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5<sup>th</sup> paper.

OPINIONS FROM THE PRESS

(FRESH SERIES) R

UPON

THE LETTER AND PARCELS POST

AND

THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

BY

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FELLOW OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

*Author of "A Short Review of the Adhesive Stamp."*

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WIMBLEDON:

P. S. KIDD, STATIONER, PAVEMENT.

1883.

PRICE TWOPENCE.



WIMBLEDON,

October 22nd, 1883.

SIR,

As stated in my letter to Mr. Morley, M.P., at page 15 of the publication herewith, "I have proved  
" by the testimony of many witnesses, mostly yet living  
" and ready to be examined if desired, including three  
" of my father's workmen and the son of a deceased  
" fourth, the production by him in his premises of the  
" Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes in the month  
" of August, 1834."

This is the origin of the Adhesive Stamp, *adopted* by Sir Rowland Hill in December, 1839. That such was at any period his *invention*, there is nothing whatever to show.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.



# THE LETTER AND PARCELS POST

AND

## THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

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In my pamphlet on the subject, I have proved, from ample living testimony,\* that the Adhesive Stamp for Postage purposes was produced by Mr. James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee, in his premises, printed on sheets of gummed paper on the principle now in use, in the month of August, 1834. Sir Rowland Hill, in his "Life," vol. 1, page 218, referring to the same period and undoubted occasion for their use, has recorded as respects himself, "Of course, Adhesive Stamps were yet undreamt of."

Further, that Mr. Chalmers laid this plan for the purpose of carrying out the proposed Penny Postage Scheme before the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1837-38, immediately upon such being appointed, as acknowledged by the reply of Mr. Wallace, the Chairman, of date 9th December, 1837.

In the dilemma of the Government in July, 1839, *how* to carry out in practice the Penny Postage Scheme (see Hansard), Mr. Wallace favourably suggested an Adhesive Stamp.

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\* A copy will be sent to anyone desiring particulars.

The words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon this occasion are these :

“ If it were to go forth to-morrow morning that the Government had proposed and the Committee” (of the House which he addressed) “ had adopted the plan of Mr. Rowland Hill, the necessary result would be to spread a conviction abroad that, as a *stamped cover was absolutely to be used in all cases*, which stamped covers were to be made by one single manufacturer, alarm would be felt lest a monopoly would thereby be created, to the serious detriment of a most useful and important trade. The sense of injustice excited by this would necessarily be extreme. I therefore do not call upon the Committee either to affirm or to negative any such proposition at the present. I ask them simply to affirm the adoption of a uniform Penny Postage, and the taxation of that postage by weight. . . . “ If the Resolution be affirmed, and the Bill has to be proposed, it will hereafter require very great care and complicated arrangements to carry the plan into practical effect. It may involve considerable expense and considerable responsibility upon the part of the Government ; it may disturb existing trades, such as the paper trade.” \* “ The new postage will be distinctly and simply a penny postage by weight. . . . I also require for the Treasury a power of taking the postage by anticipation, and a power of allowing such postage to be taken by means of stamped covers, and I also require the authority of rating the postage according to weight.”

After Mr. Wallace, as stated, had suggested an Adhesive Stamp, Mr. Warburton recommended that plans be applied for

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\* The great merit of Mr. Chalmers' invention does not only lie in its being an easy and practical way of doing what was wanted, but further, that it solved the paper difficulty which had stood in the way equally in the proposals of Mr. Hill and of the Select Committee of the House of Commons. By his plan the paper trade was not interfered with—the trade sold the paper, the Post-office the stamp.

from the public. In the House of Lords, Lord Ashburton, equally coming to the rescue, recommended an Adhesive Stamp.

On the passing of the Bill, Mr. Rowland Hill was relegated to the Treasury for the purpose of superintending its execution, and a Treasury Circular of date 23rd August, 1839, was issued, inviting plans from the public for Stamped Covers, Stamped Paper, and Stamps, to be used separately. After having examined all the plans sent in, the result was the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp by Mr. Rowland Hill, then in charge of the business, in conjunction with his own plan of the Impressed Stamp, by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839.

"When it had been decided," says Mr. Rowland Hill in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Archer's Patent for perforating the Stamps, in the year 1852, "that such a Stamp as that which is now issued should be adopted, we called in Messrs. Bacon & Petch, to advise as to the means." It was *then and then only*, towards the end of the year 1839, after having examined all the plans, that the "decision" to adopt the Adhesive Stamp was taken.

Messrs. Bacon & Petch undertook to provide a suitable die and to provide the Stamps, printed on sheets of gummed paper (exactly on the principle produced by James Chalmers in his premises in 1834, when, as respects Sir Rowland Hill, "Adhesive Stamps were yet undreamt of,") at the rate of 6d. per 1,000 Stamps. (See Mr. Bacon's evidence before the same Committee of 1852.)

In then so deciding to adopt the Adhesive Stamp, Sir Rowland Hill displayed his usual ability in the public interest, but that the Adhesive Stamp was at any period his *invention*, I challenge Mr. Pearson Hill, or anyone, to show. Not only was James Chalmers its inventor, but he further took the initiative in proposing its adoption.

After over forty years' service in the Penny Postage system of Sir Rowland Hill, it now becomes equally indispensable in the small savings system and Parcel Post boon of Mr. Fawcett.

The above will be conclusive to any impartial mind that it was not until the end of 1839 that the Adhesive Stamp was adopted in the reformed Penny Postage Scheme.

Other proofs to the same effect are given in my pamphlet—take, for instance, the statements of the press of the period—this is from the *Times* of 30th August, 1839 :—“ The Penny Postage will commence, we learn, on the 1st January next. It is intended that stamped envelopes shall be sold at every post-office, so that stationers and other shopkeepers may, as well as the public, supply themselves at a minute's notice.” It will be observed that there is not a word of an Adhesive Stamp being up to this date in any way contemplated.

When, therefore, Sir Rowland Hill, in his “ Life,” gives his readers to understand that to the year 1837, the period of his pamphlet, is to be ascribed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp—himself the assumed author, though he does not precisely say so—we can only conclude that he had been suffering from that “ mental blindness ” which an able writer has lately affirmed “ every man and woman in the world is for a period of their existence smitten with.” \*

It will further be asked, how does Sir Rowland Hill, in his “ Life,” explain this speech of the Chancellor and interference of Mr. Wallace and of Lord Ashburton? This difficulty is solved in the easiest possible way by simply saying nothing about them, by making no allusion to such whatever; and as the modern reader knows nothing of such matters, believing that Rowland Hill did

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\* See *Evening Standard* of 29th September last. For particulars of this part of the subject, I refer to my pamphlets.



everything, he is not disappointed at the absence of any such explanation.

The usual anonymous denunciations of me again begin to pop up in the papers from "a contributor" or "a correspondent," the feature of such being a continued ignoring of facts, while the contributor also continues to withhold his name. The following composition has just appeared in one or more of the London papers:—

"A correspondent writes—

"The commencement of the Parcel Post seems to have stirred into action the son of Mr. Chalmers, the originator of the Adhesive Stamp; and sundry newspapers are urging the claims to recognition of this 'public benefactor.' Mr. Chalmers *filis* has issued a pamphlet setting forth the doings of Chalmers *père*, and although it is somewhat difficult to discover exactly what is desired, the significant references to the 'immense wealth' which is derived from the Post-office clearly indicate that something in the nature of a money grant is aimed at. Mr. Patrick Chalmers' circular is interesting, and it will be news to many persons that to Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, we are indebted for the Adhesive Stamp; but there are few who will consider it incumbent upon the nation to reward the son for his father's work, even if they accept all the statements of the pamphlet."

The writer of the article here referred to distinctly states it is the "memory" of the benefactor he desires to honour. The "correspondent" perverts the matter by an unfounded insinuation, while in any case I am not responsible for what may be written by others.

Why this Adhesive Stamp question was not brought forward to me during the life-time of Sir Rowland Hill is fully explained in my pamphlets. It should not be over-looked that he himself decided to postpone the publication of his own views and statements until after his decease, while his omissions, equally with his statements, form an essential feature in any examination of the matters I have dealt with.

It was not until fourteen months after his decease that my discovery was made that the Penny Postage Scheme itself, so far from having been "the sole and undisputed invention of Sir Rowland Hill," was only a copy, applied to letters, from a pre-existing document—The Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry—to the provisions of which in his writings Sir Rowland Hill had avoided reference.\* It was not until two-and-a-half years after his decease that the evidence of my father's old *employés*, which has enabled me specifically to prove my case, came to light from different quarters. Under all which circumstances he will be a hard critic indeed who blames me for delay.

But more than this. I had retired from the whole business when Mr. Pearson Hill himself re-opened the subject, and through a violent attack upon me I was again challenged to come forward. If the result has not been such as the best friends of Sir Rowland Hill could wish, upon his own son, and not upon me, rests the responsibility. It was in self-defence that I resumed the pen, nor has such been at any period taken up otherwise than with the ultimate object of vindicating my father's claim and services.

When Mr. Pearson Hill can set aside the evidence of my father's workmen and old friends—when he can further set aside the record left by Sir Rowland Hill already stated—when he can set aside the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that, according to the plan of Mr. Rowland Hill, an impressed stamped cover "was absolutely to be used in all cases," and the corresponding statement of the press of the period—when it can be shown that the Adhesive Stamp was at any period an invention on the part of Sir Rowland Hill—when Mr. Pearson Hill can do all this and more into which I need not now enter, then alone may he with any prospect of success continue to assert that his father and not mine was the originator of the Adhesive Stamp.

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\* See page 16.

# EARLY POSTAL SERVICES.

OF

JAMES CHALMERS.

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The benefits derived from the reformed Penny Postage system, introduced and carried out by the late Sir Rowland Hill, are so widely appreciated that the whole merit of the *conception* of that system has been equally, but mistakenly, ascribed to him. Postal reformers were numerous and active before his day, and amongst these was the late Mr. James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee, the originator of the Adhesive Stamp.

A copy of the *Edinburgh Magazine* for August, 1825 (Archibald Constable & Co., Edinburgh), has lately reached me, containing an article in which the early postal services of Mr. Chalmers are mentioned. It is entitled "Acceleration of the London and Aberdeen Mail," and thus commences :—

" Amongst the many improvements which have recently taken place in our public establishments, none have contributed more to the advantage of the commercial world than those on the mail coach system, and we believe that system to be almost complete on the great line of road from London to Inverness." Details and tables are given, now without interest, the result, however,

showing "a gain of two days in corresponding with London: one  
 " from, and another to, the capital; and this, too, without materially  
 " abridging the business hours at any place." The article con-  
 cludes—"The public are not aware how much they are indebted for  
 " these late arrangements of acceleration in the mail system (which  
 " may now almost be termed perfect), to the labours of Mr. James  
 " Chalmers, bookseller, in Dundee. The late John Palmer did,  
 " indeed, accomplish wonders in effecting all at once a maturity,  
 " but his services were remunerated, and deservedly so.\* After his  
 " labours, Mr. Chalmers was left with fewer difficulties to encounter,  
 " yet it is but fair to mention, that, comparatively, he has been no  
 " less assiduous in the task of improvement which still remained to  
 " be effected, and that with no other object in view than public  
 " accommodation; that he has spared no labour of calculation, of  
 " inquiry, of suggestion, of procuring and of communicating  
 " information, from and throughout the whole range of the mail  
 " system north of London: and that his services, if not publicly  
 " acknowledged, have been duly appreciated by those upon whom  
 " devolved the charge of adopting them."

This article is now brought forward with the purpose of showing that any invention and proposal, such as that of the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes, by one of Mr. Chalmers' position amongst successful postal improvers, could not fail to have been generally known in the circle interested in and promoting post office reform, and which included such Scottish neighbours as Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Hume; also Mr. Knight, the publisher of Mr. Rowland Hill's pamphlet of 1837, with whose firm Mr. Chalmers was in communication in the way of business. Not the least able and zealous advocate of such reform was the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, still carrying on his ministry at the age of 84, to whose merits the most weighty names have testified by their subscriptions, and whose cordial testimony to the truth and force of the statements brought forward by me is given in my pamphlets. Writing

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\* Mr. Palmer got a grant of £50,000.

further lately, Mr. Roberts says:—"The claim of your late patriotic father as the "Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp" is now unquestionable, and you deserve more than credit for doing justice to so important a branch of the history of postal reforms, and I hope that you will at least be honoured for such important services."

I have proved from ample evidence that Mr. Chalmers, thus a well known and successful postal improver, invented and advocated the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes years before Sir Rowland Hill took up the subject, and I have further proved specifically, from ample living testimony, such to have been originated by him in August, 1834; a period and occasion as to which Sir Rowland Hill has left it on record, in his "Life," that as respects himself "of course, Adhesive Stamps were yet undreamt of." Further that, as Mr. Pearson Hill admits, the first reference by Sir Rowland Hill to such a stamp (and it was even then only an allusion to some such plan, the proposal to adopt it not having occurred until the end of 1839) was of date 13th February, 1837, two years and a half after its proved invention by my father, and which invention, a matter of notoriety in his own locality, was thus of a date long before Sir Rowland Hill appeared upon the scene to successfully carry out the principles and proposals previously brought forward by other men.

The Mr. Palmer mentioned in the above article is brought prominently into notice in the "Report of the Postmaster-General" issued in July last by Mr. Fawcett, as having been the first to introduce the carrying of letters by mail coach, a proposal he was officially appointed at a salary to carry out, and rewarded for, as stated, by a grant of £50,000. In this article Mr. Chalmers is spoken of as his successor in the way of completing and perfecting the system, after a correspondence extending over five or six years, and for which services he neither asked nor received any remuneration from the Post-office.

Of the Rev. Samuel Roberts, an early promoter of postal reform, already mentioned in my pamphlets, too little is generally known. He proposed a uniform Inland Penny Postage several years before the similar proposal of Sir Rowland Hill, but the time was not yet ripe for such a reform. Having, moreover, only submitted his views to the authorities, in place of publishing the same, no action was taken. Sir Rowland Hill, coming years after abuses had been exposed and reforms earnestly canvassed and called for, had further the evidence and Reports of the "Commission of Post-office Inquiry" to guide him, a Commission which Mr. Roberts took an early part in getting appointed. These Reports, amongst other matters, propose a low and uniform postage of one penny upon *circulars*, including the further great principles of charge by weight and pre-payment by stamp, hitherto supposed by the press and public to have been the conceptions of Sir Rowland Hill. (See articles from the *Times* and *Athenaeum*, already quoted in my pamphlets.) That such proposals had been previously laid down is wholly ignored in the writings of Sir Rowland Hill, who is thus mistakenly credited as having been the "sole and undisputed inventor" of the reformed system.\*

Mr. Roberts continues to receive substantial proofs of the esteem he is held in to lighten his old age, his subscription list including such names as Mr. Morley, Mr. Bright, Mr. Rathbone, Earl Derby, Sir Ed. Baines, Duke of Westminster, Lord Dalhousie,

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\* This Commission issued in all Ten Reports, in addition to Reports previously issued by the "Commission of Inland Revenue." The Fifth Report, after evidence taken during the year 1835, recommends, under date April, 1836, that the postage upon prices current and similar mercantile publications, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters and charged by sheet, be reduced to a low and uniform rate, irrespective of distance, and be charged by weight at a postage of 1d. the half-oz. Here are precisely Mr. Rowland Hill's proposals of 1837, with respect to letters—but by saying nothing in either of his publications about this pre-existing proposal, the reformed system has been taken as of his own conception. See the journals above mentioned, for August and September, 1879, and the Press generally, including biographies, speeches, &c.

Mr. J. Carvell Williams, Mr. H. J. Gladstone, Mr. Gladstone, £50 from the Royal Bounty Fund, &c. Writing to me on the 26th September last, Mr. Roberts says :—

“ Justice is tardy in honoring the memory of your patriotic father as the ‘ Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp,’ and in rewarding you for your public service in the matter, but you are fast gaining ground. Justice is *often* tardy. Many, even in Wales, admit that I had pleaded for our “ Penny Postage ” and other postal conveniences many years before Sir Rowland Hill came out to assist in the conflict, and yet they do not like to offer any *new* compliments or rewards, as that would *nullify what they had said and done before*. The correction of mistakes implies that mistakes have been made.”

From the subsequent correspondence which took place betwixt my father and Mr. Rowland Hill, and which is solely in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill, an extract has been produced of date 18th May, 1840, purporting to show that my father gave up his claim, but without the connection and the correspondence as a whole (and which I have ineffectually endeavoured to obtain), no importance will be attached by any impartial person to just what “ extract ” Mr. Pearson Hill thinks proper to produce.

This letter, however, has been reproduced in my pamphlet, and the admission, such as it is, shown to have been wholly invalid, while the fact is now established that the energetic postal reformer who introduced, and by his perseverance carried out, Penny Postage against obstacles which would have daunted most men, was, at the same time, not above obtaining credit and admissions to which he was not entitled, through an infirmity of confounding merely acquired ideas as having been conceptions of his own, and of further confounding what was merely the adoption by him in December, 1839. as having been actually proposed by himself in 1837.

Still, it is of course with the name of Rowland Hill that

this great and beneficial reform will remain permanently associated, though it is not until now that the facts distinguishing what he has and has not done are becoming generally known.

WIMBLEDON,

October, 1883.

The following important letter from Mr. Prain, of Brechin, in addition to his previous contributions, has just reached me, confirming from his own experience the date of 1834, and which will be read with interest, in Dundee especially:—

“ BRECHIN, 9th October, 1883.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ When I penned my anonymous note to the *Dundee Advertiser* in August, 1879, expressing the hope that there might be still living some who could corroborate my statement that the late Mr. Chalmers was the inventor of the ‘Adhesive Stamp,’ I hardly expected it would be followed by such an amount of corroboration.

“ With regard to the *date* of the invention, you appear to have received ample proof, and I am able to add thereto. It was in the autumn of 1834 that I left Dundee to reside here, and the Stamp was in existence in Mr. Chalmers’ premises before I left.

“ I may add that, when I wrote in 1879, I was not aware of the existence of a son of Mr. C. My sole object in writing was that *Dundee* might claim and receive the honour of being the place of birth of the ‘Adhesive Stamp.’

“ I am, &c.,

(Signed) “ DAVID PRAIN.

“ P. CHALMERS, Esq.,

“ Wimbledon.”



I have addressed the following letter to a gentleman of position who has already been good enough to take some interest in this subject:—

“ WIMBLEDON, *October 22nd, 1883.*

“ SIR,

“ I beg respectfully to lay before you a further short statement on the subject of the Adhesive Stamp, drawn up by way of preface to numerous articles just issued by the press in support of my claim on behalf of my late father as having been the originator of the same.

“ I have proved by the testimony of many witnesses, mostly yet living, and ready to be examined if desired, including three of my father's workmen and the son of a deceased fourth, the production by him in his premises of the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes in the month of August, 1834. That the occasion was one distinctly applicable is clear, as Sir Rowland Hill himself, alluding to the same period and occasion where an Impressed Stamp was proposed, says, ‘Of course, Adhesive Stamps were yet undreamt of.’

“ As Mr. Pearson Hill declines to reply to, or even to open, any letters addressed to him by myself, I respectfully invite your good offices to ascertain from him if he can produce any similar evidence, or anything beyond mere assumption, that the Adhesive Stamp was at any period the invention of Sir Rowland Hill.

“ Failing some equally tangible and specific proofs on his part, where, let me ask, is there room for further doubt or controversy?

“ I remain, &c.,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

“ TO SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., M.P.”

No mere assumptions, or continued vituperations of me, will longer avail Mr. Pearson Hill in this matter. What is asked for, if we are to have anything at all, is a business-like statement, with the date of and proofs of the invention, as have been given on my part.

Failing this, and indeed even upon the record of Sir Rowland Hill himself, I ask for the verdict in my favour to which I submit my case is entitled; and, trusting to be favoured with continued support, an official recognition of my late father's name as having been the originator of the Adhesive Stamp will be duly invited.

WIMBLEDON,

October, 1883.

Referring to the discovery noticed at page 8, the same having been laid before the "Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Committee." led to a significant alteration in the inscription previously decided upon for the City statue:—

“ ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL.

“ On Thursday a Meeting of the Rowland Hill Memorial Committee was held at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presiding. A discussion arose as to the inscription upon Mr. Onslow Ford's statue to be erected at the Royal Exchange which had been determined at a previous meeting to run thus:—'Rowland Hill—He founded Penny Postage.' Mr. Whitehead now proposed that the last sentence should run, 'He gave us Penny Postage.' Mr. Northover seconded. The Lord Mayor thought that a mere mention of the name, birth, and death on the statue would be sufficient. Dr. Walter Lewis moved for, and Mr. Causton, M.P., seconded, the following inscription: 'Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., born 1795, died 1879.' Mr. Whitehead withdrew his motion, and the latter suggestion was unanimously adopted. Mr. C. Barry moved, and Mr. R. Price seconded, the following addition to the words: 'By whose energy and perseverance the national Penny Postage was established.' Eventually this was carried by nine votes to six, the Lord Mayor voting in the minority.”—*City Press*, 18th March, 1882.

For further details of this subject I refer to my pamphlet.

## OPINIONS FROM THE PRESS.

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To commence with the County of Forfarshire, Mr. Chalmers' own locality, conclusive opinions of the most satisfactory nature have been pronounced.

At Dundee, on the 3rd of March last, the following Resolution was adopted by the Town Council:—

“ That, having had under consideration the pamphlet lately published on the subject of the Adhesive Stamp, the Council are of opinion that it is has been conclusively shown that the late James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee, was the originator of this indispensable feature in the success of the reformed Penny Postage scheme, and that such be entered upon the Minutes.”

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The “ *Dundee Advertiser*.”—To this important Journal I am under a weight of obligation. In its columns first appeared the letters from my father's old friends which started this movement, and subsequently the letters from his old *employés* which have enabled me to prove my case, with a general support during a past lengthened period—while upon the same columns and the same courtesy I have personally trespassed to perhaps an unreasonable extent. For such services to the cause, my lasting gratitude is due.

**The "ARBROATH GUIDE," August 18—29th.**

"Perhaps few of our readers may know that the late Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, who has been persistently and successfully claimed by his son, Mr. Patrick Chalmers, as the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, and who many years ago also performed important service in obtaining mail accelerations for the North, was a native of Arbroath." . . . "Mr. Chalmers has worked with zeal in establishing this claim, and it seems to us he has also worked with success."

**The "FORFAR HERALD," September 14th, 1863.**

"It goes without saying that to the Adhesive Stamp is, in great measure, due the success of our whole postal system, and through it the development of an influence on the every day events of social life that cannot be appraised. Letter writing is the whispering of Society. In the Parcels Post we see an illustration of how the application of the Adhesive Stamp can be developed; and it may be safely predicted that only by its means can any farther development of our postal system take place. It has even infringed on the domain of the currency; for by means of the Adhesive Stamp hundreds of thousands of small accounts are daily paid. While all are doubtless at one as to the utility of the Adhesive Stamp, there has been difference of opinion as to whom the country is indebted for such a valuable system. We in Forfarshire have a peculiar interest in the question, because it seems to be, day by day, more generally admitted that we must credit with the invention the late Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee. It is due to his memory that this should be known and acknowledged; and it is creditable to his son, Mr. Patrick Chalmers, that he has succeeded in getting the fact recognised. Still more is this the case when we see that, while some of the late Mr. Chalmers' co-workers in the cause of postal reform were, during their lifetime, substantially remunerated, his merits in the matter were altogether overlooked. Let honour be given to whom honour is due."

**The "BRECHIN ADVERTISER," September 18th.**

"Mr. Patrick Chalmers' press notices, advocating the claims of his late father, Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, to be the inventor and first producer of the adhesive postage stamp, now so indispensable to the world at large, will be found in our advertising columns. The postal authorities have turned the adhesive stamp to good account—most recently in the case of the Parcels Post, but nothing has been done in acknowledgment of Mr. Chalmers' services. We have repeatedly referred to the fact of his son's natural desire that his father's services should be properly acknowledged in the matter. Is it to be said that nothing is to be done in the way of a public recognition of the late Mr. Chalmers' name and services? Are the inhabitants of Forfarshire and the

public of Dundee to remain insensible to the fact that one lived amongst them who has made his mark upon the social system of the country? In this respect justice is being tardy. Let us hope to hear of some hearty action being taken."

**The "FORFAR HERALD," September 28th.**

"Only prejudice can set aside the case which Mr. Patrick Chalmers has made out on behalf of his late father, a case which seems to be proved by ample and indisputable testimony. It is to be hoped that Mr. Chalmers will be rewarded for his praiseworthy efforts in seeing his father's merits recognised."

**The "MONTROSE REVIEW," September 28th.**

"Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Rowland Hill for some time received the credit of being the inventor (of the Adhesive Postage Stamp) public opinion is now pretty general in accrediting Mr. James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee with the honour.

**The "MONTROSE STANDARD," September 28th.**

"We have more than once expressed our mind on the controversy, so long maintained between Mr. Pearson Hill and Mr. Patrick Chalmers, as to the actual relation of their respective fathers to the postal system of the country. We have never sought to depreciate the services of Sir Rowland Hill, which, well rewarded as they have been, have not been over rewarded. But, in the light of all that has transpired, it is unfortunate that such scant justice is still dealt out both to the memory of Mr. James Chalmers, and to the feelings, and still more substantial interests, of his surviving representatives. We do not wonder that Mr. P. Chalmers has found, in the institution of the Parcels Post, a reason for prosecuting his filial work with renewed energy and extended confidence. There can be no doubt that the Adhesive Stamp was indispensable to a reasonable conception of such a service. And claiming for his father the undoubted invention of this stamp, it is natural that he should press his consequent claim upon the nation for some acknowledgment of its indebtedness to himself and the other representatives of the family. That claim, to say the least, has been more than justified in the very quarters where there has been greatest facility in arriving at a correct judgment. Dundee has publicly asserted the justice of the claim, and in not a few parts of Forfarshire are found those who, with the best opportunities of knowing, make no secret of their private conviction that the claim is a good one, and ought, even at this late hour, to be substantially recognised. Mr. Chalmers has our best wishes for his success in what cannot be a pleasant task, though it is an honourable and a necessary one."

The " **ABERDEEN FREE PRESS**, 3rd October, 1883.

" **THE ORIGINATOR OF THE POSTAGE STAMP.**—Mr. Patrick Chalmers, Wimbledon, continues most loyally and energetically to advocate the claims of his father, the late Mr. James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee, as a postal reformer, and originator of the Adhesive Postal Stamp. In a communication issued during the present month he quotes a passage from an article in the *Edinburgh Magazine* for August, 1825, in which his father's valuable labours in mail acceleration are specially mentioned, he having no other object in view than the public accommodation; and it is added 'that he has spared no labour of calculation, of inquiry, of suggestion, of procuring and of communicating information, from and throughout the whole range of the mail system north of London; and that his services, if not publicly acknowledged, have been duly appreciated by those upon whom devolved the charge of adopting them.' Mr. Chalmers holds that the article quoted is evidence that any invention and proposal such as that of the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes by one of his father's position amongst successful postal reformers 'could not fail to have been generally known in the circle interested in and promoting post-office reform, and which included such Scottish neighbours as Mr. Wallace and Mr. Hume; also Mr. Knight, the publisher of Mr. Rowland Hill's pamphlet of 1837, with whose firm Mr. Chalmers was in communication in the way of business.' After citing the express personal testimony of Mr. Samuel Roberts, of Conway (now 84 years of age), to his father's 'unquestionable' claim as inventor of the Adhesive Stamp, and referring to other proofs, Mr. Chalmers holds he has proved that claim from 'ample evidence,' and that his father's invention dates from 1834, while Mr. Pearson Hill admits that the first reference by Sir Rowland Hill to such a Stamp (and it was even then only an allusion to some such plan, the proposal to adopt it not having occurred until the end of 1839) was of date 13th February, 1837, two years and a half after its proved invention by his father, Mr. Chalmers, the patriotic Dundee bookseller."

The " **PERTHSHIRE CONSTITUTIONAL**," September, 5th.

"Mr. Patrick Chalmers has very naturally availed himself of the introduction of the Parcels Post to revert to the value of the Adhesive Postage Stamp in carrying out this fresh public boon,—the invention, it is now well known, of his father, the late Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee. From a circular now before us, it would appear that Mr. Morely, M.P., had suggested "arbitration" in the matter betwixt him and Mr. Pearson Hill—a suggestion which Mr. Chalmers accepted, but which came to nothing—a result not surprising seeing the inmovable case Mr. Chalmers is able to present."

**The "BLAIRGOWRIE ADVERTISER," September 15th.**

"Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of Wimbledon, son of the late Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, who invented the Adhesive Stamp, which is so indispensable to our postal system, is determined justice shall be done to the memory of his father, and takes occasion, when a fresh instance of the utility of the Adhesive Stamp is afforded by the Parcels Post, to again bring the matter under public notice. While the world readily heaps rewards and honours on some of its benefactors, its strangely ignores the perhaps more valuable services of others, especially if rendered a good while ago and by an unselfish and unobtrusive individual. But Mr. P. Chalmers is not the man to let this matter now sleep, and we hope he will yet have the satisfaction of seeing his father's services recognised."

**The "BLAIRGOWRIE ADVERTISER," October 6th.**

"We notice in several of our contemporaries articles in regard to the invention of the Adhesive Stamp by the late Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, all strongly supporting the claims of Mr. Patrick Chalmers to the acknowledgment of his father's valuable services. Mr. P. Chalmers is beyond doubt converting the press and the public to his views, but seems to have as yet made no impression on the Government. We hope he will get some such man as Lord Camperdown or Lord Dalhousie to take the matter up, and then he will have a good chance of succeeding in the object he has at heart."

**The "NORTH BRITISH ADVERTISER," Edinburgh, Sept. 22nd.**

"The success of the Parcels Post is greatly facilitated by, if not entirely dependent on, its invaluable predecessor the Adhesive Stamp, the device, we believe, of the late Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, in 1834; and we are glad to see from a circular issued by Mr. Patrick Chalmers, son of the inventor, that the several writers of the Press, so far as they have spoken on the subject, unanimously award the honour of the invention to whom the honour is justly due!"

**The "NORTH BRITISH DAILY MAIL," Glasgow, October 2nd.**

(This article has been copied into the *Dundee Advertiser*, the *Aberdeen Journal*, and other papers.)

"A NEGLECTED INVENTOR.—Much of the success which has attended the development of the Post Office service, both in this country and abroad, is attributable to the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp, which was the invention of a Scotchman, the late Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee. From a very early date Mr. Chalmers distinguished himself by the services which he rendered in a variety of ways for the

improvement of the Post Office mail service in this country; but these valuable public services do not appear ever to have been recognised or requited by the officials charged with the administration of this important branch of the public service. In 1834, when a bookseller in Dundee, Mr. Chalmers invented the Adhesive Stamp, and had them printed on sheets of gummed paper, very much on the same principle as is the case with the Adhesive Stamps now in use. In 1837 he submitted the invention to the Select Committee of the House of Commons which had under consideration Sir Rowland Hill's Penny Postage Scheme, and of which the late Mr. Wallace, of Kelly, was chairman. In 1839, on Mr. Wallace's suggestion, the Government adopted this Adhesive Stamp, and the success of the new postal system was at once assured. It is not creditable to the generosity of the Government of this country that an important invention of this kind, which has conferred such a great boon upon the public should have remained so long unacknowledged and unrewarded. The introduction of the Parcels Post has revived the subject again for the value of the Adhesive Stamp in that service is quite as great as it is in respect of the letter service. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Patrick Chalmers should endeavour to obtain that official recognition of the value of his late father's services and invention which was denied him during his lifetime. The case which Mr. Patrick Chalmers has submitted to the public seems to be a most reasonable one, and it merits at least a fair and candid consideration."

**The "GLASGOW NEWS," October 7th.**

"The claim put forth by Mr. Patrick Chalmers that his father, the late Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, was the inventor and first producer of the Adhesive Postage Stamp deserves the careful consideration of the British public. The advantages which an Adhesive Stamp has for general use over an Impressed Stamp are sufficiently obvious. It is certain that the success of the Penny Postage scheme—for which Sir Rowland Hill generally gets all the credit—was in no small measure due to the use of the Adhesive Stamp. If, as there is good reason to believe, this feature of the scheme was due to Mr. James Chalmers, it is only right that his claim to public gratitude should now be fully recognised and duly honoured."

**The "CITY PRESS," August 29th.**

"Mr. Patrick Chalmers, with commendable perseverance, is issuing a Circular containing many opinions of the Press upon the use of the Adhesive Stamp with the Parcels Post."



**The "WHITEHALL REVIEW," August 8th.**

"The success of the Parcels Post is only made possible by the use of the Adhesive Stamp as with letters. This fresh experience of the value of Mr. James Chalmers' invention in the year 1834, for postage purposes, ought not to pass without notice. Mr. Chalmers, moreover, had previously done good service in obtaining an acceleration of the mail, one day each way, betwixt London and the North. The Town Council of Dundee have already claimed their old townsman as having been the originator of the Adhesive Stamp, and as such, through the pamphlet of his son, Mr. Chalmers' name is becoming deservedly known and recognised."

**The "PAISLEY HERALD," August 18th,**

In re-producing the above in its columns, adds:—

"It is a pity that this public benefactor has not had his labour and his merit amply rewarded by the Government. We are under a Liberal Government, who are deriving immense wealth from Mr. Chalmers' invention, and we think they could not do better than reward his memory for the benefits derived from the Adhesive Stamp."

**The "CHRISTIAN LEADER," Glasgow.**

"It is always a pleasant sight to see such filial piety as is manifested by Mr. Patrick Chalmers of Wimbledon. He sends us a pamphlet 'A Short Review of the Adhesive Stamp,' in which he proves most conclusively that the idea of this stamp originated with his father, Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, a public spirited man, who died in 1853. Sir Rowland Hill's plan was that of the impressed stamp, such as we see upon bill stamps, to be impressed upon a wrapper or a cover, or upon the sheet of letter paper itself; and it detracts somewhat from Sir Rowland's merit that he seems to have been at pains to obscure the facts of the case for the purpose of claiming for himself the credit of an invention which really belonged to the Dundee bookseller."

**The "OLDHAM CHRONICLE," of August 18th.**

"Sufficient time has not been given to test how far the Parcels Post has been appreciated in this town. About 100 parcels are received and delivered per day—

improvement of the Post Office mail service in this country; but these valuable public services do not appear ever to have been recognised or requited by the officials charged with the administration of this important branch of the public service. In 1834, when a bookseller in Dundee, Mr. Chalmers invented the Adhesive Stamp, and had them printed on sheets of gummed paper, very much on the same principle as is the case with the Adhesive Stamps now in use. In 1837 he submitted the invention to the Select Committee of the House of Commons which had under consideration Sir Rowland Hill's Penny Postage Scheme, and of which the late Mr. Wallace, of Kelly, was chairman. In 1839, on Mr. Wallace's suggestion, the Government adopted this Adhesive Stamp, and the success of the new postal system was at once assured. It is not creditable to the generosity of the Government of this country that an important invention of this kind, which has conferred such a great boon upon the public should have remained so long unacknowledged and unrewarded. The introduction of the Parcels Post has revived the subject again for the value of the Adhesive Stamp in that service is quite as great as it is in respect of the letter service. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Patrick Chalmers should endeavour to obtain that official recognition of the value of his late father's services and invention which was denied him during his lifetime. The case which Mr. Patrick Chalmers has submitted to the public seems to be a most reasonable one, and it merits at least a fair and candid consideration."

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**The "OLDHAM CHRONICLE," of August 18th.**

"Sufficient time has not been given to test how far the Parcels Post has been appreciated in this town. About 100 parcels are received and delivered per day—

a number which is certain to increase greatly at no distant date. And what could have been the Parcels Post without the Adhesive Stamp? Thanks again to Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee—not Sir Rowland Hill, be it remembered—for his invaluable invention of the Adhesive Stamp. Many thanks, as those in remote parts who receive their parcels will be ready to echo. It is some satisfaction to know that Mr. Patrick Chalmers, the son of the departed inventor, is receiving some reward in the tardy justice which is being done to his father's memory."

#### The "PEOPLE," August 19th.

"It is near upon half-a-century since Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, invented the application of the Adhesive Stamp for postal purposes, and thus rendered possible all the later developments, including the Parcel's Post of the Postal Department. Sir Rowland Hill and Mr. Fawcett well deserve the gratitude of the country for the way in which they have exploited Mr. Chalmers' idea, but it is a little hard that the originator should have been almost shared out."

#### The "HOME AND COLONIAL MAIL," September 7th.

"Nearly half-a-century since, Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, invented the application of the Adhesive Stamp for postal purposes. The postal authorities have turned this to account, but nothing has been done in the way of acknowledgment of Mr. Chalmers' services. His son, Mr. Patrick Chalmers, is naturally desirous that his late father's services should be properly recognised in the matter. The Chalmers family have, up to the present time, but little reason to feel grateful to an appreciative country."

#### The "METROPOLITAN," September 29th.

"We have received from Mr. Patrick Chalmers further documents in relation to the question of who invented the Adhesive Stamp. Mr. Chalmers certainly brings a large amount of evidence to bear upon his statement that it was his father, the late James Chalmers, of Dundee, who was the inventor of that cosmopolitan article of utility—the postage stamp. That it was the best mode of certifying that postage had been paid is now evident from the fact that civilised nations have adopted it, in preference to all other methods of stamping, impressing, or embossing. It appears that the Government were wonderfully exercised in the early stages of postal reform as to what plan should be adopted to prevent forgery."

and cheating. We learn that Mr. Rowland Hill recommended an impressed stamp cover, to be absolutely used in all cases, and special means were to be adopted to prevent forgery. The notion of a gummed label to be affixed on any kind of wrapper seems not to have been thought of in the Hill scheme. Mr. Chalmers fixes the date of the first manufacture of postage stamps in August, 1834. He shows that this plan was laid before the Select Committee on the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837-38; and that it was submitted a second time, in response to the application to the public for plans by the Treasury, in August, 1839, the Adhesive Stamp being ultimately adopted by Treasury minute of 26th December, 1839, in conjunction with Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of the impressed stamp. This surely ought to be "confirmation strong as proof of holy writ," and should satisfy all sceptics. Mr. P. Chalmers, it should be remembered, is not like a needy suitor hoping to gain an estate, neither does he wish for reward or recognition for himself; but he simply seeks to obtain for his father's memory an acknowledgment that he was the originator of the Adhesive Stamp, thereby floating the penny postage scheme into deep water. In this we hold he has succeeded."

**The "WEST MIDDLESEX ADVERTISER," September 15th.**

"I mentioned some weeks ago, in this column, the claim of Mr. James Chalmers to be the real inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, which the ill-informed world will persist in ascribing to Sir Rowland Hill. Following up the subject which I touched upon, Mr. Patrick Chalmers has very naturally availed himself of the introduction of the Parcels Post to revert to the value of the Adhesive Postage Stamp in carrying out this fresh public boon—the invention, it is now well known, of his father. . . . Verily, the Scotchmen set us a good example in the way in which they defend, not only themselves, but their relations to the degree of ninth or tenth cousins."

**The "SOUTH HAMPSTEAD ADVERTISER," September 20th.**

"*Apropos* of the above, it seems the real inventor of the Adhesive Stamp, without which the Parcels Post could not be carried on, is not receiving so much notice as his invention warranted. Evidence goes to show that Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, and *not* Sir Rowland Hill, invented the Stamp, Sir Rowland afterwards working out the invention. . . ."

**The "FIFESHIRE JOURNAL," October 4th.**

"The recent introduction of the Parcels Post has again brought into prominence the value of the Adhesive Stamp. Mr. Patrick Chalmers, Wimbledon,

avails himself of the opportunity to renew the claims of his late father, Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, to be the inventor of the earliest and most useful system of postage. It is a pity that, while the services of Sir Rowland Hill, who first brought out the Impressed Stamp, were so amply rewarded, those of the real originator of the more valuable and universal form have passed almost unacknowledged. It will be some comfort to the relatives of the late Mr. Chalmers to know that their claims on his behalf are now recognised by a large section of the press; and it is to be hoped that the Government will not be long in showing adequate public honour to the memory of the simple Scotsman who has left his stamp upon the world's social system."

### The "MACHINEBY MARKET," October 1st, Darlington

*(A Monthly Journal of high position and authority in all practical appliances.)*

"THE ORIGINATION OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.—The honor which has been paid to the late Sir Rowland Hill is a reflection of the immense importance which the world of to-day recognises as properly belonging to the foundation in 1840 of uniform cheap postage.

"The share of honor and merit for this, as of many another great boon, has not, however, it appears, been quite fairly meted out. Mr. G. Augustus Sala, writing in the *Illustrated London News*, says: "Whoever discovered the Adhesive Stamp, the discovery has socially revolutionised the world." Gummed labels of all kinds are so common now-a-days, and their use as vouchers for payment is so matter-of-fact an occurrence, that it is with difficulty we can attach any particular importance to their use in connection with the penny postage scheme. And yet, it appears, from the speech made on the 5th July, 1839, by Mr. Wallace, the Chairman of the Select Committee of 1837-8 upon the proposed Penny Postage, that the timely proposal to use an Adhesive Stamp as the means of prepayment, did no less (for the time at any rate) than save the scheme of Penny Postage from failure. In bringing forward the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July, 1839, the Government were in a dilemma how to carry it out in practice, Mr. Hill's plan of the impressed stamp not having found favour, though power was asked to provide impressed stamped covers.

"In their warmth of gratitude for the benefits of "Penny Postage," the public have credited the late Sir Rowland Hill too generally, not only with the successful initiation of the Penny Postage scheme, but also with the invention and origination of everything connected with it. To this impression it would almost appear as if the late Sir Rowland Hill had himself lent some

colour. It was with something of surprise that the public learnt from the discussion and disagreement, which took place on the subject of what was to be the inscription upon the Rowland Hill memorial, that there was some doubt as to what place of honor the postal reformer was actually entitled. Information which has been lately published enables us, however, more clearly to judge in the matter.

" We disclaim at once any intention in these remarks to detract one iota from the honor which should, and always will be, awarded to the name of Rowland Hill. The general instinct of the people is right in awarding gratitude and admiration to the man who not only knew a good idea when he saw it, but by his energy and perseverance was instrumental in putting it into successful practice. But a fact in the history of cheap postage, which is not only important as a link with the past, but which also serves to explain the origin of the scheme, is that identical principles and figures to those of the Penny Postage Scheme, had been prepared shortly before for extending the circulation of Prices Current. The extension of the scheme so as to allow correspondence to share the privileges proposed, was a natural and simple step, though it must not be denied that plenty of practical difficulties had to be overcome before the idea could be carried into actual practice. It was, however, these same principles, and the information already got together, which it is said Rowland Hill adopted and worked out, but did not, as has been supposed, originate.

" This, then, appears to be the position which is rightly due to the late Sir Rowland Hill in connection with " Penny Postage." The merit of the invention of the Adhesive Postage Stamp is, however, due to the late Mr. James Chalmers, a bookseller and printer, of Dundee, who died in 1853; and it is with a desire to do justice in a matter of so great moment as that of postal reform, to everyone connected with it, that we call attention to this fact.

" It would be interesting had we the space for it to detail the way in which Chalmers' idea of the Adhesive Stamp was brought to the notice of the Treasury, and finally adopted as an indispensable feature of the postal scheme. Suffice it to say here that the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes on the principle now in use, was produced by Mr. James Chalmers, in his premises, in August, 1834. He laid this plan before the Committee of 1837-38 upon the Penny Postage Scheme, in December, 1837, and received from Mr. Wallace, the chairman of the Committee, whose name we have already mentioned above, a letter under date of 9th December, 1837, in which he acknowledges to have received from Chalmers particulars of the invention and to have laid it before the Committee. After plans had been called for by the Treasury in August, 1839, no better plan was found, and the Adhesive Stamp was then adopted by the then Mr. Rowland Hill, by Treasury

Minute, of the 26th of December, 1839, in conjunction with his own plan of the impressed stamp. For the authentication of these particulars we must, however, refer any of our readers who may wish to follow the matter up further, to Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of 35, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon, S.W., son of the late James Chalmers, who has published one or two pamphlets with a view to doing justice to his father's memory.

" Mr. Chalmers is quite right in asking that the honor due to his late father's services as a postal reformer should not be absorbed by others. In his day James Chalmers was evidently a man of public zeal and of practical purpose. His services as a postal reformer were locally recognised by a testimonial presented to him in the Town Hall, Dundee, on the 1st January, 1846. The testimonial was given as a public acknowledgment of Chalmers' success in having so brought about an improvement in the postal service as to cause a day each way to be saved in communications between Aberdeen and London. The greater public service which was rendered by Chalmers in suggesting the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp, and so overcoming the difficulty of the time in carrying out the great scheme of Penny Postage, has, however, never received the recognition which it now appears we owe to him."

#### The "CROYDON REVIEW," May.

" We have on several previous occasions made reference to Mr. Chalmers' works on the invention of the Adhesive Stamp, and also have referred at some length to the introduction of the Penny Postage Scheme, until there remains but little to be said on the subject in respect to either that has not already appeared in these columns. Mr. Chalmers, who is establishing the fact that his father, the late Mr. James Chalmers, a stationer, of Dundee, was the originator of the Adhesive Stamp, and not Sir Rowland Hill, as is generally supposed, has issued another pamphlet, in a more concise and complete form, which contains all the evidence necessary to establish his claim; and without repeating what has been previously stated, there is no doubt whatever that though Sir Rowland Hill is universally credited with being both the originator of the Postal Stamp and the Postage Scheme, he is not entitled to either; for, from the undeniable testimony Mr. Chalmers has secured, it is quite evident that we are indebted to his father for the Stamp which was so essentially necessary to the carrying out of the scheme, and to the Post Office Commissioners for the scheme itself. As the subject is one of especial interest to many, they would do well to obtain his last work, entitled 'The Adhesive Stamp' (Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange), and peruse for themselves its contents, because it is certainly only just that the erroneous



impression that is so prevalent should be removed from the minds of all, and from history itself, and that

“ ‘Honour should be given  
To whom honour is due.’ ”

### The “ **BRADFORD OBSERVER** ” (repeated).

“ Penny Postage will always be associated in the minds of a grateful posterity with the name of Rowland Hill, but it does not seem so certain that he was the actual inventor of the Adhesive Stamp. This honor is claimed for a Dundee bookseller, the late Mr. James Chalmers, whose descendant, Mr. Patrick Chalmers, has shown much persistent diligence in gathering evidence, and publishing the same in pamphlets, vindicating his relative's claim to this important share in the great postal reform of 1840. To carry a letter anywhere for a penny was one thing, but to frank it by an Adhesive Stamp, instead of by payment on delivery, was an essential part of the change which was then wrought in our postal system, and which has had so incalculable an influence on social and commercial development in the last forty years all over the world. Many a benefactor of his species goes to his grave without a laurel wreath, and the origin of many great inventions is shrouded in obscurity.”

### The “ **RASTRICK GAZETTE.** ”

“ Patrick Chalmers, in the recently-issued pamphlet, ‘ Sir Rowland Hill and James Chalmers, the Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp—A Reply to Mr. Pearson Hill,’ proves very clearly, as he previously expressed his expectation to do, that the late Sir Rowland Hill had nothing whatever to do with the invention of the universally-adopted Adhesive Postage Label. The writer shows a close method of following out his enquiries, and sets the results with great pains before his readers, having a powerful impression of the magnitude of his task, and with the knowledge that if any rift or flaw can be found in his evidence it will be seen by his adversaries, and any exaggeration he might commit would be magnified to the upsetting of the whole of his endeavours. His facts, however, will satisfy every unprejudiced reader that he wishes for nothing but the truth to stand; his patience and his forbearance in his investigations are beyond cavil, and the modest position he takes for himself contrasts with the really vast issues of the question he has undertaken to settle. One thing is clearly proved, that Sir Rowland Hill was no more the inventor of the Adhesive Label than that he was the originator of the idea of the Penny Postage system; and if anyone deserved to be honored with a national statue for either the one or the other of these

inventions, it was not Sir Rowland Hill. All this is worse than heresy in the eyes of the nation which has just raised a statue to Sir Rowland Hill, the pedestal of which barely escaped coming under the same category as the 'London Monument.' Patrick Chalmers' former pamphlet carried dismay into a camp which had serenely floated its banners, and this latter reply will do something towards shifting the position of that camp. A national delusion cannot, however, be displaced without the builders of that false impression showing some temper; and in this case it will become a matter of history that Patrick Chalmers' opponents acted, to say the least of it, with a very bad grace. The noble son of a noble sire, though bearing no title, sets an example (beyond the merits of an inventive brain even) to those who wear their honours but lightly. These and many other considerations, though, must not lead us from the great fact that Sir Rowland Hill was but the adopter, after great hesitation, of the inventions originated by the esteemed Dundee tradesman—inventions which have been weightily reckoned among the greatest modern achievements of commercial or state-managed arrangements.

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The *Inventor's Record*, October 6th, under the heading of "A Forgotten Inventor," recapitulates from my circular the dates, facts, and circumstances of the case.

The above, some of which have been freely copied, are in addition to a small *brochure* of similar articles already published.

Provincial papers noticing this subject are requested to send a copy.

P. C.