

Grawford 1116(13)

"THE STANDARD," 7th May, 1890.

THE ORIGIN OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STANDARD."

SIR,—In the interesting article on the Vienna Postage Stamp Exhibition, which appeared in your paper of the 25th ult., you refer to the rival claims which have, from time to time, been advanced by different persons to have been the first to suggest the use of adhesive, as distinguished from non-adhesive. Postage Stamps, in carrying out the great postal reform with which Sir Rowland Hill's name is associated.

My attention has just been called to the circulation, on the eve of the London Philatelic Exhibition, of a leaflet, in which it is asserted that the Philatelic Society of London "now admits that Sir Rowland Hill did not originate the adhesive Postage Stamp," the suggestion of which is claimed for Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee. Permit me to say that such assertion is entirely and absolutely untrue.

The London Society some years ago investigated the whole subject, and after a long and careful inquiry and consideration of the original documents, unanimously resolved that the claims put forward by Mr. Patrick Chalmers, on behalf of his late father, were "unsubstantiated." Since then the Society has seen no reason to alter its views, and it certainly has expressed no such opinion, or made any such admission, as stated in the leaflet.

Those who are interested in the matter will be able to see, at the Society's Exhibition, to be held at the Portland Rooms, in the present month, examples of the actual Stamps proposed by Mr. James Chalmers, and can then judge for themselves as to the merits of his suggestions. I may state that some fifty persons sent in proposals for adhesive labels in response to the Government invitation in 1839; many of them recommending that the Stamp should be inserted in the seal of the letter, leaving one end loose. This utterly impracticable plan was also that favoured by Mr. James Chalmers, whose suggestions were laid aside as useless.

But on the question of priority there can be no doubt that Sir Rowland Hill was first in the field, for, as stated in your article he, in his evidence given before the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry on 13th February, 1837, proposed the use of adhesive as well as other kinds of Postage Stamps, while Mr. James Chalmers, both in his printed proposals, and in his original letters, which are in my possession, states that he first made his plan public in November, 1837.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

FRED. A. PHILBRICK.

President of the Philatelic Society of London.
Lamb-buildings, Temple, E.C. May 1

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had decided to adopt the principles of his *TRER* of carrying it up, or perhaps it was a monopoly of stamped adhesive, was proposed Post Office Inquiry, is two months earlier in the public—showing several plans were sent

d. the present, the present chargeable letter is addressed to a penny, or about one-fourth, or penny, and the cost of three-fourths, or fifty-57 are increased fivefold, established the cost each letter would un-though the postage say the cost would penny is necessary to deter- it would result from by money-payments data for deciding this the cost of keeping the payments and the each door, we should portion at one-half, penny, but say it is that— stage by money-pay-1 per letter

not exceed 1½d. for a sheet of c
1½d. for a cover or envelope, p

It would be convenient to t
necessity for weighing letters
made of definite weights, as
half-ounce, with an allowance
accordingly; but this would c
paper-makers and stationers.

Subjoined is a table drawn c
hibiting, respectively, the cost of
revenue by means of stamps, a
payments on delivery. The latte
other expenses, that it is impos
any thing like precision, but the
pendix B), which makes it, un
fivefold increase of letters t
the tenth of 1d. per letter, is c

| | Cost to the state | Price to the vendor. |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| Stamped labels | d. 0001 | d. 0001 |
| Stamps on letter paper | 1012 | 1 |
| Stamped covers | .091 | 1'091 |
| Stamped envelopes | 50 | 1'50 |
| Average per letter, assuming the consumption of each kind to be equal | | |
| Ditto, assuming the first and second to be one-third of the whole | | |
| Money-payments | | |

It appears, then, that the c
age by stamps even at the hig
would be less than one sixtieth
the cost of money-payments