

of things between the leaves, such as cigars, tobacco, collars, gloves, music, sermons, etc. People in the United States and Canada are much given to these practices, as is shown by the fact that in one half of the year 1874 more than 14,000 newspapers were detected with such articles secreted in them. The Cape Diamond robbery of 1880 may be referred to as an example of the great robberies which have been perpetrated on the post-office. The value of the diamonds stolen at that time was £60,000.

The post-office, while it is the willing handmaid to commerce, the vehicle of social intercourse, and the necessary help in almost every enterprise and occupation, becomes at the same time a ready means for the unscrupulous to perpetrate a wonderful variety of frauds on the public, and enables a whole army of needy and designing persons to live upon the generous impulses of society. We may give one instance coming within the class of the "confidence trick." In several country newspapers the following advertisement made its appearance:

"An elderly bachelor of fortune, wishing to test the credulity of the public, and to benefit and assist others, will send a suitable present of genuine worth according to the circumstance of the applicant, to all who will send him 17 stamps, demanded merely as a token of confidence; stamps will be returned with the present."

The address followed, which was not the same in all the advertisements.



HASTE! HASTE! POST HAS'N

The advertiser would be able to say how far he profited by this little arrangement, but some idea of the simplicity of mankind may be derived from the fact that between three and four hundred letters for this person, each containing seventeen stamps, reached the Dead Letter Office—owing