyed, and the words of affection, maternal love, admonition, sympathy or gentle reproof lost forever.

We are really sorry to see them destroyed, and the words of affection, maternal love, admonition, sympathy or gentle reproof lost forever.

We are really sorry to see them destroyed, and the words of affection, maternal love, admonition, sympathy or gentle reproof lost forever.

We are really sorry to see them destroyed, and the words of affection, maternal love, admonition, sympathy or gentle reproof lost forever.

Here, the proof of the proof o

Died sometime In The War.' "Another simple-hearted old mother mailed a letter directed simply to 'Mister Dave O'Donnell.' Inside, at the foot of the letter, I found this: 'If Dave don't call for this, will the postmaster of New York City hand it to him at the first opportunity and oblige

to the postmaster of the city of London. Will you be kind enough to look in the directory and find where Mr. George Wilson lives, and send this letter to him?' It is by no means rare to find a request of some kind to the postmaster within the envelope. It seems as though some people must have an idea that the postmasters open and read all the letters.

"Yesterday I had one addressed to 'Miss Martha Patten, Steamer Bothnia,

FARM AND FIRESIDE.

-A compost of good muck with lime as som times been found as e lective as masure, load for load, upon light and heavy soils. - Chicago Journal. -If you are doubtful about the econ-

omy of using the finest polatic for seed try a bushel at least and see for yourself which will produce the most and largest tubers .- N. Y. Herald. -Green clover turned under will increase the fertility of land five times as

much as the same crop left on the surface to ripen and dry up and then ploughed under.—Western Agricultur--The Germantown Telegraph advises ordinary farmers to hesitate be-

fore building expensive silos, but they need not hesitate to cut down the rations of corn and feed more roots. -Farmer's Pudding: One-half pint of molasses, half a pint of water, two teaspoonfuls of saleratus, one teacupful of any kind of berries rolled in flour; thicken with flour and steam three hours. Raisins are nice to use in place of berries. -N. Y. Times.

-Brahmas, says an exchange, are often sick. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the sickness is caused by overfeeding. They are naturally disposed to lay on fat and must be made to scratch around a little for themselves. They are bad fowls to be kept in lots with other varieties, as they require different treatment

-To a farmer, the idea of currying a cow, milch or otherwise, is an absurdity; but to dairymen, who have highly bred cows, who take a pride in their business and get the top price of the market for their produce, it is a matter of moment, in that it is known to increase the flow of milk and the butter produce by ten to twenty per cent. We say this is known, and will say further that it is so far an established fact that few, if any can be found to dispute it. -Rural World.

-Rasp the horn with a file to bring it to a smooth, even surface, then scrape with glass in the same manner as a shoemaker scrapes the soles of boots. This if carefully done will leave a fine, clean surface. Then rub with a piece of cloth and electro-silicon wet to a paste with water. Then polish with a cloth and oxide of tin wet with water to paste. Sometimes the horn is rubbed down for a final polish with French polish instead of the oxide of tin. Whiting and chalk in water is also used. -Scientific American.

-A nice cup pudding is made from this recipe: Weigh three eggs, and use an equal quantity of butter, flour and sugar. Cream the butter and sugar, beat the eggs very light, and when all is well mixed pour into cups; fill only half full. Bake for ten minutes and serve with wine sauce, and have plenty of it. A good way to make wine sauce is to melt two tablespoonfuls of outter, drain it from the salt which will settle at the bottom, add the grated rind of half a lemon, and the juice, also: white sugar to suit taste; let this come to a boil, then stir in one glass of white wine.—N. Y. Post.

Variety in Farming.

It is the idea of many that any one can learn to farm. Rut as there are so many branches of farming any one of which will require years of steady and close application to master by the best minds, it is deemed advisable for all farmers to avoid undertaking too many things. There are some vegetables, grains and fruits which have been raised so long and are so well understood that their production does not require so much study and can be used profit-ably in making up a variety on the farm. And yet, these simplest things require active minds and close attention to business to produce profitably, and great care and thought to sell to ad-

But there are many things which require the undivided attention and study of the most active minds. It will not often prove a success if any man attempts to carry on two or more of them at the same time. And while we would advise variety in farming, the diversity should be so selected that this one great division shall not be neglected by the care and absorbing attention of others. The successful farmer is most generally a specialist. It is not safe for a man to attempt to raise cattle, horses, hogs and sheep for breeding purposes, at the same time keep a large number of cows and run an extensive dairy, or raise cane and have a sugar mill, or go extensively into grain or raise hogs for pork. This would be spreading too wide, and many, if not all the enterprises will suffer possible the content of the con prises will suffer neglect. One man's capacity is not sufficient for all these complicated branches of industry. Bet-ter way is for a man to make himself a specialist—a success in one branch. Conquer it thoroughly. Nearly all men who have made themselves emi-nent in the world have devoted their lives to one branch of study or industry. There is scarcely a branch of farm work but is full enough for one mind, if fully mastered and made a suc-cess. And this is especially the case with most of the new branches of farming which have been introduced within the last fifty years. If you will look around it will be seen that previous to that time it was not expected or required that a farmer should be a man f hard study as well as hard work. But the new enterprises and plans of farming require the fullest exercise of both of these powers of man to keep abreast of the push and energy of the agricultural and commercial world, both of which are now required to be mastered to insure success. - Iowa State

Vitality of Dried Willow Germs.

During the summer of 1853 Silvester Piper, now a resident of Chicago, called droll and amusing.

"Not long ago I had a letter, the only address upon which was this: 'To the Widder of Patrick Murphy, who done service as a basket until it had become so badly worn as to render it worthless, when it found its way into a ditch at the base of the bank of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, about 300 feet from the Bridgeport lock (now within the city), from whence I transplanted it with great care, placing it in a wet place in my father's garden; but, nothis old mother.'

"Similar to this was one written to a man in London, England. On the envelope was nothing but the name, and at the head of the letter was: 'A prayer to the postmaster of the city of London. in part of unpealed willow, whose dried and withered germs needed only the opportunity to return to life. I have often resolved to have the story of the "willow basket" written and placed upon record, while there were still living other witnesses than myself to verify it.—Scientific American.

> -Workmen while repairing the old Whitman Hotel at Smithtown, L. I., recently discovered in an upper attic what was the original slave pen of Smithtown before the revolutionary war. The room was lighted by only one window, about twenty inches square, alongside of the old-fashioned chimney, a structure four feet square, as it came out of the roof. It was partitioned off by means of slat doors, the slats being of iron, while the rafters overhead were thickly studded with sharp-pointed nails. Under the eaves were found two old muskets and some old-fashioned iron implements such as were used in the fire-place.—N.

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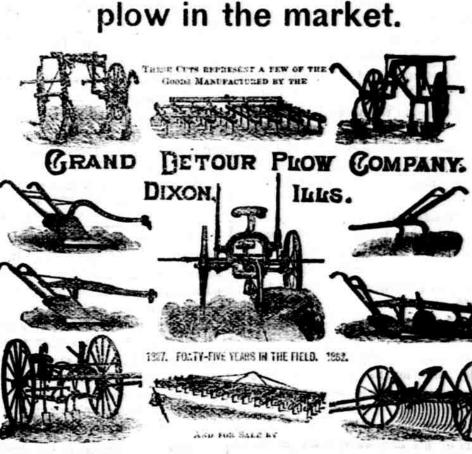
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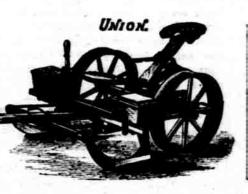
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