PRYOR'S BLACK BOOK.

BY ELMER DANE.

When Robert Pryor, accompanied by his fair young bride, established himself in the town of Wichville to practice law, he did so with the idea firmly rooted in his mind that to attain power and success he must thoroughly acquaint himself with the lives and characters of his fellow-citizens, as well as become thoroughly versed in the lore of his profession.

In addition, then, to the Index Rerum, which was to contain notes of decisions, citations to authorities, and different legal points as he should chance upon them and deem them valuable, he determided to procure a book which should be unique after its kind, and serve the other purpose of containing notes upon men.

Accordingly he had the book-binder make, after his instructions, a large, thick volume, the pages of which were divided into separate blank spaces, each to be devoted to the record of one individual. Inasmuch as the accumulations of facts contained would be likely to make the book valuable, the cover was made of sheet iron, encased in black leather, and the edges were protected by iron plates; this to preserve it in case of fire. It was secured by a combination lock, and having a desk built for it in one corner of his private office, the lawyer had chained it to the wall; thus none but he could read it, and it would have been difficult for anyone to steal it.

Business progressed fairly with him from the start. He tried to keep up in his profession, read and studied persistently the first few years, and his legal notebook, the Index Rerum, showed signs of his researches. But gradually the other book engrossed his time and thoughts. He found the occupation of sifting the lives of men and discovering their secrets so fascinating that he finally became devoted to it. He would open the Black Book when alone and gloat over the pages that contained so many dark

How many men were there whose lives and reputations he held in his grasp! How many women, now presiding over proud and happy homes, whom he could confound and blast forever by flashing the light from his book upon some sin of their past!

There was hardly a family in the community whose skeleton in the closet he had not unearthed. There was scarcely one business man, scarcely one professional man-not even among ministers of the gospel-in whose lives had not taken place some transactions, which he knew, and which could not bear the light of day.

The lawyer did his work thoroughly. He did not content himself with rumors, reports, hearsay evidence: he was satisfied only with absolute proof. And no gossip had a keener scent for scandal, no detective had greater skill to ferret out a clue, no artificer had more patience in building up his structure, no priest more success in inducing the penitent to lay bare his soul in the confessional than did Lawyer Pryor. When he noted down a fact, he gave the particulars in detail, and made a memorandum as t how and by whom each circumstance could be proved. He allowed no chance for mistake. His records were terrible but true. What object had he in view? He did no

become a maria with him. Yet it did give him power, the power born of fear. There was not a man in the community mere dreaded than he. When he spoke no one was listened to with greater respect or less enthusiasm. The people collectively did not know the cause of his power, the reason for their fears; but each individual inwardly felt that this man's favor it would be well to court.

know himself; the occupation had simply

If there ever arose anything that he wish ed them to do, he would privately drop them a hint which made them tremblingly obey, He sometimes used his power to feed his appetite; he would use the secret of one man's life to wrest from him the knowledge he had of another's.

He could have held any office in the gift of that public, had he so desired. He preferred to be the deus ex cathedra, the power behind the throne. Once only did he accept office. For one term he was prosecuting at-

His cross-questioning was so feared that the terrified criminals preferred to plead guilty and throw themselves on the mercy of the court than to be excoriated by him He declined re-election because he disliked publicity. But if any candidate wished to be sure of success, all he had to do was to secure the support of Lawyer Pryor, which, however, the latter was rather chary of giv-

If a close observer would have kept watc of the suits in which Pryor was engaged, he would have noted that very few of ther came to trial; they were settled or con promised out of court. He never exacted money for his silence; he never blackmailed anyone. No people could be exactly sure as to what he did know concerning them, but he would make them understand that he knew enough, and the uncertainty, the very mystery of it would make them fear to cross

He used his power far from maliciously. A great many acts of reparation and restitution were brought about by his quiet but meaning suggestions.

He eventually ceased to read law altogeth er. The dust of years settled on the ton of his library, and the spiders spun the webs from shelf to shelf. His one clerk did all the draughting of legal papers.

More and more the lawyer became absorb ed in his dissection of lives. Page after page of his Black Book was filled with black lines chronicling black facts-black, black,

· His form become bent so as to suggest an animated interrogation point. When he encountered men in the course of business his mental attitude was always that of inquiry : "What secret have you?" He would, as i were, tap his finger on every breast and, soul, mentally ask : "What have you here? What have you hid away in your heart that you think no eye shall see?"

life in connection with this. His domestic life ran along in a smooth and tranquil stream side by side with the murky waters of his professional existence. He had separated one entirely from the other.

When he entered the door of his home, he became a different man. In the bosom of side of his wife still young and still beauti- all old associations, and try to restore that ful, whom he loved with the undiminished | faith in humanity without which I now reafervor of his youth, whom he called an angel lize every happiness is some time or other and still believed to be so; surrounded by his children, healthy, happy, and bright, he reverted to his natural kindlier self. His and cheerfully. Husband and wife that wife was a thoroughly domestic woman. evening went to the office together, arm in She knew nothing, she cared nothing about arm. He kindled a roaring fire in the grate. his business. She enjoyed all the comforts As he tore out the leaves from the Black and luxury that moderate wealth could Book one by one, she fed them to the flames. procure, and crowned with the love of hus- She breathed a prayer over each somber band and children, ber heart was content. page, asking that as the record of sin vanish-Home and its joys supplied the needs of ed in smoke so might the guilt be purged friendship to Pryor. He had no friends. from the heart of the sinner. And as the His position in the professional and business | weight of the book grew less, the heart of world did not invite friendship; fear does her husband grew lighter. not inspire it. So there was no one to warn

ledge; the evil in mankind assumed undue gret," he answered. "I stand before you a proportions in his mind. The one fault in rescued soul." the best men's lives became to him the sym- "Oh! how glad I am," she said, and they bol of their character. This morbid view of went home together as happy and gay as the humanity never tempted him to do any of youngest of young lovers. the sins he saw committed by others. He "Whew!" the clerk gave a long whistle.

Children Cry for

hand drove the probe to the canker-spot. His clerk had a curiosity about the Black Book. Once Pryor forgot to lock it, as he moment, but it gave the clerk time to take a a new location for our office." peep and see enough to enable him to right-Pryor's Black Book.

It was at this time that the conclusion to this tale was brought about. Pryor locked the door of his private office ed. Nothing ever disturbed his home again. encountered several strangers, new residents. The old query reverted to him, and started him to lose nothing. In the community in a train of musings which so absorbed him | which he lived, he found that he still rethat he was before his own door ere he knew

a loving welcome. Before he could realize | ceeded by the scepter of love. it that question with its full power of damnation had sprung to his lips, and he was laying his finger on her heart and asking "What secret have you?"

Had she a secret from him, this woman who for 20 years had reigned in his home and ruled his heart? Could it be that there was something in her life that she concealed from him? This rush of intolerable thoughts staggered him, he reeled forward and almost fell into her arms. His kiss was cold, though | bad homes. his breath almost scorched her cheek.

"What is the matter, Robert? Are you ill?" she inquired with fond anxiety. "Nothing. No, I'm not ill," he muttered, and pushed past her. She followed him wondering. He entered the sitting room where his children were. His eldest daughter sat by the window sewing, she sprang up to greet him and then returned to her work. He looked at her fiercely, so young and so tender, becoming more like her mother every day-should he allow her to become by its sin, or should he rather slay her on the spot, like that Roman Father of old? His boys! they had seemed so steady and honest hereto would they deceive him as they grew older, and mock his care with wrong-doing and crime? This little one, his baby, who clasped her arms around his neck, and wanted her "Dada to play wis her"-would her arms always be innocently circled around some one worthy of her? "Faugh!" he put the child down, despite her cries. The harpies had got his door. The umes of Hell possessed his soul. He would eat no supper, and paced around the room

like a caged animal. His children were

rightened; his wife put her arms up to him

"Leave me alone, can't you," was his

and again asked him if he was sick.

"Oh! Robert" she cried, and hurt beyond neasure, retired within herself, It was the first time in all their marital experience that he had harshly used her, and she knew not what to make of it. Her silence now aggravated his suspicions. and made his unreason worse than ever. He left the house and wandered about the streets until late at night. When he returned he could not sleep because of the torment. He went to ais office in the morning without exchanging the customary farewells with his wife. All that day there kept ringing through his head. "What secret has she? What secret has she? Darkness was slowly setting over his soul. His clerk afterwards testified that he behaved like a madman. In the afternoou he could stand it no longer.

yielded up their secrets to me, and I will see if I cannot wrest hers from her.' Full of this purpose, he rushed home. Wild-eyed and frenzied, he asked the frightened children where their mother was.

"In her room," they said. She was lying on her bed, her eyes swollen with weeping. "You [must tell me!" he screamed. "What is that you have concealed from me, what secret have you been carrying in your heart? He seized her hand and violently ion. nade her stand.

"Oh, Robert?" she exclaimed, trembling and terrified, "what do you mean?" "Answer me, answer me. Don't prevaricate. You can't hide it from me. Tell me

"Robert, oh Robert! Nothing have I kept from you. What does it all mean? Robert, my husband!" she implored, sinking

"Once again, will you tell me?" he denanded, and stood threatingly above her. "As God is my judge, I have nothing to tell!" she reiterated, and began to weep

"You lie, woman," he hissed through his eeth. "You shall never see me again!" "Robert!" she fairly shrieked, "you shall not go.

She had sprang upon him and wound her arms about his neck. He struggled to shake her off, and bruised her tender flesh in more than one spot, but she clung to him with all the desperation of a loving woman, constantly crying and begging him to listen. Robert, Robert, you must tell me. What horror is this? My husband, what fiend has accused me? What can it mean? Oh, Heaven help me! Robert, Robert, in the name of our children, hear me!".

She finally was successful. His strength suddenly forsook him, and he fell sobbing at her feet. She knelt by him, and supportnig his head on her breast, caressed and comfort ed him as if he were a child.

When he had quieted down sufficiently, she said: "Now, my darling, you must tell me what it is all about." And, overcome by shame and remorse, he

"Oh, Robert," she cried, when he had concluded, 'and all these years that serpent has been circling closer and closer, drawing looking into the eyes as if to pierce the very its folds about our love and home, until now it has almost crushed us!"

"Yes, my angel," he said, "still my guardian angel! and if you had not clung to me Strange as it may seem, he led another like a true wife as you did, it would have "And ww Rob," she said, "do you know

what you must do You must destroy that Black Book, and efface when whedge of its contents from your mind.' "What, the labor of my life! Yes, ye you are right, always right. I will destroy his family, by the side of his family, by the the Black Book, remove my office, destroy

He carried out his resolutions thoroughly

When all was done, she stood up and places made known by the groom looked at him inquiringly. The good in men faded out of his know- "No one regret, my love? Not one re-

Pitcher's Castoria.

was always objective, he never focused the On the floor lay the empty shell of the Black lenses through which he gazed upon himself. Book, in the grate was a heap of ashes. He was always the cynical, sneering specta- His astonishment was increased when his tor. He was the surgeon who with unerring employer came in, walking erect and looking

as cheery as a beam of sunshine. "Dust off the books, open the windows, and brighten things up as much as you can stepped out of his office. He was gone but a for to-day. In the meantime I will hunt up

The townspeople shared the clerk's amazeconjecture its use. The clerk had a ment, and never ceased to wonder at the friend, and his friend had other friends; and change that had come over Lawyer Pryor. it was not long until the entire town had He set about making friends. The destrucheard of it. And when men would tease tion of his Block Book was published each other about their misdeeds, they would | through the same channels that its existence jokingly cite quotations from Lawyor became known. The whole town seemed to heave a sigh of relief after hearing this, and men were eager to become friends of him whom they had once secretly feared. Pryor It was near the close of day. Lawyer seemed to have become suddenly rejuvenat and started for home. As he walked along, To his wife he gave the credit of its preserbending over in his inquisitorial way he vation. The kindly faith in humanity which he acquired and practiced caused tained his power and influence, but the it. At the threshold stood his wife smiling scepter of fear in his hand had been suc-

The Cause of Crime.

The Ontario Prison Reform commissioners directed their attention to finding out if possible the cause of crime; and these they have set down in effect as follows :-

(1) Want of proper parental control, the lack of proper home-training of children due to the culpable neglect of parents, their indifference to parental duties and influence of

(2) Intemperance, directly and indirectly. (3) The transmission of hereditary tendencies, associated with evil environments. (4) Idleness-that is, dislike for work and determination to do little or no work. Of idleness, as of drunkness, it may be said that it is difficult to decide whether it should be regarded as cause or as effect. It may certainly be traced in many cases to want of parental control and proper home training. The boy who is allowed to do as he pleases untill he has reached the age of exposed to the world, perhaps to be stained fifteen is not likely to acquire steady employment afterward-

> (5) Ignorance. It is feared that many are growing up in utter ignorance of what good citizens should know.

(6) The inordinate eagerness to acquire wealth, or to get money sufficient to satisfy the desire of the extravagant or the profligate, which prevails in this age and on this continent, is in many cases the cause of

(7) The neglect of its duties by the State and by society in all its other forms of organisation is largely responsible for the prevalence of vice and crime. (8) Lastly, the importation into the

country of those unsuited to the conditions The commissioners have an exhaustive treatise on this branch of their enquiry, and

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria

they cite many eminent authorites.

A Warning.

Le Monde, of Montreal, publishes letters from Canadians living in the United States. advising their compatriots to remain at home rather than emigrate across the line. Here is one of many, and they all contain "I will not be balked in this. Others have similar good advice:

> STILES, Wis., May, 1891. MR. EDITOR, -I will answer with pleasure the several questions you put to me. 1. If Canadians would work as well at home as in the States they would live much

2. If French-Canadians were to look after their farms, have a little less pride and work a little more steadily there would not be so many of our compatriots in the United States, who regret their coming and find themselves too poor to return to the Domin-

Remain, therefore, in Canada, and live amongst your own people. Do not be discouraged, and you will see later on that there will be nothing to repent about. I was in Canada last fall, and had I not been obliged by my business to return I should have remained with you. However, I hope what is the secret you have concealed from to be able to return and settle down in the Dominion before the end of 1891. Yours faithfully,

L. N. SENECAL. D D D. D. D.

Burdock Blood Bitters Is a purely vegetable compound, possessing perfect regulating powers over all the organs of the system, and controlling their secretions. It so purifies the blood that it

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All blood humors and diseases, from a common pimple to the worst scrofulous sore, and this combined with its unrivalled regulating, cleansing and purifying influence on the secretions of the liver, kidneys, bowels and skin, render it unequalled as a cure for all diseases of the

From one to two bottles will cure boils. pimples, blotches, nettle rash, scurf, tetter, and all the simple forms of skin disease. From two to four bottles will cure salt rheum or eczema, shingles, erysipelas, ulcers, abscesses, running sores, and all skin eruptions.

It is noticeable that sufferers from skin

DISEASES

Are nearly always aggravated by intolerable itching, but this quickly subsides on the removal of the disease by B.B.B. Passing on to graver yet prevalent diseases, such as scrofulous swellings, humors and

We have undoubted proof that from three to six bottles used internally and by outward application (diluted if the skin is broken) to the affected parts, will effect a cure. The great mission of B. B. B. is to regulate the liver, kidneys, bowels and blood, to correct acidity and wrong action of the stomach, and to open the sluice-ways of the system to carry off all clogged and impure secretions, allowing nature thus to aid recovery and remove without fail

Liver complaint, biliousness, dyspepsia, sick headache, dropsy, rheumatism, and every species of disease arising from disordered liver, kidneys, stomach, bowels and blood. We guarantee every bottle so B. S. Should any person be dissatisfied after using the first bottle, we will refund the money on application personally or by letter. We will also be glad to send testimonials and information proving the effects of B. B. in the above named diseases, on application to T. MILBURN & CO., Toronto, Ont.

ENTIRE HORSE BLACK CLYDE

A LEX. M. N. DICK Napan, April 30th 1891.

Those persons intending to enter the holy and blessed state of Matrimony are hereby notified that they can obtain Marriage Licenses on application to the subscriber. WILLIAMM. SALTER, Issuer of Marriage Licenses.

Chatham, 18th May, 1891

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for Infants and Children.

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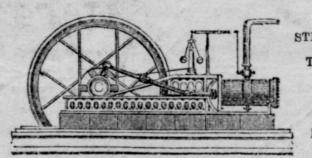
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POND'S WISCONSIN PATENT ROTARY SAW CARRIAGE A SPECIALITY. ESTIMATES FURNISHED. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED. WAS MEDICAN Proprietor,

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1st. Strict adherence to the system of cash in advance for all subscriptions.

2nd. The reduction of the price of the paper to

One Dollar a Year

accounts due after November 6th, 1890, are to be settled on the old terms, viz., \$2 per year, the advertised credit rate. I have made special arrangements with the

It is to be particularly understood that all outstanding subscription

-AND THE

of Montreal by which I will furnish either of those papers and the ADVANCE"

One Dollar and Sixty Cents a Year

I have made the foregoing changes in the business of the ADVANCE for two reasons.

The first is because many patrons who have been given credit, have abused the privilege to such an extent as to make the business of publishing the paper a non-paying one, and it is necessary, in my own interest and that of those who do now that I is necessary, in my own interest and that of those who do now that I is necessary, in my own interest and that of those who do now that I is necessary. sary, in my own interest and that of those who do pay, that I should no longer continue to furnish the AD JANCE to those non-paying subscribers. The second reason is, that I wish to meet the competition of the city weeklies, which are made up from the type of the dailies and, therefore, cost little for production in comparison with a local paper like the ADVANCE, the type of which must be set up especially for it.

Having published the ADVANCE for sixteen years, and endeavored to make it a creditable representative of Miramichi and North Shore enterprise—a paper which may be taken into any household without fear that it has catered to sensationalism at the sacrifice of that cleanliness of matter, which is too often neglected by the press of the day-I have reason to hope the foregoing announcement will meet with general approval and be the means of largely increasing the circulation and influence of the paper.

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For Sale or To Let.

The Dwelling House and premises situate on Upper Water Street, in the Town of Chatham, at present occupied by F. R. Morrison, Esq. -TO LET.-The Dwelling House and premises situate on St John Street, in the Town of Charham, near the R. C. Chapel, at present occupied by H. S. Miller, Esq. For terms and further particulars, apply to L. J. TWEEDIE, Barrister-at-Law, Chatham.

Dated at Chatham, 24th March, 1891

For Sale or To Let. The property on King Street, occupied by Geo. E. Terms of sale—Ten percent of the purchase money down, balance in ten equal annual instalments at six per cent. interest. Apply to

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The store and residence connected, together with street, opposite the Golden Ball corner. Possession given immedialy. For terms and other particulars, or MARTIN LYONS, Lower Newcastle, D. G. SMITH,

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The Steam Tug "Zulu."

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The farm opposite Chatham formerly owned by deorge Loggie deceased and more recently by John U. Loggie, deceased.

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For particulars as to terms of sale, apply to

W. S. LOGGIE. Chatham N. B., 10th February, 1891. Woodboats For Sale.

Amy B., Haley Ann, Duke of Newcastle. THE NEW BRUNSWICK TRADING CO.

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TENDERS. Tenders are asked for the stock of Dry Goods, Greecies etc, in Store of New Brunswick Trading Co. of London (Lt'd) at Black Brook. The goods can be inspected and inventory seen upon application on the premises. Tenders will be received till noon on Friday the 15th of May next. The highest not necessarily accepted.

Terms cash or 4 mos. approved acceptance with
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ETC., ON SALE. The following properties now offered for sale well worth intending builders' attention, viz:-30 Building Lots on Lobban Avenue.
42 " on Howard, Cunard, Stanley and

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Second Hand Waggons, Sleds, Sleighs. rope, Iron safe at a bargain; 1 Sloop Rigged Boat. 18 feet keel, well found suitable for cod or lobster fishing. Consignment of Hat Racks, at cost, shipped in mistake. Bedroom Sets, Table Chairs, Lounges, Fancy Chairs, Bureaus, Rockers and other wares for House. Persons having Real Estate, Houses, Farms, etc., to dispose of can find purchasers by application to the undersigned, (no sale, no pay.) MM. WYSE, Chatham, 24th March, 1891.

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Known as the Baker Mill property situated on the N. W. Mill Stream, a never failing water power, 7 miles above the rown of Newcastle on the N. W. Miramichi, and consists of a gang saw mill, Shingle Machine, &c. driven by a turbine wheel, all ready or operation. Together with wharves, booms, and boom privileges, 70 acres of choice farming land partially cleared, cutting 17 tons of hay, 4 dwelling houses with barns, out buildings, work shop &c. A superior grind stone quarry at mill.

The above desirable property is offered on the N. W. The above desirable property is offered on east terms and if not sold by private sale will be offere at Auction in front of the Waverly Hotel. Newcastl on the 15th of July, next, at 12 o'clock, noon. For terms and particulars apply to A. A. DAVIDSON, Barrister.

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For Duty ex-Warehouse,	15	60	1 0
Free ex-Warehouse,	15	60	1 0
Report Outwards,	15	60	10
Report Inwards,	15	60	1 0
Entry Outwards,	15	60	1 0
Warrant for Delivery,	10	35	6
Locker's Receiving Order,	10	35	6
Locker's Delivering Order,	10	35	6

MAGISTRATES' BLANKS.

Per Dozen. Per 50. Per 100 Justice's Letter to Debtor 35 cts. Summons to Defendant, Summons to Witness, Summons to Debtor, Warrant for Defendant, Warrant for Witness, Execution for Debt. Execution for Poor and Co. Rates. Execution for Road Taxes, Execution for School Rates, 10 Venire, Subrœna, Affidavit for Capais,

Capais, Return (to Council) of Sum. Convictions, LAW FORMS.

Per Dozen. Per 50. Per 100. Supreme Court Bail Bond, 15 cts. 50 cts. Execution. 1 00 50 1 00 Affidavit of Service, 1 00 Bail Bond. 1 00 Court 50 Execution. 1 00 Writ of Capais, 1 50 2 50 Writ of Summons, 1 50 Subpæna, 35 35 Appearance, Notice of Trial. Affidavit of Personal Service, 10 " House Service. Confession of Judgment,

SCHOOL FORMS.

School rate bills in books of 25, 50, and 100 60cts. per 100. BLANKS. SHIPPERS' Per Dozen. Per 50. Per 100. 35 cts. Railway Receipts, Invoice of Merchandise, Invoice of Fish (all Rail)

Wood Cargo Charter,

MISCELLANEOUS.

Per Dozen. Per 50. \$1 50 Bank Notary's Protest \$2 50 Mortgage, (with Ins. Clause,) 1 50 2 50 Mortgage, (without Ins. Clause,) 1 50 2 50 1 50 2 50 1 50 Lease. 1 50 Bond for Public Officer, 2 50 1 50 Bill of Sale. 50 1 50 2 50 Road Surveyor's Notice, Drafts in books of 25, 50 and 100. 60 cts per 100 Notes in books of 25, 50 and 100, 60 cts per 100 Bills of Exchange in books of 25, 50 and 100 \$1.00 per 100 Lumber Scalers' Cards, (N. B. Scale,) 5 and 10 cts. each Raft Survey Bills in books of 1 doz. each, 15 cts. per book Account Seamen's Wages. 15 cts. per dozen Certificate Seamen's Discharge, Crew Lists. 5 cts. each Advance Notes.

Orders for any of the above-mentioned forms are immediately filled on receipt of the prices quoted, as they are always kept in stock. The prices named include postage.

Persons ordering sufficient of several forms to aggregate 50 or 100, in all, will not be charged therefor by the dozen, but the same price as if those quantities of one kind were ordered.