

"Having lost my parents I am desirous of taking a house-keeper's situation where a domestic is kept. Must be a dissenting family, Baptist preferred. Thinking that such a case might come under your notice I have therefore taken the liberty of sending to you."

The following letter is of another kind, and not a bad effort for a school-boy :

"Not having received the live bullfinch mentioned by you as having arrived at the Returned-letter Office two days ago, having been posted as a letter contrary to the regulations of the postal system, I now write to ask you to have the bird fed and forwarded at once to — ; and to apply for all fines and expenses to —. If this is not done and I do not receive the bird before the end of the week, I shall write to the Postmaster-general who is a very intimate friend of my father's, and ask him to see that measures are taken against you for neglect. This is not an idle threat, so you will oblige by following the above instructions."

The Dead Letter Office must occasionally be supposed to be a repository for the human dead, as inquiries for deceased persons are sometimes addressed to the "Dead Office." Thus :

"We heard in the paper about 12 or 14 months back, Mary Ann—the servant girl at London was dead. Please send it to the Printer's office by return of post whether there was a small fortune left for —."

"I write a line too see if you hard ennything of my husband—that was left at — ill. Please will you rite back by return of post as we are in great trouble."

Extraordinary coincidences have been chronicled in connection with almost every situation in life, and the post-office is a fertile field for the observation of such occurrences. The peculiar nature of the coincidences in the following example is worthy of note. A traveller in the North of Europe became sadly puzzled with letters which followed him about, although not intended for him, and the difficulties of his case are described in a letter written by him, of which the following is a transcript :

"There was another Rev. J.— D— (the same name) travelling in Norway at the same time, whose letters kept crossing my path everywhere, and when I read them I was almost in doubt whether I was myself or he, for his wife had the same name as mine and his baby the same name as mine and just the same age. But who he can be I cannot make out, only he is not I. Perhaps the registered letter which has given you such trouble may have been for him. It may satisfy you however to know that mine was all right."

Identity in names and addresses in all particulars sometimes gives rise to trouble and inconvenience. Through the mis-delivery of a savings-bank acknowledgment, it was brought to light that in a suburban district of London, where there were two terraces bearing exactly the same designation, there were residing at the same number in each two persons having not only the same surname but the same Christian name. In consequence of the misdelivery of a post-packet the following case of almost identical addresses was also brought to light :

"Mr. Andrew Thom
Bootmaker
8 Southbridge Street
Airdrie," and

"Mr. Andrew Thom
Boot-Top Manufacturer
86 Southbridge St.
Edinburgh."