

THE EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, Oct. 10, 1874.

Unprofitable Special Post Office Agents.

Postmaster General Jewell has discovered that many of the special agents in his department were not earning their salaries, and have already discharged some, and threats to go through the whole list, searching out all but the best, and sending them out to seek a livelihood by some kind of honest work, if there is such a possibility as that attempting anything of the kind. But, with Secretary Bristow and Mr. Jewell thus inaugurating a system of civil service reform, where are the sinecures and the dead-beats of politics to find comfortable billets with high pay and nothing to do? The special agent and secret service department of the Treasury and the Post Office departments have been the chief breeding places of these sorts of people. Congressmen who have dependent relatives, or people that it would not do to appoint to some office, have forced them into these special agencies, and had them sent away into locations where nothing was known about them. The service has thus been made a refuge for incompetents and the disreputable, until it has become a general by-word of reproach. In no single point is there more need of reform in our civil service system, and Secretary Bristow in introducing a change, and Mr. Jewell in following it up, are doing the best work that could be devised.—*Baltimore American*.

The First English Song.

The following old English poem is said to have been the first English song ever written. It is a ballad written about the year 1300, and first discovered in one of the Harleian manuscripts, now in the British Museum:

APPROACH OF SUMMER.

Sumer is icumen in,
Lhude sing cuene;
Growth fed and bloweth med,
And springeth the wde nu.
Sing cuene;
We bleseth after lamb,
Lhouth after calve cu;e;
Bulluck sterleth, buck verteth;
Mure's sing, cuene;
Cucu, cucu;
We sing thu cuene;
Neswile show nauer nu.
Sing cuene nu;
Sing cuene.

The following is a literal modern translation. Summer is coming. Loudly sing cuene; growth fed and bloweth med, and springeth the wood nu. We bleseth after lamb, loweth cow, after calf; buck verteth; mure's sing, cuene; cucu, cucu. Nor cease to sing now. Sing cuckoo, now; sing cuckoo!—London Musical World.

BREVITIES.

Rev. Olympia Brown's fast sermon was a boy.—*Boston Post*.

A buxom Kansas matron of sixty-eight summers has just presented her husband with an heir.

Judge H. C. Wonders why any body with a farm like Boutwell's, is "as enough to go to Congress." When a Maryland doctor spells it "accufortus," is it any wonder that a patient dies on his hands?

Pennsylvania has 105 steel furnaces, 130 rolling mills, 16 railroads, 18 steel works and 31 bloomeries. All the other States put together do not contain so many.

The Postmaster at Holiday, Ill., has a salary of \$1,000 per annum. It is not stated whether he draws it quarterly or half-daily.

A civil rights dinner hall—"All meals taken in this hall will be seventy-five cents, regardless of age, business, sex, nationality, politics, religion or previous condition of servitude."

A lady once asked Lord Brougham who was the best debater in the House of Lords. His Lordship modestly replied, "Lord Stanley is the second, myself the third."

A Kentucky church sent two lady missionaries to the Fiji Islands. This is very considerate. No doubt the cannibals will prefer this sort to the tough old gentlemen who are usually thrust upon that market.

The argument of some who still think the check-rein is that it makes those worse who hold together better for show purposes. An English soldier wants to know if it is safe to ride a horse that would tumble to pieces if his nose was not tied to him.—*Boston Transcript*.

Father O'Leary and Curran were cracking their jokes at dinner party one evening, as was their way, when the celebrated advocate turned abruptly to the fat father, saying, "I have the keys of heaven." "Why, Curran?" asked the fat father. "Because you could then let me in," said the facetious counselor. "It would be better for you, Curran, to have the keys to the other place, because I could then let you out," replied O'Leary.

A young lawyer in a country town asked some of his friends to a game of cards in his room, to be followed by a little supper. Frogs were a new species of food in that house, and a dish of them cooked in the oven was the feature of the occasion. Supper time approached, and during a temporary lull in the conversation the door suddenly opened and a Milesian waltz in a loud voice announced supper thus: "Mr. E., there's tuds is done, and supper is ready!"

A LIFE DOUBLY ASSURED.—A resident of Bangor, Maine, writing to C. N. Crittenton, 7 Sixth Avenue, for a supply of HALF'S HONEY or HORSEHORN AND TAR, mentioned incidentally that three months ago a New England Life Insurance Company refused to grant him a policy, on the ground that he was consumptive. "But," he adds, "thanks to the healing properties of that invaluable preparation, my lungs are now perfectly sound, and I yesterday passed a medical examination, without an objection being made, and insured my life for \$5,000."

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WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO RECEIVE ORDERS FOR BRANCH AND WARD RECORDS, OF A NEW AND IMPROVED FORM, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND OTHERS.

WE SHALL MAKE THEM OF FOUR, FIVE AND SIX QUARTERS EACH, HOLDING 2,040, 2,500 AND 3,000 NAMES EACH, RESPECTIVELY, AND THE PRICE WILL BE, FOR FOUR QUARTERS, \$12.00, FIVE QUARTERS \$13.00, SIX QUARTERS \$15.00. EACH BOOK WILL CONTAIN A SUITABLE INDEX, AND BE WELL PRINTED IN CLOTH AND RUSTIC LEATHER, WITH ORNAMENTAL LETTERING PIECES FOR NAMES OF THE WARD ON THE SIDE. THE BOOK BEING OF A LARGE SIZE, WE DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE TO MAKE THEM OVER SIX QUARTERS.

SPECIMENS CAN BE SEEN AT THIS OFFICE, AND ORDERS RECEIVED FOR SIZE OF BOOK REQUIRED.

BISHOPS IN THE COUNTRY DESIRING RECORDS CAN ORDER BY MAIL, AND WE WILL MAKE ACCORDINGLY AND FORWARD TO THEM.

D. O. CALDER,
Deseret News Office.

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