

Letters and packets liable to more than one rate of postage, and addressed to places within the Colony or to the United Kingdom, if bearing at least a single rate, will be forwarded and charged with the postage deficient, and another single rate as a fine. Letters and packets so addressed, and bearing less than a single rate of postage, and all letters and packets otherwise addressed, not bearing the full postage chargeable, will be detained and returned to the sender in all cases where practicable.

Newspapers, if posted without prepayment of the full amount of postage chargeable, can neither be forwarded to their destination nor returned to the sender; but will be delivered or forwarded to the person addressed, on application, within six months, at the office where the same were posted, and payment of the deficient postage in stamps.

Any person can have a letter registered by affixing on it by means of the proper labels the amount of the registration fee, in addition to the proper postage, and presenting it at a post-office during office hours, and at least one hour before the closing of the mail by which it is desired to be transmitted.

Re-direction from one post-office to another, of letters, newspapers and packets, are charged with a new and distinct rate of postage, to be paid on delivery.

Any person sending, as exempt from postage, letters not liable to exemption, or enclosing a communication in the nature of a letter in any newspaper or book-packet, is liable to a penalty of £20.

No bookpacket or packet of newspapers will be received, nor will any postmaster be required to receive any letter, if it exceed two feet in length, one foot in width or depth, or three pounds in weight.

Every book-packet shall be sent open at the ends or sides, and there shall be no enclosure, sealed or otherwise, closed against inspection, sent in or with such packet, nor anything printed or written in the nature of a letter.

Within the above limitations, a book-packet may contain any number of separate books, maps, prints, or photographs, and any quantity of paper, vellum, or parchment, either printed, written on, or plain (exclusive of anything in the nature of a letter, whether sealed or open), with the binding, covering, or mounting attached or belonging to such book, print &c., and all things legitimately appertaining to or necessary for the transmission of any enclosed literary or artistic matter, but exclusive of glass in any form. Name and address of sender may appear on the cover.

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EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALASIA IN THE YEAR 1863.—Of the 53,000 emigrants who came to Australia and New Zealand in 1863, from the United Kingdom, 41,352 did so on their own resources, while 11,700 were assisted, in one way or another, out of public funds. The number of single women sent out by the Emigration Commissioners to these colonies was 4,131, of which number 1,688 came to New South Wales, 1,512 to Victoria, 346 to Queensland, 388 to South Australia, 130 to New Zealand, and 67 to Western Australia. The nationality of the emigrants to Australasia was, English, 24,600; Scotch, 8,113; Irish, 17,390; foreigners, 918; and not distinguished, 1,979. To Victoria there came 20,261 emigrants in all, including 11,165 males, and 9,096 females; to New Zealand, 13,919, including 8,275 males, and 5,644 females; to Queensland, 10,339, including 6,231 males, and 4,108 females; to New South Wales, 6,379, including 3,434 males, and 2,945 females. The emigration to Western Australia comprised 1,850 persons, of whom 1,220 were convicts, their guards, and warders. To South Australia, the emigrants numbered 1,898, of whom 1,700 were assisted out of the public funds. The Commissioners give some interesting particulars with reference to the replies from the various colonies to the Duke of Newcastle's circular respecting the reception of Lancashire operatives. Of the North American colonies, Canada, New Brunswick, British Columbia, and Vancouver Island, were willing to receive a limited number as general labourers and domestic servants. All the Australian colonies were ready to receive women for domestic service, and many had other requirements, while Victoria and Canterbury, New Zealand, voted £5,000 and £10,000 respectively to provide passages for some of the poor people. It is instructive to note, however, that "Western Australia alone held out scarcely any prospect of employment to any class" of emigrants—always excepting, of course, the interesting gaol-birds of England.—*Argus*.

TELEGRAPH ROUND THE WORLD.—The proposed intercontinental telegraph, which, *via* Behring's Straits, will complete the circuit of the world, was recently the subject of discussion in the New York Chamber of Commerce. It appears that Russia has undertaken a line of 6000 miles, from Moscow to the Pacific Ocean, at the mouth of the Amoor, of which 4000 miles, from Moscow to Irkutsk, are in operation, and that she has granted to Mr. P. M. Collins, of New York, a concession for thirty-three years to extend this line up to and across Behring's Straits, and then through her American territories to the frontier of the British possessions, a distance in all of 4500 miles; that the British Government have granted a similar privilege down to the northern frontier of the United States; and that an application is now pending in the Washington Congress for like permission through that country, thus connecting the whole telegraphic system of Europe and Asia with the telegraphic system of America. The Chamber unanimously resolved to memorialise the President and both Houses of Congress in favour of the undertaking. The full completion of the project may, it is alleged, be expected within three years. The total distance overland by way of Behring's Straits, which are only 39 miles wide and 160 feet in depth, will be about 16,000 miles, and it is asserted that messages have been repeatedly sent during the present year from Boston to San Francisco, a distance of 3000 miles, in two minutes.—*Times*.