

## THE BLACK CABINET.

How the Secret Letter Readers in the Post Office Work.

THE ordinary Briton is not aware that the government, through the postmaster general, reserves to itself the right to read his letters if it considers it advisable. Every postal service in the world has its "black cabinet," as it is termed, in which are employed skillful workmen, masters in the craft of arriving at the contents of letters handed to them in such a manner that the person to whom the letter is addressed, however, never suspects it has been tampered with.

Only upon occasions of the greatest rarity and seriousness, however, has the British government condescended to use this disagreeable power. Opening a letter and reading it secretly seems somewhat akin to listening at the keyhole of the door, and Britons shrink from such practices. Some years since, however, at the time of the dynamic outrages and the murders of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke in Phoenix Park, the correspondence of persons suspected of being implicated in the movements was subjected to a considerable amount of secret scrutiny. It is said that a species of "black cabinet" was busy in South Africa at the time of the war. Certain persons who were believed to be engaged in conveying to the Boers valuable information injurious to our national interests had their letters carefully considered before delivery. The "cabinet" in France has always been somewhat active. That of Russia has become notorious throughout the world. It is huge-filled up with every mechanical device and appliance that ingenuity can suggest—and the workers are a small army. No letter to or from a person in Russia is safe from those keen eyes. The letter searchers are ever at work.

Just at the present time the "cabinet" of France has excited considerable disgust by its activity in reading the letters to and from certain banks. Many hundreds of thousands of pounds have, for no mysterious reason, been withdrawn from French banks and transferred to banks in other countries, and the "cabinet" has been set to work to investigate and discover the reason of the proceeding. Apparently, its manipulators are not as skillful as they might be, for the public have discovered traces on their

mistakes of these unwelcome spies have been at work on them. The chief instruments with which the nimble-fingered artists in the "cabinet" work are scissors of all shapes and sizes, knives with curiously-shaped blades, so fine that they will almost shave a hair; a thin instrument something like a dagger; and a piece of wire, slit lengthwise, and somewhat resembling a stocking needle. The flat dagger heated and inserted below a seal, will remove it so satisfactorily that it can readily be affixed again when the letter has been supposed to render secure has been read, copied, and replaced in its envelope.

The slit wire is used for a very delicate operation—the removal of a letter from an envelope which, for some reason, defies opening without risk of detection. Inserting the wire beneath the flap of the envelope, the operator has to manage to get the edge of the note paper inside inserted in the slit. When this has once been effected the twisting of the wire causes the paper to curl closely round it, and the desired misadventure is easily removed. It is a more difficult job to replace it in the envelope again satisfactorily, but with practice a nimble hand grows wonderfully expert.

A man who knows his work and who has the proper outfit can generally, however, cut open the bottom of an envelope, remove the misadventure, replace it, and restore the envelope so neatly that only severe scrutiny with a microscope will reveal the fact that the letter has been tampered with.

With infinite varieties of envelopes to match any that may be received—with wax of any time of color—with stamps and instruments for the imitation of all kinds of postmarks, the secret letter reader has frequently a little trouble in arriving at what he wants. Very often a suspected envelope is torn open, the letter read, and placed in an envelope exactly similar to the destroyed one, the stamp and marks deftly manufactured on the outside, and the address traced on it with ink similar to that used by the original correspondent. The only possibility of detecting such an operation is by a chemical analysis of the ink on the envelope and the ink of the letter inside. It is always found to differ in some respects—even though the ink is of the same manufacture as that used by the correspondent.—London Ideas.

## NEXT WEEK IN HISTORY.

### NOVEMBER 11.

1829—The Mayflower compact signed in Cape Cod harbor.  
1781—John Abercrombie, the most eminent Scotch physician and medical author of his time, born; died 1848.  
1840—Lucretia Mott, American reformer and philanthropist, died near Philadelphia, born 1793. While a teacher in Philadelphia Lucretia Mott entered the ministry of the Friends and became noted as a preacher. She adhered to the Hicksite branch upon the division of the society. Prominent as an anti-slavery advocate, she went to London in 1840 as a delegate to the world's anti-slavery convention, and upon her return to America the enthusiastic reformer devoted her efforts to the improvement of the legal status of women.  
1902—Rear Admiral Lester A. Beardslee, U. S. N., retired, a Civil war veteran who served 47 years at sea and accompanied Perry on his trip to Japan, died at August, Me., born 1825.  
1904—Colonel D. R. Anthony, noted Kansas editor and brother of Susan B. Anthony, the reformer, died at Leavenworth.

### NOVEMBER 12.

1857—Beginning of the commercial panic in England, which soon extended to the United States. In England the failure of banking companies and private firms was of a magnitude hitherto unheard of. The liabilities of five of the more important banks aggregated £16,000,000 and those of 146 firms swelled the total to over £40,000,000.  
1891—Colonel Don Platt, journalist, died in Cleveland; born in Cincinnati 1819.  
1900—Henry Villard, noted financier, died at New York Park, born in Hudson, born 1835.  
1905—Martial law proclaimed throughout Poland.  
1775—General Montgomery captured Montreal.  
1796—Catherine II of Russia died; born 1729.  
1809—Admiral John Adolph Dahlgren, inventor of the Dahlgren naval gun and leader of the squadron before Charleston in 1863-64, born in Philadelphia; died 1870.  
1814—General Joseph Hooker, born in Hadley, Mass.; died 1875.  
1860—David Dale Owen, noted geologist, died at New Harmony, Ind.; born 1807.

1868—Rossini, the most celebrated musical composer of his time, died in Paris; born 1792.  
1899—Colonel Henry Inman, veteran of the regular army and author of "Old Santa Fe Trail," died at Topeka; born 1837.  
1903—Andrew H. Green, distinguished public citizen, called "the father of Great New York," shot dead at his door; born in 1820.

### NOVEMBER 14.

1532—Anne Boleyn secretly married to Henry VIII.  
1716—Baron Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, German thinker and mathematician, died in Hanover; born 1646.  
1832—Charles Carroll "of Carrollton," last of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, died in Baltimore; born in Annapolis 1737. Charles Carroll had a distinguished kinsman of the same name. In order that there should be no mistake as to the identity of the signer he added the words "of Carrollton."  
1897—Thomas Wilson Evans, known as "the American dentist in Paris," friend of Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie, died in Paris, aged 74.  
1901—Mrs. Samuel P. B. Morse, widow of the inventor of the American telegraph, died in Berlin; born 1823.  
1905—The Isle of Pines seceded from Cuba and organized a government under United States laws.

### NOVEMBER 15.

1730—Baron Steuben born in Magdeburg, Prussia; died 1794.  
1728—Sir William Herschel, the astronomer and scientist, born; died 1822.  
1784—Jerome Bonaparte, king of Westphalia, born; died 1860.  
1791—George Croghan, hero of the battle of Tippecanoe, Fort Meigs and Sandusky, born; died 1849.  
1870—Mrs. Hogg, widow of the "Ettrick Shepherd," died at Linlithgow, Scotland; born 1790.  
1889—Revolution in Brazil: Dom Pedro deposited.  
1890—Financial crisis in London.  
1892—Elizabeth Oaksmith, American poet and lecturer, died at Hollywood, N. C.; born 1806.  
1903—Santo Domingo shelled by insurgents.  
1904—Prince Pushimi of Japan greeted President Roosevelt in the name of the mikado.

1895—Rev. Dr. Samuel Smith, author of "America," died in Boston, born 1808.  
1903—George J. Engelmann, noted geologist, died at St. Louis, Mo.; born 1843.  
Edwin Lord Weeks, noted American painter, died in Paris; born 1845.  
NOVEMBER 17.  
1558—Mary I of England, "Bloody Mary," whose reign was noted for persecutions of the Protestants and of Lady Jane Grey, died; born 1516. Elizabeth ascended to the English throne.  
1765—Marshall Macdonald, one of Bonaparte's marshals, born; died 1840.  
1888—Rear Admiral Charles H. Baidwin, Union naval veteran, died in New York city; born there 1832.  
1894—Robert Charles Winthrop, statesman, a prominent New Englander and a colleague of Webster, died in Boston; born 1809. Rev. Dr. James McCosh, president of Princeton college from 1853 to 1888, died at Princeton, N. J.; born 1811.  
1897—Rev. George Hendricks Houghton, rector of the Church of the Transfiguration (the Little Church Around the Corner), died in New York, aged 77.  
1905—The czar granted land concessions to the peasants.

### MR. ROCKEFELLER AND MR. ROOSEVELT.

There is nothing inconsistent in the respective attitudes of Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Roosevelt, says Leslie's Weekly. The former justly complains of the sinning out of some of the great industrial corporations, and the men responsible for

their management, as the special targets of attack by a scandalizing and hysterical press and by demagogic politicians. Mr. Rockefeller says these attacks do no good to any one and cause great harm to all, and it will not be denied that in this he is right. Mr. Roosevelt says that corporate wealth which stifles competition, and which creates enormous fortunes to the detriment of the public welfare, requires governmental regulation and control. In the interest of the people, in this he is also right, but this control must not be radical and destructive, but conservative, intelligent, and equitable. That this is the purpose of the president is evidenced by his repeated statements that every one, rich and poor, high and low, strong and weak, should and must have "a square deal." It is not a square deal when, as the assistant secretary of the Standard Oil company, Mr. William P. Howe, recently pointed out in a letter to the New York Times, statements are persistently printed that the Standard Oil has been convicted in the courts of habitual and deliberate violation of the law, while, on the

### EASTERN EXCURSIONS.

Nov. 20, Dec. 18.  
COLORADO MIDLAND RY. One fare plus two dollars for round trip. Limit 60 days. Stop overs. Call at Midland ticket office for full particulars.

Now Comes the Greatest Bargain Surprise in HIGH GRADE TABLE LINENS that ever occurred. A Tremendous Sale of FINE LINEN TABLE SETS at 1/4 their wholesale value

Two entire sample lines of two importers, comprising more than 100 sets are represented. We have bought these sample lines at the greatest concessions ever known, and we shall sell them at a proportionately saving to you.

Beautiful Hemstitched Linen Table Sets

Consisting of hemstitched Table Cloth and one dozen hemstitched Napkins to match. All linen satin damasks, in the very newest designs.

5-4 and 5-10 sets, value \$5.00, on sale, per set	\$3.60
8-10 and 8-12 sets, value \$5.50, on sale, per set	\$4.35
8-10 sets, value \$7.50, on sale, per set	\$4.95
8-12 sets, value \$8.50, on sale, per set	\$5.70
8-12 and 8-14 sets, value \$14.00, on sale, per set	\$9.60
8-14 sets, value \$15.00, on sale, per set	\$10.60
8-16 sets, value \$16.50, on sale, per set	\$11.30
22-50 sets on sale, per set	\$15.85
25-50 sets on sale, per set	\$18.20
32-50 sets on sale, per set	\$21.40
45-50 sets on sale, per set	\$32.85

Fine linen pattern table sets, consisting of bordered pattern Table Cloth with napkins to match; they are of the finest satin damask in beautiful designs, mostly all exclusive.

\$6.00 sets on sale, at	\$3.60
\$7.00 sets on sale, at	\$4.60
\$8.50 sets on sale, at	\$5.70
\$10.00 sets on sale, at	\$6.90
\$12.50 sets on sale, at	\$7.80
\$17.50 sets on sale, at	\$12.60
\$20.00 sets on sale, at	\$13.80
\$22.00 sets on sale, at	\$16.40

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIAL

Hats worth \$2.25 for 79c. each.

This millinery offer certainly caps the climax. It overshadows each and every previous effort of this department in Bargain Giving. Just think, Ladies and Children's street Hats and Untrimmed Hats, worth \$2.25. Special for Monday and Tuesday—

at 79c. each.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIAL

Another Lot of 40c & 45c Scotch Wash Flannels The unshrinkable kind.

35 Pieces in this lot. This exclusive line is especially attractive in colors and effect, appropriate for Ladies' Shirt Waists, Children's Dresses, Men's Shirts and Ladies' Skirts; 39 inches wide. Special for Monday and Tuesday—

at 28c. a yd.

## Inauguration of a Series of Special & HOLIDAY SALES AT AUERBACH'S

That will Mark an Epoch in the history of Main Street.

Beginning with this week's Stupendous Thanksgiving Bargain Demonstrations—Sensational special sales follow thick and fast throughout the Holiday shopping period. We are determined to outstrip all records and blaze the way to new and broader standards of safe economy.

ESTABLISHED 1864

**Auerbach & Co.**  
ONE PRICE TO ALL NEVER UNDERSOLD

## THE CLOAK AND SUIT BARGAINS FOR THIS WEEK

Are something phenomenal. A lucky purchase of strictly high grade garments enables us to make these extremely low prices.



At \$19.75 Ladies' Tailor Made Suits—stylish, jaunty, effective, in the latest novelty fabrics; the variety is so large and select, these suits will surely command your attention; \$27.50 value; at \$19.75.  
At \$14.75 Ladies' Tailor Made Suits—plain colors or pretentious gray checks; 27-inch tight fitting coat style or Norfolk effect; suits worth \$22.50; reduced to \$14.75.  
At \$9.75 A tremendous collection of jaunty, serviceable loose box backs, light or dark greys; navy, brown or black; also novelty materials; good styles; \$15.00 values will go at \$9.75.  
At \$17.50 Ladies' Novelty Coats—a great collection of the most popular garments of the day; rich in fabrics; colorings to suit the taste of everyone; 46 to 52 inches long coats; worth \$22.50; this week they go \$17.50.  
At \$12.50 Ladies' Plaid Coats—Prince Chap, circular or plaid or distinct small checks; \$17.50 values, marked down to \$12.50.

At \$8.75 Ladies' skirt of extra fine French black voile, trimmed with four rows of taffeta folds, broken bottom; regular value \$12.50; special this week \$8.75.  
At \$6.75 Ladies' Novelty Skirts—pretty shadow plaids; greens, browns or reds; made with four series of double box plaids; a pretty, full flaring skirt; worth \$10.00, specially reduced at \$6.75.  
At \$6.75 Plaid Silk Waist—beautiful shades, long or 3/4 length sleeves; stock collar with tie, eight side plaids down front; trimmed with silk covered buttons; very pretty waists, at \$6.75.  
At \$1.65 Brilliantine Waist in brown or black ground with small pin dots; buttons down back; collar attached; made with plaids and tucks; long sleeve with deep tucked cuff; a \$2.75 Waist at \$1.65.

## OUR MONDAY SPECIAL \$4.00 FUR SCARFS \$2.75

Cluster Scarfs made of brown blended Cooney, six bushy tails, chain fastener regular value \$4.00, SPECIAL FOR MONDAY ONLY, \$2.75

Good Warm Bargains in Men's Underwear and Boy's Clothing

Don't Judge the Goods from the Prices; these are good, dependable quotations even if prices are ridiculously low.  
Men's Medium Weight Wool Underwear in natural flat weave, an excellent garment for fit, wear and the suit \$2.00.  
Men's heavy weight wool underwear, in natural and Tan Flat and Rib weaves, FAST COLORED, very durable, the \$2.50.  
Men's Heavy Weight Wool Underwear, in natural, Flat and Rib weaves, a garment of perfection, make up worth \$3.50 a suit, \$2.89 Special this week, at \$2.89.

### Boy's Buster Brown Bargains

For one week at the following greatly reduced prices:  
Ages 3 to 8 years.  
Suits worth \$4.00 \$2.75  
Suits worth \$5.00 \$3.75  
Suits worth \$6.50 \$4.85  
Suits worth \$8.00 \$6.15  
Suits worth \$10.00 \$7.25

Never Such Bargains as at this Greatest of Couch Cover Sales

"How can you sell them for so little?" you ask. IT'S JUST LIKE THIS:  
A Tapestry manufacturer had hard luck and needed cash. He got it, and in exchange we got these beautiful couch covers, nearly 1,000 of them, at less than 60 cents on the Dollar! Now it's YOUR turn to profit by his necessity! Come this week and buy Couch Covers at the smallest prices you ever paid.  
\$1.25 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$56c  
\$1.50 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$74c  
\$1.75 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$99c  
\$2.00 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$1.18  
\$2.25 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$1.38  
\$2.50 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$1.69  
\$2.75 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$2.10  
\$3.00 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$2.30  
\$3.50 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$2.60  
\$4.00 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$3.30  
\$4.50 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$3.60  
\$5.00 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$4.80  
\$5.50 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$6.40  
\$6.00 Couch Covers go in this Sale at each \$6.85

Here's a Wonderful Bargain in CHILDREN'S SUITS

A railroad accident the cause of it; case and boxed smashed to pieces goods very slightly if at all damaged, they are as good to you as though nothing happened to them. Not so with us, they must go at once, the railroad company paid the damage; you can have the benefit. There are 36 dozen of them, sizes to fit children 2 to 12 years; the regular selling price runs according to size, from 65c to 85c a suit. We place them on sale Monday morning at a suit—  
**39c.**

Great Special Sale of Chiffon Neck Ruffs

The popular neck wear of the season at prices away below regular values.  
All nobby styles made of futed black chiffon edged with silk ruffing.  
The \$1.50 kind with pleated chiffon ends, on sale \$99c  
The regular \$2.00 grades on \$1.39  
The \$2.50 kind on \$1.69  
The \$4.00 grade on \$2.69  
Fancy neck ruffs of extra quality dotted chiffon with ribbon ties, \$2.50 quality, at \$1.75  
Black chiffon ruffs, extra full, with satin ribbon ties, the \$2.49 \$3.50 grade sale price \$2.49  
Extra fine chiffon ruffs, two toned effects, very elegant, \$10.00 values, on sale at \$6.00  
Flat Ostrich Feather Boas  
73 inch long in Black, White, Pearl Gray or Natural, very elegant, \$15.00 values, on sale this week at \$8.75

Buying Shoes This Week?

For economy's sake come to Auerbach's—at least to look-you will find the largest, best qualities, and lowest prices.  
LADIES' LOW HEEL SHOES in kid or Box calf, with light of extension soles (sizes 2 1/2 to 6 1/2) Value \$2.00. This week \$1.65 pair.  
LADIES' BLANCHER STREET SHOES, with Cuban heels and pat. tip. This shoe comes in a fine grade of dongola kid and the newest lines (sizes 2 1/2 to 8). Value \$3.00. This week's price is \$2.45 pair.  
LADIES' GOOD GRADE STORM RUBBERS, in all sizes, go this week at, pair \$60c  
MEN'S FINE HOUSE SLIPPERS in velvet or leather, sizes 5 to 10. Value \$1.00. This week \$85c pair.  
LADIES' FELT HOUSE SLIPPERS in leather soles (all sizes) Value \$1.00. This week 70c pair.



STREETS THAT ARE CARPETED.  
The cut was made from a photograph taken at OROSAVA on the island of Tenerife, one of the Canary group. The religious festival of Corpus Christi is celebrated with great pomp, and the procession passes over floral carpets which cover the streets on the route. Wagon loads of fresh blossoms are used, and beautiful tapestry designs are imitated with great skill.