

the other day with Bob Burdette as to his lecture on "The Rise and Fall of the Moustache." I asked Burdette how many times he had delivered it. He said, "I don't know. Hundreds of times, and I think thousands of times. Why, I know that lecture so well that if I would start it and leave the stage, I believe the old thing would go on and finish up on its own hook without me." This is the way with Mrs. Southworth. Her gold pen keeps gliding on year after year, day after day, until one is forced to imagine that it will keep up its speed even after she has passed away. She lives at Georgetown, and she writes the same character of stories today as she did when her first story was published in the National Era here nearly two generations ago. Mary Halleck Foote lives here part of the time, Anna Vernon Dorsey has her home here, Mrs. Logan is keeping up her literary work in connection with her magazine, and Kate Field spends a great part of her winters at the capital.

Nearly all of our prominent men write more or less, and David A. Wells is one of the scientists who does a great deal of his literary work here.

By the way, speaking of Governor Wells, I heard a good story concerning a talk which he and Secretary J. Sterling Morton had together. The subject was the hard times, the income tax and the treasury deficit. They were wondering how the President was going to be able to make the ends meet and at the same time carry out his own ideas as to the reform of the tariff and other matters. One suggestion was made by Mr. Morton, and that was that bonds of a certain class be taxed, whereupon Mr. Wells said that an attempt had been made to tax that class of property in his state. When the tax was first laid it was made at a high rate and the results were that there were no bonds returned. The rate was then reduced to a tax of 1 per cent for every five years, or at the rate of 2 mills per year, and the provision was made that all bonds thus taxed should be free from municipal, state and county taxes. When this law was promulgated the bonds came in by the thousands and the result was that there were \$29,000,000 worth of bonds returned. "The low tax," said Governor Wells, "was a sort of premium on integrity."

"Yes," said Secretary Morton. "It makes me think of what Jim Fisk said about his father's honesty. The old man's character was being discussed, and Fisk was asked if his father was an honest man. Mr. Fisk replied that he was honest as the world goes. 'What do you mean by that?' asked one of the party. 'I mean,' said Fisk, 'that he is honest according to the amount involved. For instance, I know that my father would not tell a lie for 12 1-2 cents, but I would hate to ask him to tell me eight for a dollar.'"

Secretary Morton, by the way, is one of the best story tellers of Washington. He is a man of education and culture, and he has a wide acquaintance with public men. During a conversation with him the other day I asked him how it came that farmers in England could pay high rents for land and make money off of it, when our farmers could barely get a living when they get the land for

nothing. He replied that he supposed it was due to Scotch thrift, and that he had a Scotchman in his department who had made a great deal of money by farming in Nebraska, and whose brother had made a fortune out of Scotch farming. Said Secretary Morton, "During a recent visit to Scotland I visited this man. He told me he paid \$9 per acre as rent, and I know that he sends money over here to be loaned, and that he has something like \$25,000 out at interest in the United States. I advised him to send it here. He told me he could get only one per cent for it in Glasgow, and that he had sent it over to his brother in Nebraska, where it could be loaned out for seven or eight, and he is now getting such an income from it as delights his thrifty Scotch soul."

"As to Scotch thrift," Secretary Morton went on, "I was at the colonial exhibition at Edinburgh some years ago, and I found that every exhibitor was selling something in connection with his exhibit. During my stay I lost my spectacles, and while buying a new pair from a very pretty girl in the exhibition I fell into conversation with her. 'You are an American,' said she, 'and you have a lot of my people over there in your country.'"

"Yes," said Secretary Morton, "we have many Scotchmen among us."

"And how do they get along, sir?" asked the girl.

"Oh," replied the Secretary, "There are few of them in the jails and none of them in the poor house. They are very thrifty and they do very well. You Scotch are noted for your industry and saving."

"Yes," replied the girl, "they tell lots of stories of us. And have you heard the latest of one of our Sandys who went to London?"

"No," said Secretary Morton, "tell it to me."

"Well," replied the girl, "it was not much, but it indicates the Scotch character. Sandy was a stranger in London and feeling a bit tired he looked about for some restoration. He saw an eating place, and he went in and asked the waiter, 'and how much might it be for a bit of meat?'"

"'Ninepence,' said the waiter."

"'And how much for the gravy?'"

"'Oh, we charge nothing for the gravy,' was the reply."

"'And how much might it be for a bit of bread?'"

"'You can have a loaf for tuppence.'"

"'Well,' said Sandy, 'you maun give me the bread and the gravy. I dinna care about the meat.'"

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

AS TO MEXICAN MAIL.

I have perused the letter written by Miles P. Romney, of Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, of the 27th ult. and published in the last issue of the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS, and for one I do not think the statement altogether correct, that "If people in Utah will be more particular in writing correctly the addresses on their letters there will not be so much complaint about the loss of letters in Mexico." There are other and more serious charges than this.

For the past three years I have endeavored to keep up a correspondence at the above mentioned place. Occa-

sionally a letter has found its way there, but many failed to reach their destination, and not for want of being plainly directed, either. Letters containing money, sent at the time so many were in destitute circumstances, never reached those to whom they were sent, and I but express the statements of others: not letters alone, containing money, have failed, but packages of more or less value, a few sheets of note paper, valuable almanacs, calendars, flower seeds, etc., etc., have failed to reach them, and each time the usual United States postage has been paid at the mailing office. I am not alone in this matter. I know of others whose friends also had money sent them, and otherwise; their letters failed to reach Juarez; but when those friends lived in Utah's Dixie the letters reached them every time. The address was quite plain for Utah's postmasters. Now comes the question, What other causes are there that so much mail matter sent from Utah to Mexico fails to reach them? If such a leakage was practiced in Utah the postoffice department at Washington would soon find it and stop it. The following was taken from a Mexican paper, and may explain the matter a little farther:

POSTOFFICES IN MEXICO.

Speaking of postoffices, if you go into one almost anywhere in the land of "Dios of Libertad" and ask in English for a letter, the obliging postmaster or one of his deputies will toss out the whole stock addressed to foreign names, whether it be a peck of a bushel, and allow you to select for yourself, quite indifferent as to whether you confine yourself to your own or other people's mail. Although my countrymen are proverbially honest, that is allowing rather too much latitude, as has sometimes transpired, both in matters of love and lucre. I notice they never do that way with any but foreigners' letters, the Mexicans themselves being more carefully served from pigeon-holes alphabetically arranged. Whether this distinction is made because they are unwilling to take extra trouble for "outside barbarians," or because they know too well their own little peculiarities, is a matter of conjecture. The laws against opening other people's letters are even more severe in Mexico than in the United States, but they are enforced only upon those of Mexican birth, and Americans need expect no redress here for wrongs of any kind, no matter how serious.

Alas! Mr. Editor, must the oft-repeated statement still hang on, "Your cause is just but we can do nothing for you?" Yours very respectfully,

JOHN L. BENCH.

MANTI, Utah, March 15, 1894.

THE EUPOREAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, March 5.]

RELEASES AND APPOINTMENTS.

Elder J. J. Scharrer has been honorably released from his labors as president of the Swiss and German mission, to return home March 3, 1894.

Elder Walter W. Williams has been honorably released from his labors as traveling Elder in the Norwich conference, to return home March 3, 1894.

Elder J. H. Stocker has been appointed to preside over the Swiss and German mission.