last November, when we had our first snow and ice, we have had neither rain nor thaw; in consequence of which the snow and ice has been with us ever since. There have been numerous and heavy falls of fine, dry snow, which seldom last longer than twelve hours. It can therefore easily be imagined that the earth becomes covered with ice and snow to a depth of five or six feet. The natural weight of the snow, and the sun, which is warmer in Canada than with us at home, contract the snow into a solid mass, upon which you can walk, and ride, if necessary, on cold days.—W. L. STONE, in *Revolutionary Letters*.

ORIGIN OF ENVELOPES. — The institution of payment for the carriage of letters and envelopes dates, so far as can be gathered, from the reign of Louis XIV, says the *Bulletin de l'Imprimerie*, when a certain Sieur de Valfyer instituted a service of private post; with the royal consent he placed boxes at the corners of the streets for the reception of the letters. These letters were enclosed in envelopes bought at special offices therefor. In 1653, Mr. de Valfyer had also " note-forms," or *formules de billets*, for the dispatch of ordinary business communications for the inhabitants of the larger towns. Among the archives of the British empire there is a letter addressed May 16, 1696, to the secretary of State, the Right Honorable Sir William Trumball, by Sir James Ogilvie. This letter is $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 inches, almost the same as our modern envelopes. In the Egerton collection of manuscript in the British Museum there is an envelope ressembling our present envelopes, which contains a letter from Mme de Pompadour to the Duchesse D'Aiguillon, in the year 1760. There is also a letter addressed by Frederick the Great to an English General in his service. It is dated Postham, July 28, 1776, and has for cover an envelope of coarse paper similar to that in use in England at the present time. The difference between the two is, that the one is open at both ends, while at the present time they are opened at the top.— *The American Bookseller*.