THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1882.

FOREIGN CARD POST.
Foreign post-cards may be sent to Canada, and to all the countries comprised in the General Postal Union, with the exception of British India. The charge of a card is one half the rate for a single letter.

FOR THE POST OFFICE.
The work of the Post Office continues to increase. The number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom during the twelve months of the financial year 1880-81 totalled 45,085,000. showing an increase of 4½ per cent; the number of post-cards, 122,885,000, an increase of 7½ per cent; the number of book packets, 475,010, an increase of 10½ per cent; and the number of newspapers, 18,270,100, an increase of 10½ per cent. There was again a marked increase in registered letters, the number recorded being 275,100, an increase of 7¼ per cent.

The gross revenue collected within the year was a little over 18 millions, arrived at thus:

Postage on letters, post-cards, newspapers, etc. £5,648,342
Commission on registered post office orders £298,002
Commission on post office orders 2,552
Value of uncancelled money orders 4,473
Revenue from telegraphs 16,355,854

The expenditure was:
For Postal service, including money order and postal order business £3,470,213
Telegraph service, including expenditure by other departments 835,416

The net revenue was, therefore, being an increase of £580,012 on the previous year:

£2,826,046

The total receipts show an increase of £260,046, almost wholly due to the additional outlay necessarily incurred in the British Postal Service, which is rapidly growing in nearly every branch.

One of the most important of the Returns is that of the Returned Letter Office, 475,000 of which it was found impossible to deliver or return. One contained a bank-note, which was returned unsold; and attached to the seal of a sovereign, which was returned undischarged.

In addition to the letters, about half a million post-cards, 4,000,000 book packets, and 125,000 telegrams move through the system. During the year 1881, 27,000 letters—an increase of 900 over last year—were posted without address whatsoever. A further number of 34,000, without address, was posted in London.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN PATTERN AND SAMPLE POST.
There is a Pattern and Sample Post to certain colonies and foreign countries, but it is restricted to bona fide trade patterns or samples of goods.

MODES OF PREPAYMENT.
Inland letters, newspapers, and book-postcards cannot be prepaid in money, but must be prepaid by money stamps, either engraved, or embossed or impressed. This rule applies also to registered letters.

Exceptions—At the General and District Post Offices, and at the Charing-cross and London-street Post Offices in London, as well as at the Head Offices in Edinburgh and Dublin.

POSTAL ORDERS.
Postal orders, for certain fixed sums from 1s. up to £1, are issued to the public at all post offices at which money order business is transacted.

For postal orders the following poundage is charged, together with the poundage payable in respect of each order:

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<th>Amount of Poundage</th>
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<td>1 0</td>
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<td>2 0</td>
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<td>3 0</td>
<td>10 0</td>
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<td>4 0</td>
<td>20 0</td>
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The person to whom a postal order is issued must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the person to whom the amount is to be paid, and must fill in the name of the Money Order Office at which the amount is to be paid.

The postmaster may require the person to sign his name on the order before payment is made, although it has been already signed. A postal order may be crossed to a postmaster or a banker to whom it is crossed may cross it to another banker or agent for collection; and when so crossed especially a postmaster shall refuse to pay it, except to the banker to whom it is crossed.

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.
The usefulness of this department to the working classes goes on extending.

There are now more than ten millions of depositors. Much has been done during the year to encurage thrift.

The total amount of deposits, with the interest due, had on Dec. 31, reached £337,444,587, showing an increase of £2,732,586 over the amount recorded on the corresponding day in 1879. The Post-Office Savings Bank year prescribed by statute terminates on Dec. 31; but, comparing the financial years ended March 31, the result obtained is,—The total amount of deposits on March 31, 1881, including interest to previous Dec. 31, £22,565,468; the total amount of deposits on March 31, 1881, including interest to previous Dec. 31, £22,573,589; of which the increase in the financial year ended March 31, 1881, £2,394,901. The increase in Ireland for the financial year 1881 has a peculiar significance, the amount exceeding by £158,500 the total for the previous year. It is in the Savings Bank. The total number of new depositors were also enrolled, every county in Ireland contributing its quota, and the increase in the number of depositors is calculated as distinbed to amounts to £1,245 and over the above of the growth of the business.