

ter, with fifty years' good service to back him, was driven nearly wild with anxiety at the confusion this blunder on the part of the sender occasioned.

In 1858, the most experienced officers in the home and western districts of the British Post Office, were at great expense of time and trouble enletters; it proved to be the work of a boarding house miss, a clumsy but most disgraceful plot to get home.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S

Monthly Gazette.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., AUGUST, 1866,

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The Post Office is one of the principal institutions of the age, and like the electric telegraph a necessity of the times in which we live. It is however, but little thought of by the millions that daily use it; and few indeed have a proper idea of the organization and equipment of an ordinary city office, and fewer still of the arrangements and ramifications necessary for conducting successfully the postal business of districts, states, and nations. A green New Brunswicker may think our own Post Office does considerable, and perhaps it does, when the position and population of the province are taken into account; but compared with that of London, or New York, or Montreal, or indeed with any of the centres of population it sinks into insignificance. In New York—which is far below that of London—we have seen five large waggons arrive simultaneously in front of the dingy little building which constitutes the G. P. O. of the Empire State, crammed full of mail-bags literary bursting with letters and books, and papers from all quarters of the globe, and on every imaginable subject. Tumbled out on the pavement they were speedily dragged inside where numerous clerks were waiting to "sort" and send to their final destinations, the varied matter each contained. This is the "received matter." But the waggons—which "by the way are all painted bright red and lettered in gold "U.S. Mail"—are no sooner emptied than another force of clerks are actively engaged reloading them again with "going out matter." This takes place 7 or 8 times daily, and sometimes oftener, and to an onlooker it is really puzzling to think how it is possible so much can be assorted and delivered so quickly and with such clock-like precision; it goes on day after day, week after week, and year after year, with the same unflinching regularity, making this branch of the public service not only one of the necessities, but one of the wonders of the nineteenth century. Everything of course is thoroughly systematized. In every Department there is a comprehensive and perfect division and sub-division of labour. One set of clerks receives the

mails—another "sorts," another "makes up," another has the box delivery, another the general delivery, another sells Stamps in sums below a dollar, and another in sums above this, &c. The "sorters," for instance, do nothing else than get the letters ready for delivery, and so with all the others, each set of clerks having its own special duties to perform. The labor is abridged to some extent by a judicious arrangement of receipt boxes placed in various parts of the building, marked "Southern States," "Western," "Eastern" &c., with a caution to the public to be careful to put their letters in the right ones. At the lower entrance from Nassau Street a box is provided for newspapers and other printed matter; while in an office in the second floor, Stamped envelopes can be purchased in small or large quantities, the buyers, being requested to count their Stamps before leaving, that mistakes, if any, may be then and there corrected. The Americans are a reading people, and to gratify this taste a vender of periodicals has a stall in one corner of the building, where all the principal newspapers and serials of the day may be had either, for immediate use, or done up in wrappers ready for addressing and mailing. To many, this is a great convenience, as they can read the news of the day, or drop a paper for a friend while waiting, it may be, for the opening of a mail. But while provision is thus made for the mental part of Young America, the physical is likewise cared for in another corner where the melancholy recipient of bad tidings can drown his sorrow, or cool his fevered brain, by a refreshing draught of ice-cold soda water &c.

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Owing to the scarcity of the thick paper like that on which the *Gazette* has been printed we have been compelled to issue a portion of our edition on a thinner quality until another supply arrives.

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Parties in St. John, who wish to take the *Gazette* can subscribe for it at the book store of Messrs Chubb & Co, Prince William St.—Terms 50 cents per annum in advance.

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The splendid new descriptive Price Catalogue of the "Excelsior Stamp Association" has been laid on our table. It is large, convenient, easy for reference and will be highly prized both to dealers and collectors, price 10 cents.

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We have received the second edition of Mr. A. D. Robertson's descriptive (illustrated) Price List which is a great improvement on his first; this time containing 18 pages well filled, handsomely got up, and neatly printed on the first quality of paper. All collectors should procure one.—See advt.

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Correspondents shall receive our attention.