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HOW YOU MAY GET IT OUT OF THE MAIL AFTER POSTING IT.

The Postal Authorities Have a Sys- in the little things which are charac-Reclaimed if Application is Made Before It is Delivered.

A few days ago a young woman hur. ried into the office of the postmaster at New York and asked to have a letter withdrawn from the mails. She had Ivated it an hour previously, she said, and since then had learned something about Mr. Blank that incensed her; therefore she did not want to keep the appointment she had consented to in the letter. Could she reclaim the missive before it reached the addressee? she inquired.

The postmaster referred her to the superintendent of mails, and within half an hour the letter was picked out from among thousands of its mates and restored to the claimant, who tore it into bits and walked out of the post-

The authorities of the postoffice have made every provision for absent and fickle minded patrons of the mails. Among the most interesting and valuable is the process by which a letter may be reclaimed after it has been posted.

Comparatively few people know that this can be done, and fewer care to take the trouble of going through the forms which have been prescribedforms which are to a degree cumbersome and time consuming, but which, pevertheless, are necessary to prevent deception and fraud.

Occasions arise when the writer of an important letter desires to withdraw it before it reaches its destination. Oftentimes additional knowledge of a proposed transaction is acquired after a letter has been sent to the postoffice, making it highly desirable that the facts related in the letter do not reach the person for whom they were originally intended. In case, too, where knowledge of the failure of a mercantile firm or a banking house reaches a person who has mailed a check or draft to that concern it is sometimes wise to withdraw the letter before it is de-

The postal authorities have a system by which such a letter may be reclaimed if application is made for it before it is delivered. Application must be made in person. The government provides a blank upon which the applicant writes the address that is given on the letter. If that letter has not left the postoffice, the superintendent of mails finds it and compares the address on the envelope with the address on the applicant's slip. If the addresses are identical, the letter is returned to the claimant and the authorities keep the slip as a receipt.

To reclaim a letter sent out of the office the writer must fill out the prescribed blank and deposit \$1 for telegrams. The superintendent of mails then telegraphs the postoffice to which the letter has been sent and asks him to return it. When it reaches him, he

compares the addresses, and if they RECALLING A LETTER are alike be returns the letter to the applicant. The expense of telegraphing is deducted from the deposit, and the balance is returned.

This involves a study of handwriting. If there is a noticeable difference tem by Which a Document May Be teristic-the manner of crossing the "t's" or the dotting of the "i's" or the peculiar little flourishes which are made after a name—the letter is not delivered to the claimant. In cases where letters are addressed by type-writer it is impossible to identify the applicant in this way.

When the claimant is a well known business man, however, personally known to the postal authorities, letters are sometimes returned upon his

At the New York postoffice, according to the first assistant postmaster, the average number of letters withthe average number of letters with-drawn each week is ten. Most of these stick on a profit. are from the domestic mails. Few are ters are collected so frequently and chance of "catching" a letter in the

Occasionally letters which have been addressed to foreign countries are asked to be returned. In such a case a deposit of \$25 is required to cover the expense of telegraph and cable tolls. Letters addressed to points in almost every country on the face of the earth may be reclaimed in this way if application is made before the mis-

sive is delivered to the addressee. Great Britain, however, takes the stand that a letter when once dropped in a mail box becomes the property of the addressee, but makes exception in the cases of the Cape and Australian colonies. Why this exception the local postal authorities do not knew .- New York Times.

The Gold Pioneers.

Poverty has been the common lot of the gold pioneers. Marshall and Sutwho found the precious metal in California: Fairweather, the prospector of Alder gutch; Russell and Gregory, the pioneers of Colorado-all died poor Comstock, who unearthed the Comstock lode, the richest silver vein, committed suicide because of his hard

Not Mere Money.

He (bitterly)-Your answer would be different if I were rich enough to shower you with golden eagles. She-It might be different, possibly, if you should cover me so completely that I couldn't see.-New York Week-

If you discover that you have made a mistake, don't stubbornly insist upon keeping it up; let go and run.-Atchison Globe.

Nervous Employer-Thomas, I wish you wouldn't whistle at your work. Office Boy-I ain't working, sir; I'm only just whistling. - Boston Tran-

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