

that his new duties of letter carrier might not in the end be a profitable business, discontinued it, and in the course of a few weeks some 1,400 letters accumulated. The postmaster, meantime, had been advised to "hold" them and report the facts at Washington, but the case coming to the notice of the County Attorney for Clinton County, he employed an officer, who went to Churubusco, and remained for some time watching for whoever might come to demand the letters. One night at a late hour, one of the persons who had before employed the postmaster, as already described, ventured to call on him for the too-long-neglected correspondence. By a previous arrangement with the attorney, the letters were given him simultaneously with a tap on the shoulder by the officer, who at once took him into custody on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. A legal examination followed, but by some means, fair or foul, the scoundrel succeeded in making the justice believe that his name was "Malone," and that in calling for the letters he only acted as the messenger of "Hunter." The magistrate or the attorney, or both, proceeded to open the letters (for which act, by the way, they had not the slightest legal authority), when a large majority of them were found to contain \$5 each, that being the exact discount demanded of the lucky (?) ones, on the comfortable imaginary prize of \$200. The aggregate amount of the enclosures was \$4,330. About one thousand similar letters have since arrived, and been forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, whence the enclosures will be returned to the owners. We trust this lesson will teach them not to dabble in such doubtful speculations in future. Steps have been taken to secure a similar disposition of the money in the first mentioned batch of letters.

All postmasters should strictly follow the order of the Postmaster General, and promptly forward to the Dead Letter Office all letters, the addresses of which are known to be fictitious. Under no circumstances should they be given up to the State authorities without the order of the Postmaster General. And it is also expected that postmasters shall take all necessary steps to enable them to determine the true character of correspondence of this kind, when justifiable suspicions arise. In no other way, at present, can the dishonest tricks of this class of swindlers be defeated. Congress will, no doubt, take up this important