

**JASPER HUNNICUTT
OF JIMPSONHURST**

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Jasper Hunnicutt of Jimsonhurst by Clarence E. Votaw

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CLARENCE E. VOTAW

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Jasper Hunnicutt

OF JIMPSONHURST

By CLARENCE E. VOTAW, Assistant Superintendent, R.M.S.

Appointed Postal Clerk, Chicago, Richmond and Cincinnati R.P.O., 1881

Transferred to Pittsburg and St. Louis R.P.O., 1885

Appointed Chief Clerk R.M.S. at Indianapolis, Indiana, 1897

Appointed Assistant Superintendent, 1906

Copyrighted, 1907

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INTRODUCTION

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This story of youthful romance and difficulty has been written for the purpose of delineating a vastly important branch of Government Service. The interior of a mail car is sacred. Within the public may not enter or scarcely look lest the precious contents be molested. A desire to know how the most tiny missive finds its way to the farthest Postoffice is often expressed, and a more general knowledge on this subject would be useful.

The requirements of the Railway Mail Service are strenuous. A Postal Clerk's nights are days or his days are nights, as the case may be. But alert watchfulness and swift movements soon become a habit, and in the necessary strict attention to business time passes quickly as they run along from town to town. To many the work has a peculiar fascination.

Heretofore no one connected with the Service has ventured to write a book on this subject. Yet there are numerous literary Postal Clerks and material for a volume is abundant. There is amusement enough in the erratic ideas and conduct of the new clerks, while some of the older ones were apparently born to make people laugh. Pathos need not be lacking and there is

much in the Service to make the pulse beat rapidly. There is something thrilling in the desperate haste of clerks working against time to avoid delay of mail and in the exchange of pouches at wayside towns as the train runs with unchecked speed. An echo of the roar and violence of a fast train, flying like an arrow by day or like a fiery meteor by night, appeals pleasantly to the present generation.

In Jasper Hunnicutt we have the young man coming through the Civil Service gate to look with astonished eyes upon the activities of a postal car, while strange experiences come to him in quick succession.

The way into the Railway Mail Service as shown herein may be of interest to some and the peculiar vicissitudes of a Postal Clerk's life we hope may entertain many.

It is a genuine pleasure to present the picture of the Hon. Capt. Jas. E. White, "the most courteous man in public life," for so many years General Superintendent of Railway Mail Service. It is the earnest wish of all R. M. S. Clerks that his life may be long spared to look back with pleasure upon the great work he has performed in building up the marvelous American Railway Mail Service from which its worthy Founder, Armstrong, was taken away so early.

THE PUBLISHER.

DEDICATION

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To those who have leaned over a mail catcher
and felt the air rudely brush their faces.

To those who have thrilled a thousand times
at the sudden perils of a Postal Clerk's life.

To those who have gone to the extreme limit
of strenuous exertion to avoid delay of mail.

To those who have amid the toil and haste of
a mail car thought of wives or sweethearts,
mothers or children at home — this book is
respectfully dedicated.

The Author.