

door, one of the boys remarked, "Well, we can say like Paul: 'Thrice have we been stoned, and fought with wild beasts at'—Luton."

Anyhow, we have reason to believe that such scenes will ultimately result in good. The newspaper war that is now in progress reveals the fact that we have some friends. Similar scenes have been enacted at Dover, and strange as it may appear, the atheists in both towns are our best friends.

There is nothing like missionary life to bring out a man, although one finds that to be a good missionary is not essentially to be a good cook. Up to date there have been three separate and distinct dastardly attempts on the life of our respected president in the form of mysterious stews and other dubious dishes that have completely prostrated the majority of participants. As all take it in turns to cook for a week, we all suffer at the hands of our fellow laborers.

Scene, room in conference house; time 11:30 a. m. Three Elders discovered indulging in usual morning Scriptural class. Suddenly the peaceful serenity is broken by an agonized voice from up stairs, "Come here you fellows." Stamped aloft; Brother X. discovered clad in a huge apron (and other things) frantically baling out rice from a saucepan which would insist on boiling over. Rice everywhere, every available dish full of par boiled Chinese diet, and still the pot vomits grains that threatens to extinguish the fire—more blatant ignorance, the amateur chef expects four pounds of rice (one of the side dishes for four Elders) to cook in a quart saucepan without boiling over!

GEO. E. CARPENTER.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The report of First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath for the fiscal year ended June 30th, was made public today. The following is an abstract:

"On July 1st there were 3,733 Presidential offices, embracing 169 first class, 750 second class and 2,816 third class. The net increase for the year in the salaries of postmasters at these offices is \$238,800. With the consolidation of the present independent post-offices within the limits of the new city of New York, a saving of at least \$62,723 in salaries and commissions of postmasters will be effected. Another considerable reduction in expenses may be made by the merging or the abolishment in many cases of the several heads of divisions and other officials receiving their salaries. Congress should not only repeal the law providing that no postoffices shall be abolished or discontinued by reason of any consolidation of postoffices under the existing law, but should also authorize the postmaster general to extend consolidation wherever, in his belief, the service may be thereby benefited.

"The estimate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, embraces \$16,250,000 for compensation of postmasters; for clerk hire, \$11,300,000; rental and purchase of cancelling machines, \$125,000; rent, fuel and lights, \$1,750,000; miscellaneous items and furniture, \$200,000, and advertising, \$20,000.

"A plea is made for the purchase of the postal stations in the larger cities.

"The estimate for the free delivery service for the fiscal year ending June, 1899, is \$13,810,000. Since the close of the fiscal year 1897, the service has been established in more than forty offices and before the close of the current year all offices entitled to the service will receive the same.

Domestic and international money issued aggregated 26,113,240, amount-

ing to \$188,071,056; aggregate number of payments and repayments, 25,580,566, amounting to \$180,141,660. There were 5,967,960 pieces of original unclaimed matter received at the dead-letter office, a decrease of 267,470.

"The special letter and collection boxes operated in Baltimore in connection with the public street service are held to be successful and when appropriations permit, will be extended to other cities. The affixing of the ordinary letter boxes to the ordinary street cars to facilitate mail collection is also to be taken up. The total appropriations made by Congress for settling overtime claims of carriers up to date aggregate \$2,870,000. Total claims allowed on this ratio will reach \$3,500,000.

"Rural free delivery has been put to the test of practical experiment in twenty-nine states and over forty-four different routes. The co-operation of the communities served has in every instance been effectively given. The general satisfactory results suggest the feasibility of making rural delivery a permanent feature of postal administration in the United States; not immediately and in all districts at once, but in some graduated form related to the present experiments. Public policy requires some advancement to be made and that the postal service should be brought more into line with advancing prosperity and increasing population. Sooner or later the United States will have to follow the lead of the more densely populated countries and establish a delivery service over the settled portions of the vast territory. Under wise restriction it can be extended with great advantage to a class of our citizens, who, rightly or wrongly, deem themselves neglected in legislation—the agricultural class—and without serious detriment to the revenues."

A SPICY LONDON LETTER.

London, Oct. 23.—[Special London cable. Copyright 1897 by the Associated Press.]—There was a sudden influx into town during the past week and most of the large London residences are opened for the winter season, while the hotels and restaurants are crowded nightly. The princess of Wales and her daughter, Princess Victoria, arrived from Denmark on Wednesday and the prince of Wales returned to town from shooting in Norfolk on Thursday. They will all remain at Marlborough house for several days. The prince of Wales is building a large riding school at Sandringham and around its extreme circumference is a cycling track.

The Greater New York election amenities are followed here with considerable interest, especially the representation of Mr. Richard Croker as a crony of the prince of Wales. The London Figaro on the subject says:

"The impudence of the New York politician is laughable to those who know the extent of the prince of Wales acquaintance with the Tammany chief. When Croker brought his race horses here he was introduced to Wales in the character of a great supporter of the turf. Immediately, however, the running of the American horses fell under suspicion and Croker was dropped from the royal circle like a hot potato. As it was, Croker never progressed further in intimacy with the prince of Wales than on one occasion to offer him a light for his cigar.

The annual Kennel club show opened on Tuesday at the Crystal Palace with 2,500 entries, beating the record. The exhibitors include the prince and princess of Wales, the duchess of New Castle and the marchioness of Coningham. The principal attraction was the 18 dogs used by Jackson, the explorer, in his recent Arctic expedition,

and a Schipperke with a set of false teeth.

Another exhibition which attracted many people is the dairy show at Islington. Among the exhibitors there are the duchess of Newcastle and Marlborough; the countesses of Craven, Delaware and Lonsdale; baroness Burdette-Coutts and Sir Thomas Hesketh, who married a daughter of Senator Sharon of Nevada.

There has been one more case exploited of foolish persons in the United States who were made to believe fairy tales of wealth awaiting heirs in England. Mrs. Nolan and Mrs. Rafferty of 347 east Seventeenth street, New York city, arrived here a fortnight ago and called at the office of Mr. Charles Russell, son of the lord chief justice, saying they wanted to collect £400,000 (\$2,000,000) belonging to the heirs of the O'Neal estate, adding that they wanted the money the same week so as to be able to return to New York on the steamer which brought them here. Mr. Russell examined the documents, which showed no evidence of being of the slightest value, at the same time informing his visitors that no such sum was unclaimed in chancery. The two women having spent all the money they had on the voyage from New York to England Mr. Russell paid their passage back to the United States, and they sailed for home on Wednesday.

During a number of years past many members of the British nobility have opened shops in London and have been selling anything from bonnets to milk or potatoes. The latest addition to the list has just blossomed out in an advertisement in a leading church paper in which the enterprising nobleman says:

"A lord will supply post free, chickens at 3s 9d; ducks 3s 6d; rabbits at 2s 2d per pair; turkeys from 5s and geese from 4s 6d, trussed for the table."

Lieut. Winston Churchill, of the Fourth Hussars, son of Lady Randolph Churchill, is acting as war correspondent for the Daily Telegraph in India.

Mrs. Lantry benefits to the extent of 300 pounds (\$1,500) yearly by the death of her husband.

The Hon. Ella Scarlett, oldest daughter of Baroness Abinger, widow of the third Baron Abinger and daughter of the late Commodore Magruder, U. S. N., is completing a course of medical studies in Dublin.

The gossip of Paris is divided between the reconciliation of the prince and princess de Sagan and the visit of Mile. Lucy Faure, daughter of the president, to the Duchesse d'Uzes, who attained considerable notoriety by giving a very large sum of money to the Boulangist campaign fund. Mile. Faure visited the duchesse because the grand duke and grand duchesse Vladimir of Russia had accepted the invitation of the duchesse d'Uzes to a hunting party, which is tantamount to a full political absolution for the Boulangist escapade of the duchesse.

Sir Henry Irving has engaged Robt. Tabor for Peter the Great.

The Little Minster will have its first presentation in England on November 6th.

Charles Arnold intends to go to America soon to produce a musical melodrama, Paul O'The Alps, of which he and David Christie Murray are the authors. Samuel Potter, the composer of Tommy Atkins, has furnished music for the piece.

Mr. Charles Frohman, it is understood here, is to bring an American company to London in order to produce The First Born at the duke of York's theater, fearing he will be forestalled by The Cat and the Cherub, the rival Chinese play which has been offered to London managers.