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FRAUDULENT RAILWAY TICKETS.—Railway circles in the United States have just made the discovery that excursion tickets to the World's Fair have been extensively counterfeited, with the result that several of the leading trunk lines have been defrauded to the extent of upwards \$20,000. The counterfeit tickets were so well executed that they were not detected by the conductors who took them up.

A MYSTERY SOLVED.—Colin Leaman, formerly of Truro and a brother of James A. Leaman of this city, was murdered and robbed at Brockton, Mass., on the 26th April, 1892. The efforts to discover the perpetrators of the crime were without success, and the affair has been shrouded in mystery, but it now seems that the criminals have been discovered and arrested. The parties implicated are three in number named Mahar, Luddy and Smith, and the evidence against them seems very strong.

MR. BARRY DISCHARGED.—Mr. Justice Weatherbe, on Monday gave his decision in the Barry matter. It will be remembered that two court commissioners ordered the prisoner's discharge after hearing the evidence, and an appeal was taken from their decision. It was the appeal that was heard by Mr. Justice Weatherbe, and which, in his decision he dismisses, sustaining the decision of the commissioners and ordering the discharge of the accused. Mr. Barry was freed about ten o'clock, and went off with his counsel.

If you have as many friends as Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, you are a fortunate person.

ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAY.—Mr. F. W. W. Doane, City Engineer, who has been visiting Chicago and other leading cities where he has made a study of the best system for electric street propulsion, has now laid his report before the Board of Works. It is entirely in favor of the overhead trolley system, and now that this point is settled we may look for the speedy application of electrical power to the propulsion of our street cars. Yarmouth and St. John have now in successful operation electrical lines, and there is every reason to believe that when electricity is finally applied in Halifax it will prove a great financial success, besides being an improvement that will add greatly to the comfort of our citizens. As improvements are continually being made the delay will result in giving Halifax one of the best equipped lines on the Continent.

CITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE.—The city assessment committee met again Monday evening. Ald. Morrow reported that he had ascertained that a great deal of information could be secured from the royal engineers' plan, and that the military would be willing to allow its use in the preparation of a city plan for the assessors' use. The committee spent the evening principally in discussing tax exemptions. No formal action was taken, but the committee were of opinion that only purely charitable institutions should be exempted; that churches and educational institutions should be taxed on the site only on which the buildings stand, and that all other property in the city, except military and government real estate, (which cannot be reached), should be assessed. The committee has yet to discuss what its idea is of an equitable system of civic taxation. So far the discussion has simply been of possible amendments to the present law.

HEAVY GALE WITH GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.—On Sunday and Monday Great Britain and France were visited by one of the most destructive gales that has visited those countries for years. In the Channel many wrecks of steamers and vessels are reported with great loss of life, while on the land the roads were blocked by great drifts of snow. The storm was unprecedented in its fury and did great damage on the French coast. A London despatch of the 20th states:—The whole Kentish coast is strewn with wrecks of large and small vessels. It is believed the maritime underwriters will sustain heavy losses through the storm. Reports from many points along the coast this evening show the gale had spent its fury. A heavy sea is running. The list of disasters grows rapidly. Between Calais and Dunkirk 58 vessels are ashore at six o'clock. Most of the fishing boats, two steamers, seven or eight barques are ashore along the coast near Calais. 17 more dead bodies were recovered this afternoon. Many houses were unroofed last night in Calais and Dunkirk. The streets were swept clean of obstructions. A lifeboat from Dover this afternoon rescued eight men from a sinking schooner. At Scarborough, on the Yorkshire coast, several houses are blown down and many unroofed. Fifteen fishing smacks are missing from the town. On the same date the report from Cherbourg was as follows:—The storm was increasing in violence all day. The wind this evening was blowing a perfect hurricane. Seafaring men say they never saw such a storm. Fears are entertained for the safety of the breakwater here.

ANARCHISTS AT WORK.—On Monday last two bombs were exploded in the office of the mayor of Tarrate, Spala.

EARTHQUAKE IN PERSIA.—A despatch from Meshed, Persia, says two-thirds of the town was destroyed by an earthquake Friday evening last. It is thought the loss of life was large.

FOR THE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS.—As city news is of a very uninteresting character this week it may be well instead of commenting on the events which have transpired to devote space to a few suggestions for Christmas week. Busy hands are already at work, and puzzled brains are striving to solve the problem of what to make for one friend, what to purchase for another, and so on. Probably if one's pocket book resembled the widow's cruse of oil that the good book tells us of there would be small difficulty in selecting appropriate gifts for all one's friends, but alas at this time we generally find our funds sadly inadequate to the demands made upon them. Our hearts are larger than our bank accounts, and as many dear ones come to mind to whom we want to give some remembrance when the Christmas tide rolls in, it becomes necessary for us to make much out of little, and to devise some pretty, dainty and acceptable articles which can be sent with Christmas greetings. Firstly it is well to remember that it is not always the things that are most needed or most useful which give the greatest pleasure to the recipient. A little bit of luxury once a year is very sweet to those who have few of the unnecessary good things of life. Therefore in many cases it is wise to give something that your friend would not purchase even though it was ardently desired. Books are nearly always acceptable to boys, dainty gifts from the jewelers to girls, something pretty for the home to the housekeepers, while something genuinely useful may be given to the fathers and mothers.

A pretty idea is given in *The Modern Priscilla* for a good housewife's linen closet. Buy a dozen hemstitched linen doilies of the very smallest size; make six little bags filled with perfumed cotton to fit inside the hemstitching, and lace over them two of the doilies with baby ribbon run through the hemstitching. Lavender is the most appropriate perfume for house linen, and therefore one might use the lavender alone, instead of perfumed wool, working the upper dolly with sprays of the flower, and lacing them with lavender ribbon. This set of sachets cannot prove other than a welcome addition to your friend's household treasures.

Doll sachets are also very pretty. The foundation for some of these are the small Japanese dolls, many of which have such odd little faces. India silk with a flower design makes the prettiest dresses, the pattern of which is merely that of an oblong bag sewed up at the bottom, only allowing the chubby feet to protrude and gathered to fit the neck. Before closing it at the top, stuff with cotton wool, and sprinkle with sachet powder; make wide sleeves of crepe or some gauzy material, cross ribbon over the waist in front and tie in a big bow behind. These may be used for pin cushions by stuffing the skirt with suitable material. The combs of your own hair are admirable for this purpose, being light and easily shaken up without taking the doll apart. There is no objection to combining the two purposes of sachet and pin cushions, which can easily be compassed by tacking a small, flat but well perfumed sachet at the back where each stab of a pin in front will shake the object and cause it to scatter its sweet odors.

More grotesque but not so dainty are the cushions made from little Chinese manikins holding a slender rod between their fingers which can be bought for a few cents at Japanese stores. Two strips of four inch ribbon about seven inches long, sewed up like a bag and completely closed at the bottom, must be stuffed quite firmly with wool wadding before securing it to the waist. The upper part of the costume is made as in the first instance, and sometimes they are hung up by the queue. Another trifle that can never prove obnoxious is a silver or gold hat pin; indeed, if it be of gold, it can scarcely be placed among the trifles. "This is my one piece of jewelry," said a girl displaying one of these pins as a last year's Christmas gift, "but oh, how useful it is, and how it sticketh closer than a brother. When I take off my hat, I use it so," suiting the action to the word, by thrusting it through the soft masses of her black hair, where its gold head gleamed brightly, "or so" winding it in and out among the folds of lace on her bodice, "if I am travelling and want to cut the leaves of my magazine, presto! it becomes a paper cutter, and I saved my best dress one day when I was caught in the storm by pinning it up with my hat pin." From which I gathered that a hat pin comes under the head of useful, ornamental and sensible as applied to Christmas gifts. A heart shaped photograph frame of white linen with a spray of forget-me-not painted on it, makes an acceptable gift. Another has loose pansies scattered over it, a third daisies. A quaint gift which will make the receiver laugh heartily, is a large heart shaped card decorated with two owls on a branch in the lower right hand corner, and in the center of the card is inscribed;

"They met and they parted by the light of the moon.
The next day he sent her a souvenir spoon."

On the upper left hand corner is fastened in a souvenir spoon. A large down cushion covered with washable linen and bordered with a big frill is a welcome addition to a man's easy chair, and will be sure to bring to his heart many kind thoughts of the giver. Do you know that a pot of growing flowers, in bloom if possible, is a delightful gift for a dear "shut in"? A real fancy black silk apron or a soft creamy lace cap will cheer grandpa's heart, and a new necktie or some initialed linen handkerchiefs will please the loved grandfather of the family. For the little folks "bought things" are generally easily selected. And now just a word to the generous souls who are bent on giving. Don't give all your attention, time and money to gifts for your own, but bear in mind some individual or family who will receive no call from Santa Claus. Thoughtful remembrance of such as these give almost as great joy to those who give as to those who are made glad by the gifts.