

subject of the abuse of the mails, and adopt the most stringent measures to remedy what has become a great evil. We are in favor of a law which shall provide severe penalties against all attempts, whether successful or otherwise, to use the U. S. mail for the purpose of defrauding the public. It should be made the duty of postmasters to intercept at any stage of their progress, and send to the Dead Letter Office, not only all letters of individuals or firms known to be using fictitious names and titles, but all obscene circulars, pictures, and books, with which the mails are now flooded. And we have thought it would not be a bad idea for postmasters generally to post up placards in the most public places about their offices, containing a caution to "Beware of attempted swindles through the mails."

Strayed—Not Stolen.

A letter was sent from Portland, Me., June 15th. 1861, addressed to Mr. Asa Clark, "Greenfield, (intended for Greenville) Conn." Its travels were long, its course tortuous, and not altogether clear to define. The places visited are designated by the post-office dates of its departure, but as the years are not always given the succession cannot be determined. At some of the offices it must have been kindly cared for for many months, before starting it to another "Sleepy Hollow." Its postmarks bear date—

Greenfield, Mass., June 16 ; Greenfield Hill, Conn., Oct. 7 ; Greenfield Centre, N. Y., Oct. 8, 1862 ; Greenfield, Ulster Co., N. Y., Oct. 18, 1862.

From this last office the supposition is that it was returned to Greenfield Centre, N. Y., as it was sent from that office April 15, 1863, to the Dead Letter Office at Washington.

The journey and stoppages of the letter in question occupied *twenty-nine months*, during all which time it kept snugly concealed its precious deposit, a draft, the drawer of which then lived "way down in the jumping off place," but is supposed to be in the army or dead—a bank note, and some postage stamps of the class since superseded by the department. The only known valuable part was the bank bill. The enclosures were designed to pay an account then due. Not coming to time, a new demand was made for payment, out of which a somewhat piquant correspondence, touching rights and responsibilities, took place, resulting in the eventual payment of the account.

Upon the return of the letter to the writer he discovered his error in the address, and consoles himself by the reflection that it was not stolen out of the mail.