

Postal Chit-Chat.

MONEY ORDERS.—The amount of orders drawn at the Superintendent's office, St. John, during the month of April, was \$2021.41; paid \$16535.93. Corresponding month last year, drawn, \$1731.77; paid \$13212.61.

Amount of orders drawn at St. John during the three months ending 30th April, \$5947.26; paid \$51842.79; corresponding period last year drawn, \$4816.65; paid \$40419.80.

THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The amount of orders issued since its establishment was as follows:—

In 1861,	\$67,000
1862,	100,000
1863,	125,000
1864,	246,000
1865,	379,000
1866,	561,000

Shewing that the amount of issues for last year was greater by eight times than in the first year of the system. The money order department had contributed to the revenue \$2,384 during the past year.

Fifteen thousand dollars worth of stamps were sold in Boston on the 16th ult., to put on a Western Railroad bond, representing thirty million dollars.

Our attentive correspondent in Concord N. H., sends us some letter back addresses:

"Haste gentle missive on your way
To the abode of Johnnie Slay;
Who lives in Concord, Hampshire state,
With nephews, three and children eight."

Please Mr. Nick,
Just give this same
To the first one that comes
Of the four I shall name:

First is Miss Hattie, whose father owned a mill,
And next is Miss Lizzie, who lives on the hill,
And third is Louisa, that don't live by the sea,
And the last is Miss Julia who is courted by P.

Mrs. Julcar an Lewes,
Reachman For yenear
Box, 966.

(Supposed to be German-English, for Richmond, Virginia).

WATERMARKED NEW SOUTH WALES.—By the last mail we have another vagary of watermark on the present sixpenny stamp. Previous mails brought us copies watermarked 5, they now come watermarked 12, being printed on the paper for the shilling stamp.—*Philatelist*.

THE Bombay papers mention the transmission to England last mail, by letter post, of the celebrated Sancy diamond, through Messrs. Forbes & Co., of Bombay. Although the story of the Sancy diamond is not so remarkable as those of some other historic gems, it is still sufficiently noteworthy. The diamond was found

on the body of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, after his defeat in 1476, by the Swiss. It was purchased in 1479 by the King of Portugal, and ten years later it was sold by him to Nicholas De Baily, Baron De Sancy, from whom it derives its name. The Baron De Sancy sent it as a present to the King of France and the servant who had charge of the gift, being attacked by robbers, proved himself equal to the occasion, and swallowed the diamond. We must assume that his death speedily followed on this act of devotion, for according to the story, the stone was found in his body. It afterwards came into the possession of James II of England, by whom it was sold for £25,000 to Louis XIV. During the French Revolution, the Sancy diamond disappeared, but was afterwards recovered and purchased by Napoleon I, by whom it was afterwards sold to Prince Paul Demidoff. It is valued at from £200,00 to £30,000, is pear shaped, and weighs 53½ carats.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The contract with the Cunard line of Steamers plying between New York and Liverpool, and carrying the mails to and from the Old and New World will expire next year, and immediately after the expiration, the postage on letters either way, will be reduced one half its present exorbitant rate. A book post, between England and America is also to be established.

THE FRENCH POST OFFICE.—The following is told in connection with the *Poste Restante* Department of the Paris Post Office:—

One day a gentleman, who showed great agitation, and dragging by the arm a young lady in a half fainting condition, entered the bureau and asked in a fierce tone if there was a letter for Madame L.—The clerk carefully went over the packet from L pigeon hole, "Nothing for Madame L —." An hour afterward the young lady returned, this time alone, and almost tremblingly approached the counter. The clerk saw her, and before she had time to speak, "Here is your letter, Madame; on no account whatever could I deliver it to any one but yours lf." Madame L——, adds M. Ducamp, has entertained the very highest regard for the *poste restante* ever since.

• A veteran United States mail carrier named Jacob Graft, at the advanced age of nearly ninety-nine years, died at Belford, Pa., on the first of December last. The deceased had been a resident of Somerset County, for upwards of sixty years. He was the first man that carried a mail from Philadelphia to Pittsburg by this route, carrying it on horseback from point to point, and consuming about two weeks in making a trip.

The clerks of the New York post office have collected a sufficient sum of money to purchase five hundred bushels of corn for the suffering poor of the South.