

of miles per day which mails are conveyed by coaches is 31,667, at an average charge of 2½ per mile. The total payments to railway companies in 1854 exceeded by £83,000 the 5 per cent. passenger tax for the same period. With reference to the complaint of the railway companies that the post office has injured their parcels traffic, the post master general states that the number of book packets passing through the post office is about 3,000,000, while the number of newspapers passing through the post has recently decreased by 25,000,000, and that the weight of the mails now are considerably less than they were. What the companies have lost by the book post has been amply compensated by an increased newspaper traffic. During the last year 456,000,000 chargeable letters passed through the post. The number of valentines is estimated at 800,000 annually. Valentines increase in England and Scotland and decrease in Ireland.

Last year 300,000 letters were received from Australia, 150,000 from the East Indies, 70,000 from Canada, 340,000 from France and 340,000 from Prussia. There was a decrease of letters from the United States. During 1855 nearly 2,000,000 of letters passed between the people of this country and the British army and navy in the East. In that year also 2,400,000 letters and 600,000 newspapers were received at the Dead Letter Office, 50,000 letters were sent last year to the colony of Victoria, and 42,000 of them were returned to the Dead Letter Office. Of this latter number 40,000 had been pre-paid and 1,500 had even been registered. This shows the migratory and unsettled habits of the population there. Out of 2,000,000 letters sent to the United States last year, 103,000 were returned to the English Dead Letter Office; the chief portion of the latter consisted of unpaid letters. Out of 2,300,000 letters sent to France, 37,000, two-thirds of which were unpaid, were returned to the Dead Letter Office.

About 200,000 newspapers pass daily through the Post-office of the United Kingdom. During the last six months of 1855, £93,000 was received by the Inland Revenue Department for impressed newspaper stamps, and £25,000 for postage labels for newspapers. The number of book packets which pass through the London Post Office is 1,400,000 a year. Half of the letters of the whole Kingdom pass through the London Office. The number of money orders issued last year throughout the United Kingdom was 5,807,412. The amount of money represented was £11,901,279 12s. 2d. The number of orders paid was 5,801,289, the amount of which was £11,002,377 4s. 5d. The profit arising from money order commissions, after all expenses were paid, amounted to £20,252. During eight weeks only, £13,000 was sent to England from the army in the East through the money order office. Arrangements are making for enabling sailors on foreign service to send home money by means of money orders. A uniform rate of 6d. is now charged on letters to all the colonies except Ascension Island, Cape of Good Hope, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Labaun, Mauritius, Natal, New Zealand, Vancouver's Island, and Western Australia.

The privileges of the book post have been extended to all the colonies except Victoria, Tasmania, Natal, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Labaun, Turk's Island, and Vancouver's Island. The sea postage on letters between two British colonies, or a British colony and a foreign port, has been reduced in almost all instances to 4d. The reduction made in the postage between England and France has caused a fourfold increase in the number of letters passing between the two countries. New postal conventions are in progress between this country and Belgium, the German Postal Union, and Spain. These conventions have for their object the reduction and simplification of postal rates. A proposal has been made to Portugal with a view to reduce the postage to Madeira. The number of *employees* in the post-office department at present is 22,547. The system of appointment and promotion recommended by the Treasury commissioner has operated beneficially. The officials who have complained of the arrangements thus adopted have been generally persons who under the present plan of appointment would never have been in the Post-office. Some of them have resigned because they have lost all hope of obtaining preferment except by means of merit.

The general effect of the new system has been increased energy and efficiency among the *employees*. All the superior officers speak well of the new system. The arrangements for allowing provincial postmasters to appoint their own clerks having worked well, the postmasters of large towns will shortly be allowed to appoint their own letter-carriers. Letter-carriers in several large provincial towns have been dressed in uniform, which has been found to promote their general comfort, and to prevent their loitering and neglect of duty. No subordinate is allowed to make an application for increase of salary, except through his superior officer. This has been done to prevent undeserving persons getting an advance of salary by means of extraneous influence.

The Postmaster General proposes that model lodging houses should be erected near the General Post-office for the London letter carriers; that the houses should be erected by a public company, and that the

Post-office Department should guarantee the rents. £1,314 19s. was expended last year to assist the Post-office officials in insuring their lives. The Post-office revenue last year was £2,717,000, and the expenditure £1,591,000. Out of this latter sum, £313,000 was paid for salaries and pensions, £101,000 for the conveyance of mails by railways, and £32,000 for the manufacture of stamps. A Postal Guide is about shortly to be published by the Post-office Department for the use of the public. This guide will include a table of the postal rates on letters sent to the colonies and foreign countries. There will be a periodical issue of a revised edition of this guide.

The clocks at St. Martin's-le-Grand and at the post office, Lombard street, will shortly be regulated by means of telegraphic communication with the Observatory of Greenwich. Between 7,000 and 8,000 letters were posted last year without any address, and a letter was posted in Ireland, containing a considerable sum of money, which letter was open at both ends, like a book or newspaper. The Postmaster General says that the safest way to fasten a letter is first to wafer it, and then to seal it with wax. The appendix to the Postmaster-General's report contains some interesting and important documents, among these is a short historical summary of the Post office in Scotland. In 1678 a coach drawn by six horses commenced running between Edinburgh and Glasgow, a distance of 44 miles, and performed the journey to Glasgow and back in six days. In 1698 a person had the whole revenue of the Post-office of Scotland and £300 a year beside, for keeping up the post in Scotland, and found it unprofitable.

In 1715 there was not a single horse post in Scotland. In 1716 horse posts were established between Edinburgh and Inverness, to carry despatches to and from the army in the Highlands, under General Cadogan. In 1730 the whole postal revenue of Scotland was £1,194. In 1750 mails began to be conveyed from stage to stage by relays of horses and postboys. In 1757 the mail was conveyed from Edinburgh to London in 131 hours. Oftentimes the letters which left London on Tuesday were distributed at Edinburgh on the Sunday following between sermons. In 1776 the modern stage coach was introduced into Scotland, and performed the journey from Edinburgh to London in 60 hours. In that year a coffee shop keeper established a penny-post in Edinburgh, and kept four postmen dressed in uniform to deliver the letters. He was soon pensioned by the Government and his business taken from him. In 1788 a direct mail was sent from London to Glasgow.

In 1821 the post office at Edinburgh was conducted in an apartment 30 feet square, and kept as dark as possible, for the purpose of employing strong artificial light to examine whether letters contained enclosures or not. In 1866 Archbishop Parker submitted a form of prayer to Sir William Cecil. This form of prayer was sent in a despatch from Croydon at 4 P. M., July 22; it reached Waltham Cross, a distance of 26 miles, at 9 P. M., on the 23d; three hours afterward it reached Ware, 8 miles further; and 8 hours afterward, it reached Sir W. Cecil, at Croxton, a further distance of 29 miles. It thus took 40 hours to travel 63 miles. The time of conveyance of the archbishop's letter is proved by the endorsements of the postmasters of Waltham Cross, Ware and Croxton. The appendix to the Postmaster General's report recounts some curious cases of unfounded complaints against the post office.

Last year a young lady, 15 years of age, was at school some distance from her parents. Her mother was ill, and the daughter received letters from time to time announcing the state of her mother's health. The lady declared she wrote to inquire about her mother's health, and that two days afterward a brown paper parcel, addressed to her, was placed in a very mysterious manner in the hall of the school house. She added that she had met a man galloping on horseback while she was out walking. He stopped and told her that he had left a parcel at the school announcing her mother's death. The parcel did contain a letter announcing the death of the mother.

Two days after this a letter was posted by the young lady's family, stating that the mother was better, but when the envelope was opened a letter was produced requiring the young lady's presence home immediately, to attend her mother's funeral. This case excited the greatest interest, and it was believed that an abduction of the young lady was designed, and that the conspirators who designed it were assisted by some one in the post office department. Several officials attempted to unravel the mystery, but could not succeed. At length Mr. Hodgson, a post office official, skilled in such investigations, proceeded to the school. He pronounced it a plot of the artful school girl to get to her home. Some time afterwards the girl confessed that this was the fact.—*London Daily News*, April 2d.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PRINCIPAL GERMAN STATES.

The following account is condensed from a report on the external affairs of the primary schools and schoolmasters of Germany, which appeared in the *Pädagogischer Jahresbericht* for 1853:—

The outcry for the emancipation of the School from the Church,