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THE NEW U. S. POSTAL LAW.

Congress, at its last session, passed some important amendments to the postal law. No mail matter is to be delivered until the postage is paid, and box rent must be paid one quarter in advance. Postage must be prepaid by stamps on domestic letters of all kinds, and on all transient printed matter, except newspapers paid for by the quarter.

There are three classes of mailable matter.—The first class embraces all correspondence in writing, in whole or in part, except book manuscripts, proof sheets and bills for subscription; the second class comprises all matter exclusively in print and issued at stated intervals, such as newspapers and magazines; and the third class embracing all transient printed matter and all other miscellaneous articles sent through the mails. The maximum weight for the single rate of letter postage is one half ounce avoirdupois, the rate of postage on all domestic letters not exceeding one-half ounce, shall be uniform at three cents; and for each half ounce, or fraction thereof, of additional weight, an additional rate of three cents, to be in all cases prepaid by postage stamps. Drop or local letters, two cents per half ounce, prepaid by stamp. If mail matter is not prepaid, double rates are charged at the delivering office, except soldiers' and sailors' letters.

The maximum standard weight for single postage on printed matter is four ounces; postage two cents, prepaid by stamps. Printed books pay double the above rates, and unsealed circulars pay two cents for every three circulars. News papers, not over four ounces, pay as follows: once a week, per quarter, 5 cts; twice a week, do., 10 cts; three times a week do., 15 cts; six times a week, do., 30 cts; seven times a week, do., 35 cts, one rate of 5 cts. is added for each issue more than once a week. Letter rates are to be charged on irregular matter, part written and part printed, except that publishers may send and secure proof-sheets and advise patrons, by writing on papers, when their subscription is up, at printed matter rates.—On unclassified matter, where no specific rate is set down, letter postage is charged. Weekly newspapers are free within the county in which they are published. Magazines issued less frequently than once a week pay one cent for four ounces to regular subscribers.

Letters must be advertised in newspapers having the largest circulation within the special district. The postage on returned dead letters not registered as valuable, is three cents, double those rates if registered. Letters directed to any person not found at the office addressed may be forwarded to any other office without additional postage charge. Dead letters (valuable) are to be registered and kept four years for reclamation.

The Manchester, N. H., Mirror, Republican, expresses the opinion that Col. J. S. Cheney, the Democratic candidate for Railroad Commissioner, is elected. As there were but two candidates for this office, the result will afford, perhaps, the most decisive test of the politics of the State.

Captain Stephen B. Wilson, of the United States Navy, died on Sunday, aged sixty-eight years.

WAR NEWS.—Stirring news may be expected from the lower Mississippi, by the way of New Orleans, shortly. Correspondents at that city state that preparations have been made for an immediate attack on Port Hudson, troops and munitions having already been moved in that direction. The attack is to be made by land and by water, General Banks commanding in person. He left New Orleans for Baton Rouge on the 7th instant, in company with General Grover.

A skirmish occurred near Bolivar, Tennessee, on Monday, the 9th instant, in which the Confederates were defeated, and eighteen taken prisoners. The official report of General Rosecrans of the recent scouting expedition states that one hundred and fourteen prisoners were taken.

A Richmond paper of the 9th reports a Federal expedition up the Tennessee river, which had penetrated as far up as Florence, Ala. Five hundred men were landed from the transports, who were at last accounts moving towards Aberdeen, Miss. Much property was destroyed by them on their route.

The privateer Florida coaled at Barbadoes on the 24th ult., leaving the next day. It is stated that Admiral Wilkes knew of her whereabouts before he left St. Thomas.

PROPERTY VS. HYDROPHOBIA.—An orator out west thus agonizes in a town meeting on the subject of hydrophobia: "I have horses and cattle, I have sheep and pigs, I have a wife and children, and (rising higher as the importance of the subject deepened in his estimation) I have money out at interest, all in danger of being bit by these infernal dogs!"

The account given by the Richmond Dispatch, of the capture of Gen. Stoughton, is, that when his midnight slumbers were interrupted by Captain Mosby, who entered his room and desired him to get up, he deemed him one of his own men on a frolic, and angrily replied that if he did not clear out he would order him under arrest for an insult to his commanding General. Mosby asked Stoughton if he knew "Mosby of Lee's cavalry?"—"Yes" replied he: "have you caught the son of a b—?"—"No," replied Mosby, "we haven't, but he has caught you, so get up and prepare for a ride." The General soon had a realizing sense of the surroundings, and prepared to do as Mosby commanded. He was careful to dress himself for the journey, but he and all the others complain that time was not allowed them to saddle the horses, and they were compelled to ride twenty-five miles on the bare backs of indifferent steeds surrounded by Confederate dragoons, over not the smoothest road known.

The private correspondence between Goethe and Karl August, never published before, will soon appear in print. The present Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar had entrusted Dr. Vogel with the arrangement and publication of this correspondence, which, it is said, comprises about 600 letters, and will be ready for print in the course of the season.

A letter from the U. S. fleet near Vicksburg, dated March 3, published in the Phila. Inquirer, says—"The Confederates, from all we can learn, are determined to retain possession of the Mississippi as long as possible, and seem to think Hudson more nearly impregnable than Vicksburg; though they asseverate that neither can be taken by any force we may bring against them. Should the Confederates lose Vicksburg, they would doubtless fortify Grand Gulf, Ellis' Cliffs and Natchez, all of which have strong natural positions, and dispute every mile of the great river as long as possible. They fully understand the importance, the necessity, to the West of this vast commercial artery; and though, as I have said before, they would be willing to leave its navigation open in the event of any compromise or peace between the two sections, they wish to hold the river for the sake of making the best terms with the North."

The Washington Star of yesterday afternoon says—"The city is rife with a rumor that Mr. Alexander Lammond, dealer in Fancy Goods on Seventh street, near E street, was, while on a visit to the Army of the Potomac a few days since taken prisoner by the rebels. Mr. Lammond went down to the army in company with his family, including his daughter, who was married on Thursday last to an officer, and while there he wandered outside our lines, and was gobbled up, it is feared. The fact that Mr. Lammond has not been heard from for some days, would lead to the belief that the story is true. His numerous friends are in hopes the rumor is unfounded." [It is said, that it is probable, the whole story is a hoax.]

A correspondent gives what he states is a "simple but effectual remedy against the ignition of ladies' dresses." When the dress has been cleaned in the usual manner, mix a handful of common salt in water or starch-water, then saturate it well in this before wringing it out. The salt will be found to possess two virtues—that of preserving the colors and making the dress perfectly non-inflammable.

The Provost Marshal General of the defenses south of the Potomac sent to Washington last night the following citizens of Fairfax county, Va., who were recently arrested by the Provost Marshal at Fairfax Court House charged with acting as Confederate videttes. Viz: Francis Fox, Richard Johnson, George H. Cook, Philip Lee, Albert Wren.

The Buell Court of Inquiry, sitting at Cincinnati, has been interrupted in its proceedings by a difference among some of the members as to the admissibility of portions of the evidence. Gens. Wallace and Ord have gone to Washington to consult with parties there upon the subject.

General Stoughton's friends claim that an official investigation of the facts connected with his capture, will relieve him from blame, and prove that he was exercising the caution and vigilance requisite in the face of an enemy.