



THE FARM-HOUSE PETS.

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*Specimen of the art of engra-
ving on Wood in Phila-
delphia - 1855.*

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ORIGIN OF PENNY POSTAGE.—A traveler, saun-
tering through the Lake districts of England
some years ago, arrived at a small public house
just as the postman stopped to deliver a letter.
A young girl came out to receive it; she took it
in her hand, turned it over and over, and asked
the charge: it was a large sum—no less than a
shilling. Sighing heavily, she observed that it
came from her brother, but that she was too
poor to take it in, and she returned it to the
postman accordingly. The traveler was a man
of kindness as well as of observation; he offered
to pay the postage himself, and, in spite of more
reluctance on the girl's part than he could well
understand, he did pay it, and gave her the
letter. No sooner, however, was the post-
man's back turned, than she confessed that the
proceeding had been concerted between her
brother and herself; that the letter was empty;
that certain signs on the direction conveyed all
that she wanted to know; and that, as they could
neither of them afford to pay postage, they had
devised this method of franking the intelligence
desired. The traveler pursued his journey, and
as he plodded over the Cumberland Fells, he
mused upon the badness of a system which drove
people to such straits for means of correspondence
and defeated its own objects all the time. With
most men such musings would have ended be-
fore the close of the hour; but this man's name
was Rowland Hill; and it was from this inci-
dent, and these reflections, that the whole
scheme of penny postage was derived.