

The Halifax Philatelist.

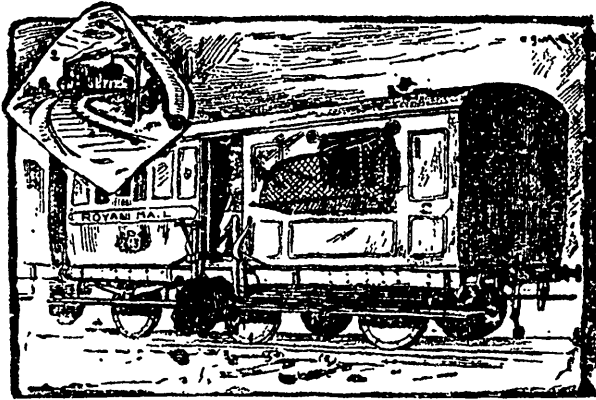
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HER MAJESTY'S MAIL.

BY MISS MAY TWEEDIE.



TRAVELLING POST-OFFICE.

The most graphic pen, or brilliant imagination, must fail in attempting any adequate picture of the condition of society without the modern post-office. The growth of this institution from the unpretending beginnings of other days to the great and ubiquitous organization which is now the indispensable medium of communication with every portion of the world, is the result of never-ending improvement, during a long series of years.

As our morning letters arrive and are handed in at the breakfast table, speculation arises as to their origin; a well known hand is recognized, interest is excited by the contents or the well-springs of emotion are opened—joy is brought by the silvered note, or sorrow with the black insignia of death; and thus absorbed in the matter of the letters themselves, no thought is spared to the past and present labour which has given them wings or directed their flight.

Notwithstanding the fact that the post-office is pre-eminently a people's institution, and that from the universality of its operations it becomes familiar to the rich and poor, the educated and the illiterate, yet its internal management and organization are comparatively unknown.

Though this plain matter-of-fact department is considered too unromantic to afford much of interest, its lighter features will be found to have at least