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**paper**

# THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

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## IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

IN BEHALF OF

### JAMES CHALMERS,

IN PAPERS BEQUEATHED TO THE

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BY THE LATE

SIR HENRY COLE.

[1885.]



# THE ADHESIVE STAMP.



In my Pamphlet entitled "Sir Rowland Hill and James Chalmers, the Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp," I have already proved from overwhelming evidence, both general and specific, the invention of the adhesive stamp for postage purposes by the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, in the month of August, 1834. In addition to friends and fellow-townsmen, several of those in his employment at that period have, unknown to me, come forward from various quarters to describe the process and to fix the date. The setting up of the forme with a number of stamps having a printed device—the printing of the sheets—the melting of the gum—the gumming the backs of the sheets—the drying and the pressing, are all described—and the date already named is conclusively fixed. That this was the first instance of such invention is clear; earlier instances of an *impressed* stamp proposed for postage purposes are on record, but not one of a proposed adhesive stamp—while Sir Rowland Hill himself has left it on record, in his "Life," referring to the same period and occasion when an impressed stamp was proposed in 1834 for newspaper covers by Mr. Knight. "Of course, adhesive stamps were yet undreamt of." (See page 69 of my Pamphlet above named).

I have further shewn that Mr. Chalmers was one of the early postal reformers prior to the period of Mr. Rowland Hill. (See my

Pamphlet, "James Chalmers the Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp. "not Sir Rowland Hill," pages 24-27. Early postal services of James Chalmers). These pages show that Mr. Chalmers had done great service in the way of accelerating the mails betwixt London and the north, and that he was in communication with several of those early reformers, such as Mr. Hume, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Knight—the publisher subsequently of Mr. Rowland Hill's pamphlet of 1837—so that his proposal of an adhesive stamp for postage purposes—a matter of notoriety in his own locality—would further have become well known in the general circle of postal reformers, amongst whom, and from whom, on joining same in the year 1835, Mr. Rowland Hill obtained the information which enabled him to draw up and publish his Penny Postage Scheme of 1837. (See page 5 of my Pamphlet first named).

One of those pioneers of postal reform yet living, the Rev. Samuel Roberts, M.A., of Conway, gives his personal testimony of the adhesive stamp having been originated by James Chalmers. (Page 42).

My Pamphlet goes on to shew, page 44, that on the appointment of the House of Commons Committee of 1837-38, on the proposed uniform Penny Postage Scheme, Mr. Chalmers sent in his plan of an adhesive stamp to Mr. Wallace, the Chairman, and to another Member of that Committee. In the dilemma in which the Government found itself upon introducing the Resolution on the 5th July, 1839, as to *how* to carry out the Penny Postage Scheme in practice (page 21) Mr. Wallace favorably suggested the plan of the adhesive stamp. The following, from the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon this occasion,

conclusively shews that, up to this period, Mr. Hill had not included the adhesive stamp in his proposals:—

“ If it were to go forth to the public to-morrow morning that the Government had proposed, and the House 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 other members of a most useful and important trade. The sense of injustice excited by this would necessarily be extreme. . . . 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 disturb existing trades, such as the paper trade.”

On the passing of the Bill in August, Mr. Hill was relegated to the Treasury for the purpose of carrying out the scheme. The first step taken was to invite plans, by Treasury Circular of 23rd August, from the public; some time was taken up in receiving and considering these, until, by Treasury Minute of December 26th, 1839, the adhesive stamp was at length officially adopted, in conjunction with Mr. Hill's stamped covers, or stamp impressed upon the sheet of letter paper itself. (See page 46). But the adhesive stamp, indeed, had been practically adopted in October by Mr. Hill, before the plans were received, considered, and nothing better found, a concurrence of opinion having set in in favor of same. It will be seen that Mr. Chalmers, in his published statement of date February,

1838, now produced from Sir Henry Cole's papers, called for petitions towards its adoption. In August, 1839, both the Associated Body of Paper-Makers and the Mercantile Committee of the City of London pressed for the adoption of the adhesive stamp; Mr. Cole, moreover, drew up an able paper on the stamp question, including the advocacy of the adhesive stamp; and Mr. Rowland Hill himself, in a paper drawn up by him two months before his official Minute of 26th December—as Sir Henry Cole informs us—included the adoption of the adhesive stamp, in conjunction with his own impressed stamp. So general, indeed, had then become opinion in its favor, that of the plans sent in, no less than forty-nine others, beside Mr. Chalmers', recommended the adoption of the adhesive stamp, invented by Mr. Chalmers in 1834, laid before the Committee of the House of Commons in December, 1837, and further, as we shall now see, sent in to Mr. Cole as Secretary to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, in February, 1838, and acknowledged by Mr. Rowland Hill in a letter to Mr. Chalmers, of date 3rd March, 1838. In this letter Mr. Hill makes no pretension to the merit or proposed adoption of the adhesive stamp on his part, for, as will be seen, Mr. Chalmers subsequently returned to Mr. Hill a copy of this very letter, for the purpose of pointing out this fact to Mr. Hill. It was not until the propriety, and, indeed, necessity of adopting Mr. Chalmers' plan—not until its final official acceptance that—in a letter dated 18th January, 1840, Mr. Hill, then in despotic power, putting Mr. Chalmers aside, assumed the whole merit to himself. (See pages 54 and 61).

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# SIR HENRY COLE'S PAPERS

AND

## The ADHESIVE STAMP of Mr. CHALMERS.

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In his "Fifty Years of Public Life," lately published, Sir Henry Cole gives much information with respect to the Penny Postage reform, a boon with the obtaining and carrying out of which he was intimately associated—first as secretary to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and afterwards as assistant to Mr. Rowland Hill at the Treasury. A "General Collection of Postage Papers," having reference to this reform, elucidating the efforts made by this Committee of London Merchants and Bankers during the years 1838-39, to obtain for the scheme the sanction of the legislature, has been bequeathed by Sir Henry Cole, "To be given to the British Museum after my death." "The Mercantile Committee," he states, "was formed chiefly by the exertions of Mr. George Moffat, in the spring of 1838. Mr. Ashurst conducted the Parliamentary Inquiry, and upon myself, as Secretary, devolved the business of communicating with the public." This Committee formed the source and focus of the agitation

which brought about the ultimate enactment of uniform Penny Postage. Money was freely subscribed, meetings were held, public bodies in the provinces were urged to petition, members of Parliament and Ministers were waited upon, and a special paper advocating the scheme, termed the "Post Circular," was issued and circulated gratis. Of these proceedings Mr. Cole was the guiding genius; and, amongst other successes, over two thousand petitions to Parliament were obtained, labours which were ultimately crowned with success.

To Mr. Cole, then, it now turns out that Mr. Chalmers, in February, 1838, sent a copy of his plan of the adhesive stamp. Mr. Wallace and the House of Commons Committee had already got it, but it is only now that the particulars of the plan have been brought to light—and in this "Collection of Postage Papers," Sir Henry Cole has, indeed, left a valuable legacy to me, and to all prepared to recognise the true originator of the adhesive postage stamp. These papers include a printed statement of Mr. Chalmers' plan, dated "4, Castle Street, Dundee, 8th February, 1838," and which runs as follows:—

*"Remarks on various modes proposed for franking letters, under  
" Mr. Rowland Hill's Plan of Post-Office Reform.*

" In suggesting any method of improvement, it is only  
" reasonable to expect that what are supposed to be its advantages  
" over any existing system, or in opposition to others that have  
" been or may be proposed, will be explicitly stated.

" Therefore, if Mr. Hill's plan of a uniform rate of postage,  
" and that all postages are to be paid by those sending letters



“ before they are deposited in the respective post offices, become  
 “ the law of the land, I conceive that the most simple and  
 “ economical mode of carrying out such an arrangement would be  
 “ by *slips* (postage stamps), prepared somewhat similar to the  
 “ specimens herewith shewn.

“ With this view, and in the hope that Mr. Hill's plan may  
 “ soon be carried into operation, I would suggest that sheets of  
 “ stamped slips should be prepared at the Stamp Office (on a paper  
 “ made expressly for the purpose), with a device on each for a die  
 “ or cut resembling that on newspapers; that the *sheets* so printed  
 “ or stamped should then be rubbed over with a strong solution of  
 “ gum or other adhesive substance, and (when thoroughly dry)  
 “ issued by the Stamp Office to town and country distributors,  
 “ to stationers and others, for sale in sheets or singly, under the  
 “ same laws and restrictions now applicable to those selling bill or  
 “ receipt stamps, so as to prevent, as far as practicable, any fraud  
 “ on the revenue.

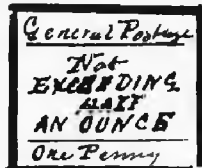
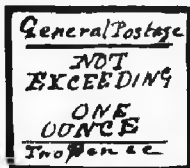
“ Merchants and others whose correspondence is extensive,  
 “ could purchase these slips in quantities, cut them singly, and  
 “ affix one to a letter by means of wetting the back of the slip with  
 “ a sponge or brush, just with as much facility as applying a  
 “ wafer.  $\lambda$ —Adding, that in some cases, such as for circulars, the  
 stamp might answer both for stamp and wafer; a suggestion which  
 those who may recollect the mode of folding universally practised  
 before the days of envelopes, will appreciate. Mr. Chalmers goes  
 on—“ Others, requiring only one or two slips at a time, could  
 “ purchase them along with sheets of paper at stationers' shops

For which the name is carried on and the slip is for answers which is the  
 a wafer or may also be applied at the bottom of the letter

,, the *weight* only regulating the rate of postage in all cases, so as  
 “ a stamp may be affixed according to the scale determined on.

“ Again, to prevent the possibility of these being used a *second*  
 “ *time*, it should be made imperative on postmasters to put the  
 “ post office town stamp (as represented in one of the specimens),  
 “ across the slip or postage stamp.”

Mr. Chalmers then goes on at some length to point out the advantages to be derived from his plan, and to state objections to Mr. Hill's plan of impressed stamped covers or envelopes, or stamp impressed upon the sheet of letter paper itself. At that period, envelopes—being scarcely known, and never used, as involving double postage—were a hand-made article, heavy and expensive ; objections which have disappeared with the abolition of the Excise duty on paper, and the use of machinery. But how true were Mr. Chalmers' objections *then*, may be gathered from the fact, as recorded by Sir Rowland Hill in his “ Life,” that the large supply provided of the first postage envelope, the Mulready, had actually *to be destroyed* as wholly unsuitable and unsaleable, while the supply of adhesive stamps was with difficulty brought up to the demand. The force and value of Mr. Chalmers' objections to the stamp impressed upon the sheet itself, are best exemplified by the fact that, though ultimately sanctioned by the Treasury at the instance of Mr. Hill, such plan never came into use. People bought their own paper from the stationers, and not from the Stamp Office, and applied the adhesive stamp as the weight required. Mr. Chalmers concludes, “ Taking all these disadvantages into con-  
 “ sideration, the use of stamped slips is certainly the most  
 “ preferable system ; and, should others who take an interest in



It appears to me that the advantages to be derived from this plan of slips, over envelopes or stamped sheets of paper, must be obvious. The writers of letters will not be confined to any length of letter, or mode of folding it, in which they must often be guided by circumstances, - the same requisite for affixing the slip will scarcely exceed that of insulating a wrapper - and the weight of it little, if any thing more.

What appears to me to be objectionable to the use of envelopes - specimens of which we have seen exhibited in public places - are, first, the expense which there must be in paper and printing, not less in my opinion, than 25 per cent on the proposed rate of postage - consequently, an unnecessary sacrifice of the revenue; secondly, the various exigent requisites to suit all dimensions of paper and methods of folding letters, and lastly, the great increase of weight and bulk they would necessarily occasion; for if Mr. Hills's calculations stretched prove nearly correct, namely that by his proposed reduction of postage there would be in consequence an increase of letters to six times their present number, that result would therefore be, by using envelopes, to increase the size and weight of the daily correspondence to about nine times what it is just now.

Again as to stamped sheets of paper, so answer for correspondence by post, such seems to me to be objectionable in so far as few writers of letters could calculate on perfecting or completing the letter on the sheet they first commenced writing on; so that in numerous instances a duplicate would unavoidably be made to the writer, both of the paper and stamp, should a second, or third be required.

Taking all these disadvantages into consideration etc as in left.

4 Castle-Street Dundee

8th February, 1838.

"James Chalmer"

(over)

" [ Mr Hill's plan of obtaining payments in advance does not limit itself to the use of stamped covers. To meet every possible case, Mr. Hill proposes sheets or half sheets, of various sizes and weights, stamped - like also the use of stamps which may be attached as Mr Chalmers suggests, or when written are to be procured, that the letter upon payment of its postage may be stamped at the Post Office. Mr Chalmers objects that one sheet may not hold the letter writes wishes to say, might be removed by the writer's completing his letter on a separate piece of paper, and enclosing it in the sheet & taking care that the prescribed weight was not surpassed. ]

This entire circular of Mr Chalmers is published in the Post Circular No 4 Thursday April 5, 1838 from a copy of which I have completed the extracts of it given by Mr P. Chalmers. The [ ] is an editorial note and evidently from Sir. H. Cole the then Editor. On the same page and preceding this Circular is a letter of R. Hill to Lord Litchfield complaining of the half penny measure proposed by the Government. The salient sentence is "My dependence however is on a number of principles brought into harmonious operation each aiding and strengthening all the others. They are reduction of postage, increasing facilities, and simplification with consequent economy in the mechanism of the Post Office." R.

“ the proposed reform view the matter in the same light as I do, it  
 “ remains for them to petition Parliament to have such carried into  
 “ operation.”

This statement of Mr. Chalmers is printed on part of an elongated sheet of paper. On the half not occupied by the type, are several specimens of a suggested stamp, about an inch square, and with the words printed, “ General Postage—not exceeding  
 “ half-an-ounce—One Penny.” And the same—“ Not exceeding  
 “ one ounce—Twopence.” (It is only of late years that a penny has franked one ounce in weight.) A space divides each stamp for cutting off singly, and the back of the sheet is gummed over. One of the specimens is stamped across with the post mark, “ Dundee,  
 “ 10th February, 1838,” to exemplify what Mr. Chalmers states should be done to prevent the stamp being used a second time.

Here is a complete description of the principle of the adhesive stamp, as ultimately adopted by Mr. Hill at the Treasury, by Minute of 26th December, 1839, when he sent Mr. Cole to Messrs. Bacon & Petch, the eminent engravers, to provide a die and contract for the supply of stamps (see Mr. Bacon’s evidence, page 52 of my Pamphlet), a plan in use to the present day.

This description, as now brought to light under the signature of Mr. Chalmers himself, fully confirms the evidence with respect to the invention in August, 1834, as given by his then employés yet living, W. Whitelaw and others. (See pages 34-39 of my pamphlet.)

Here, then, was the plan of the future adhesive stamp, already laid before Mr. Wallace and the House of Commons Committee,

also sent to the Secretary of the City of London Mercantile Committee, in printed form, as to one of many, long before leave was asked, on 5th July, 1839, even to introduce the Bill into Parliament. That Mr. Hill saw Mr. Cole's copy, or had a special copy sent also to himself, is clear, because Mr. Hill at once writes to Mr. Chalmers, under date 3rd March, 1838. What Mr. Hill states in that letter we know not altogether, as Mr. Pearson Hill has refrained from publishing that letter, and my request to him for a copy has not been complied with. (See page 64.) We know this much, however, that Mr. Rowland Hill makes no pretension *then* to ever having suggested or approved of an adhesive stamp, as already pointed out. Not until writing to Mr. Chalmers on the 18th January, 1840 (see page 62), before which period, in obedience to the general demand, the adhesive stamp had at length been adopted, did Mr. Hill, in reply to Mr. Chalmers' claim as the originator, set up any counter-claim on his own part to any share in the merit of the adhesive stamp. But, as with the scheme itself, so now with the stamp which saved it, no second party was to be allowed to divide with Mr. Hill the sole merit of this great reform. So the far-fetched excuse, the mere after-thought, bred of the success which had attended Mr. Chalmers' proposal to the Committee and to Mr. Cole, is hit upon (page 54) to put Mr. Chalmers aside and to attach to himself the whole merit of the adhesive stamp. Mr. Hill had said something about a bit of gummed paper before the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry in February, 1837 (subsequent to publishing the first edition of his pamphlet, in which nothing was said of an adhesive stamp), an idea Mr. Hill had acquired in the interval, just as he had acquired all the principles of the scheme itself, at second hand

(page 60). On this occasion, Mr. Hill had supposed a difficulty which might occur to a person who had to re-address a letter at a Post Office, but was unable to write, and at the same time precluded from paying the penny in cash. In such an exceptional case, a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, might be wetted and applied. Better, however, he goes on to say, allow the penny to be received in cash, so that you have only the impressed stamp or the penny in payment, and which penny was accepted up to the year 1855.\* Here, then, in February, 1837, was a passing allusion made by Mr. Hill to an adhesive stamp, shewing that he had acquired from some quarter the idea of Mr. Chalmers' invention. February, 1837, was two years and a half after the proved invention of the adhesive stamp by Mr. Chalmers, one of the early postal reformers, the correspondent, amongst others, of Messrs. Knight and Co., who published for Mr. Hill. In <sup>a</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>then</sup> letter of 18th January, 1840, Mr. Hill appears to have pointed out to Mr. Chalmers that his claim could not be admitted because he, Mr. Hill, first proposed to adopt an adhesive stamp in February, 1837, the first *official* proposal of his plan by Mr. Chalmers, his letter to Mr. Wallace and the House of Commons Committee, having been only in December of the same year. In

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\* In his "Life" lately published, written by himself, Sir Rowland Hill *omits the clause* in his original evidence which restores the payment of the penny in cash and does away with any necessity for an adhesive stamp, even in the exceptional case he had supposed. Not only does Sir Rowland Hill omit this clause, but he even gives the reader to understand that to the year 1837, the year of his pamphlet, is to be ascribed his adoption of the adhesive stamp. How then, it will be asked, does Sir Rowland Hill account for the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 5th July, 1839, and the interposition of Mr. Wallace in favor of an adhesive stamp? This difficulty Sir Rowland Hill surmounts by simply taking no notice of either.

answer to this extraordinary pretension on the part of Mr. Hill, it is enough to point to the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, already quoted, to prove that, up to so late a date as the 5th July, 1839, Mr. Hill had *not* proposed to adopt an adhesive stamp. The press, up to 30th August, 1839, had heard of no such proposal on his part. (See page 59.) This allusion to an adhesive stamp in February, 1837, was a mere passing allusion as to what might be done in a supposed exceptional case which could never have arisen, and was nothing more. For Mr. Hill to represent to Mr. Chalmers that he, Mr. Hill, had proposed to adopt the adhesive stamp in February, 1837, was to state what was *not* the case; consequently, any admission so gained from Mr. Chalmers was wholly invalid. The reply of Mr. Chalmers, date 18th May, 1840 (reproduced at page 62 of my pamphlet), has been circulated by Mr. Pearson Hill, in whose hands alone is the entire correspondence, ~~apparently~~ with the object of shewing that Mr. Chalmers "honestly abandoned" his claim. But such was <sup>*Mr. Chalmers honestly abandoned nothing.*</sup> not the case. Let the letters from Mr. Hill also be published and the truth of this will be manifest; while no impartial person will, upon consideration, for a moment attach any importance to just what "extract" from this correspondence Mr. Pearson Hill has thought proper to produce. The letter which Mr. Chalmers got from Mr. Hill of 18th January, 1840, was, it will be noticed, the first intimation he had received from Mr. Hill that the latter had any pretension to the adhesive stamp, in proof of which Mr. Chalmers, in his reply of 18th May, encloses to Mr. Hill a copy of his former letter of 3rd March, 1838. "Why did you not tell me all this then?" says Mr. Chalmers in effect. Why, indeed! Because Mr. Hill *then* had not contemplated an adhesive stamp. But much had happened in the interval since 1838. The stamp not accepted by Mr. Hill in

See slip, "I again contend for"



14A  
" has thought proper to produce.

I again contend, as I have already maintained, that this correspondence was public, not private, property—that such should have remained at the Treasury subject to the inspection of all concerned, in place of having been appropriated by Sir Rowland Hill as private, and thus so as to admit of only such portion being ultimately made known as may have suited himself. In this letter of 18th May, 1840, Mr. Chalmers, after stating he had delayed to reply until seeing the stamps in operation, writes with surprise at what Mr. Hill now states. Had he known or supposed that any one else, especially Mr. Hill himself, had proposed the adhesive stamp for the purpose of carrying out the scheme, he would not have troubled him at all. But having sent his plan to Mr. Wallace, M.P., and got his acknowledgement of 9th December, 1837, saying same would be laid before the Committee; also to Mr. Chalmers, M.P., and got his reply of 7th October, 1839, saying such had been laid before the Committee; also, Mr. Hill's own letter of 3rd March, 1838, a copy of which he encloses—from all these he was led to believe he had been first in the field. Now, accepting and believing Mr. Hill's assurance of 18th January, 1840, to the contrary, he only regrets having, through his ignorance, put others as well as himself to any trouble in the matter; "while the only satisfaction I have had in this, as well as in former suggestions—all original with me—is that these have been adopted, and have been, and are likely to prove, beneficial to the public."

Such is the letter which, placed in the hands of every editor in London, has led to my statements being here treated with comparative neglect as the mere outpourings of a person under some hallucination.\* But let my statements, equally with those of Mr.



x 8  
\* See "The World," "Daily Chronicle," &c., also "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Sewers" for July, 1881, as reported in the "City Press."

Pearson Hill, be read by any impartial writer, as in the case of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" afterwards noticed, and the result, it will be seen, is to lead to an entirely different conclusion. ("James Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp—Sir Rowland Hill assuredly not so.") Here was honesty, certainly—simplicity, indeed—on the side of Mr. Chalmers; but what about the representation on the part of Mr. Hill? Was it the case that he had proposed the adoption of the adhesive stamp in February, 1837, as represented to Mr. Chalmers? No more so than was it the case that a uniform rate of postage itself, or any one of the valuable principles of the scheme had been invented and first proposed by Mr. Hill, as hitherto understood by the nation. And, as with the nation, so with the individual. The peculiarity described *at* ~~in my prospect~~ here again proved too much for Mr. Hill. "Why did you not tell me anything of this before?" replies Mr. Chalmers, in effect; "there is a copy of your letter of 3rd March, 1838, when I sent you my plan, in which letter of yours no such pretensions were put forward. It is only now that I learn for the first time that you had ever proposed an adhesive stamp. Further, how is it that neither of these members of the Committee before whom I laid my plan had ever heard of any such prior proposal on your part? However, I am now only sorry at having troubled you—I have at least the satisfaction of knowing that the public have got my plan somehow."

ms 8/9  
my  
ahead  
p. 111  
" Why did you not tell me anything of this before?" Why, indeed! Because Mr. Hill then had not contemplated an adhesive stamp, as has been abundantly proved. An impressed stamped cover "was absolutely to be used in all cases," says the Chancellor of the Exchequer as late as in July, 1839—a "power" was asked for this, and for this alone, (See ante, page .) But much had



1838 had become in 1840 the petitioned for of the paper trade, the favorite of all opinions concerned, the adopted of the Treasury. Mr. Chalmers now must be put aside—a matter which the entire happened in the interval betwixt Mr. Hill's two letters to Mr. Chalmers. The stamp not accepted by Mr. Hill in 1838 had become in 1840 the favorite of all opinions concerned, the adopted of the Treasury. It had saved his scheme. Mr. Chalmers must now be put aside, a matter which the entire contrast betwixt the dispositions of the two men rendered only too easy, and so this afterthought, this far-fetched excuse already noticed, was hit upon for the purpose.

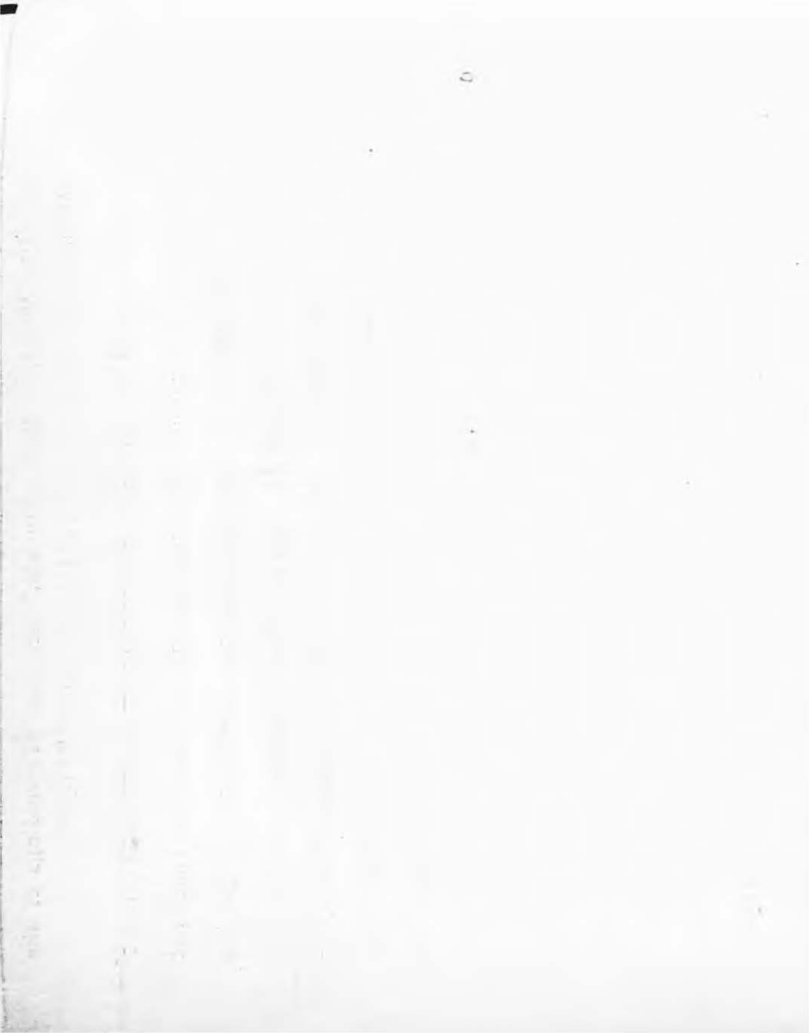
*At the same time, Mr. Chalmers be*

for his memory that recognition to which he is clearly entitled, as having been "The Originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp."

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*F. R. Hist. Soc.*

Wimbledon, March, 1885.





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1838 had become in 1840 the petitioned for of the paper trade, the favorite of all opinions concerned, the adopted of the Treasury. Mr. Chalmers now must be put aside—a matter which the entire contrast betwixt the dispositions of the two men rendered only too easy. At the same time, Mr. Chalmers appears to have been too apathetic in the matter, ~~personally~~ <sup>personal considerations</sup> indifferent to ~~official recognition~~ so long as the public got his stamp from some quarter; but the absence of any desire for personal <sup>advantage</sup> ~~notoriety~~ is a not unfrequent characteristic in those who have done some public service.

But it is this neglect, or mere indifference, on the part of my father, in not having made a better stand in 1840 with respect to a matter the national and universal value of which no one could then appreciate, or foresee, that all the <sup>more</sup> calls upon me now, under a better acquaintance with <sup>facts and</sup> the circumstances, to claim for his memory that recognition to which he is clearly entitled, as having been “The Originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.”

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*F. R. Hist. Soc.*

Wimbledon, *March*, 1885.

