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English Jottings.

AFTER much expense and trouble, a messenger service was inaugurated in London that promised ultimately to be as great a boon to our public as are similar institutions to the people of all the large cities of the United States. After all arrangements had been duly made, and much money sunk, it seems to have dawned upon our popular Post-master-General that his mighty prerogatives were being infringed upon; and he thereupon puts a stopper on the business, and incontinently extinguishes it. He condescends to no explanation as to why this step was not taken in the inception of the enterprise; and does not seem to understand that he has committed an act of ruthless confiscation. It is open to doubt as to whether there is in the methods of the Messenger Service an infringement of the monopoly of the Post-office; but if there is, and if the department feels justified in attacking a useful scheme because it is a technical infringement, the proper and reasonable course to pursue is to collect a royalty of a penny or so on each message delivered.

TIPPOO TIB is reported to be at Unyamyebe suffering from paralysis. Probably the disease was the result of shock on learning that a journalist was *en route* to interview him about the rear guard.

Lancashire is the new champion football county, with a big record behind it too, going ahead even of York last year. The record shows nine county matches played and won, twenty-four goals scored, and thirty-one tries to six tries. The neighboring county, it will be remembered, could only muster up seven out of their nine matches.

The hockey season ends up with Molesey still on top, Surbiton second, and Wimbledon third. Forty-six goals have been hit for Molesey and only twelve against. Wimbledon has made during the season the greatest improvement, and their form at the close is indeed a contrast to what it was when they began to play this year.

Lord Tennyson cannot be moved to song even by such a tempting subject for the poesy as the World's Fair at Chicago. He writes them he is an old man of eighty-two, and hints that he cannot turn on the tap as he once could have done. And yet when they have just passed a Copyright Bill over there, which, if too late to do him any good, may benefit his son-in-law, Frederic Locker, he might be a little grateful, even for such tardy justice.

"Should beer be drunk out of a glass?" is a question raised by science. Dr. Schultze claims to have established, by a very extended series of experiments, that beer, by as little as five minutes' standing in any glass, even when cold and in the dark, will be materially affected both in taste and odour. By making trial tests on some one hundred persons he sustains his claims. The change is due, as he thinks, to the slight solubility of the glass substance in the beer. Lead is used in the manufacture of glass, making it more easy to manipulate, and from experiments with glass obtained from the leading sources of supply, he determined that, by five minutes' standing in glass, a minute portion of lead is "dissolved out of the glass." It is this small quantity of glass substance that affects the taste of the beer, and, if it contains lead, renders it objectionable for sanitary reasons. By further experiments with vessels of different substances, he comes to the conclusion that gold-lined silver mugs are the best, and he ranks covered salt-glazed stone mugs as good.