

ONE HALF A MILLION OF DOLLARS FOR POSTAGE.

George Stinson & Co., the celebrated Art Publishers, of Portland, Maine, undoubtedly pay more money for postage than any other firm in the world; for the last five years their postage bill has averaged over two thousand dollars per week, making a grand aggregate of over five hundred and twenty thousand dollars; this is about the three-hundredth part of all postage of every description collected by the United States government during that time, and in this connection it must be borne in mind that the country now has over fifty million souls, and fifty thousand post-offices. But the enormous sum paid for postage represents only the cost of sending the light packages, letters and circulars, for large, heavy packages are sent by express and freight. Messrs. Stinson & Co. publish every description of pictures of the better class, and their trade now extends over the entire world. As an illustration of the fact that their trade reaches the furthestmost parts of the earth, the following may be interesting. A short time since an order for an assortment of over three thousand large and expensive pictures was received from Tasmania, away down under the South Pole. Not many years ago Tasmania was a penal colony of England, and its population was entirely of convicts and their keepers. Since the removal of the convicts, it has become a thrifty colony; this place is so remote, that three months are required for an answer to a letter. Tons of pictures are sent to South Africa by Messrs. Stinson & Co., and West Africa sends to Portland for Works of Art; they have trade in every quarter of the globe where civilization has gained a foothold. Commencing at the bottom, they have worked their way to the top, step by step, and thereby, added to the greatest push and enterprise, they have that solid, practical experience that is always necessary to the best results, in all things. They carry in stock millions of pictures, and are at a moment's notice ready to fill a five cent order, or one for thousands of dollars; they employ some five hundred artists, clerks, and workmen; their machinery and appointments are on a magnificent scale, and a trade of ten thousand dollars a day, on an average, is required to keep them moving in full blast. Their assortment of steel plates is especially fine, and ranks very high in artistic merit; many thousands of dollars are often spent on a single plate. They appreciate the value of printer's ink, and know how to use it to the best advantage; therefore they advertise largely and liberally in the newspapers—newspaper advertising was an important factor in laying the sound foundations of their great success, and without it, they state that it would have been utterly impossible for them to have reached their present position. Stinson & Co. are a striking illustration of what can be accomplished by energy, industry, and good judgment. There is "room at the top"—all honor to those who fight their way up. This firm believes in standard goods and low prices, and on that principle their business is conducted. American homes should be made beautiful by refined and meritorious works of Art; no one has any excuse for not adding to their homes the charms of pictures, for fine works of high art are within the reach of all.

A Sawing Match Arranged.

LONDON, Ont., Dec. 27.—Messrs. J. D. McColl and S. Happer, of Parkhill, have accepted the challenge of R. S. Darby and R. Brown, of Bluevale, to match them in sawing. They will "saw" Messrs. Darby and Brown for \$200 a side at Parkhill on 1st February, 1884. They would prefer the log to be 22 inches in diameter, or two cuts of a 20-inch maple log, but will leave that matter for their opponents to decide.

Sanitary.

An English engineer has provided Wanamaker's great Philadelphia store with a pair of huge mechanical lungs, which draw in the outside air, cool it with showers of spray, and distribute it through thousands of orifices in the building, to the comfort of clerks and visitors.

An excellent authority in medicine recommends a little common sugar as a remedy for a dry, hacking cough, and gives scientific reasons

for it. If troubled at night or on first waking in the morning, have a little cup on a stand close by the bed, and take half a teaspoonful; this will be of benefit when cough syrups fail.

The vapor bath is a thorough cleanser of the skin, because it softens the surface so entirely that all foreign and effete matter can be rubbed off with the hand. It is a favorite remedy in domestic medicine as well as with the profession. There is no reason why the vapor bath should be an unusual luxury in this country. In England at several large factories the waste steam and hot water are diverted into rooms where the employees can have vapor and water baths in the evening. A small sum is charged for soap, towels, and the services of a bath-keeper. Well disposed owners of great manufacturing works in this country might greatly promote the comfort and health of their people by employing similar means. The cost of fitting up such bathing-rooms would be small, and the two sexes could use them on alternate evenings.

Dr. Henry Macaulay, M. D., of Belfast, has recently made a suggestion which, if followed in tropical countries, will turn the tables on the sun with a vengeance. He suggests that Mouchot's sun engine should be used to pump cold air into dwellings, factories, etc., pointing out that the temperature can in this way be reduced from 100° or more to 60°. He points out that not only will this reduce the temperature especially at night, thus rendering sleep possible, but fresh air will be guaranteed during the day, and the plague of flies and insects would be excluded. The weak point about this arrangement is that it requires ice. We think, however, adds Nature, that cooner or later in America, where the heat in summer is more distressing than in any other part of the world, and ice is everywhere, this arrangement, or one like it, is certain to be adopted.

Wonderful Sunsets.

Mr. Norman Lockyer, the eminent English astronomer, has been explaining the causes of the glorious sunsets which have recently delighted the inhabitants of the Old, and to a less extent, the New, World. During August and September remarkable phenomena were noticed at sunrise and sunset from East India to Brazil; and lately the same appearances in a modified form have been apparent in Europe. Wonderful blues and greens and crimson have dyed the skies at dawn and evening, which, in the latter part of August, were so deep as to pale the sun's light most noticeably. The source of these strange appearances has been traced to a mass of minute floating particles of pumice stone ejected from the volcano of Krakatoa in the Straits of Sunda. Tremendous volcanic action, all will remember, took place during the days of the 26th-28th of August, accompanied by earthquakes and marine commotions. To the fine dust then thrown out and carried by atmospherical currents over Southern India, the Mauritius, the Cape, Gold Coast, Brazil and Europe, these appearances are due.

Professor Brooks, of Western New York, noticed towards the end of last month shortly after sunset, "a red light, intensely bright, almost dazzling, reaching nearly to the zenith, a phenomenon visible over a large part of the North-Western States." Doubtless this was also due to a part of that fine Java dust having been wafted to these north-westerly regions. Prof. Brooks, however, ascribes it to a "shower of telescopic meteors." Mr. Lockyer's theory is, we think, infinitely more plausible. Many will remember a somewhat similar appearance of the sky in Canada some two years ago after a prolonged period of drought, when bush fires were raging in all directions, due, doubtless to vast quantities of microscopic floating wood ashes.

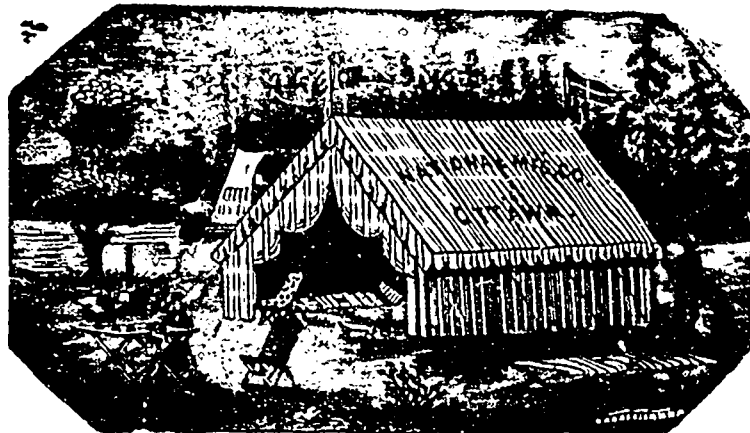
If you are troubled with a "hacking cough," Down's Elixir will give you relief at once. Warranted as recommended, or money refunded. Price 25c, 50c, and \$1.00 per bottle.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU EAT—The best medical authorities declare that worms in the human system are often induced by eating too freely of uncooked fruit and too much meat, cheese, etc. Whatever may be the cause, Freeman's Worm Powders are speedy and sure cures; they destroy the worms, and control their own chattering to expel them.

National Manufacturing Co.

160 Sparks Street, Ottawa,

MANUFACTURERS OF



TENTS!

Camp Furniture and Hosiery.

OUR GOODS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

Four Gold and Silver Medals and Thirty-two First Prizes at the Toronto and Guelph Exhibitions, 1883.

Highest Awards at Sydney, New South Wales: Exhibition, June, 1883.



Lumbermen's Tents

A SPECIALTY!

At Prices Lower than ever before.

HEAVY SOCKS

Our own make, and at Prices Very Low!

SHANTY BLANKETS

IN GREAT VARIETY.

Liberal Discount to Large Buyers. Send for Catalogue.

National Manufacturing Co.

160 Sparks Street, Ottawa.