Crawford 10 L12

# DIE ERSTE BRIEFMARKE.




**DAS ORIGINAL**

befindet sich im

**Internationalen Postwertzeichen-Museum**

in

UNTERDÖBLING BEI WIEN.

Die erste Briefmarke, von der wir umstehend ein getreues Abbild bringen, wurde im Aug. 1834 von James Chalmers erfunden und auch probeweise in seiner Druckerei hergestellt. James Chalmers, geb. am 2. Sept. 1782 in Arbroath (in Schottland) lebte in Dundee als Buchhändler und Buchdrucker, befasste sich aber auch eifrig mit postal. Angelegenheiten und stand seit 1822 mit den damaligen Postreformern in Verbindung. Wie sicher erwiesen ist, erfand Chalmers im Aug. 1834 die Briefmarke und liess auch in seiner Druckerei Proben davon anfertigen. Als im Juli 1839 Hill's Vorschlag, nur gestempelte Briefbogen und Couverts in Anwendung zu bringen, im Parlamente dem Falle nahe war, wurde das Chalmers'sche aufklebbare Frankirungszeichen in Antrag gebracht — und dies allein rettete die Penny-Porto Bill. Schliesslich ordnete das Schatzamt am 26. Dez. 1839 die Einführung der Briefmarke neben dem gestempelten Briefpapier etc. Hill's an. Chalmers, der auch regen Antheil an der Verwaltung mehrerer öffentl. Anstalten von Dundee genommen hatte, starb, hochgeachtet, am 26. Aug. 1852.

**Karl v. Gündel,**
in Baden.

1884

7a

# POSTAL REFORM AND THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

## DECLARATION OF THE TREASURY.

The late Sir Rowland Hill, not content with the high position of having compiled from the numerous Blue-books of the period and proposals of preceding reformers his Penny Postage Scheme of 1837, of having publicly introduced the same, and of having largely contributed to its enactment, held the higher ambition of being looked upon as the inventor of that scheme, with its attendant principles.

How fully he succeeded in propagating this delusion is well known. Such papers as the *Times* and *Athenæum* record him on his demise as "having devised the Penny Postage unaided;" it was "his system;" its principles "were principles which he first laid down;" "the present postage system is the sole and undisputed invention of Sir Rowland Hill;" "prepayment and the use of stamps" naturally followed the conception of uniformity "from the workshop of an inventive mind."

Investigation, however, discloses a very different state of matters.

Extract from Treasury Minute, of date 11th March, 1864, conferring upon Sir Rowland Hill, upon his retirement from active service, his full salary of £2,000 a-year:

"My Lords do not forget that it has been by the powerful agency of the railway system that these results have "been rendered practicable. Neither do they enter into the question, as foreign to the occasion, what honour may be "due to those who, *before the development of the plans of Sir Rowland Hill, urged the adoption of Uniform Penny "Postage.*"

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What, moreover, has been since discovered? We find the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837 in its entirety, to have been only an unacknowledged copy, identical with a pre-existing proposal of the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry. In their Fifth Report, 1835—'36, these Commissioners recommend a low and uniform rate of postage on mercantile circulars, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters, to be pre-paid by Impressed Stamp and charged by weight, in place of by sheet, at the rate of 1d. the ½-oz. Insert letters, and we have Mr. Hill's scheme from beginning to end. We find, further, that no reference whatever has been made to this matter by Sir Rowland Hill in any of his writings, the result having been that he has thus obtained the credit of having *invented* these valuable and indispensable principles of the scheme, as already noted. From "circulars" to "letters" was an evident step, and that such had been already urged upon the Government, the Treasury Minute above quoted leaves beyond dispute. One, indeed, of

these early postal reformers still survives in the person of the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, to further testify to this fact—he had himself previously to 1835 urged the adoption of uniform penny postage; he "repeatedly petitioned the Government and memorialized the Post Office on the subject, arguing "that it would pay well;" and "the idea was well known around the Post Office and other high places." With all this before us, are we to believe that Mr. Hill never heard of such a proposal until he himself introduced it in 1837? When, circumstances having left him otherwise disengaged, Mr. Hill, in 1835, began to mix in postal reforming circles and to look up the subject in the voluminous Blue-books handed him by Mr. Wallace, did he never hear of this proposal which had been already urged upon the Government? Did he, under such circumstances, *re-invent* this proposal, or did he not acquire this idea as he acquired all the principles of the scheme itself at second-hand and without acknowledgment, from others?

Mr. Roberts has lately been rewarded from the Royal Bounty Fund, through Mr. Gladstone, in recognition of his valuable proposals in the interest of the public, while his subscription list includes such names as those of Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Bright, Mr. Rathbone, Earl Derby, Sir Edward Baines, the Duke of Westminster, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Lord Dalhousie, &c. Whoever originated the idea and first urged the adoption of uniform Penny Postage, consequently, that originator was certainly not Sir Rowland Hill.

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## CHANGE OF INSCRIPTION UPON THE CITY STATUE OF SIR ROWLAND HILL.

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After having laid my discovery as to the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837 having been only an unacknowledged copy before the Mansion House Committee of the "Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Fund," the proposed inscription upon the city statue of Sir Rowland Hill was changed in accordance with the new light thrown upon his hitherto understood conceptions.

It will be recollected that the first announcement which appeared in the papers with reference to the inscription decided upon, was

"Rowland Hill—He Founded Penny Postage."

The next announcement we have of the proceedings of the Committee is as follows, from the *City Press*, of date 18th March, 1882:—

"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.

It will be seen that the above proceedings on the part of the Committee amounted to a complete admission of the discovery I laid before them, *viz.*, that the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837 was *not* an invention, but only a *copy*, from the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry. The change in the inscription was important and significant—"He founded Penny Postage" was unanimously abandoned. He "established" it was substituted—while a minority of six to nine were in favour of an inscription merely nominal.

Finding, after some days had elapsed, that no corresponding notice appeared in the daily papers for the information of the public at large, I addressed the following letter to the Lord Mayor, as Chairman of the Committee:—

WIMBLEDON, 25th *March*, 1882.

"My Lord,

"Observing your Lordship's name in the list of the minority of six to nine, in favour of a merely formal "inscription at the meeting of the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Committee upon the 16th inst., I desire to draw your "Lordship's attention to the fact that no notice of any such meeting, resulting in an alteration of the highest "significance, has found its way to the daily press.

"Having been instrumental in showing the Committee that Sir Rowland Hill did *not* 'found the Penny Postage,' "as the Committee have, by this act, now confirmed, it is only right that I should further state to your Lordship that "my statements, so far, give but an inadequate idea of the very marked deception which has been practised by Sir "Rowland Hill upon the nation.

"The proceedings of Mr. Pearson Hill, as already intimated in my printed letter of the 15th inst., laid before "your Lordship, leave me no other course now than, in self-defence, to develope the whole case to the public, and "sooner or later the public will be in possession of all the facts.

"It is my duty to state this to your Lordship, in order that your Lordship may take into consideration "whether the fact of the change in the inscription—what the change is to be, if not also your reasons for having so "decided—should not at once be frankly stated to the public.

"As matters stand, reflections may afterwards be made at the want of information to which the public may "have considered themselves entitled in the usual course.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"PATRICK CHALMERS.

"TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR,
"(SIR J. WHITTAKER ELLIS, BART.)
"MANSION HOUSE."

To this letter, I was immediately favoured with the following reply :—

"THE MANSION HOUSE,
LONDON, "27*th March*, 1882.

"The Lord Mayor presents his compliments to Mr. Chalmers, and begs to acknow-"ledge the receipt of his letter of the 25th inst., which shall have due attention."

And accordingly, in all or most of the daily papers of the 29th March there appeared the following announcement :—

"THE ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL.—The Bronze Statue of Sir Rowland Hill by Mr. D. Onslow Ford is "likely to be ready for erection in July next. The Mansion House Committee have resolved that the pedestal shall "bear the following inscription :—Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., born 1795; died 1879. By whose energy and "perseverance the National Penny Postage was established."

It will be seen from the above correspondence and its results, that a letter written by me as the person "instrumental in showing the Committee that Sir Rowland Hill did *not* 'found the Penny Postage,' " *and so confirmed by them*, addressed to the Chairman of that Committee—telling him, moreover, that I had further statements of interest to make, was in the same spirit, courteously acknowledged, and acted upon in accordance.

Subsequently, a *third* inscription was determined upon, at a meeting at which the name of the Lord Mayor does not appear, equally, but not so clearly, conceding the question of the originality of Sir Rowland Hill, details as to which will be found in my pamphlet on the subject.

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## THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

The proposal of an Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes, printed on sheets of gummed paper on the principle yet in use, I have proved by overwhelming evidence, including that of several of my late father's workmen yet living, to have been originally the invention of my father, the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, in the year 1834, five years before its adoption by Sir Rowland Hill, who states in his "Life" that in 1834 he knew nothing of an Adhesive Stamp, nor does he directly say that such was at any period his own invention. That it ever was so rests upon the merest assumption, and with the collapse of Sir Rowland Hill's direct pretensions to having originated the idea and proposal of uniform Penny Postage, the mere assumption, unsupported by any pretence of proof, that he invented the Adhesive Stamp is left without a shadow of support.

When the Penny Postage Bill was passed in July, 1839, no approved means of carrying it out in practice had been fallen upon ; but my father had already laid his plan of the Adhesive Stamp before the Authorities, and by Treasury Minute of 26th December, 1839, the same was ultimately adopted, after plans had been invited from the public and no better plan found. The Mulready Envelope proved a failure, but the Adhesive Stamp saved the Penny Postage Scheme.

As my opponents continue, against the clearest evidence, still to deny me that measure of justice to which my late father's memory is entitled as having been "the originator of the Adhesive Stamp," it will be seen no other course has been left to me than to set before the public these disclosures with reference to one who, notwithstanding this unfortunate failing of putting forward other men's proposals as his own, was still an eminent public benefactor.

PATRICK CHALMERS,
F.R. Hist. Soc.

35, Alexandra Road,
Wimbledon, 1884.

To,
Mr. John K. Tiffany
St. Louis
Missouri
U.S. States

35, Alexandra Road,
Wimbledon, S.W.

London, June 14th 1885

Dear Sir

Yesterday I received your esteemed letter of 1st Inst., the contents of which are of much interest, giving me high satisfaction to find one so fully conversant with all matters relating to the history of postal affairs and of stamps good enough to communicate with me on the subject. I consider it a privilege to now lay my statements and my discoveries before you, in now sending you four pamphlets, which should be read in the order so numbered. They contain much of repetition, yet each giving something new.

My object has of course been to

vindicate my late father's claim to the merit of having been the originator of the adhesive stamp - but in looking into the subject, I have been enabled to show that Sir Rowland Hill was not even the originator of uniform penny postage, nor of any one of the principles of the scheme of 1837. -

Since drawing up the pamphlets now sent you, further important evidence on the subject of the adhesive stamp has come to light. A recognition of much value, moreover, will shortly be published in my favor, after full investigation, upon which I must again give a statement, copy of which it will be a pleasure to send to you.

Meantime, you will have enough to digest in the pamphlets sent,

copies of some of which I have posted sometime ago to various Libraries in the U States - but I should be glad if you would favor me with some list of libraries or learned societies in any way likely to read or take an interest in the subject. The facts of a matter of such historical interest should be known. In this country, we have had nothing beyond a blind worship of Sir Rowland Hill - few writers, especially in London, will even read a word in any way disputing his pretensions - on your side of the water, I look to find more impartiality.-

I remain, Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
Pat. Chalmers

(1)

Further observations on Rowland Hill's famous Calculation whereby he finds that the cost of conveyance of letters was so infinitesimal, being from London to Edinburgh, a distance of 400 miles, only 1/36th of a penny ℔ letter, that he came to the conclusion the postal charge for letters should be "uniform irrespective of distance", and thereby claims to have been the discoverer of the great principle of "uniformity" in postal charge.

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To what is already said on the above in my pamphlet "The Position of Sir Rowland Hill Made Plain", page 25, and to which I beg to refer, some further points have occurred to me: -

For Mr. Hill to have put forward the cost of conveyance of letters from London to Edinburgh as anything like the average cost of such conveyance throughout the general postal system of the United Kingdom was to put forward a wholly fallacious and misleading view of the matter. With the object of being looked upon as the discoverer of a uniform rate of penny postage, Mr. Hill picked out this exceptional route where the weight of letters carried was exceptionally great, and these letters carried, for exceptional reasons, at a merely nominal price, in order to arrive at such an infinitesimal cost ℔ letter as to make it appear that, through this calculation, the principle of uniformity of charge had been brought to his mind for the first time.

That the weight of letters on this route was exceptionally great is clear, such being the main artery of the country's correspondence, branching out in lesser streams right and left. And if, (what I am not prepared to dispute) letters on this main route to the weight of 8 ~~cwt~~ grs and 6 cwt nett, were conveyed for 400 miles at the merely nominal charge of £2.10.6 for a several days journey, why was that? It was because the Coach which carried them found its interest in being the Mail Coach, its profit depending upon the conveyance of passengers who flocked to the mail coach in preference to all competing coaches through same being bound to time, to speed, and to regularity, and for this readily paying higher fares, other coaches merely getting any overflow of traffic. In this way it would indeed have paid the Mail Coach to have carried the mails for nothing, more especially as being exempted from paying tolls in England ex officio as Mail.

But once leave this highway of the northern mail and where were you? The letters must be carried right and left and the conveyance paid for doing so irrespective of passenger traffic, while the weight of letters fell off to a bag or a handful. Where was Mr. Hill's infinitesimal average sum under such circumstances? And could anything have been more delusive than to have picked out this exceptional route from London to Edinburgh, only desired to lead to the impression that Mr. Hill had discovered "uniformity."

And after all, Mr. Hill is obliged to admit that his 1/36th or 1/18th of a penny would not suffice in all cases – that indeed the penny itself would not invariably cover the mere cost of conveyance. So he proceeds to enquire what is to be done when the cost of transmission of a letter is more than a penny. More than a penny! And if in many cases ~~more~~ over the penny, in how very many more cases was it a farthing, or a half-penny, or the penny itself? Here we have, first, a calculation grossly put forward to show and to inspire the impression that the cost of conveyance was perfectly infinitesimal, only 1/36th of a penny, and next this conclusion immediately set aside & overturned by the writer himself admitting that such cost might be all sorts of figures according to the locality, up to even more than the full penny itself! Could anything be more ridiculous! A queer way indeed of discovering "uniformity."

And that this cost of transit was, in 1837, well up to and often more than a penny is clear. In the first place Mr. Hill's calculation assumes that the writer of a letter for transmission by the northern mail posted same in the Mail Coach at his own expense, all local or suburban cost of transit being omitted from Mr. Hill's calculation. But the letters had to reach the Mail Coach from all quarters, north, south, east, & west, and the cost of transit thence was as much an integral part of the whole cost of conveyance from the writer to the recipient as was the mere charge of the northern mail coach. And here were no passengers to relieve the cost of transit, the carts must be bought, & man & horse paid for, entailing a daily cost of very much more than the sum put forward as the mere Mail Coach transit. Similar expense was entailed on the Post office in distributing letters beyond the Mail Coach centres of call, and this in small lots, at an average cost £, letter varying according to distance or locality; but increasing, as Mr. Hill himself admits, to over a penny. Yet we are asked to believe that Mr. Hill

invented

invented uniformity of charge in postage by having discovered that the average cost of conveyance a letter was only 1/36th of a penny!

Again, /see 6th Report of Commissioners of Post office Enquiry/ there was the Mail Packet Service to be taken into account, provided by Government at a capital cost for the Packets of £243.000, ~~year~~ and carried on at a loss, after deducting all receipts, of £40.000 a year, mainly on the Irish Channel line. Why did not Mr. Hill give us the average cost of a letter by road and sea to Dublin or to Cork in place of to Edinburgh? So far from the quotient here turning out an infinitesimal sum, it may be said all Ireland would have come under Mr. Hill's head of "secondary distribution" as being over the penny, and so have had to fetch and carry its own bags! So any allusion to Dublin or Cork would never have done.

What Mr. Hill proposed should be done when the cost of conveyance of a letter to any locality exceeded the penny is already stated by me in the pamphlet named, page 27 - such locality, after having taken out a license through the Guardians of the Poor, was to be entitled to have a bag made up for it at the nearest Post town as a centre, presumably where the Mail Coach called, and was to fetch and carry its own bag at its own expense, arranging for the collection and delivery of the letters, on which an extra postage might be charged. What was this but doing away with uniform penny postage after all? Whatever the number of localities which might in this way have been called upon to set up a Post office for themselves the proposal was absurd, and only directed towards keeping down the cost of conveyance so far as outlay by the Post office was concerned, & so preserving to Mr. Hill that infinitesimal sum and that principle of which he was "in quest." Was all this the simplicity of uniformity, or was it not rather a system of complication involving certain confusion, jobbery, and peculation?

Such, then, is the remarkable picture presented to our minds by contemplating which we are asked to believe that Mr. Hill arrived at the conception of the great principle of uniformity of charge irrespective of distance.

That the public or Press of 1837, staggered by Mr. Hill's six pages of figures, cared little what such amounted to so long as they were offered a penny postage is easily understood. They were not "to look a gift horse in the mouth." As respects modern writers, such have merely taken Mr. Hill's account of the matter for granted, hopping on his "inventions" from one to the other without any attempt at investigation.

We now know, however, that neither uniformity nor any one of the principles of the penny postage scheme of 1837 were original conceptions on the part of Sir Rowland Hill. The Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Post office Inquiry had already proposed as respects mercantile circulars all he proposed as respects letters, a Report which lay before him as he wrote, its provisions un-acknowledged and un-alluded to. Had he told us what this Report proposed, the delusion that he was in even any one point an inventor could never have existed. There is, moreover, the conclusive declaration of the Treasury that "prior to the proposals of Sir Rowland Hill uniform penny postage had been urged upon the Government." There are the statements to the same effect of that pioneer of postal reform yet living, the Rev. Samuel Roberts, a man respected in the highest quarters, "that the idea was well known around the Post office and other high places." And there is the admission of the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Fund Committee itself, a body only too desirous, & naturally so, if possible to ignore the evidence laid before them, yet on the 16th of March, 1882, unanimously abandoning the point of Sir Rowland Hill's originality. His great services are fully admitted, but "not content with this high position, he must further pose as the genius of inventions to which he was not entitled, he must grasp at honours to which he had no claim, and place upon his own brow laurels only stripped from others", including the adhesive stamp.

Patrick Chalmers

Wimbledon
July 25th 1885

Oct. 1885

# PENNY POSTAGE REFORM.



## The following Letter was published in the "Whitehall Review" of October 8th, 1885.

TO THE EDITOR.

"SIR,—Distinguished among your contemporaries for the liberal manner in which you have already opened the columns of the WHITEHALL REVIEW to the admission of the fresh light now shed upon the above-named important subject, it is especially fitting that in the same columns should now first appear some account of the remarkable progress lately met with in confirmation of what you have already permitted me to advance.

First, then, as respects the originator of the proposal of a low and uniform, penny postage, I have already maintained that such was not an original conception on the part of Sir Rowland Hill as so handed down by him and hitherto understood, but that such was only a borrowed proposal published and worked out by him. I have further pointed to the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, as having been the man who first proposed this radical change in our postal system some years before 1837. And what do we now find? Mr. Roberts died the other day, in his eighty-sixth year, and there now appears in the columns of the *Times* of the 30th ult. an obituary notice of the postal reformer confirming what I have stated, and to which I beg reference.

Permit me now to supplement this obituary notice of the *Times* by some extracts from the statements of Mr. Roberts himself, taken from that manifesto of his in which he thanks over two hundred kind contributories from the Royal Bounty Fund downwards, in aid of his declining years, and which list includes such names as those of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. H. J. Gladstone, Lord Derby, Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Bright, Mr. Rathbone, Lord Dalhousie, the Duke of Westminster, Sir Thomas Brassey, Sir Edward Baines, Mr. J. Carvell Williams, several bishops and members of Parliament, &c. Mr. Roberts states: "The aged writer has pleaded and petitioned for our useful penny postage and other postal reductions and conveniences more than ten years before the patriotic Sir Rowland Hill came out to assist in the difficult conflict. He repeatedly petitioned and memorialised the Post Office on the subject"—further corresponding thereon with leading men of the day. Mr. Roberts goes on to notice the appointment in the year 1835 of the "Commission of Post Office Inquiry," with the proposal put forward in the Fifth Report as respects a low and uniform postage on Circulars, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters, and charged by sheet, recommended by that Report to be charged by weight and prepaid by impressed stamp, at the uniform rate of a penny the half-ounce, irrespective of distance—a proposal left wholly unnoticed in any of the writings of Sir Rowland Hill, though there is the clearest evidence of this Report having come under his cognisance. To the proposal of a uniform penny postage on letters, as already urged by Mr. Roberts, and which idea, as he further states, "was well known around the Post Office and other high places," add the principles set forth and recommended in this Fifth Report, and we have, it will be seen, the exact scheme of Sir Rowland Hill from beginning to end, but put forward by him, in the main, as of his own conception, and hitherto erroneously supposed to have been original. (See obituary articles in the *Times*, *Athenæum*, and press in general.) This Report was of date April 1836. Mr. Roberts goes on: "Soon afterwards Sir Rowland Hill

took up the penny idea, and extended its usefulness. He worked perseveringly for reform; but it should be remembered that it is not right to honour him as the originator of the penny system. The plan had been drawn, and he did the work." Again: "Sir Rowland Hill was nobly rewarded for his ability and perseverance in carrying out a scheme important portions of which had been suggested and recommended by others. He deserved honour as an able *copyist* of other men's plans; but it was not fair to honour and reward him as the inventor of the uniform penny postage system. It is really no honour to his memory that he grasped to himself all the rewards and honours of the postal reforms of those days."

Such is the manifesto of this remarkable man, now truly recorded in the *Times* as having been the pioneer of postal reform—a field in which he met with many coadjutors prior to the advent upon the scene of Sir Rowland Hill.

Next, with respect to the adhesive postage stamp, claimed by me as having been the invention and proposal of my late father, James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, I am now enabled to point to vol. 19 of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," lately published, where, under the article "Postage Stamps," my father is fully recognised as having been the inventor of this stamp in the month of August, 1834—a decision arrived at after a lengthened investigation of the respective statements put forward on the subject by myself and by Mr. Pearson Hill. And this, notwithstanding that I have been at a manifest disadvantage through the entire correspondence betwixt my late father and Sir Rowland Hill being solely in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill, with a copy of which he has not consented to furnish me, such correspondence being, I maintain, public, as being official, not private, property.

You are aware that the articles in this standard work are drawn up by learned experts upon the respective subjects dealt with, and edited under a strong sense of responsibility to the high standing of the work itself and its history. The decision arrived at, consequently, will now be accepted in all impartial quarters as conclusive. The steps by which this invention of Mr. James Chalmers became ultimately incorporated, through his initiation, in the reformed penny postage system have been already recorded in your columns.

Mr. Roberts emphatically gives his testimony that "it was a thoughtful, calculating, unassuming, patriotic postal reformer of Dundee, of the name of James Chalmers," to whom we are indebted for the adhesive stamp, who, already honoured by his neighbours, will be honoured by future generations."

Having left Dundee over fifty years ago, and passed much of the interval abroad, it was only through letters which appeared in the Dundee press upon the demise of Sir Rowland Hill that my attention was drawn to this matter.—I remain, sir, your obliged servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

Wimbledon: October 3, 1885. F. R. Hist. Soc.

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## OBITUARY NOTICE.

### From the "Times" of 30th September.

"A few days ago there passed away a man whose name deserves remembrance in this column—the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, one of the earliest, if not the very earliest, advocates of postal reform. He was born March, 1800, at Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, where his father held the charge of the Congregational Church, and had therefore completed his 85th year. He began to preach when only 19 years of age, so that his

ministerial career extended over 66 years. In 1827 he was ordained as his father's assistant, and at his de 1834, he succeeded him in his charge. Already, in 1819 and 1820, he had gained the medals of the L Cymmodorion and of the Ruthin Eisteddfod by essays on social subjects, and another prize of 10 guineas a Eisteddfod at Denbigh. In 1832 he was highly complimented by the Eisteddfod at Beaumaris for an ess agriculture, but the prize was withheld because its author advocated the doctrine of free trade. Several prior to the last-named date he had pleaded before many associations for one low and uniform rate of postage, inland and foreign, addressing letters on the subject to the Welsh Cymreigyddion societies in 1824, and to authorities at the General Post Office in 1829, and again in 1836. He also advocated a cheap parcel post. memorialized the Treasury in favour of a reduction of the tax upon newspapers. In 1840 he started the first c periodical in his native country, which proved the pioneer of other cheap monthlies. Nearly 50 years ago he a in favour of some well-defined system of co-operation between landlords and tenants. Upwards of 70 years he attended the very first missionary meeting held in North Wales. In 1824 he undertook a mission to va cities and towns, in order to plead for the removal of Jewish and Catholic disabilities, the last of which he to see long swept away. Some 36 years ago he carried on a correspondence with Lord John Russell, in whic advocated a large extension of the suffrage, and especially of its extension to women who were ratepayers. more than 60 years his voice was heard protesting against the waste of town drainage, against the pollution o rivers, and the costliness of unhealthy sewers. He was one of the last survivors of the early members of the P Society. About three years ago Mr. Roberts received a grant of £50 from the Royal Bounty Fund, o recommendation of Mr. Gladstone, in recognition of his services as a pioneer in the cause of social progress especially of postal reform."

9th paper d.

FROM

# "THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN,"

*MISSOURI, February 20th, 1886.*

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## MR. JAMES CHALMERS THE REAL INVENTOR OF THE POSTAGE STAMP.

The February number of the *Philatelic Journal of America*, published in St. Louis, has just been issued, and comes bound in a new and very appropriate cover. This is the largest magazine devoted to the interests of the stamp collector published in the country, and is largely circulated abroad. The present number contains a well-written article on the real inventor of the adhesive stamp, the author being a well-known attorney, who has the largest and finest collection of postage stamps in the country. The following is the contribution:

### THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

Sir Rowland Hill has heretofore been the patron saint of the stamp collector. Knighted for his services in postal matters, he has heretofore been credited with being not only the inventor, proposer and promulgator of that system of uniform postage, which, since its adoption in England in 1840, has gradually extended over nearly the entire globe to the incalculable benefit of mankind, but also with being the inventor of the impressed envelope, cover and adhesive stamp.

The death of Sir Rowland Hill in 1879 recalled to mind the name and postal services of Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller of Dundee. Various letters claiming for him the invention of the adhesive stamp appeared in the daily papers of that city and elsewhere. There seems to have been at once a very strenuous effort made by persons of influence to suppress the facts, as they now appear to have been suppressed at the time, by the then Mr. Rowland Hill. The battle has been hotly waged of late between Mr. Pearson Hill and Mr. Patrick Chalmers, until now no less authority than the "Encyclopædia Brittannica" has decided in favor of Mr. James Chalmers as the inventor of the adhesive stamp.

That the impressed or stamped cover or wrapper was not an absolute novelty in 1837 is well known to stamp collectors. It appears that Mr. Wallace, himself an earnest postal reformer and member of parliament for Greenock, sent to Mr. Rowland Hill the reports of various "committees of inquiry" appointed and acting by authority of parliament when Mr. Hill "commenced," to use his own words, "that systematic study, analysis and comparison which the difficulties of my self-imposed task rendered necessary." It now transpires that these reports contained a very large suggestion of uniform cheap postage by weight, prepayment, stamped covers and all that was suggested in Mr. Hill's famous plan and pamphlet of 1837.

It also appears that in August, 1834, Mr. James Chalmers had made in his printing office at Dundee, experimental adhesive stamps, printed in sheets, gummed and ready to be cut off and used separately as occasion required; that he had communicated his plan pretty generally, at the time and subsequently, to the many parties with whom he was associated in advancing postal reforms, and seems to have promulgated his views in a printed circular fully explaining the plan, which, except for the perforation, a convenience invented by Mr. Archer, and only introduced in 1852, was identical with that adopted and now in use. This was accompanied by samples of the proposed stamps.

On the appointment of the committee of parliament, Mr. Chalmers had sent his plan to Mr. Wallace, its chairman, who acknowledged its receipt under date of December 9, 1837. It had also been sent to Mr. (afterwards Sir Henry) Cole, secretary of the London mercantile committee, in February, 1838. Mr. Cole was intimately associated with Mr. Hill in this postal reform. On March 3, 1838, Mr. Hill wrote Mr. James Chalmers about the plan without any suggestion that the idea was not novel or had previously occurred to himself.

When the chancellor of the exchequer, on the 5th of July, 1839, introduced and carried a resolution sanctioning the introduction of a penny postage bill, he asked only for "a uniform postage of one penny at and under a weight hereafter to be fixed," expressly stating that if Mr. Hill's plan was adopted, public sentiment against such a monopoly as the selling of stamped paper

by the government would defeat the measure. Objections came not all from one source, that the scheme was impracticable; without prepayment its expenses would be greater than the revenue; if prepayment was to be made by stamped sheets or covers, it created a dangerous monopoly; with prepayment in money it was too inconvenient; above all it was too liable to forgery. At this crisis Mr. Wallace, in the commons, and Lord Ashburton, in the lords, suggested Mr. Chalmers' adhesive stamp as a possible means of avoiding all difficulties. The measure finally was thus saved. Mr. Hill was sent to the Treasury to carry out the details. Upon inviting other suggestions from the public, petitions, largely circulated by the influence of the London mercantile committee, for the adoption of the adhesive stamp, poured in upon the government until, by a Treasury minute of December 26, 1839, the adhesive stamp was made part of the plan in connection with the stamped covers. The famous Mulready cover and envelope and a little black queen's head were the first outcome. Mr. Hill says later "the public rejection of the Mulready envelope was so complete as to necessitate the destruction of nearly all the vast number prepared for issue, whilst on the other hand the presses of the stamp office were producing over half a million of labels (stamps) by working night and day, yet they failed to meet the demand." Mr. James Chalmers, on again writing to Mr. Hill about his invention, is coolly informed (January, 1840) that he (Hill) had himself proposed the adhesive stamp in 1837 before Mr. Chalmers. Mr. Chalmers in reply expressed his surprise, enclosed Mr. Hill's letter of 1838, and contenting himself with "the only satisfaction I have had in this, as well as former suggestions, all original with me, is that these have been adopted, and have, and are likely to prove beneficial to the public," awaited that tardy justice which after nearly half a century now begins to acknowledge his claim in the Encyclopædia Britannica.

It will be well perhaps for the stamp collectors to change their patron saint, and with this great English authority, accord the invention of their hobby to its real inventor, James Chalmers.

T.

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It will be well perhaps for the stamp collectors to change their patron saint, and with this great English authority, accord the invention of their hobby to its real inventor, James Chalmers.

T.

**COPY.**

PRINCETON COLLEGE,
NEW JERSEY,
*February* 15*th*, 1886.

My Dear Sir,

I am indebted to you for a copy of your pamphlet on "The Adhesive Postage Stamp." I am engaged on an American History to cover the period 1840-85, in which it will be necessary for me to refer to the introduction of the Adhesive Stamp into this country. From the evidence submitted, as it stands, I do not see how I can give the credit of the invention to any one but Mr. Chalmers, certainly not to Sir Rowland Hill.

Sincerely yours,
*(Signed)* ALEXANDER JOHNSTON,
Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy.

Mr. P. Chalmers,
Wimbledon.

———::o::———

THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA,

*February* 10*th*, 1886.

Sir,

I beg to render to you my sincere thanks for your presentation of the claim of James Chalmers as the Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp. You seem to have enlisted the adherence of many of those best qualified to judge of the subject, and it is to be hoped that justice, even if tardy, may be done in the matter. It is a filial duty which you have well performed.

Very respectfully yours,
*(Signed)* HENRY PHILLIPS, Jr., A.M.
(Author of numerous Historical and Practical Works on Currency, &c.)

P. Chalmers, Esq.,
Wimbledon,
England.

10th paper b

[COPY.]

SIR,— WIMBLEDON, February 26th, 1886.

I BEG leave to hand you for the information of the Members of the Corporation of the City of London copy of a publication just issued by me, entitled "Concealment Unveiled: A Tale of the Mansion House," in which I state that the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Fund Committee, to the obscuring of the truth and consequent detriment to general well-being, have concealed from the public, from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and from others, vital and essential facts as there specified, while having erected a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, and while collecting money from the public on the strength and prestige of his name.

I have given the names composing this Committee, including certain Aldermen of the City of London, and legitimate reasons are given why it has been incumbent upon me to give publicity to the proceedings now unveiled.

I respectfully lay this statement before you—first, inasmuch as the City Corporation was the largest contributor to this Memorial Fund under the vital delusion specified, since discovered and admitted by this Committee, but hitherto concealed from the subscribers; secondly, because it will be seen from the origin and composition of the Committee as hitherto constituted and located, that the Corporation has, officially, full power to call for an explanation from and otherwise to control the proceedings of the Committee in question.

I am, respectfully, sir,
Your most obedient servant.
PATRICK CHALMERS, F.R.Hist.Soc.

To Sir JOHN B. MONCKTON,
Town Clerk,
Guildhall.

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The above was published in ten of the leading London papers.

P.C.

10th paper c

# CONCEALMENT UNVEILED,

# THE SIR ROWLAND HILL COMMITTEE,

# A TALE OF THE MANSION HOUSE.

———::o::———

The short pamphlet herewith, under the above title, is put forward for the purpose of shewing that so far from having been the originator of the Adhesive Stamp, SIR ROWLAND HILL was not even the originator of the uniform Penny Postage Scheme itself, *as admitted by his own Mansion House Committee, but hitherto concealed from the public.* However great the services of Sir Rowland Hill, the Penny Postage Scheme, equally with the plan which saved it and has carried it out in practice, was only an unacknowledged copy or plagiarism from beginning to end of the previous proposals of other men.

PATRICK CHALMERS,

F.R. Hist. Soc.

*Wimbledon.*

*March*, 1886.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

———::o::———

**COPY.**

"DUNDEE ADVERTISER" OFFICE,
DUNDEE,
*22nd Jany.*, 1886.

DEAR SIR,

I heartily congratulate you on the success you have now achieved in establishing on irrefragable authority the claim of your father as the Inventor of the Postage Stamp. Sir HENRY COLE's papers bequeathed to the South Kensington Museum are decisive.

If other Editors could be induced to look at the evidence you have produced, as I have done, I believe they would not hesitate to award justice to the memory of your father. . . .

Should you ever visit Dundee, I trust you will not forget to call on,

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LENG.

PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq.,
Wimbledon.

———::o::———

The above from the Editor of one of the most widely read papers in Scotland, well known to the London press, will, I trust, have some effect in inducing that Press and others to look into my statements, and do justice to the memory of one who has done service to the public.

Besides the award in my favor of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," a wide recognition of my father's title to the Adhesive Postage Stamp has been obtained from the Scottish and Provincial Press, and from literary men at home and abroad.

PATRICK CHALMERS,
F.R. Hist. Soc.

*Wimbledon.*
*March*, 1886

10 paper d

Copy.

*To the Editor of the*

*"QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST."*

*Sir.*

*In your Journal for this month it is stated that my father, the late James Chalmers, did not claim the honor of having been the originator of the adhesive postage stamp. Permit me to say that such statement is a mistake, while by what right or with what object the correspondence of 1840 on the subject was abstracted from the Treasury by Sir Rowland Hill has never been explained; that correspondence is now solely in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill who has published only such an "extract" from same as he has thought fit, my application for the context having been of no avail. Even with this, however, I have been enabled to prove to the general satisfaction of American Philatelists my father's title to the honor he claimed, and if doubt remains in any quarter here or with you, let Mr. Pearson Hill be called upon to produce the letters addressed by his father to mine of dates March 3rd, 1838, and of January 18th, 1840, and that doubt will be removed.*

*I send copy of this letter to your contemporaries and Philatelic Societies, and asking you to be good enough to publish same,*

*I am, Sir,*

*yours obediently,*

*PATRICK CHALMERS,*

*Hon. Member of the Chicago, Newton, Jamestown, & Denver Philatelic Societies.*

L Pomeroy

*Wimbledon. April. 20th. 1886*

10 paper e

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

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Now that the pretensions of Sir Rowland Hill to having in any way originated the adhesive postage stamp are wholly exploded, an attempt, not confined to the Quaker City Philatelist, is now being made to weaken the title of James Chalmers by bringing forward a story as to the adhesive stamp for postage purposes having been current in France some two to three hundred years ago. It would indeed be remarkable should such have been the case at a period when there was no regular postage system, and when indeed few could either read or write—and still more remarkable that such, if having any foundation, should have hitherto escaped the researches of modern philatelists, yet supposed to have been known to *James Chalmers alone* over fifty years ago. An attempt so obviously absurd will only recoil upon those who, in a spirit of envious chagrin, would now disparage the services of a public benefactor who certainly never heard of any such prior application of his invention, even should the story turn out to have any foundation in fact.

P. C.

10 paper 8

FROM

*TRUBNER'S "AMERICAN, EUROPEAN, and ORIENTAL LITERARY RECORD."*

LUDGATE HILL,

LONDON, APRIL 30th, 1886.

"What could have been more appropriate than that a bookseller, a distributor of knowledge, should have invented the Penny Postage Stamp? Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, all honour to him as a benefactor of his race, was the originator of what is now a prime necessity to the commercial world, and of which eighteen hundred millions are now issued yearly. The full history of the Penny Postage Stamp is to be found in "Concealment Unveiled" and "The Adhesive Postage Stamp," by Patrick Chalmers, F.R.H.S., the son of the inventor. These brochures are published by Effingham Wilson, of the Royal Exchange, and we heartily recommend them to the notice of all who wish to study the history of the present postal system."

——::o::——

"*Bric-a-brac*, the organ of the philatelists, edited by Mr. J. W. Palmer, the well-known stamp collector, referring to the suggestion recently made in the *Leisure Hour*, that the adhesive stamp should be called "the Chalmers," considers the notion an excellent one, as it associates with the stamp the name of the man who, it has been proved beyond doubt, is entitled to be considered as the inventor. The matter has been put beyond controversy, and Mr. Patrick Chalmers has, by his labours in search of the truth, established his father's title to the gratitude of posterity."—*Surrey Independent*, WIMBLEDON, MAY 8th, 1886.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

———::o::———

FROM

*THE "CHRISTIAN LEADER."*

GLASGOW, MAY 6th, 1886.

"That is indeed a happy thought of a writer in the *Leisure Hour* who designates the adhesive postage stamp "the Chalmers." The universal adoption of this term would be a most appropriate memorial of James Chalmers, the modest bookseller of Dundee, who invented the ingenious expedient—a masterpiece of simplicity—without which the penny postage system never could have been established. Eighteen hundred millions of "Chalmers" are now issued yearly from Somerset house. Prof. Johnston, of Princeton, who is engaged on an American History to cover the period of 1840-85, in a letter to Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of Wimbledon, says: "'It will be necessary for me to refer to the introduction of the adhesive stamp into this country. From the evidence submitted, as it stands, I do not see how I can give the credit of the invention to anyone but Mr. Chalmers, certainly not to Sir Rowland Hill.'" An American lawyer who has the largest and finest collection of postage stamps in the New World, contributes an article to the February number of the *Philatelic Journal of America*, in which he says Sir Rowland Hill has heretofore been the patron saint of the stamp collector, but that henceforth the honour must be accorded to the real inventor of the adhesive stamp, James Chalmers. Mr. Patrick Chalmers has well performed a filial duty in the teeth of many obstacles, and deserves to be heartily congratulated on the success which has crowned his pious labours in vindicating his father's title to be ranked among the world's benefactors."

10 paper 9

[*Copy.*]

WIMBLEDON,

*July 26th*, 1886.

SIR,

In lately handing you copy of a publication entitled "Concealment Unveiled: a Tale of the Mansion "House," I stated "that the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial "Fund Committee, to the obscuring of the truth and conse-"quent detriment to the general well-being, have concealed "from the public, from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and "from others, vital and essential facts as there specified, "while having erected a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, and "while collecting money from the public on the strength "and prestige of his name."

I now beg to hand you copy of a "Sequel" to that publication, being the submission or assent of said Committee to that statement as being incontrovertible.

You have been good enough to hand me a Form of Memorial to the Corporation of the City of London, to be availed of should I desire to present a Memorial on this subject. Having, however, freely circulated the particulars, it is for those more immediately connected with the Corporation to decide whether it is consistent with propriety and legality that the irregular proceedings now unveiled should remain unnoticed and be continued, in preference to adopting the simple and obvious remedy suggested in the "Sequel" herewith.

I am, respectfully,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

SIR JOHN B. MONCKTON,

*Town Clerk*,

Guildhall.

July 28 1886

11th paper b

COPY.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

———::o::———

## To the Editor of the "Dundee Advertiser."

SIR,

In the able article which appeared in your issue of the 19th January last, in recognition of my late father as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, it was there stated that Sir Rowland Hill simply "took the credit" of what belonged to another.

In confirmation of that statement I am now enabled to hand you copy of a short publication, entitled "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," in which it is shewn from the proceedings and practical assent of his own Mansion House Committee that Sir Rowland Hill, however great his services, originally conceived or first proposed nothing whatever in connection with that uniform penny postage scheme which has gone by his name, while having assumed and "taken the credit" of same. As with the scheme so with the stamp, in having "taken the credit" of which Sir Rowland Hill only displayed the same failing which had attended him from the first, in having put forward as his own the prior proposals of other men.

The value and importance of the Adhesive Postage Stamp cannot be better described than by the term "indispensable" of the Resolution of the Town Council of Dundee three years ago. The circumstances however, under which this stamp was brought forward and became adopted, are, in the present day, unknown or forgotten. The great argument of the opponents of the uniform penny postage scheme was the impossibility of carrying it out in practice. "Why should we be called upon to pass this Bill," they said in 1839, "when no man being had the remotest conception of how it was to be carried into execution?" That part of the subject must stand over, said the Government of the day. But the plan of James Chalmers, already sent to Mr. Wallace in 1837, and again to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London in 1838, and now in the South Kensington Museum

Library as in use to this day, was, in this dilemma, brought forward by Mr. Wallace in the House of Commons, became ultimately adopted, and saved the scheme. Indispensable then, indispensable it has continued in countless numbers, not only in this country but spreading to every land. Withdraw or suspend its use and you paralyse the correspondence and thereby the trade and commerce not alone of this country, but of the world. What potentate ever wielded such a power as this? What man has conferred so wide-spread a boon, free, spontaneous and unrewarded, while millions have been yearly poured and continue to be ever increasingly poured into the National Treasury by means of what an able writer has termed the "powerful mechanism" of this indispensable and ubiquitous stamp?

This matter of my father's title to the adhesive stamp was initiated, not by me, but by old and respected townsmen of Dundee conversant with the facts—brought forward, moreover, not alone with the object of vindicating the memory of their deceased friend, but further, as stated by them in your columns, "that Dundee might claim and receive the honour of being the birth-place of the Adhesive Stamp," looked upon universally as being a matter of national and historical importance, as exemplified in the special investigation of the Encyclopædia Britannica. That such was both invented and first proposed for adoption in the reformed postal system by a townsman of Dundee has now been proved beyond dispute, as already widely recognised at home and abroad.

Favor me, therefore, by adding this further record in your columns in the event of the present or some future generation of the now large and important community of Dundee, following in the steps of their predecessors and of the valued recognition of the Town Council of 1883, becoming disposed to take an interest in the matter, and to claim for their locality and for the memory of their townsman that heritage of which both have been so unjustly dispossessed.

I remain, Sir,

Your obliged Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

*Wimbledon.*

JULY 28th, 1886.

11th paper c

November 1886

WIMBLEDON,

*November*, 1886.

SIR,

I beg to hand you copy of a pamphlet just publish by me entitled "The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hi Committee," and which I shall feel obliged if you will b good enough to place in your Library.

I annex a short account of its contents, and incide tally will be found some notice of Libraries in the Uni States of America, which may be of interest to yo readers.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

F.R. Hist. S

To the Librarian, &

say 300 Libraries in U.S. States,

" 100 do in U.K.

P.

This pamphlet is laid before you in continuation of previous publications proving the late James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee, to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

In confirmation thereof, it is now shewn by the proceedings and practical assent of his own Mansion House Committee, that Sir Rowland Hill, however great his services, originally conceived or first proposed nothing whatever in connection with that uniform Penny Postage Scheme which has gone by his name.

Other main features of this pamphlet, besides a number of articles from the home and foreign press, consist in the decision of the "Encyclopædia Brittannica" in favor of James Chalmers—the particulars of his plan now in the South Kensington Museum Library—the declaration of the Treasury and official repudiation by H.M. Post Office of the pretensions of the partisans of Sir Rowland Hill—the substitution of the name of James Chalmers in place of that of Rowland Hill by Philatelic journals both in this country and in the United States as the "patron saint" of stamp collectors—and in a short appendix giving the sources from which Sir Rowland Hill derived his scheme of penny postage reform, popularly supposed to have been his own invention.

P.C.

# The Rowland Hill Memorial Fund Committee at the Mansion House.

SIR,

"The City has in great measure to thank itself for this blow." Such is the verdict of the *Times* with reference to the City Corporation having just been deprived of its privilege of electing its own Recorder, Common Serjeant, and Judge of the City of London Court—a verdict confirmed by the press generally, and by public opinion. And so long as these high Officers just named, also the Aldermen, and the Members of the Common Council shut their eyes, ears, and mouths to grave and irregular practices, known to and admitted by thousands at home and abroad, so long will that Corporation continue to invite being shorn of its privileges, and become lowered in the estimation of the public.

In a letter addressed to Sir John Monckton, of date February 26th, 1886, and published by me in the papers, and in a subsequent pamphlet, entitled, "The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," I stated "that the Sir Rowland Hill Committee, to the obscuring of the truth, and consequent detriment to the general well-being, have concealed from the public, from H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and from others, vital and essential facts, while having erected a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, and while collecting money from the public on the strength and prestige of his name." And, "I have given the names of this Committee, including certain Aldermen of the City of London."

What is to be said, or can be thought, of a body which has permitted such an allegation as this to be publicly made with silence and with impunity if untrue, and at the same time permit this Rowland Hill Committee to continue year after year to issue from under the very roof of the Mansion House its appeals to the public, while still keeping back vital and essential facts?

I have no desire, Sir, to resuscitate this matter, though it will be evident to you that under the estimation now evinced both in and out of Parliament, with respect to the City Corporation, a ready and still greater attention would be given to statements only too well founded. My object in now addressing you is rather to invite your good offices in getting Mr. Alderman Whitehead, or other responsible member of this Rowland Hill Fund to do me that justice the hitherto refusal of which has been to me and to my cause, oppression, and to the public what I need not designate. What I ask of Mr. Whitehead will be found at page 15 of the pamphlet ~~herewith~~, entitled "A Reply to Mr. Pearson Hill," and which I trust will be favoured with your perusal. I am quite aware that a pamphlet upsetting pre-conceived ideas is unwelcome, but I trust other considerations will out-weigh any repugnance on your part to reading same. The opinion of your own paper, the *City Press*, upon the subject, is enclosed.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Copy of the other pamphlets referred to will be sent you if desired.

1506

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Copy of this sent to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and others.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP

IN

# THE UNITED STATES.

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NORTH CAROLINA,

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT,

RALEIGH, *November 30th*, 1886.

PATRICK CHALMERS, F.R.H.S., Wimbledon, England.

MY DEAR SIR,

Allow me at this late day to thank you for copy of the pamphlet on the "Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp," which was received at this Library, April 24, 1886, also for copy of "The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee" received this date.

I have had occasion to use the "Adhesive Stamp," in a controversy with a Mr. THOMAS S ——, of Alexandria, Virginia, whose mind was prejudiced in favor of Rowland Hill. My impression is, that should he be enabled to read your pamphlets, he would be thoroughly convinced that the inventor was your father instead of Mr. Hill.

On receipt of the "Adhesive Stamp," I immediately had it bound in sheep for our Library, which course I intend to pursue with "The Submission of the Committee," but before doing so, respectfully request, that if you have a copy of "Concealment Unveiled, a Tale of the Mansion House," or any other pamphlets on the subject, you will be pleased to have preserved in our State Library, that I be furnished with copies for that purpose.

Again thanking you for the two copies already received at our Library,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours very truly,

J. C. BIRDSONG,

*State Librarian.*

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VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

RICHMOND, VA., *November 30th*, 1886.

PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq., F. R. Hist. Soc.

MY DEAR SIR,

Having read the previous publications, kindly sent by you, with conviction that your lamented father was justly due the honor of originating the public boon, the Adhesive Postage Stamp, I am sincerely gratified in "The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Commission," to a just award, so long withheld. It will be a pleasurable duty with me, when I may, in the future, to correct the injustice so long continued, by just statement of fact.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

R. A. BROCK, *Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE DIXIE STAMP COLLECTOR,

ATLANTA, GA., *November 29th*, 1886.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received your last pamphlet, and I have enjoyed its perusal exceedingly. Please accept my thanks for same, and my well wishes for your prosperity. After careful consideration, I came to the conclusion some time ago, that Sir Rowland Hill was not the originator of the Adhesive Stamp. I will do all in my power to advance the truth in regard to your father, and will use my influence to correct a statement which has been believed for the past 25 years by American Philatelists. Wishing you the greatest success, and trusting that the time will soon come when the whole world will know the truth, I beg to remain,

Yours fraternally,

W. G. WHILDEN, JR.

TO PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq., London.

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ALTOONA, PENNSLYVANIA,

*December 2nd*, 1886.

P. CHALMERS, Esq., F.R.H.S., Wimbledon, England.

DEAR SIR,

The American Philatelic Association (embracing North, South and Central America and the West Indies), has selected me as the Editor of their Official Journal, "The American Philatelist," and, as a natural consequence, I will be called upon to answer all manner and form of questions relating to Philately, and no doubt the one in which you are so deeply interested will be among the number. While I am fully aware of the fact that your father was the inventor of the Adhesive Stamp, and, in fact, the honor is almost universally conceded throughout this country, yet I have a desire to fortify myself with facts to sustain the point, and to this end request you to send me the price of the various pamphlets issued by you, that I may order them. I wish to purchase one of each.

Respectfully,

W. R. FRASER, Pres.

*Altoona Philatelic Society.*
*Altoona, Pa., U.S.A.*

P.S.—I wrote you a week ago, but addressed the letter to Scotland.

[Same duly reached me, and by this time Mr. FRASER will have received copies of my pamphlets. Other office-bearers of the same and kindred Societies have asked for a complete set of my publications, while the more recent pamphlets are in the hands of a large number of the Members. In the United States, as in France and the Continent, stamp-collectors are very numerous. P.C.]

---

The above are in addition to the recognitions of the most influential nature already published in my late pamphlet "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," a copy of which has been laid before you, and to which reference is respectfully asked. The Second Edition of this pamphlet, extending to four figures, having been exhausted amongst localities, individuals and Philatelists, now recognizing James Chalmers in place of Sir Rowland Hill to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, a Third Edition, abridged, will shortly be issued.

WIMBLEDON, *December 15th*, 1886. PATRICK CHALMERS.

Mr. Crunden
St Louis
Mo

Favor me by circulating as you can, but do not take the trouble to acknowledge.
P.C.

Dec. 1886

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP

IN

# THE UNITED STATES.

NORTH CAROLINA,

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT,

RALEIGH, *November 30th*, 1886.

PATRICK CHALMERS, F.R.H.S., Wimbledon, England.

MY DEAR SIR,

Allow me at this late day to thank you for copy of the pamphlet on the "Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp," which was received at this Library, April 24, 1886, also for copy of "The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee" received this date.

I have had occasion to use the "Adhesive Stamp," in a controversy with a Mr. THOMAS S ——, of Alexandria, Virginia, whose mind was prejudiced in favor of Rowland Hill. My impression is, that should he be enabled to read your pamphlets, he would be thoroughly convinced that the inventor was your father instead of Mr. Hill.

On receipt of the "Adhesive Stamp," I immediately had it bound in sheep for our Library, which course I intend to pursue with "The Submission of the Committee," but before doing so, respectfully request, that if you have a copy of "Concealment Unveiled, a Tale of the Mansion House," or any other pamphlets on the subject, you will be pleased to have preserved in our State Library, that I be furnished with copies for that purpose.

Again thanking you for the two copies already received at our Library,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours very truly,

J. C. BIRDSONG,

*State Librarian.*

---

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

RICHMOND, VA., *November 30th*, 1886.

PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq., F. R. Hist. Soc.

MY DEAR SIR,

Having read the previous publications, kindly sent by you, with conviction that your lamented father was justly due the honor of originating the public boon, the Adhesive Postage Stamp, I am sincerely gratified in "The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Commission," to a just award, so long withheld. It will be a pleasurable duty with me, when I may, in the future, to correct the injustice so long continued, by just statement of fact.

I am, My Dear Sir.

Faithfully yours,

R. A. BROCK, *Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE DIXIE STAMP COLLECTOR,

ATLANTA, GA., *November 29th*, 1886.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received your last pamphlet, and I have enjoyed its perusal exceedingly. Please accept my thanks for same, and my well wishes for your prosperity. After careful consideration, I came to the conclusion some time ago, that Sir Rowland Hill was not the originator of the Adhesive Stamp. I will do all in my power to advance the truth in regard to your father, and will use my influence to correct a statement which has been believed for the past 25 years by American Philatelists. Wishing you the greatest success, and trusting that the time will soon come when the whole world will know the truth, I beg to remain,

Yours fraternally,

W. G. WHILDEN, JR.

TO PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq., London.

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ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA,

*December 2nd*, 1886.

P. CHALMERS, Esq., F.R.H.S., Wimbledon, England.

DEAR SIR,

The American Philatelic Association (embracing North, South and Central America and the West Indies), has selected me as the Editor of their Official Journal, "The American Philatelist," and, as a natural consequence, I will be called upon to answer all manner and form of questions relating to Philately, and no doubt the one in which you are so deeply interested will be among the number. While I am fully aware of the fact that your father was the inventor of the Adhesive Stamp, and, in fact, the honor is almost universally conceded throughout this country, yet I have a desire to fortify myself with facts to sustain the point, and to this end request you to send me the price of the various pamphlets issued by you, that I may order them. I wish to purchase one of each.

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WIMBLEDON, *December 15th*, 1886. PATRICK CHALMERS.

Tiffany, with ever grateful compliments. About 70 copies sent by this mail to Alt Hotel. Pat. Chalmers

Dec - 1886

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP IN THE UNITED STATES.

ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO HAND DECEMBER 21st.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY,
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, *November 30th*, 1886.

PATRICK CHALMERS, F.R.H.S.

HONOURED AND DEAR SIR,

I am instructed by the authorities of this University to acknowledge in their name the honour you have done us, by sending to our Library a copy *of your justification of your father*, entitled :

"SUBMISSION OF THE SIR ROWLAND HILL COMMITTEE,"
2nd Edition, with Additions, Press Notices, &c., 1886.

In accordance with your request we most cheerfully assign it a place in our Library, thereby assuring you of our appreciation of the *success of your undertaking*.

Thanking you in the name of the Institution I represent, as well as on my own part,

I am, honoured Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
JACOB FULLER, *Librarian*.

P.S.—A more formal acknowledgement will appear in our Catalogue (Annual), to issue March, 1887.—J. F.

CHICAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY.
CHICAGO, *December 3rd*, 1886.

PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq., Wimbledon, England.

DEAR SIR,

I have been instructed by the above Society to communicate to you the following resolution passed at meeting, held Thursday eve, December 2nd, and also to thank you for your valuable contribution to the Library of the Society of a copy of your pamphlet on the "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee. Resolved: "That the Chicago Philatelic Society unanimously endorses the report of their Committee, and thank Mr. Chalmers for his efforts in establishing beyond doubt the fact of Mr. James Chalmers being the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp." I wish also to thank you personally for the Copy so kindly sent me. I hand you herewith Copy of the Constitution of our Society, presuming the same may be of interest to you.

With best wishes, I am,
Yours very truly,
C. R. GADSDEN,
*Secretary*.

If they can possibly be obtained, I should like a copy of each of your other pamphlets.
C. R. G.

In the Service of the Commonwealth.

State Library of Massachusetts,

State House, Boston,

*December 10th*, 1886.

Patrick Chalmers, Esq.

My Dear Sir,

Your latest pamphlet, "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," seems so conclusive a vindication of your father, and so well supported our assertion of the credit justly his due, that it leaves little, if anything, to add. Slowly the truth of history is vindicated, and modest worth outweighs pretentious self-assertion.

I thank you most heartily for the pamphlet, which I shall take much pleasure in preserving in the State Library.

Yours most cordially,

C. B. TILLINGHAST,

*Librarian.*

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Chicago Philatelic Society,

Chicago, *December 6th*, 1886.

P. Chalmers, Esq., Wimbledon.

Dear Sir,

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your second edition of "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee" on the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

There is very little doubt in the minds of the majority of American Philatelists as to who was the real originator of the Adhesive Stamp, and your able pamphlet on this subject will certainly strengthen their belief that they are correct in giving the credit to your honoured father.

I have followed up your evidence carefully, and congratulate you on the success that your very deserved efforts have obtained.

The "Chicago Philatelic Society" at their meeting on last Thursday evening, passed resolutions endorsing your efforts in establishing the truth of an important historic fact.

Full proceedings of this meeting will be published in the "Western Philatelist" in their initial number, a copy of which will be forwarded to you on the 20th of the present month.

Wishing you every success,

I remain,

Truly yours,

P. M. WOLSIEFFER,

*Vice-President, C.P.S.*

11 paper e

# FROM THE "CITY PRESS,"

26th JANUARY. 1887

"As an example of assiduity and perseverance commend me to Mr. Patrick Chalmers—the champion of his late father's memory as the originator of the adhesive penny postage stamp. Through great toil and trouble he at last comes forth justified in truth that his revered parent was the now admitted author of the *means* by which that great and universal benefit to all mankind has been accomplished. The various University, Historical, and Philatelical Societies of the United States (with scarcely an exception), have now cordially recognised James Chalmers, and some of these Societies have elected Mr. P. Chalmers an 'Honorary Member' as an acknowledgment that he has fully proved his claims on behalf of his late father. Let it be hoped that the example may be followed in his own country, even though such a course might prove embarrassing to not a few."

---

[The above article on the part of what may be termed one of the "official journals" of the London Corporation and the City Companies, (another, the Metropolitan, having long warmly supported me) may well prove embarrassing to my opponents, if any such there now be—a feeling which will amount to dismay on the part of such Members of the Corporation, or of the press, as may be prevailed upon to read the short statement herewith.—P.C.]

Paper f-

# THE SIR ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL.

*To the Aldermen and Members of the Common Council of the Corporation of the City of London.*

GENTLEMEN,

After the pointed remarks in the leading columns of the "*City Press*" of 26th inst., you may now desire to know something more of a matter with respect to which the name and reputation of your time-honoured Corporation has been so thoroughly identified both at home and abroad.

I therefore beg leave to lay before you, individually, a short statement on the subject, your perusal of which is respectfully requested.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*January 27th.* 1881

N.B. Paper g. June 1887

Messrs Trübner & Co, and Messrs Sampson

w & Co, have acknowledged in their Trade

culars the claim on behalf of James Chal-

rs, as originator of the adhesive postage

mp.

11 paper k.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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WIMBLEDON,

*January*, 1887.

SIR,

In this Third Edition of the "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," copy of which is now laid before you, I have been enabled to add to the many valuable recognitions already obtained the decision of the "Dictionary of National Biography" in favour of James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

The Preface—your perusal of which is specially requested—gives further particulars of this decision; and I cannot doubt it will afford you satisfaction to aid me in vindicating the memory of one who, by his timely counsel at a critical period, saved the Penny Postage Scheme and has carried out same in practice to this day.

The number of adhesive stamps now issued amounts to Two Thousand Millions a year in this country alone—four tons weight a day (see *Daily News*, 1st January).

I am, SIR,

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

*To* THE EDITOR.

# FROM THE "WHITEHALL REVIEW,"

## February 10th, 1887.

### THE INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

WE appear to know very little about our public benefactors—for we can describe the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp as nothing less than a benefactor. For by his discovery the marvels of the penny postage scheme were made practicable. We have, indeed, in these columns done, perhaps, more than any other paper to bring into public light and recognition the name, and hitherto ignored fame, of Mr. James Chalmers. We have been conscious all along that we were fulfilling a duty in correcting the somewhat rash and hasty, and certainly incorrect, statements of history. We have succeeded not only in correcting history, but in satisfying the public mind that our repeated support of the Chalmers *versus* the Rowland Hill claims were based upon a just and sure foundation. Beyond that the late Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, invented the adhesive postage stamp, there is, perhaps, nothing more to be said about him save that we should be glad to see some public recognition of his services recorded in London, similar to that recognition which another town, Dundee, was not slow to offer to him. But what strikes us as a peculiar thing in this case is that, when we want to learn something about the man who invented the adhesive postage stamp, we have to go to America for our information! We seem, at home, to know so little of our most deserving men. Yet in an American paper called *The Stamp* we find a brief biography of Mr. James Chalmers, and this we take leave to quote:—

"James Chalmers, one the early advocates of a reformed postal system, and originator of the adhesive postage stamp, was born in the town of Arbroath, Scotland, on the 2nd February, 1782. He settled early in the neighbouring town of Dundee, and there for over forty-five years carried on business as bookseller and printer. Mr. Chalmers's post-office services were first devoted to an acceleration of the mail coach system between London and the North. After a correspondence, extending over some years he succeeded, about the year 1825, in bringing about such altered and more expeditious arrangement as to effect a saving of a day each way in the transportation of letters to and from London and the chief towns of the North—a public service for which he obtained much credit from the Scottish press.

"Subsequently Mr. Chalmers took an active part in the agitation for the repeal of the Excise duty on paper, also of that upon advertisements of one shilling and sixpence, and of the Stamp duty of fourpence each upon newspapers, the selling price of such being not less than sevenpence—a state of matters which appears incredible in the present day. As the printer and publisher of a weekly paper, the *Dundee Chronicle*, which after a short existence had to succumb under such a weight of taxation, Mr. Chalmers had practical experienced of the baneful effects of what were exclaimed against as the 'taxes on knowledge.'

"The year 1832 witnessed an earnest attempt both in and out of Parliament not only to lessen or abolish these taxes, but further to bring about much needed reform in the postal system of the country. Prominent among these reformers were Mr. Wallace, M.P. for Greenock, and Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P. for Montrose and Arbroath, with both of whom, as with other postal reformers, Mr. Chalmers held communication.

"In the year 1834 Mr. Chalmers invented and produced in his premises the adhesive stamp for postage purposes, printed on sheets of paper, afterwards gummed over by an adhesive substance, precisely on the principle now in use.

"On the appointment of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in November, 1837, upon the proposed uniform penny postage scheme of Mr. Rowland Hill (who had proposed an impressed stamp as the mode for the carrying out the scheme in practice, to be impressed upon a cover or upon the sheet of letter-paper itself), Mr. Chalmers laid his plan of the adhesive stamp before the Committee. Again, in a communication of some length, under date 'Dundee, 8th February, 1838,' he further laid his plan before the Mercantile Committee of the City of London charged with the support of the proposed reformed scheme. This document, now of historical interest, has been bequeathed to the Library of the South Kensington Museum by the late Sir Henry Cole, who was at the period of its receipt from Mr. Chalmers, secretary to this City of London Committee. Its contents have been reproduced in the pamphlet lately published by the son of Mr. Chalmers, termed 'The Adhesive Postage Stamp,' and will be found of the highest interest to all philatelists and to historical writers, describing as it does the plan of the adhesive postage stamp as ultimately adopted by Mr. Rowland Hill and in use to the present day, and ably comparing the advantages of such plan as compared with the proposals of Mr. Hill.

"After plans had been called for from the public and nothing better found, the adhesive stamp was at length adopted by Mr. Rowland Hill, by Treasury Minute of 26th December, 1839, over five years after its invention and advocacy by Mr. Chalmers. The Mulready envelope proved a failure, but the adhesive stamp saved the penny postage scheme, and still remains indispensable to the commerce of the world, the yearly issue in England alone now amounting to over eighteen hundred millions of stamps, of the value of one half-penny up to five pounds.

"On the 1st of January, 1846, Mr. Chalmers was presented in the Town Hall of Dundee with a public testimonial in recognition of his postal services and as the originator of the adhesive postage stamp. In the course of his career Mr. Chalmers served many positions of importance in the Town Council of Dundee and in the public institutions of the town, where his name continues to be remembered with respect. He died in August, 1853, aged 71 years."

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

SIR,

Prior to the winter Parliamentary recess I addressed several Members of the Legislature, principally representatives of Scottish constituencies, acquainting them of the success I had met with in having established the title of my late father, James Chalmers, Bookseller, Dundee, to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, the merit of which has been attributed to the late Sir Rowland Hill. In a pamphlet entitled "The Adhesive Postage Stamp" I gave the decision of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* in favour of James Chalmers after a special investigation of the matter by that learned body, initiated by the son of Sir Rowland Hill.

The same pamphlet produced copy of the original plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late Sir Henry Cole, as laid by James Chalmers before the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1837–38 on the proposed Penny Postage Scheme; also before the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, charged with the support of that scheme; also before Sir Rowland Hill himself, a year and a half before the Penny Postage Bill was introduced into Parliament; and as ultimately *adopted* by Sir Rowland Hill.

Sir Henry Cole was then Secretary to this Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and became subsequently the coadjutor of Sir Rowland Hill at the Treasury. This now historical document he bequeathed as aforesaid.

Numerous articles from the London, Provincial, and Scottish Press were given in that pamphlet in recognition of James Chalmers.

During the interval which has elapsed I have added materially to the success above named. In a pamphlet entitled "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee" I have—

*First*, been enabled to show, as evidenced by correspondence with the Lord Mayor, the Chairman of that Committee, also by the change of inscription effected by that Committee upon the City statue of Sir Rowland Hill, that "originality of conception" formed no part of the merits of Sir Rowland Hill. That, so far from having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp which saved and has carried out the reformed Penny Postage system, Sir Rowland Hill was not even the originator of that Penny Postage

Scheme itself which has gone by his name, but that such, from beginning to end, was nothing more than the unacknowledged reproduction of the prior proposals of other men immediately preceding the year 1837.

Not content with the high position to which he was entitled, to have that Penny Postage Scheme understood as having been one of his own conception, the product of his own genius, was with Sir Rowland Hill what can only be described as a mania—no second party was to be allowed to share with him any portion of the credit attaching to this great and beneficial reform—and to that mania James Chalmers, the man who showed at a critical period how the scheme could alone be carried out in practice, was sacrificed.

*Secondly.* To the decision before mentioned on the part of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* in favour of James Chalmers, this pamphlet now contains one of no less importance—being the decision of that standard work, the *Dictionary of National Biography*, again in favour of James Chalmers, after a second investigation by learned men in which the statements on both sides were considered.

*Thirdly.* In the United States of America my success has been complete. There an interest has been taken in the subject to which our home public are strangers, in consequence of the great development of Philatelism, or Stamp collecting, amongst that community. Philatelic Societies, Magazines, and dealers in postage stamps of all nations and periods, exist throughout the length and breadth of that land. Amongst that impartial and enlightened body, as also in the chief Libraries and Historical Societies, my publications have there met with keen perusal, with the result that James Chalmers has been universally recognised as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, and has become now looked upon as the " patron saint " of Philatelists.

In addition, therefore, to a numerous body of the London, Provincial, Scottish, and American Press, Historical and Philatelic Societies, the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*, the leading biographical works of the day, have now recorded (after special investigation), the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, in the month of August, 1834,—*not* Sir Rowland Hill, who usurped the credit.

The position may be further summed up in the words of two of the City papers, specially what may be termed the " official journals " of the London Corporation and the City Companies. The *Metropolitan* writes: " Mr. Patrick Chalmers has, after many years of " uphill fighting, proved conclusively that the indispensable Postage Stamp was the inven- " tion of his late father, James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, and has procured further " evidence in support of his contention. It appears that Sir Rowland Hill is in no way to " be considered the originator of a low and uniform rate of postage." Again: " For so

"many years have successive generations been taught that the Penny Postage System was "the invention of Sir Rowland Hill, that it is a difficult matter to convince people to the "contrary even in the face of indisputable evidence."

The *City Press*, a paper of the first rank, read by the Members of the Corporation and in all City establishments, ably sums up the situation:—"As an example of assiduity and "perseverance, commend me to Mr. Patrick Chalmers—the champion of his late father's "memory as the originator of the Adhesive Penny Postage Stamp. Through great toil and "trouble he at last comes forth justified in truth that his revered parent was the now "admitted author of the *means* by which that great and universal benefit to all mankind has "been accomplished. The various University, Historical, and Philatelical Societies of the "United States (with scarcely an exception) have now cordially recognised James Chalmers, "and some of these Societies have elected Mr. P. Chalmers an 'Honorary Member' as an "acknowledgment that he has fully proved his claims on behalf of his late father. Let it "be hoped that the example may be followed in his own country, even though such a course "might prove embarrassing to not a few."

I have explained in my pamphlets that, having left Dundee over fifty years ago and passed much of the interval abroad, it was only through letters which appeared in the Dundee Press upon the demise of Sir Rowland Hill that my attention was drawn to this matter, of which up till then I knew little or nothing.

I annex contents of the pamphlet last published; and now, when using one of the two thousand millions of Adhesive Stamps yearly issued in this country alone, let me hope that you may at times bestow a thought or pass a word, in or out of Parliament, to the memory of the unrewarded and deserving man who, by his timely counsel, saved and has carried out in practice, to the incalculable benefit of the revenue and of the nation, the great scheme of Penny Postage Reform.

Yours very respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,
*F.R.Hist.Soc.*

WIMBLEDON,
*March*, 1887.
*Also* ORIENTAL CLUB,
HANOVER SQUARE.

"*Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee.*" Third Edition.

EFFINGHAM WILSON & Co., Royal Exchange.

# CONTENTS.

## PART FIRST.



## PART SECOND.



## PART THIRD.

### Opinions from the Press, Fourth Series.



## PART FOURTH.

### Success in the United States of America.



## APPENDIX.



*** *A copy of the Pamphlet will be cheerfully sent you if desired.*

March 1887

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

SIR,

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The position may be further summed up in the words of two of the City papers, specially what may be termed the "official journals" of the London Corporation and the City Companies. The *Metropolitan* writes: "Mr. Patrick Chalmers has, after many years of "uphill fighting, proved conclusively that the indispensable Postage Stamp was the inven-"tion of his late father, James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, and has procured further "evidence in support of his contention. It appears that Sir Rowland Hill is in no way to "be considered the originator of a low and uniform rate of postage." Again: "For so

" many years have successive generations been taught that the Penny Postage System was " the invention of Sir Rowland Hill, that it is a difficult matter to convince people to the " contrary even in the face of indisputable evidence."

The *City Press*, a paper of the first rank, read by the Members of the Corporation and in all City establishments, ably sums up the situation:—" As an example of assiduity and " perseverance, commend me to Mr. Patrick Chalmers—the champion of his late father's " memory as the originator of the Adhesive Penny Postage Stamp. Through great toil and " trouble he at last comes forth justified in truth that his revered parent was the now " admitted author of the *means* by which that great and universal benefit to all mankind has " been accomplished. The various University, Historical, and Philatelical Societies of the " United States (with scarcely an exception) have now cordially recognised James Chalmers, " and some of these Societies have elected Mr. P. Chalmers an ' Honorary Member ' as an " acknowledgment that he has fully proved his claims on behalf of his late father. Let it " be hoped that the example may be followed in his own country, even though such a course " might prove embarrassing to not a few."

I have explained in my pamphlets that, having left Dundee over fifty years ago and passed much of the interval abroad, it was only through letters which appeared in the Dundee Press upon the demise of Sir Rowland Hill that my attention was drawn to this matter, of which up till then I knew little or nothing.

I annex contents of the pamphlet last published; and now, when using one of the two thousand millions of Adhesive Stamps yearly issued in this country alone, let me hope that you may at times bestow a thought or pass a word, ~~in or out of Parliament~~, to the memory of the unrewarded and deserving man who, by his timely counsel, saved and has carried out in practice, to the incalculable benefit of the revenue and of the nation, the great scheme of Penny Postage Reform.

Yours very respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,
*F.R.Hist.Soc.*

1, Mayfield Road, Wimbledon,
*March*, 1887.

"*Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee.*" Third Edition.

EFFINGHAM WILSON & Co., Royal Exchange.

# CONTENTS.

## PART FIRST.



## PART SECOND.



## PART THIRD.

### Opinions from the Press, Fourth Series.



## PART FOURTH.

### Success in the United States of America.



## APPENDIX.



*** *A copy of the Pamphlet will be cheerfully sent you if desired.*

FURTHER recognitions in favour of James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, include, amongst many other communications and Press notices, Official Resolutions to that effect on the part of:—

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| *The Chicago Philatelic Society* | *Chicago, Ill.* |
| *The Pomeroy* ,, ,, | *Toledo, Ohio.* |
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| *The Clan Cameron No 7. O. S. C.* | *Providence, New Jersey.* |

*Wimbledon, March,* 1887.

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| *The Denver Stamp Collectors League* | *Denver, Colorado.* |
| *The Clan Cameron No 7. O.S.C.* | *Providence, Rhode Island.* |

Wimbledon, April, 1887.

Wrapper

48

1 Mayfield Road,
Wimbledon, March 17th 1884

Dear Sir,

Your esteemed letter of 3rd Inst is to hand, the perusal of which has afforded me much pleasure, while my appreciative thanks are further due to you for finding time to write me at all, aware as I am of the many calls upon your time and attention.

I am glad you have received my various communications with satisfaction, and am more especially pleased with your observations on the subject of my late father's portrait. The conclusions you arrive at with respect to the nature of the man are confirmed by everything I have ever heard or known respecting him - and in quoting these observations at any time, as in some home instances where they will be welcomed, I will refrain from quoting your name, upon which I have already drawn so freely. A child-like innocence & confidence

in what any one chose to tell him or indeed his characteristic, a trait artfully made use of in the case in point, and with results which have been my greatest difficulty to overcome. It is hard, indeed to have to lead to prove a man to have been a benefactor against his own determined opinion & even expressions to the contrary.

The kind reception my statements have met with on your side and the pointed action taken by your Societies in consequence have re-acted most favorably upon my efforts on this side. Even Sunder has been moved to something like a desire to know what it is all about, a locality where not three people outside the newspaper offices have yet condescended to read a line I have published. Consequently the "Advertiser" has favoured its readers with a portrait (!) and biography of S. C., taken, let history note it, from your Colorado "Stamp". I send you a copy. The other paper, the "Courier" or "Weekly News", has also come forward in a "notice" which I enclose, and which

drew from me a letter, copy also enclosed. You will see there is not much harmony between me and Dundee. After the passing of the "Resolution" of the Town Council in March, 1883, it was intimated to me that if I liked to present a painting of my father's likeness to their Picture Gallery of Dundee notables (presented by relatives of rich nobodies) influence would be used to get the painting placed amongst the illustrious collection - an intimation to which I replied, in courteous terms but to the effect that I would see them d - d first. That the value of any such memorial depended upon such having been the gift of the townsmen, and if the town thought otherwise, any memorial of their townsman might, as far as I was concerned, remain "continuous by its absence". The Provost was of opinion that if the town was to find memorials of all their great men, they must begin with "Keillor" of Mar= malade fame. (a fact.) So there the matter has remained - till now, that I have made Dundee famous without their

helps, the stimulus from abroad is awakening some sort of idea that "something must be done."

But I am told that nothing ever will be done until some Lord, or at least some Member of Parliament "takes me up", tho' London is the most radical town in the kingdom, indeed republican on paper. So I have drawn up a short history of the matter, copy herewith, to be laid before a hundred or two members of the Legislature in the hope of picking up a stray M.P. at least, if not a Lord, to take some interest in the subject. Where no political advantage is in prospect, such public men however will be very backward in running against the popular delusion, not yet admitted to be a delusion by their deity, the "Times."

The City Corporation have got into trouble fast now, being on their trial before a Select Committee of the House of Commons for getting up bogus meetings of "the inhabitants of London districts" in favour of themselves as against any reform. —

the speakers, the "inhabitants", & the reporters being all provided & paid for by the Corporation. While nobody doubts they did this, besides hiring gangs of roughs to break up meetings on the other side, everybody laughs at the "clever" dodges – just as a good many laugh at their putting up a statue to an acknowledged humbug in order to turn an enterprising citizen into an Alderman. The fact is the Corporation is a fair representative of the feeble & mercantile morality at large, from neither of which have I much to expect in the way of rectification. –

Many magazines, including that from Texas, reach me from your side, in which every kind recognition is afforded me, as from good friends and dealers in your Philatelic world. While intending upon your from time to time with any fresh matter I may have to communicate, you will not, of course, feel yourself called upon to say much in return. What I send you is sent as to a home of record, to the most likely address in all the world where the history & events of my misfortune

helps, the stimulus from abroad is awakening some sort of idea that "something must be done."

But I am told that nothing ever will be done until some Lord, or at least some Member of Parliament "takes me up", tho' Dundee is the most radical town in the kingdom, indeed republican on paper. So I have drawn up a short history of the matter, copy herewith, to be laid before a hundred or two members of the Legislature in the hope of picking up a stray M.P. at least, if not a Lord, to take some interest in the subject. Where no political advantage is in prospect, such public men however will be very backward in running against the popular delusion, not yet admitted to be a delusion by their deity, the "Times."

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will find a welcome & a place of abode
perhaps some day to see the light when
all is darkness with me as both of us —
darkness here, but light in the world of
honest men. -

Believe me
Yours very faithfully
P. Chatmers
Hon: Member,
Chicago Phil: Soc:

Mr. Tiffany
St. Louis

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.

April 8th 1887

Dear Sir

I see a letter depreciating me has appeared in the March issue of the Philatelic Journal of America under the signature of Major Evans, R.A., but practically drawn up by Mr Pearson Hill, same is practically the same having already appeared under different aspects here some time back. Published under the name of some apparently impartial backer — as such is more dangerous & effective than if under the name of the principal concerned.

I have accordingly drawn up a reply, sent to Mr Mekeel, which I make no doubt he will equally publish in his next. —

We are practically in a state of civil war here, so my circular letter sent you has been sent to no one in or out of Parliament. Some 400 barons have gone to your side, with the enclosed list of formal recognitions. I have now a large American correspondence.

With our best regards

I remain

Yours faithfully

Pat. Chalmers

Hon. Member
Chicago & North
Phil: Soc: &
Penny Stamp.
Coll: League.

L. K. Tiffany Esq.
St. Louis

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.

May 6th 1884

My Dear Sir

You are already aware of the general recognition I have obtained for my late father's name on your side of the Atlantic - and now you will join me in the satisfaction I derive in finding that the truth is becoming equally manifest on the Continent of Europe, where, however, the difference of language presents a serious obstacle to my obtaining anything like the same quick and general recognition as with you. -

I have just received, however, from a dealer in Paris the enclosed "James Chalmers Packet" of Postage stamps, with a letter written in good English, congratulating me upon the success obtained for my work in the rights of which he is in full accord with me, and which he will do his best to make known by means of the James Chalmers printed packet. M. Simon further gives me the addresses of some chief Philatelists including Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, - also of the "but one Philatelic Magazine" in France, to which I might send the letters & biography of J. C. -

In the absence of any probable further attention at home at present, here

then, is a fresh field wherein to work, while my correspondence with your side continues large, animated, & interesting.—

I ask your acceptance of Mr. Simian's pocket, not for its intrinsic value, but as the first-fruits of Continental recognition to one who was the first to recognise me on your side. I have asked for many more pockets, which will be received with delight & encouragement by my many friends on your side.

Legislation & our Parliamentary institutions here have quite broken down, & everything in a ferment.—

Yours faithfully

Pat. Chalmers

S. R. Tiffany Esq
St Louis

P. S. O.

There seems no chance of the Committee of investigation agreeing upon any Report respecting the proceedings of the City Corporation in the matter of bogus meetings. Everybody knows they are guilty, but you will never get their friends & the papers to admit that, any more than they will admit other matters which the Corporation wishes not to be ventilated. -

May 10. 1887

11th paper

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

*To the Editor of the "STAMP & COIN GAZETTE."*

SIR,

In a copy of your Gazette which has just reached me, I read that the "Philatelic Record" of London, a paper which you describe as being the organ of a Society of which Mr. Pearson Hill is a member, continues "to ridicule the claims of Mr. Chalmers but has produced no proof in favor of Mr. Hill." As, however, there may be those who attach more or less importance to the animadversions of the "Philatelic Record," permit me shortly to recall the situation.

On my part, I have proved to the satisfaction of every impartial man who has read my case, and to that of many once my opponents, the invention in the month of August, 1834, of the adhesive stamp for postage purposes by my late father. On the other side, there is no pretence of proof that such was at any period the invention of Sir Rowland Hill. After investigation by the two leading biographical authorities of the day, to one of which body Mr. Pearson Hill himself was the first to appeal, the verdict has in both cases been given in my favor, and the date admitted and confirmed.

Further, while the letters of James Chalmers to London urging the adoption of this plan eighteen months before the Penny Postage Bill was introduced into Parliament

are on record, it is on the other hand, officially recorded on the 5th July, 1839, when that Bill was introduced into Parliament that the plan of Mr. Rowland Hill was "absolutely in all cases" the use of the impressed stamp, and for which alone a "power" was asked.

Thus was James Chalmers both the *inventor* and *proposer* of the adhesive postage stamp.

It is usual amongst reasonable men, when an award or awards are given against them, to accept same, it may be with regret, but yet to retire with dignity from an untenable position. Not so here. First in one journal, the statements in which have been officially repudiated by H.M. Post Office and since defunct, and now in this "Philatelic Record" my opponents keep up what can only be termed the despairing cries of a sinking and lost cause. And with what result? That I have been compelled to shew the whole system of Sir Rowland Hill from beginning to end to have been one of appropriating as his own the prior proposals of other men, and of omitting to notice what would have betrayed this wholesale system of plagiarism. Well may his shade exclaim, "Save me from my friends!"—who, by denying to James Chalmers his undoubted rights have brought about so painful a historical record.

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Honorary Member of the Chicago, Newton, Jamestown, Toledo, and Denver Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,

*May 10th*, 1887.

P.S.—Whatever may be the opinion of the "Philatelic Record," in other Philatelic quarters both at home and abroad James Chalmers is now widely recognised as having been the originator of the adhesive postage stamp. A home authority of ~~wide~~ much experience who not a month ago was a firm believer in Rowland Hill now writes me :—"I am extremely gratified to receive these pamphlets of yours, being now quite convinced that Rowland Hill never invented the Adhesive Stamp, and that the money granted and raised by public subscription, instead of being used for canonizing the man who traded on other people's ideas, should have been used in a manner that would have benefited the noble minds who found Rowland Hill the materials he worked upon. I think in bringing the facts under the notice of stamp collectors you are laying the foundation of a future time when every one who uses a postage stamp will think of the man who gave it us and not of the man who pirated the idea."

I venture to say that, could the members of the London Philatelic Society be persuaded to read the same pamphlets, they would as a body arrive at the same conclusions, and, following the precedent of H.M. Post Office, would repudiate the statements put forward in the "Philatelic Record."

P.C.

*May 12th.* 1887

FURTHER recognitions in favour of James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, include, amongst many other communications and Press notices, Official Resolutions to that effect on the part of:—

| | |
|---|---|
| *The Chicago Philatelic Society* | *Chicago, Ill.* |
| *The Pomeroy* ,, ,, | *Toledo, Ohio.* |
| *The St. Louis* ,, ,, | *St. Louis, Missouri.* |
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| *The Newton* ,, ,, | *Newtonville, Mass.* |
| *The Jamestown* ,, ,, | *Jamestown, New York.* |
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Wimbledon, May, 1887.

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*The Jamestown* ,, ,,

*The Charleston* ,, ,,

*The Denver Stamp Collectors League*

*The Clan Cameron No 7. O.S.C.*

Wimbledon, May, 1887.

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Press notices, Official Resolu-

*Chicago, Ill.*

*Toledo, Ohio.*

*St. Louis, Missouri.*

*Lansing, Michigan.*

*Newtonville, Mass.*

*Jamestown, New York.*

*Charleston, South Carolina.*

*Denver, Colorado.*

*Providence, Rhode Island.*

# Penny Postage Reform.

*To the Editor of the* "TIMES."

SIR,

In noticing the above in your to-day's Jubilee summary, you now properly and, no doubt, advisedly term same as having been a reform "advocated" by Rowland Hill—the delusion so long existing as to such having been an original idea on his part or first his proposal being at length dispelled.

But of what avail even to "advocate" such a reform if unable to show how same could be carried out in practice? "Why should we be called upon to pass this Bill," said its opponents, in July, 1839, "when no mortal being had the remotest conception of how it was to be carried into execution?" In attempting to show how this was to be done by making use of an impressed stamped wrapper or cover, Rowland Hill had distinctly failed. "This part of the subject must stand over," said the Government of the day; "it will require very great care and complicated arrangements to carry the plan into practical effect." But in this dilemma the advocates of the Adhesive Postage Stamp came forward in both Houses of Parliament and called for the adoption of that plan—a plan which the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and *Dictionary of National Biography* have both now decided, after special investigation initiated by Mr. Pearson Hill himself, to have been invented by James Chalmers in August, 1834, and sent by him to Mr. Wallace, Chairman of the Committee of 1837–38; also to Mr. Cole, Secretary to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, a year and a half before the Penny Postage Bill was introduced into Parliament.

Sir Henry Cole has bequeathed this plan of James Chalmers to the South Kensington Museum Library, and same has been published by me, as now in use.

"Let us have the adhesive stamp," said Mr. Wallace and others. That plan was ultimately adopted by Treasury Minute of 26th December, 1839—the Penny Postage scheme was saved—the engines were supplied to the immovable craft—all went well and has gone well to this day. Indispensable then, indispensable it remains to the trade and commerce, not alone of the nation, but of the world.

These facts here briefly sketched are proved more at length in my publications, and the services of James Chalmers are already widely recognised, including formal Resolutions to that effect by nine American Philatelic Societies. I could send you half a dozen magazines published there, here, and in Paris, containing his biography as postal reformer and inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

Now, Sir, I ask is it creditable to the impartiality of the *Times* that the services of this public benefactor should remain wholly ignored in its columns? a question which may be extended to others of the London press as to that of our great commercial centres where the name of Rowland Hill alone is known in connection with the reform which he "advocated," but could not carry out. For having so advocated this reform let Sir Rowland Hill have his meed of credit—but I trust that the name of James Chalmers, of Dundee, who devised and urged upon the proper authorities the plan by which the Penny Postage scheme was saved and has been carried out, will also be made known to his countrymen through your columns.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,
*F.R. Hist. Soc., and Honorary Member of Seven American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,
*June* 21*st*, 1887.

+ Also, by the Inventor of the Pendrefelis Postcard
Paris

IN addition to a numerous body of the London, Provincial, Scottish, and American Press, Historical Societies, University, and State Libraries, *L' Union des Timbrophiles*, of Paris, and *Le Timbre Levantin*, of Constantinople, the following Philatelic and other Societies have passed Special Resolutions in Recognition of James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp:-

| | |
|---|---|
| *The Dundee Town Council* | *Dundee.* |
| *The Chicago Philatelic Society* | *Chicago, Ill.* |
| *The Pomeroy* ,, ,, | *Toledo, Ohio.* |
| *The St. Louis* ,, ,, | *St. Louis, Missouri.* |
| *The Lansing* ,, ,, | *Lansing, Michigan.* |
| *The Newton* ,, ,, | *Newtonville, Mass.* |



OVER.

| | |
|---|---|
| *The Charleston* ,, ,, | *Charleston, South Carolina.* |
| *The Black Hawk* ,, ,, | *Rock Island, Illinois.* |
| *The Belle City* ,, ,, | *Racine, Wisconsin.* |
| *The Denver Stamp Collectors League* | *Denver, Colorado.* |
| *The Clan Cameron No 7. O.S.C.* | *Providence, Rhode Island.* |
| *La Société Interationale de Timbrologie* | *Paris.* |
| *The VELT POST- organ of the International Philatelic Museum* | *Vienna.* |
| *The Bayerischer Philatelisten-Verein* | *Munich.* |
| *The Luther Philatelic Society* | *Luther, Michigan.* |
| *The Dundee Burns Club* | *Dundee.* |
| *The American Philatelic Association* | *Convention at Chicago.* |

*Wimbledon, Sept. 1887.*

*The Acco Milford Philatelic Society*

13th paper 6

WIMBLEDON,

*October*, 1887.

SIR,

Herewith I beg to hand you copy of a short publication demonstrating the wide and powerful recognition now obtained in behalf of JAMES CHALMERS as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

I trust with confidence that the Press of the United States will be good enough to give circulation to the tenor of the Resolutions arrived at by the American Philatelic Association, and asking the favour of your perusal and support,

I remain,

Very respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Honorary Member of Eight American Philatelic Societies, and of the "Société Internationale de Timbrologie," of Paris.*

13 paper e

*The following important Letter has reached me too late for insertion in the pages of the pamphlet :—*

22, Helenenstrasse,
Baden-Wien,
*October 5th*, 1887.

Dear Sir,

With the greatest pleasure I have received the pamphlets sent by you.

Please to accept my hearty and sincere thanks for same, and at the same time allow me to congratulate you on having so clearly proved your revered father's claim on the honour of inventing the adhesive stamp.

Having carefully studied your publications, I came to the fullest conviction that your late father was the real originator of the adhesive stamp—not Sir Rowland Hill.

I have written two great articles for the greatest and leading Philatelic journal of Germany*—the official organ of twenty-six Philatelic societies—and at the same time I send you the beginning—the other numbers I will send you after they are printed.

It will be a pleasurable duty with me to do all in my power to correct the injustice, so long continued, by just statement of fact.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
(*Signed*) CHARLES GUNDEL,
*Lieut.-Colonel.*

Patrick Chalmers, Esq.,
Wimbledon.

* The "*Briefmarken Journal*," Leipzig.

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
October 28.th - 1884

Dear Sir

Under a pressure of work I can only now acknowledge and much thank you for your esteemed of yesterday, meanwhile sending you Sept. issue of the Western Philatelist which to you will prove of much interest, I can see.

Other productions of my own will soon reach you. Paris, Vienna, Leipzig & Berlin, send me interesting recognitions. -

Yours faithfully
Pet. Chalmers
Hon. Member of the
Société Internationale de
Timbrologie, Paris

C. J. Palethorpe Esq
Derby

Nov. 1887

# PENNY POSTAGE REFORM.

## THE "TIMES," THE "ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA," AND THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

### The following Letter was published in the "Whitehall Review" of October 8th, 1885.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Distinguished among your contemporaries for the liberal manner in which you have already opened the columns of the WHITEHALL REVIEW to the admission of the fresh light now shed upon the above-named important subject, it is especially fitting that in the same columns should now first appear some account of the remarkable progress lately met with in confirmation of what you have already permitted me to advance.

First, then, as respects the originator of the proposal of a low and uniform penny postage, I have already maintained that such was not an original conception on the part of Sir Rowland Hill as so handed down by him and hitherto understood, but that such was only a borrowed proposal published and worked out by him. I have further pointed to the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, as having been the man who first proposed this radical change in our postal system some years before 1837. And what do we now find? Mr. Roberts died the other day, in his eighty-sixth year, and there now appears in the columns of the *Times* of the 30th ult. an obituary notice of this postal reformer, confirming what I have stated, and to which I beg reference.

Permit me now to supplement this obituary notice of the *Times* by some extracts from the statements of Mr. Roberts himself, taken from that manifesto of his in which he thanks over two hundred kind contributories, from the Royal Bounty Fund downwards, in aid of his declining years, and which list includes such names as those of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. H. J. Gladstone, Lord Derby, Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Bright, Mr. Rathbone, Lord Dalhousie, the Duke of Westminster, Sir Thomas Brassey, Sir Edward Baines, Mr. J. Carvell Williams, several Bishops and Members of Parliament, &c. Mr. Roberts states: "The aged writer has pleaded and petitioned for our useful penny postage and other postal reductions and conveniences more than ten years before the patriotic Sir Rowland Hill came out to assist in the difficult conflict. He repeatedly petitioned and memorialised the Post Office on the subject"—further corresponding thereon with leading men of the day. Mr. Roberts goes on to notice the appointment in the year 1835 of the "Commission of Post Office Inquiry," with the proposal put forward in the Fifth Report as respects a low and uniform postage on Circulars, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters, and charged by sheet, recommended by that Report to be charged by weight, and prepaid by impressed stamp, at a uniform rate of a penny the

half-ounce, irrespective of distance—a proposal left wholly unnoticed in any of the writings of Sir Rowland Hill, though there is the clearest evidence of this Report having come under his cognisance. To the proposal of a uniform penny postage on letters, as already urged by Mr. Roberts, and which idea, as he further states, "was well known around the Post Office and other high places," add the principles set forth and recommended in this Fifth Report, and we have, it will be seen, the exact scheme of Sir Rowland Hill from beginning to end, but put forward by him, in the main, as of his own conception, and hitherto erroneously supposed to have been original. (See obituary articles in the *Times*, *Athenæum*, and press in general.) This Report was of date April, 1836. Mr. Roberts goes on: "Soon afterwards Sir Rowland Hill took up the penny idea, and extended its usefulness. He worked perseveringly for reform; but it should be remembered that it is not right to honour him as the originator of the penny system. The plan had been drawn and he did the work." Again: "Sir Rowland Hill was nobly rewarded for his ability and perseverance in carrying out a scheme, important portions of which had been suggested and recommended by others. He deserved honour as an able *copyist* of other men's plans; but it was not fair to honour and reward him as the inventor of the uniform penny postage system. It is really no honour to his memory that he grasped to himself all the rewards and honours of the postal reforms of those days."

Such is the manifesto of this remarkable man, now truly recorded in the *Times* as having been the pioneer of postal reform—a field in which he met with many coadjutors prior to the advent upon the scene of Sir Rowland Hill.

Next, with respect to the adhesive postage stamp, claimed by me as having been the invention and proposal of my late father, James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, I am now enabled to point to vol. 19 of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," lately published, where, under the article "Postage Stamps," my father is fully recognised as having been the inventor of this stamp in the month of August, 1834—a decision arrived at after a lengthened investigation of the respective statements put forward on the subject by myself and by Mr. Pearson Hill. And this, notwithstanding that I have been at a manifest disadvantage through the entire correspondence betwixt my late father and Sir Rowland Hill being solely in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill, with a copy of which he has not consented to furnish me, such correspondence being, I maintain, public, as being official, not private, property.

You are aware that the articles in this standard work are drawn up by learned experts upon the respective subjects dealt with, and edited under a strong sense of responsibility to the high standing of the work itself and to history. The decision arrived at, consequently, will now be accepted in all impartial quarters as conclusive. The steps by which this invention of Mr. James Chalmers became ultimately incorporated, through his initiation, in the reformed penny postage system have been already recorded in your columns.

Mr. Roberts emphatically gives his testimony that "it was a thoughtful, calculating, unassuming, patriotic postal reformer of Dundee, of the name of James Chalmers," to whom we are indebted for the adhesive stamp, who, "already honoured by his neighbours, will be honoured by future generations."

Having left Dundee over fifty years ago, and passed much of the interval abroad, it was only through letters which appeared in the Dundee press upon the demise of Sir Rowland Hill that my attention was drawn to this matter.

I remain, Sir, your obliged Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

F.R. Hist. Soc.

Wimbledon, *October 3rd*, 1885.

# OBITUARY NOTICE.

## From the "Times" of 30th September, 1885.

"A few days ago there passed away a man whose name deserves remembrance in this column—the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, one of the earliest, if not the very earliest, advocates of postal reform. He was born in March, 1800, at Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, where his father held the charge of the Congregational Church, and had therefore completed his 85th year. He began to preach when only 19 years of age, so that his ministerial career extended over 66 years. In 1827 he was ordained as his father's assistant, and at his death, in 1834, he succeeded him in his charge. Already, in 1819 and 1820, he had gained the medals of the London Cymmodorion and of the Ruthin Eisteddfod by essays on social subjects, and another prize of 10 guineas at the Eisteddfod at Denbigh. In 1832 he was highly complimented by the Eisteddfod at Beaumaris for an essay on agriculture, but the prize was withheld because its author advocated the doctrine of free trade. Several years prior to the last-named date he had pleaded before many associations for one low and uniform rate of postage, both inland and foreign, addressing letters on the subject to the Welsh Cymreigyddion societies in 1824, and to the authorities at the General Post Office in 1829, and again in 1836. He also advocated a cheap parcel post. He memorialised the Treasury in favour of a reduction of the tax upon newspapers. In 1840 he started the first cheap periodical in his native country, which proved the pioneer of other cheap monthlies. Nearly 50 years ago he argued in favour of some well-defined system of co-operation between landlords and tenants. Upwards of 70 years ago he attended the very first missionary meeting held in North Wales. In 1824 he undertook a mission to various cities and towns, in order to plead for the removal of Jewish and Catholic disabilities, the last of which he lived to see long swept away. Some 36 years ago he carried on a correspondence with Lord John Russell, in which he advocated a large extension of the suffrage, and especially of its extension to women who were ratepayers. For more than 60 years his voice was heard protesting against the waste of town drainage, against the pollution of our rivers, and the costliness of unhealthy sewers. He was one of the last survivors of the early members of the Peace Society. About three years ago Mr. Roberts received a grant of £50 from the Royal Bounty Fund, on the recommendation of Mr. Gladstone, in recognition of his services as a pioneer in the cause of social progress and especially of postal reform."

# WHO INVENTED UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE?

## DECLARATION of the TREASURY.

In support of the statements of the undersigned to the effect that the Penny Postage scheme was only a copy, the following fresh evidence is now offered :—

Extract from Treasury Minute, of date 11th March, 1864, conferring upon Sir Rowland Hill, upon his retirement from active service, his full salary of £2,000 a year :

"My Lords do not forget that it has been by the powerful agency of the railway system that these "results have been rendered practicable. Neither do they enter into the question, as foreign to the occasion, "what honour may be due to those who, *before the development of the plans of Sir Rowland Hill, urged the "adoption of Uniform Penny Postage.*"

Here there is a distinct OFFICIAL confirmation of what has been advanced by the undersigned, that the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837, however energetically carried out by Sir Rowland Hill, along with others, was in itself nothing more than a disguised *réchauffée* from beginning to end of the prior proposals of other men.

WIMBLEDON, *November*, 1887. PATRICK CHALMERS.

Mr. J. K. Tiffany,

St. Louis,

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
November, 22. 1887

Dear Sir,

Yesterday I was favoured with your long and interesting letter having reference to certain communications you had received from Mr. Pearson Hill, as to which I had already been made acquainted by Mr. Wolcieffer of Chicago. - Having in the interval forwarded to Mr. W. copious replies under the impression same would be sent on to you, I will doubtless be held excused by you from now recapitulating same to you direct, especially as I will request Mr. Wolcieffer to send you what I have written should he see no objection to the contrary.

In two long letters of 20 foolscap quarto pages each, I think, I have said what I trust will efface from your mind the sophistries, or worse, of Mr. Pearson Hill, and lead you to require from him "some tangible & business like statement before you can see your way to re-open before the St. Louis Society or the A.P.A. the decisions already arrived at."

In a third letter, I sent Mr. Wolcieffer a further most potent communication in a proof-sheet of a chapter, headed "Modern Instruction" intended by me for publication in one of my pamphlets, and which will explain to you the correspondence between myself and Mr. Pearson Hill in 1880 not published by me, and as to which he has thought fit to bring against me a charge of "concealing and garbling letters." Having read this, you will be in a position to judge how far I have done any injustice to Mr. Pearson Hill, or can be looked upon as open to his animadversions on the point. You will further be better able to judge as to the means used here to puff Sir Rowland Hill - as also to judge of the sort of man I have had to deal with in this controversy. -

From my new pamphlet about being published here, a duplicate copy of which is herewith, you will be glad to see the progress I am making on the Continent. One writer especially, Chas. von Gundel of Baden-Vienna, has taken up the subject very keenly, and after going through all my pamphlets from 1882, and reading Sir Rowland Hill's "Life," checking my statements therewith, writes me just to hand - "But your pamphlets interest me much - there is in all truth and clearness. I have the fullest conviction of the justice of your claims, and I am not very credulous, because I have much enough worked in the "Kriegsarchive" in Vienna in historical matters and know how often the truth is falsified. In the "Life of Sir Rowland Hill" is much of forgery - that is so clear as the sun, and you have a great merit for unveiling that important matter."

Again, "It is incomprehensible to me how any one can doubt that your father was the real inventor of the postage stamp. The evidence both as to the invention & proposal on the part of your father is so clear, while on the part of Sir Rowland Hill there is no evidence as to the invention - he in fact invented nothing in connection with the reformed scheme. The evidence that the adhesive stamp formed no part of his original proposals or intention is equally clear. His pretensions to the contrary are mere pretence and afterthought." - - - "When I will finish still an antagonist I can now due serve him with the monstrous "Life" in my hands." -

Since closing my pamphlet, I get an official recognition from the Frankfort Philatelic Society. But the most important is now the Glasgow Post Office Magazine, copies of which are being freely taken, of 1 & 2 hundred in all the chief Post offices. The proof sheets of "The Lucern Head" were sent by the Postmaster to London before he moved publish it - but to whom I am not informed. -

Yours faithfully, Pat. Chalmers.

WIMBLEDON,

*November*, 1887.

SIR,

Understanding that certain documents, consisting of old newspapers containing letters from himself and friends in disparagement of me, and of partial extracts of letters written by my late father to his, have been transmitted to you or to your locality by Mr. PEARSON HILL, permit me to acquaint you that these papers have already been discussed here in the Press to the utter discomforture of and retirement of Mr. PEARSON HILL, having also been laid by him before the compilers of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," whose decision he invoked, and dismissed by them as irrelevant and unfounded.

What is wanted on the part of Mr. PEARSON HILL is to do as I have done—to prove *when*, if ever, his father invented the adhesive postage stamp, and to publish his case before all the world, not simply to hand about in a private manner a parcel of old letters vituperating me.

Further, let him, if he can, set aside the official declarations in Parliament, proving that this stamp formed no part

of the original proposals or intention of Sir Rowland Hill; let him convert his own friends here who now admit that Sir Rowland Hill did *not* invent the adhesive postage stamp, before carrying his now solitary opinions and his stale papers abroad. Let him produce in its entirety the correspondence betwixt his father and mine, at same time explaining by what right and with what object that official correspondence of 1840 was abstracted from the Treasury, not simply just such "extract" as he has hitherto consented to furnish: let him, in short, come forward like a man and publicly produce his case if he has one, in place of following the well-known example of the lawyer who instructed his counsel: "No case, —abuse the other side."

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Dear Sir

Yours to hand. P. Hill is too vain to put his name to a pamphlet as then the proofs would also read mine, being so far privately coached into considering me a lunatic or a traducer.

P.C.

4th September

November 1887

WIMBLEDON,

*November*, 1887.

SIR,

Understanding that certain documents, consisting of old newspapers containing letters from himself and friends in disparagement of me, and of partial extracts of letters written by my late father to his, have been transmitted to you or to your locality by Mr. PEARSON HILL, permit me to acquaint you that these papers have already been discussed here in the Press to the utter discomforture of and retirement of Mr. PEARSON HILL, having also been laid by him before the compilers of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," whose decision he invoked, and dismissed by them as irrelevant and unfounded.

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Yours faithfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

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14th paper G. Nov. 1887

WIMBLEDON,

*November*, 1887.

SIR,

In previous publications successfully vindicating the title of my father, the late JAMES CHALMERS, bookseller, Dundee, to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, the merit of which has been erroneously attributed to the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, I have accompanied my proofs with numerous articles from the Press in recognition of that title, including decisions in my favour on the part of the leading biographical works of the day, after special investigations initiated by Mr. PEARSON HILL.

I have now the satisfaction of laying before you, in the present Pamphlet, some account of the wide recognition my father's name and services have further met with in America and on the Continent, more especially inviting your attention to the proceedings of the American Philatelic Association, or Convention of Philatelists from all parts of the United States, just held at Chicago.

Asking the favour of your perusal and support,

I remain, SIR,

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Hon. Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris; and of Eight American Philatelic Societies*

[over

I take this opportunity to call your attention to the Magazine just issued from the Glasgow Post Office, entitled "The Queen's Head," compiled solely by writers holding official positions in that important establishment, second to none out of London. This Magazine contains an article "The Queen's Head," emphatically recognising JAMES CHALMERS as the man to whom the nation is indebted for that boon which saved the Penny Postage scheme, and on which revolve the postal systems, with the social and commercial intercourse, of the world. This article will be read throughout the entire postal and telegraphic service of the country, and, coming from such a quarter, affords a recognition of the highest value and significance.

P. C.

WIMBLEDON,

*November*, 1887.

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P. C.

* Aird and Coghill, Glasgow ; J. Menzies, Edinburgh.

Nov. 1887

# The Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund.

## WHY SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE FUND DO NOT COME IN.

*To the* RIGHT HONOURABLE

POLYDORE DE KEYSER,

LORD MAYOR, *Mansion House.*

MY LORD,

At the late Meeting of the Trustees and supporters of the above-named Fund, held at Mansion House, and at which your Lordship presided, one or more of the speakers complained of the paucity of subscriptions—neither the commercial community subscribed as they ought to do, nor did the *employés* of the Post Office come forward any better, the laxity being more especially marked on the part of the post-offices in Scotland.

Permit me to draw your Lordship's attention for a moment to what may be looked upon as laying at the foundation of this laxity and indifference towards a Fund of itself, as now constituted, well deserving of support.

It is now no secret that the late Sir Rowland Hill, however great his services, invented nothing whatever, but took all his proposals from prior sources. The adhesive postage stamp more especially, the living symbol to men of the present day of the reformed postal system, is well known to many, if not to the Meeting over which your Lordship presided, to have been the invention and proposal of another man. The leading biographical works of the day, the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*, have decided, after a special investigation initiated by Mr. Pearson Hill himself, that this adhesive stamp was the invention of James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, a well-known postal reformer, in the month of August, 1834, years before Sir Rowland Hill entered the field of Post Office reform. An influential section of the London Press, including such papers as the *Metropolitan* and the *City Press*, has well circulated this information amongst the very establishments complained of at the Meeting as giving no support, and to whose members, it appears, a further special appeal is about to be made. City houses are thus becoming acquainted with the facts, and when appealed to in the name of Rowland Hill simply withhold their money.

The same with the Post Office servants—they also begin to know the facts. More especially do those in Scotland now know that Rowland Hill has usurped a merit belonging to one of their own countrymen, and they are repelled, not induced, as your Committee or Trustees vainly suppose, by the very mention of his name.

In proof of this, I refer your Lordship to a Magazine, entitled "The Queen's Head," which has just emanated from the Glasgow Post Office, the articles in which publication are solely contributed by writers holding official positions in that establishment. The principal article in that Magazine is devoted to an exposure of Sir Rowland Hill's usurpation of the merit of the adhesive postage stamp, the invention and proposal of their countryman already named, upon whose brains, and taking advantage of his own official position, Sir Rowland Hill has flourished.

Over 2,000 copies of this Magazine have already been ordered by the various Post Offices in chief throughout the country, and the facts are known and discussed throughout the entire Post Office and Telegraphic services.

Can it, therefore, be a matter of surprise that subscriptions to a Rowland Hill Memorial Fund do not come in, either from City establishments or from the *employés* of the Post Office?

The remedy, however, is clear and simple.

In a correspondence with your Lordship's predecessor, Alderman Sir John Staples,* I have already shown that the Committee, or some of them, of the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Fund have admitted in a most practical manner their sense of the non-originality of Sir Rowland Hill while continuing to ask the public for money under his name and prestige as the inventor of the penny postage scheme. The reply with which I was honoured by Lord Mayor Staples was to the effect that the money now being asked for was, not for Sir Rowland Hill, but "for the Post Office Benevolent Fund." Exactly so; then *why not say so?* Why not style themselves the Committee or Trustees of the Post Office Benevolent Fund? Why continue to flourish the name of Rowland Hill in the foreground of their proceedings with the hope of attracting subscriptions on the strength and prestige of a name hitherto popularly, but as that Committee has admitted erroneously, supposed to have been a great inventor? Is this dealing openly and candidly with the public while still concealing vital and essential facts? It is clear that from and after the period of these facts having become known to this Committee, had the Committee acquainted the subscribers and the public with what had transpired, no further subscriptions would have been obtained by them under the name of Rowlend Hill to any fund whatever. What would your Lordship and these Aldermen and Magistrates say, and how would they deal with an individual or public company so obtaining money from the public? And yet here we have this delusive proceeding going on year after year under the very roof of the Mansion House itself!

Here, then, my Lord, is your remedy--clear in equity as in policy. Omit the name of Rowland Hill which is now found not to answer—be open and candid with the public and with the Post Office *employés*—style yourselves what you are, the Committee or Trustees of "The Post Office Benevolent Fund," and the money will come in.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Mayor,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon, *November* 28*th*. 1887.

I may further mention that the name and services of James Chalmers as the man to whom we owe this adhesive postage stamp, which at a critical moment saved the Penny Postage scheme and has carried out same in practice, are already widely recognised abroad as well as at home. Not only at the late Convention at Chicago of Philatelists from all parts of the United States have special resolutions been brought forward and passed to that effect, but on the Continent, in Paris, in Munich, in Frankfort, in Vienna, in Berlin, in Constantinople and the Levant, influential sections of the Philatelic world, with their publications, have already recognised James Chalmers, as particularised in a fresh pamphlet now being published by me.

* *See* "Concealment Unveiled—A Tale of the Mansion House." (Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.) 1886.

14th paper d

WIMBLEDON,
*December*, 1887.

SIR,

Understanding that certain documents, consisting of old newspapers containing letters from himself and friends in disparagement of me, and of partial extracts of letters written by my late father to his, have been put into private circulation by Mr. PEARSON HILL, permit me to acquaint you that these papers have already been discussed in the Press to the utter discomforture and retirement of Mr. PEARSON HILL, having also been laid by him before the compilers of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," whose decision he invoked, and dismissed by them as irrelevant and unfounded.

What is wanted on the part of Mr. PEARSON HILL is to do as I have done—to prove *when*, if ever, his father invented the adhesive postage stamp, and to publish his case before all the world, not simply to hand about in a private manner a parcel of old letters vituperating me.

Further, let him set aside, if he can, the official declarations in Parliament, upon the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill in July, 1839, proving that this stamp formed no part of the original proposals or intention of Sir ROWLAND HILL, any pretensions to the contrary on whose part being mere pretext and afterthought bred of the success which had attended the invention and proposal of JAMES CHALMERS, sent by him to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London and to Mr. ROWLAND HILL eighteen months before the Bill was brought forward—a plan now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late Sir HENRY COLE, and as in use to this day. Let it also be explained why, in his "History of Penny Postage," Sir ROWLAND HILL *has wholly avoided any reference to these Parliamentary proceedings as respects the stamp.**

* See pages 17 to 20 "The Adhesive Postage Stamp in America, France, and Germany." Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange.

Further, let Mr. PEARSON HILL produce the copies in his possession of the letters of dates 3rd March, 1838, and 18th January, 1840, from Mr. ROWLAND HILL to JAMES CHALMERS, with the reply of the latter, not simply just such "extract" from the correspondence as he has hitherto consented to furnish, at same time explaining by what right and with what object this *official* correspondence of 1840 was removed from the Treasury. Let him, in short, come forward like a man, and in his own name publicly produce his case if he has one, in place of following a course of simply vituperating me. I am neither the lunatic nor the traducer represented by Mr. PEARSON HILL, but one who, for reasons of the most legitimate nature, has successfully exposed one of the shabbiest usurpations on record. Why I have not done so sooner is explained in my publications.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

P.S.—Perhaps Mr. PEARSON HILL or some of his Mansion House friends can also explain how it happens that I have been represented in the columns of several of the leading London papers as a person who "claims the invention of the *Penny Postage Scheme* for his father"—thereby rendering my claim as thus misrepresented, too ridiculous to obtain further attention.

14th paper c

FROM THE '*City Press*,' DECEMBER ,14TH, 1887.

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THE ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL AND BENEVOLENT FUND.

"The indefatigable Mr. Chalmers, in his laudable endeavours to secure the public recognition of his late father's services in connexion with the adhesive postage stamp, has addressed a letter to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, in which he gives reasons "why subscriptions to the fund do not come in." It has been admitted that the money asked for is not for a Sir Rowland Hill memorial, but for the Post Office Benevolent Fund, and that being so, Mr. Chalmers asks, why not say so? Why should not the committee style themselves simply the committee or trustees of the Post Office Benevolent Fund, and so gain the support of those who at present hold themselves aloof from the movement."

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See also "The Whitehall Review," "Metropolitan," "Dundee Advertizer" etc. Of the Glasgow Post Office Magazine, "The Queen's Head," exposing the plagiarisms of Sir Rowland Hill and vindicating the services of James Chalmers as originator of the adhesive postage stamp, over 4000 copies are now being eagerly read throughout the Post Office service. Yet a few gentlemen at the Mansion House, mostly ignorant of what has transpired, and quite indisposed to read anything on the subject, continue vainly endeavouring to collect money in the name of Rowland Hill.

P. C.

FROM THE "*City Press*" DECEMBER 28TH, 1887.

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# *THE INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.*

"ENCOURAGED by the success which has attended his efforts to convince the people of England that his father, and not Sir Rowland Hill, as generally supposed, was the originator of the adhesive postage stamp, Mr. Patrick Chalmers has lately taken steps to acquaint the Americans with his views on the subject, the consensus of opinion across the "erring pond" being unmistakably in favour of the claims thus urged. The Philatelic Association of America has declared in favour of Mr. Chalmers, and by resolution the members have expressed their appreciation of the untiring efforts he has made during the past few years, to cause his father's name to be associated with the invention to which properly enough so much importance is attached. In France and Germany similar success has attended his efforts. the associations in those countries, together with the Philatelic journals, recognizing the sincerity of the claims Mr. Chalmers puts forward with such untiring zeal. Effingham, Wilson & Co; of the Royal Exchange, publish a *brochure* containing a general *résumé* of the matters to which we have drawn attention."

Other papers write to the same effect- also Philatelic journals of Paris, Berlin, Leipzig, Vienna and Stockholm, with *Bric-a-Brac*, of London, and other Philatelic journals in the Provinces.

A second edition of the *brochure* above mentioned is now in the press, containing fresh matter of much interest bearing on this controversy.

Many thanks for your excellent notice. P. C.

FROM THE "*City Press*" DECEMBER 28TH, 1887.

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## *THE INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.*

"ENCOURAGED by the success which has attended his efforts to convince the people of England that his father, and not Sir Rowland Hill, as generally supposed, was the originator of the adhesive postage stamp, Mr. Patrick Chalmers has lately taken steps to acquaint the Americans with his views on the subject, the consensus of opinion across the herring pond" being unmistakably in favour of the claims thus urged. The Philatelic Association of America has declared in favour of Mr. Chalmers, and by resolution the members have expressed their appreciation of the untiring efforts he has made during the past few years, to cause his father's name to be associated with the invention to which properly enough so much importance is attached. In France and Germany similar success has attended his efforts. the associations in those countries, together with the Philatelic journals, recognizing the sincerity of the claims Mr. Chalmers puts forward with such untiring zeal. Effingham, Wilson & Co; of the Royal Exchange, publish a *brochure* containing a general *résumé* of the matters to which we have drawn attention."

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A second edition of the *brochure* above mentioned is now in the press, containing fresh matter of much interest bearing on this controversy.

Many thanks for your excellent notice. P. C.

IN addition to the many important Philatelic Journals at home, in America, and on the Continent, which have already published the Portrait of James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, *not* Sir Rowland Hill who usurped the credit, the same has now appeared in the pages of the following:—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *The Illustrites Briefmarken Journal,* | .... | .... | .... | *Leipzig.* |
| *L' Union des Timbrophiles,* | .... | .... | .... | *Paris.* |
| *The Western Philatelist,* | .... | .... | .... | *Chicago.* |
| *The Tidning for Frimarksamlare,* | .... | .... | .... | *Stockholm.* |

Wimbledon,
December 23rd, 1887.

P. C.

14th Proof

WIMBLEDON,

*January*, 1888.

SIR,

In previous publications successfully vindicating the title of my father, the late JAMES CHALMERS, bookseller, Dundee, to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, the merit of which has been erroneously attributed to the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, I have accompanied my proofs with numerous articles from the Press in recognition of that title, including decisions in my favour on the part of the leading biographical works of the day, after special investigations initiated by Mr. PEARSON HILL.

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Asking the favour of your perusal and support,

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Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Hon. Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris; and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

[OVER.

I take this opportunity to call your attention to the Magazine just issued from the Glasgow Post Office, entitled "The Queen's Head,"* compiled solely by writers holding official positions in that important establishment, second to none out of London. This Magazine contains an article "The Queen's Head," emphatically recognising JAMES CHALMERS as the man to whom the nation is indebted for that boon which saved the Penny Postage scheme, and on which revolve the postal systems, with the social and commercial intercourse, of the world. This article will be read throughout the entire postal and telegraphic service of the country, and, coming from such a quarter, affords a recognition of the highest value and significance.

P. C.

* Aird and Coghill, Glasgow; J. Menzies, Edinburgh.

Jan 188

The Keeper

In addition to a numerous body of the London, Provincial, Scottish, and American Press, historical and philatelic societies, the Encyclopædia Britannica and the Dictionary of National Biography, the leading biographical works of the day, have now recorded (after special investigation) the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, to have been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, *not* Sir Rowland Hill, who usurped the credit.—(See pamphlet, "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange).

# FROM THE "CITY PRESS,"

## 26th JANUARY.

"As an example of assiduity and perseverance commend me to Mr. Patrick Chalmers—the champion of his late father's memory as the originator of the adhesive penny postage stamp. Through great toil and trouble he at last comes forth justified in truth that his revered parent was the now admitted author of the *means* by which that great and universal benefit to all mankind has been accomplished. The various University, Historical, and Philatelical Societies of the United States (with scarcely an exception), have now cordially recognised James Chalmers, and some of these Societies have elected Mr. P. Chalmers an 'Honorary Member' as an acknowledgment that he has fully proved his claims on behalf of his late father. Let it be hoped that the example may be followed in his own country, even though such a course might prove embarrassing to not a few."

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[The above article on the part of what may be termed one of the "official journals" of the London Corporation and the City Companies, (another, the Metropolitan, having long warmly supported me) may well prove embarrassing to my opponents, if any such there now be—a feeling which will amount to dismay on the part of such Members of the Corporation, or of the press, as may be prevailed upon to read the short statement herewith.—P.C.]

February 1888

# The Originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

Extract from the "Roll of Eminent Burgesses of Dundee.

"*Published by Order of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council.*
"DUNDEE, 1887."

"1807—*August* 11*th*.

"JAMES CHALMERS, BOOKSELLER IN DUNDEE, WAS ADMITTED BURGESS BY THE "PRIVILEGE OF WILLIAM CHALMERS, MANUFACTURER, HIS FATHER.

"JAMES CHALMERS, second son of WILLIAM CHALMERS, manufacturer, Arbroath, was born in that town on the 2nd February, 1782. In early life he left Arbroath and migrated to Dundee, where he joined his elder brother William, who had for some time been established there as a bookseller. About the year 1822, and after a lengthened period of correspondence with the authorities, he effected a marked acceleration of the mail-coach system north of London, whereby a saving of two days on the double journey betwixt London and the chief towns of the North was brought about. In 1830 he added to his business the printing and publishing of a newspaper, *The Dundee Chronicle*, an undertaking soon rendered unsuccessful through the heavy taxation to which the Press was then subject, generally known as the 'Taxes on Knowledge,' the repeal of which Mr. CHALMERS consequently did his best to advocate. From 1832 onwards this subject, conjointly with that of Post Office reform, was one of the leading topics of the day, and in both Mr. CHALMERS was now able to take a prominent part by intercourse with such leading reformers as Mr. JOSEPH HUME, Mr. WALLACE, of Kelly, and others. In the month of August, 1834, he invented and produced in his premises the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes, printed on sheets of paper, afterwards gummed over by an adhesive substance, precisely on the principle now in use. On the appointment of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in November, 1837, upon the proposed uniform Penny Postage Scheme of Mr. ROWLAND HILL, Mr. CHALMERS laid his plan of the Adhesive Stamp before the Committee, the plan of Mr. HILL being that of an impressed stamped wrapper or cover. Again, in a communication of some length, under date 'Dundee, 8th February, 1838,' he further laid his plan before the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, charged with the support of the proposed reformed scheme. This document, now of historical interest, was bequeathed to the Library of the South Kensington Museum by the late SIR HENRY COLE, who was, at the period

of its receipt from Mr. CHALMERS, Secretary to the Committee. The plan of the impressed stamp, as introduced by Mr. ROWLAND HILL, not meeting the approval either of the House of Commons' Committee or the Government, that of the Adhesive Stamp was brought forward by its advocates in Parliament to solve the difficulty, and was ultimately adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839. The Mulready envelope proved a failure, but the Adhesive Stamp saved the Penny Postage scheme, and has gradually been adopted by all countries. The credit due to JAMES CHALMERS in this matter having been claimed for SIR ROWLAND HILL, much difficulty has been experienced in vindicating the title of the Dundee bookseller, but at length the leading biographical works in this country have acknowledged that title; while abroad, more especially in the United States of America, the name of JAMES CHALMERS is accepted as that of the original inventor. On the 1st January, 1846, Mr. CHALMERS was presented, in the Town Hall of Dundee, with a public testimonial in recognition of his services in improving the postal system, and as the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. On the 3rd March, 1883, the Town Council of Dundee formally passed the following resolution :—

> " 'That having had under consideration the pamphlet lately published on the subject of the Adhesive Stamp, the Council are of opinion that it 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.' " *

" In the course of his career Mr. CHALMERS served in many positions of importance in the Town Council of Dundee, and in the public institutions of the town. Early in life he married BARBARA DICKSON, eldest daughter of BAILIE DICKSON, Montrose. He died in August, 1853, aged 71 years, and lies buried in the Howff."

* This resolution has subsequently been confirmed by the leading biographical works of the day after special investigation initiated by the other side. The "Encyclopædia Britannica" decided that JAMES CHALMERS was the inventor of the Adhesive Stamp in August, 1834. "Mr. PEARSON HILL has not weakened the evidence" to that effect. The "Dictionary of National Biography" confirms this, and the date; and beyond and since all this we have the plan itself, bequeathed by Sir HENRY COLE. What was therefore clear to the Dundee Town Council in 1883 has thus since then been more than confirmed, and become a fact placed beyond dispute.—P. C.

*EXTRACT FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES CHALMERS handing his plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late* Sir HENRY COLE :—

"4, CASTLE STREET, DUNDEE,
"*8th February*, 1838.

"I conceive that the most simple and economical mode of carrying out such an arrangement "(that of prepayment of letters) would be by slips (postage stamps), prepared somewhat similar "to the specimen herewith shown.

"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 and singly. ". . . 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. . . . Others requiring only one or two slips at a time could "purchase them along with sheets of paper at stationers' shops, 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."

This statement is accompanied by several specimens of a suggested stamp about an inch square. A space divides each stamp for cutting off singly. One of the specimens is stamped across with the quasi-postmark 'Dundee, 10th February, 1838,' to exemplify what Mr. CHALMERS states should be done to prevent the stamp being used a second time.

Brought forward in the House of Commons, the 5th July, 1839. After plans had been called for from the public and nothing better found, adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839.

Mr. CHALMERS lodged his claim as originator of this plan, but in a letter of date 18th January, 1840, Mr. ROWLAND HILL, then in despotic power at the Treasury, put CHALMERS aside on a mere pretence, and himself assumed the merit.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*February*, 1888.

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

## EXPLANATIONS.

It has long been known in Forfarshire and adjacent counties that the inventor and proposer of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, the man who supplied what may be termed the *engines* to the otherwise immovable craft of Penny Postage Reform, was James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee. When—about 1845—the merchants of the City of London handed their cheque of £13,000 to Mr. Rowland Hill in acknowledgment of his services, the citizens of Dundee, then a town not a quarter of its present size or population, not to be behindhand in asserting the share of their townsman in the work, got up also their subscription, and, as of late years I have learned, on the 1st January, 1846, in the Town Hall of Dundee, and in the presence of the Provost, bankers, and leading citizens, James Chalmers was presented with a Testimonial in recognition of his having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp and for other postal services. And when, upon the decease of Sir Rowland Hill in August, 1879, the London papers proceeded to attribute to him the entire merit of the reformed postal system, immediate protest was entered by means of letters and articles in the Dundee Press, recalling and re-asserting the services of James Chalmers.

This stage of the matter drew my attention to the subject of which up till then I knew little or nothing, having left Dundee at an early age, about the year 1834, and passed much of the interval abroad. Any charge therefore as to my having unduly delayed bringing forward my claim on behalf of my father is a mistake. Equally is it a mistake to call same a *new* claim—it is on the contrary an acknowledged claim of long standing, if generally unknown at this day to a new generation. To further prove this—when thirty years ago Sir Bartle Frere introduced the Adhesive Stamp into Scinde, he knew perfectly well that James Chalmers was the inventor; his letter to which effect I have published. Again, an able writer in that popular magazine, the "Leisure Hour," before ever having heard of me or my publications, in an article describing "A Day at the Post Office," and what had there been shown him, designates the Adhesive Stamp the "Chalmers stamp"; he had "always understood Chalmers to have been the originator." Take another instance: In a congratulatory letter acknowledging my pamphlets Mr. W. A. Warner, Secretary to the National Philatelical Society of New York, writes, under date May 3rd, 1887—"I see that your father was the inventor of the Adhesive Stamp, and not Sir Rowland Hill, which fact I have always upheld for the last sixteen years. . . . . I firmly believe that James Chalmers was the inventor of this means of applying the stamp, and deserves to be honoured by all Philatelists throughout the world." These instances show how widespread beyond his own locality the belief in Chalmers has been prior to my coming forward for the purpose of extending that belief.

To be told, therefore, that this is a new claim I am setting up—that I am too late in doing so, and that the present generation and the London papers will consequently have none of it, is unfounded and unfair.

Equally unfounded is it to assert that I am only agitating this matter with the view of obtaining pecuniary compensation from the Government. Such is not the case. My object is to obtain for the memory of my father and for our native locality that credit to which he and the land north of the Tweed are entitled, as having taken a share in this great and beneficial reform. To this end I invite the co-operation of the Scottish Press and public, as of all lovers of justice there and elsewhere. Official recognition is unnecessary—indeed greater official recognition has already been awarded James Chalmers as originator of this stamp through the columns of the Glasgow Post Office magazine, "The Queen's Head," than any ever obtained by Rowland Hill, with respect to whom no official recognition can be pointed to on the subject—modern writers have simply chosen to back his pretensions as respects invention, without further enquiry, both as respects the stamp and the very scheme itself. The only official intimation on this subject as respects Rowland Hill, the Treasury Minute of March, 1864, tells us that "uniform penny postage had been urged upon the Government *prior* to his proposals,"—and the *Times* in its issue of 30th September, 1885, gives us the name of one man at least who had so urged this, that of the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, whose Testimonial Fund comprised in its list not only the names of many of our leading public men, but also a handsome sum from Her Majesty's Bounty Fund through the Minister of the day. It was for his services

in having publicly introduced and materially aided in putting in force this great reform that Government rewarded Sir Rowland Hill, on his retirement from office, with a grant of £20,000; and so far from recognising any originality of conception on his part, they did quite the contrary. The very Mansion House Memorial Fund Committee ended by abandoning the point of invention. (See my pamphlet "Concealment Unveiled: a Tale of the Mansion House"). I recur to these matters solely as strengthening by analogy my case as respects the stamp, equally a copy, not an invention.

Any modern writer may further see by a reference to the proceedings in Parliament on the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July, 1839, that the Adhesive Stamp formed no part of the proposals or intention of Mr. Hill, whose plan was then stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be that "an impressed stamped cover was absolutely to be used in all cases." All was dismay as to how the scheme was to be carried out, but Chalmers had sent his plan to two quarters in London a year and a half before, and now Mr. Wallace brought it forward—same was ultimately adopted, and Penny Postage was saved. Of all this Sir Rowland Hill, in his "History of Penny Postage," takes not the smallest notice, giving his readers, on the contrary, to understand that the adoption of the Adhesive Postage Stamp formed part and parcel of his original proposals of 1837.* Is the man who, at a critical moment and unrewarded, supplied the motive power to the scheme, a power to this day indispensable to the commerce and revenues of the world, to be left unmentioned, while every possible occasion is availed of to laud the services of Rowland Hill?

I trust the explanations here given will rally to my cause many who have not yet seen their way to bring forward the name and services of James Chalmers.

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I avail myself of this opportunity to publish some of the more recent articles to hand in recognition of James Chalmers, having already in my pamphlets published numerous articles to that effect from the London, Provincial, and Scottish Press.

*Fairplay*, a City financial paper of good position, writes, 20th January:—

"I see Mr. Patrick Chalmers has issued a second edition, containing further matter, of his pamphlet on the recognition of his father, the late Mr James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, as the originator of the adhesive postage stamp. Those who are aware of the merits of the controversy have learnt to look upon the late Mr. Chalmers as the man to whom rightly belongs the honour, and I may say the glory, of the origination of the penny adhesive stamp system; people generally, however, look without question upon Sir Rowland Hill as the author of the system; and it is Mr. Patrick Chalmers' object to enlighten these credulous persons."

From the *Manchester Guardian* of 4th February—a journal, as every one knows, of the highest position and influence, daily quoted from by the London Press:—

"The difficulty of deciding as to the real inventor of any device that has been found serviceable to man has received a fresh illustration in the controversy that has been proceeding for some years as to the first suggester of the adhesive postage stamp. So completely has the name of Sir Rowland Hill become associated with the penny post that many people credit him with every detail of the system now so familiar, but which was so strange in the early days of the present reign. Mr. Patrick Chalmers has claimed that the person who suggested the adhesive postage label was his father, the late Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee. The evidence has been put before the world in a multiplicity of pamphlets, and is of a nature to carry conviction When the Penny Postage Bill was introduced into Parliament in July, 1839, the methods by which the scheme was to be made practical were undecided. Rowland Hill proposed two modes—that the letters should be prepaid in money, or that the letter paper or envelope should bear an impressed stamp. The latter was the favoured suggestion, but it was one to which the public never took kindly. When the principle of the penny post was adopted, the public were invited by advertisement to send in plans. Mr. James Chalmers had in a letter sent to the Parliamentary Committee proposed in December, 1837, the plan of an adhesive stamp. There is evidence also that this plan was matured by him in 1834, and freely discussed in his adopted town, where he was well known as a bookseller, and active citizen. When he claimed the reward, Mr. Chalmers was told that he had been anticipated by Mr. Hill. It is true that Mr. Hill in February, 1837, had mentioned that in a certain exceptional case an adhesive stamp might be used, but it is equally clear that in all the early stages of the penny post reform Mr. Hill comtemplated the use of the impressed stamp only. In his latest pamphlet Mr. Patrick Chalmers gives a citation from the 'Penny Cyclopædia' of 1840, in which it is said that Mr. Hill had stated that the idea of payment by stamps did not originate with him. As Hill was intimately associated with the editor and contributors of the 'Penny Cyclopædia,' and was a member of the Committee of Publication, this statement cannot easily be disposed of. A copy of the proposal of Mr. James Chalmers has been preserved in the papers bequeathed to the nation by Sir Henry Cole, and it is an exact description of the method by which the penny post was worked. Even the invention of the machine for perforating the sheets of stamps made no change in the principle of the scheme, which, so far as the present evidence goes, is due to the inventive faculty of James Chalmers of Dundee."

From the *British Economist* of Edinburgh, the Bankers' magazine and financial paper of Scotland, that land of banking, February 1st:—

"This is a further pamphlet by Mr. Patrick Chalmers, who is indefatigable in his determination to make good his father's claim to be the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp. It appears to us that the time for controversy on this subject is passed, and that the filial enthusiasm of the son might now devote itself to the task of preparing a succinct and complete narrative of his

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* For a more detailed account of this scene in Parliament at this important crisis, yet left wholly unnoticed by Sir Rowland Hill—see pages 23 to 26 of my late pamphlet "The Adhesive Postage Stamp in America, France, and Germany." (Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange.)

father's case, working in those innumerable proofs, now gathered, that James Chalmers, and not Rowland Hill, was the proposer of the use of an affixed lable to denote postage on letters. The test we would put on the case is this, to lay the story, as it would now be worked out from Mr. P. Chalmers' laborious investigations, before a person who had never heard of the controversy, and ask him to judge. That decision would certainly correspond with the conclusion of the editors of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' and the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' namely, that to Mr. Chalmers, of Dundee, is due the invention which made penny postage *possible*. The remarkable document discovered in the papers bequeathed to the nation by the late Sir Henry Cole is in itself conclusive. The fact that the sample stamp in this document is obliterated with a quasi-postmark, 'Dundee, 10th February, 1838,' would go far to strengthen Mr. Chalmers' case even if the rest of the evidence of the document were less precise . . . ."

From the *City Press*—stated in the "Press Directory" to be "the local paper for the City of London, . . . . the adopted medium for all official announcements concerning the Metropolis"—28th December:—

"THE INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

"Encouraged by the success which has attended his efforts to convince the people of England that his father, and not Sir Rowland Hill, as generally supposed, was the originator of the adhesive postage stamp, Mr. Patrick Chalmers has lately taken steps to acquaint the Americans with his views on the subject, the consensus of opinion across the 'herring pond' being unmistakably in favour of the claims thus urged. The Philatelic Association of America has declared in favour of Mr. Chalmers, and by resolution the members have expressed their appreciation of the untiring efforts he has made during the past few years to cause his father's name to be associated with the invention to which properly enough so much importance in attached. In France and Germany similar success has attended his efforts, the associations in those countries, together with the Philatelic journals, recognising the sincerity of the claims Mr. Chalmers puts forward with such untiring zeal."

Again, on the 11th January:—

"On every side Mr. Patrick Chalmers appears to be gaining renewed support for his claim that his father (the late Mr. J. Chalmers) was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, the credit for which is usually attributed to Sir Rowland Hill. As evidence of the headway Mr. Chalmers has made, it it only necessary to observe that whereas a year or two since he had to carry on his arduous campaign single-handed, friends are now constantly coming forward to aid him in his praiseworthy work. The last instance of this is to be noted in Glasgow, where a Mr. John MacIntyre contributes to the *Queen's Head*—a publication written solely by the Post Office Officials of that city—an article on the claims of Mr. J. Chalmers to the invention. To enter now into the merits of the case would be superfluous; it is therefore only necessary to observe that Mr. Chalmers' case is greatly strengthened by the able and impartial manner in which Mr. MacIntyre, in the course of his article, discusses the question in all its several branches."

A valuable recognition has just appeared in the columns of the "Bookseller," the leading journal circulating amongst publishers and the trade here and in the United States—"booksellers may be proud to remember it was one of their fraternity who invented the Adhesive Postage Stamp"—but this and other articles, with notices of "The Queen's Head" here and abroad, must be left for a more extended publication.

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The practice of Philatelism, or stamp collecting, so widely prevalent in America and on the Continent, has led to my publications being extensively read abroad with most satisfactory results. In addition to the recognition of Historical Societies, University, and State Libraries, the following Philatelic Societies have passed special resolutions in recognition of James Chalmers:—

"The Chicago, Illinois; the Pomeroy, Toledo, Ohio; the St. Louis, Missouri; the Lansing, Michigan; the Newton, Massachusetts; the Detroit, Michigan; the New Milford, Connecticut; the Jamestown, New York; the Charleston, South Carolina; the Black Hawk, Rock Island, Illinois; the Belle City, Racine, Wisconsin; the Denver Stamp Collectors' League, Colorado; the Luther, Michigan." Some of these Societies, again, with others or members of same, have formed an "American Philatelic Association," meeting once a year. This Congress of Philatelists at their late meeting at Chicago passed the handsome resolutions I have already published. A "Chalmers Society" has just been formed at Chicago. From Providence, Rhode Island, a Scottish Club, termed "Clan Cameron 7 O. S. C.," has sent me cordial congratulations at learning the honour of being the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp has fallen to a countryman, as proved to their satisfaction. Several of the philatelic journals have put forward a portrait of James Chalmers.

On the Continent, in Paris, Munich, Leipzic, Berlin, Frankfort, Vienna, Stockholm, Constantinople for the Levant, societies and journals representing a most numerous body of Philatelists, now, as in the United States, recognise Chalmers as their "patron saint," and in several of the journals the likeness has appeared, including the "Illustrites Briefmarken Journal" of Leipzic, the organ of twenty-six Philatelic Societies, with a bi-monthly circulation of 15,000. In its New Year issue this journal circulated 30,000 copies, the frontispiece having for the first time the portrait of James Chalmers, now combined with that of Rowland Hill, formerly by itself.

Three out of the four philatelic papers published in England now recognise Chalmers.

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In Arbroath, the birthplace of James Chalmers, a flourishing town about twenty miles from Dundee, a volume of much interest and erudition, entitled "Arbroath Past and Present," com-

piled by Mr. McBain, banker, Arbroath, has lately been published. In this work a biographical notice of James Chalmers is given, from which I extract the following:—

"To James Chalmers, a native of Arbroath, is due the distinguished honour of being the inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, which was not only the means of saving the penny postage scheme of this country, but of conferring a lasting benefit on the commerce of the world. . . . This honour for a time was claimed for Sir Rowland Hill, but thanks to the untiring exertions of his son, Patrick Chalmers, of London, James Chalmers' claim to the honour has been indisputably established, and is now universally admitted. The benefits which have accrued from this invention are incalculable, and to-day every civilised nation is still reaping the fruit of the inventive genius of this distinguished Arbroathian."

Desiring to erect a tablet to my father's memory in the old Abbey of Arbroath, I applied, with the courteous aid of Mr. McBain, for the necessary authority, but without success, being ultimately informed by the London Board of Works that "for many years past the Board have felt it expedient to refuse to allow the erection of tablets within the precincts of Arbroath Abbey, and they regret they are unable to make an exception to the rule in your favour."

In Dundee, in a late publication entitled "The Roll of Eminent Burgesses of Dundee, 1513 to 1886," "published by order of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council," edited by a distinguished writer there, Mr. A. H. Millar, and entailing much labour and research, a lengthened article is given detailing the career of James Chalmers, in the course of which his services are brought forward in terms similar to the Arbroath article. The resolution of the Dundee Town Council, of date 3rd March, 1883, formally recording their townsman to have been the originator of the Adhesive Stamp, "that indispensable feature in the success of the reformed penny postage scheme," is here again brought forward, and the work is in the hands of many Scottish noblemen, wealthy merchants, and the public. Frequent notices of my successful efforts in establishing my father's position are further given in the local Press, including the wide recognition now met with abroad. The members of the Dundee Burns Club have favoured me with a valued communication in approval.

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Permit me, in conclusion, to offer a word of caution. Now that the delusion as to Sir Rowland Hill having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp is practically dispelled, the tactics of my disappointed opponents are directed towards disparaging the services of Chalmers, and mystifying the whole matter, as usual anonymously. We are told that sticking plaster has been known from a remote antiquity, thus proving Chalmers to have been a mere plagiarist! Names are brought forward of men said, but without a pretence of proof, to be equally or better entitled to the invention, of whom we never heard so long as Rowland Hill was in the field, and who, strangely enough, neither of themselves or through friends have put in any claim to the merit. Such and other mystifications are the mere throes of disappointment and vexation, designed to raise doubts amongst those insufficiently informed, but which will deceive no one who has mastered the evidence, dates, and facts of the case.

I further understand that Mr. Pearson Hill, while still abstaining from publishing his views —a course which might draw an undesirable amount of public attention to this controversy— continues privately to circulate his statements in disparagement of me and my cause, and this not alone to the Press, but now also privately urged before influential Philatelists abroad, in the hope of arresting the widespread recognition now being afforded me. Solely in possession of the official correspondence betwixt our respective fathers—a correspondence removed from the Treasury by Sir Rowland Hill, but which I maintain should have been there left— Mr. Pearson Hill has it in his power to circulate just so much or so little of same as he may think proper. It would be doing injustice to the gentlemen to whom these private appeals are made to suppose for a moment that they can be led away by any such secret representations —their answer will be, "Publish your case if you have one that can stand the consequent investigation, as Chalmers has done, and same will receive every consideration, but your private attempts to influence us we reject and repudiate. Failing this, we shall conclude you have no case." And this, too, I trust will now, in common fairness, be the reply of the hitherto silent members of the London Press, prevented as they have been through misrepresentation acting upon long cherished delusion from, in many cases, so much as even favouring my productions with a perusal.

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Hon. Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,
*February*, 1888.

# THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

## COPY OF LETTER FROM
## Sir THOMAS CLARK, Bart.,
## LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.

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CITY CHAMBERS,
EDINBURGH,
*Feb. 23rd*, 1888.

P. CHALMERS, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

I have received the papers you have sent me regarding your father's claim to be the originator of the Adhesive Stamp.

The evidence is very conclusive and as one who used long ago to have constant relations with your father, I rejoice at your success in establishing his claim.

I am, very truly yours.

THOMAS CLARK,
LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

## COPY OF LETTER FROM

## The Right Hon. Sir THOMAS CLARK, Bart.,

LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.

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CITY CHAMBERS,

EDINBURGH,

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THOMAS CLARK,

LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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From the "BRITISH MAIL," *and Journal of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Monthly,* 1*s.* *February* 29*th,* 1888.

"THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

"Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of Wimbledon, has issued a long circular letter advocating his late father's claims to recognition as the inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. We had an idea that these claims had been fully recognised long ago, and regret to find that they have been passed by. It is too late now to revive controversies with the late Sir Rowland Hill, but not too late to accord all the credit due to any one who materially assisted in developing the postage scheme. The honour would be a barren one, but it ought not the less to be given wherever due, for the sake of the survivors."

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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*Extract from the* "MORNING POST," 26*th March*, 1888.

"Though Sir Rowland Hill has been generally credited with the invention of the Penny Postage system, it would appear, from certain articles in the 'Illustrites Briefmarken Journal' (Leipsic) of the 7th of January and 4th of February of the current year, that the merit of the invention of the Adhesive Stamp was really due to Mr. James Chalmers. This discovery is owing, in great measure, to the researches and untiring efforts of Mr. Patrick Chalmers, who, without wishing to detract from the honour attaching to Sir Rowland Hill for 'having so worked for it that it was introduced into England in 1840,' is naturally anxious that Mr. James Chalmers, who during his life did not covet the distinction, should be recognised as the actual inventor of the Adhesive Penny Postage Stamp. As a corroboration of Mr. Patrick Chalmers' statements, it may be interesting to observe that towards the close of 1887 a publication appeared, emanating from the Glasgow General Post Office, entitled 'The Queen's Head,' in which was an article on Postage Stamps, written by one of the present officials, which emphatically states that the invention of the Postage Stamp was entirely due to Mr. James Chalmers."

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In thanking the *Morning Post* for the above notice I desire to add that James Chalmers not only invented the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes, but was the first to propose its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837–40. That upon the adoption of same for that purpose he did lay claim to the merit of the stamp which had saved the scheme, but was put aside by Mr. Rowland Hill upon a mere pretence, who has thus unduly obtained the credit for himself.

P. C.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

The article herewith, from the *Illustrites Briefmarken Journal*, of Leipzig, the leading Philatelic Magazine on the Continent, and organ of 26 Philatelic Societies, having a bi-monthly circulation of 15,000 copies, exemplifies what is now being said and written by specialists abroad on the subject of the adhesive postage stamp and penny postage. The learned writer states :—"If, however, I were to mention all that has been said in American, English, French, and now also in German papers, for James Chalmers and against Sir Rowland Hill, I could easily fill a large volume."

Thus the facts are coming surely, if gradually, to light, towards which result your co-operation is respectfully invited.

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Honorary Member of the Société Internationale de Timbavlogie, Paris, and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,

*27th March*, 1888.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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*From the* "BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK GAZETTE," *March* 31*st*, 1888.

"Another pamphlet on the invention of the postage label, this time from a German author, Karl V. Gündel, who had unearthed on his own account in London the volume of the 'Penny Cyclopædia' which under the head of 'Post Office' has this remarkable and weighty passage, 'The process of using stamps for this purpose (payment of postage at a uniform rate) was not suggested in the first edition of the pamphlet (Rowland Hill's), and Mr. Hill states that this idea did not originate with him.' This very clear statement, made evidently by some one who consulted Rowland Hill, or written by Rowland Hill, at once definitely places beyond further question that in 1840 Rowland Hill made no claim to the invention of Adhesive Postage Labels, and was aware that some one else had originated them. His name appears as one of the contributors to the 'Penny Cyclopædia,' so that no other reasonable conclusion can be come to than that he knew what would and what did appear in this work, and as one of the helpers in its getting out he had special opportunities for correcting anything which touched his special study and occupation. This should convince any of those students who have hesitated as to his position of reticence in later years, when he was aware that he was credited in many places as being the inventor of Adhesive Labels for postage uses. Our indefatigable author, Patrick Chalmers, has therefore more powerful allies now than ever before to prove to a long deceived public that his father, James Chalmers, of Dundee, was the first to recommend Adhesive Postage Stamps, which proved the great—the main feature of the success of uniform postage. It may be added that the German writer before mentioned invites communication from all Philatelic societies (or rather the world) as to what merits are really due to Rowland Hill, as by united efforts more can be done by individuals to place these questions beyond the domain of further discussion before the Jubilee celebration of the introduction of penny postage and postage stamps in May, 1890."

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*Publications which have recognised* JAMES CHALMERS *as originator of same :—*

The "Encyclopædia Britannica" and the "Dictionary of National Biography," after special investigation, and the date of invention fixed as having been in the month of August, 1834, up to which period Sir Rowland Hill, in his "Life," has left it on record that "Adhesive Stamps had not been dreamt of."

## LONDON PAPERS.

CITY PRESS.
METROPOLITAN.
INVENTION AND INVENTOR'S MART.
HOME AND COLONIAL MAIL.
MORNING POST.
BRITISH MAIL.
COURT AND SOCIETY REVIEW.
VANITY FAIR.
FIGARO.
PEOPLE.
CHRISTIAN UNION.
ENGLAND.
BRIC-A-BRAC [*with Biography and Likeness*].
PHILATELIC CRITIC.
PHILATELIC ADVERTISER.
FAIRPLAY.
CIVIL SERVICE TIMES.
WHITEHALL REVIEW.
THE BOOKSELLER.
TRÜBNER & CO.'S CIRCULAR.
SAMPSON LOW & CO.'S CIRCULAR.
LEISURE HOUR.
LITERARY OPINION.
HOME WORK.
SUNDAY TIMES.
NATIONAL REFORMER.
MACHINERY MARKET.
WALFORD'S ANTIQUARIAN.
CROYDON REVIEW.
SURREY INDEPENDENT.

*And several other suburban papers.*

## PROVINCIAL.

The recognitions in the provinces may be described as fairly numerous, including such papers as the "Western Daily Press" of Bristol, the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph," the "Manchester Guardian," the "Leeds Times," the "Bradford Observer," the "Oldham Chronicle," &c., with

the Philatelic papers, the "Stamp Collector's Journal" of Bury St. Edmund's, and the "Midland Philatelic" of Nottingham.

## SCOTLAND.

Recognitions in Scotland may be termed as very universal, including every paper in Forfarshire, with influential supporters in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, &c. The powerful article in the Glasgow Post Office magazine "The Queen's Head" has the impress of a semi-official recognition.

## OTHER COUNTRIES.

In America, eighteen Philatelic Societies have officially recognised James Chalmers, including the American Philatelic Association itself, or general Society of American Philatelists at their late convention at Chicago, in which important city a "Chalmers Society" has been formed. Other valuable recognitions have been sent me from Historical Societies, State Libraries, Scottish Clubs, and newspapers in America. Several Philatelic Journals have published a biographical notice, with likeness.

On the Continent—in Paris, Munich, Leipzic, Berlin, Frankfort, Vienna, Stockholm, Constantinople for the Levant—Societies and Journals, representing a most numerous body of Philatelists, now, as in the United States, recognise Chalmers as their "patron saint;" and in several of the journals the likeness has appeared, including the "Illustrites Briefmarken Journal" of Leipzic, the organ of twenty-six Philatelic Societies, with a bi-monthly circulation of 15,000.

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Hon. Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of ten American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,

*April*, 1888.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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*From the* "CITY PRESS," "*the local paper for the City of London,*" *April 4th,* 1888.

"THE CHALMERS-HILL CONTROVERSY.

"Mr. Patrick Chalmers has drawn up a paper of 'explanations' on this subject, with the intention of removing popular misconceptions as to the nature of his claim. It would appear that Mr. James Chalmers' title to the honour of inventing the Adhesive Postage Stamp was early recognised in Dundee, his native town. When—about 1845—the merchants of London handed their cheque of £13,000 to Mr. Rowland Hill in acknowledgment of his services, the citizens of Dundee, not to be behindhand in asserting the share of their townsman in the work, got up also their subscription, and on January 1st, 1846, in the Town Hall of Dundee, and in the presence of the provost, bankers, and leading citizens, James Chalmers was presented with a testimonial in recognition of his having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, and for other postal services. And when, upon the decease of Sir Rowland Hill in August, 1879, the London papers proceeded to attribute to him the entire merit of the reformed postal system, immediate protest was entered by means of letters and articles in the Dundee Press recalling and reasserting the services of James Chalmers. Mr. Patrick Chalmers has since, with conspicuous ability and singlemindedness, urged his father's claims, in season and out of season, with the result that at the present day a constantly-increasing number of persons and societies recognise the justice of his contention and bid soon to become a majority. We may ask with Mr. P. Chalmers—Is the man who at a critical moment, and unrewarded, supplied the motive power to the Penny Postage scheme, a power to this day indispensable to the commerce and revenues of the world, to be left unmentioned, while every possible occasion is availed of to laud the services of Sir Rowland Hill?"

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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*From the* "METROPOLITAN" *Journal of the City of London, April* 21*st*, 1888.

"THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.—A rather startling piece of evidence as to the real inventor has just come to light. It is now pretty well known throughout the world that Mr. Patrick Chalmers has succeeded in indisputably proving that his father, the late James Chalmers, of Dundee, was the inventor, and not the much-be-praised Rowland Hill, who, it appears, neither invented the stamp nor the penny post system. It is curious to learn that a certain German author, Karl V. Gündel, has discovered that the late Sir Rowland himself disclaimed having invented the stamp. The clever Teuton has found in the 'Penny Cyclopædia' the following passage: 'The process of using stamps for this purpose (payment of postage at a uniform rate) was not suggested in the first edition of the pamphlet (Rowland Hill's), and Mr. Hill states that this idea did not originate with him.' It is quite time honours were divided, and in an equitable manner. Let Rowland Hill have all the credit that is due to him for getting the penny postage adopted; but let it be distinctly known that he took his idea from a Blue Book of 1836, entitled 'Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry,' wherein the penny postage, irrespective of distance, is recommended, and that when the idea was getting to be a failure in practice, Mr. James Chalmers saved it by inventing the Adhesive Stamp."

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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*From the* "DUNDEE COURIER," *April 25th*, 1888.

"THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

"SIR,—I see by the local press that the Burns Club has resolved to give to generations yet unborn the name and fame of the late Mr. James Chalmers as the inventor of the Adhesive Stamp. In 1833 James Chalmers was making experiments on the Adhesive Postage Stamp, and by 1834 had it in complete working order. Mr. David Maxwell and I were apprentices with Umpherston & Kerr, millwrights, Dundee, and many a time I have heard that when he was P.D. in Mr. James Chalmers' printing establishment he had the honour of clipping the sample stamps apart after they had been printed on slips containing about a dozen stamps, and the backs gummed over. I was surprised that ex-Bailie C. C. Maxwell did not mention that at the meeting in Lamb's Hotel last week, as he knows as well as I do that the above is a fact. Mr. David Maxwell's name ought to be on the Committee. Mr. James Chalmers was presented with a richly-chased silver jug and handsome silver salver, both bearing the following inscription :—'Presented to James Chalmers, Esq., Dundee, as a testimonial for his exertions in procuring an acceleration of the mail and promoting other improvements in connection with the Post Office. 1st January, 1846.' Sir, I hope that the Burns Club will resolve to place a bronze statue of James Chalmers side by side with the bronze statue of James Carmichael in the ground of the Albert Institute.

"I remain,

"Yours, &c.,

"GEORGE HOOD.

"*April*, 1888."

The above is a further confirmation of the evidence already presented as to the specific date, 1834, having been the year of James Chalmers' invention.—P.C.

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*Publications which have recognised* JAMES CHALMERS *as originator of same :—*

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PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Hon. Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of ten American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,

*April*, 1888.

April 1888

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

Having been informed that Mr. Pearson Hill has addressed letters and documents privately to Editors of newspapers and leading Philatelists at home and abroad with a view to arrest the widespread recognition now being afforded to my claims, my reply to such attempts shortly is: "Publish your case if you have one that will stand the consequent investigation"—a reply which Philatelists as a body and all impartial writers will re-echo and support me in; while it would be doing injustice to those gentlemen thus privately addressed to suppose that they will entertain any such secret representations or become the mouthpiece of one who is not prepared openly to speak out for himself.

And if Mr. Pearson Hill is at length openly to favour us with his case, let him tell us "When did Sir Rowland Hill invent the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes, and what proofs can be adduced he ever did so?" Also, "When did he first propose to adopt this stamp for the purpose of carrying out in practice the Penny Postage Scheme?"

Permit me further to state some additional points which it will be necessary for Mr. Pearson Hill to deal with before he can have the smallest chance of persuading the Philatelists or others who have looked into this matter that his father was the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*First.*—Let Mr. Pearson Hill explain how it comes that in none of his writings does Sir Rowland Hill make any reference whatever to the provisions of the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry, embodying the identical principles and figures of his subsequent Penny Postage Scheme put forward as of his own conception—while there is, moreover, the clearest evidence, official and otherwise, that uniform penny postage had been "urged upon the Treasury" *prior* to 1837 by the postal reformers of the period, said reformers including in their circle Mr. M. D. Hill, M.P. for Hull, the elder brother of Mr. Rowland Hill, the assumed and supposed inventor,—a circle which further included the Rev. Samuel Roberts, recorded by the *Times* as having proposed uniform penny postage some years before 1837, also Mr. Hume, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Charles Knight, with each of whom James Chalmers corresponded.

*Secondly.*—Let Mr. Pearson Hill explain why no notice has been taken by Sir Rowland Hill in his "History of Penny Postage" of the remarkable scenes in both Houses of Parliament on the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill in July, 1839, on which occasion the plan of Mr. Rowland Hill was officially declared to be that "an impressed stamp cover was absolutely to be used in all cases," and for which stamp alone a "power" was asked for; and why no notice has been taken in this "History" of the dilemma of the Government and of the House for a practical plan until relieved by the proposal of Mr. Wallace in the Commons, and of Lord Ashburton in the Lords, in favour of an adhesive stamp? And will Mr. Pearson Hill reconcile these proceedings and official declarations *thus ignored by Sir Rowland Hill* with the theory set up on the part of

Sir Rowland Hill that the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the scheme in practice formed part and parcel of the original proposals of Mr. Rowland Hill in 1837?

*Thirdly.*—Let Mr. Pearson Hill set aside, if he can, this conclusive proof just named and the further proofs I have given in the Preface to the Second Edition of "The Adhesive Stamp in America, France, and Germany," showing that the adoption of this Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the Scheme in practice formed no part whatever of the original proposals or intention of Mr. Rowland Hill in 1837.*

*Fourthly.*—Let Mr. Pearson Hill give us the entire letter of James Chalmers to Mr. Hill of 18th May, 1840, with also its enclosure of copy letter from Mr. Hill of 3rd March, 1838. Let him also give us Mr. Hill's letter to Chalmers of 18th January, 1840. *What did Hill state to Chalmers* so as to induce his so-called withdrawal? No impartial person will for one moment attach any importance to just such "Extract" from this correspondence as Mr. Pearson Hill has consented to produce.

*Fifthly.*—Let Mr. Pearson Hill say if it is not the case that he himself drew up or sanctioned a recent anonymous publication entitled "The Post Office Fifty Years Ago," extolling the services of Sir Rowland Hill, and in which no notice whatever has been taken of any one of the above points as respects the Stamp; in which publication, moreover, I am pointed to as a mere "lunatic." And will he further explain how it happens that since the very opening of this controversy I have been repeatedly represented in the London Press as a person "claiming the invention of the Penny Postage *Scheme* for his father,"—also his remarkable letter to the publishers of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," of 15th March, 1883—each and all forming a style of controversy, it will be admitted, virtually abandoning the case in my favour.

Such are a few of the points requiring to be satisfactorily met by Mr. Pearson Hill, not through any mouthpiece or substitute, but face to face with *me* whom he has hitherto affected to despise. These are not the days when merely inherited wealth and honours are to be looked upon as a passport to immunity from rules and obligations incumbent upon men in general.

PATRICK CHALMERS, *F.R.Hist.Soc.*,
*Honorary Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,
*April*, 1888.

I may add that the Paris Society have scouted Mr. Pearson Hill's private documents, and from the articles now appearing in the German papers a similar result there may be looked for.

* These further proofs, shortly stated, are—Mr. Rowland Hill's letter to Lord Litchfield of January, 1838, stating his plan of collecting the postage to be "by the sale of stamped covers." Again, Mr. Rowland Hill's letter to James Chalmers of 3rd March, 1838, to the effect of not being in favour of an adhesive stamp. Again, the notice in the *Times* of date 30th August, 1839, a fortnight *after* the passing of the Bill, that stamped envelopes would be ready for sale on 1st January, 1840, but not a word as to adhesive stamps. Again, the article in the "Penny Cyclopædia," Vol. 17, 1840, having on its committee of management the names of Mr. M. D. Hill and of Mr. Rowland Hill—"The means of prepayment by stamps were not suggested in the first edition of the pamphlet (of 1837), and Mr. Hill states that this idea did not originate with him."

From Trübner's American, European & Oriental Literary Record.

MAY, 1888.

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**THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.**—Sir Rowland Hill has got a statue for his advocacy of cheap postage, although he had not the remotest idea of how it could be *successfully* carried out; but the intelligent Dundee bookseller, James Chalmers, who, by inventing the Adhesive Postage Stamp rendered cheap postage possible, has had no such recognition. Surely his townsmen of Dundee could form a committee and raise sufficient funds to erect a statue to him there. In London a site might be found on the Victoria Embankment, somewhere near the spot where the statue of Robert Burns stands, which Mr. J. G. Crawford so generously presented to London. A penny subscription would be a very suitable one to raise the money for a statue to a man who ranks second to none as a benefactor to his species, and there is no reason why it should not be international.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

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[What alone is called for in this case is, that the Press be good enough more generally to acquaint the public to whom they owe the indispensable adhesive postage stamp. As ably stated by the influential *City Press*: "Is the man who at a critical moment, and unrewarded, supplied the motive power to the Penny Postage scheme, a power to this day indispensable to the commerce and revenues of the world, to be left unmentioned, while every possible occasion is availed of to laud the services of Sir Rowland Hill?" In Dundee, measures are being taken suitably to commemorate the name and services of James Chalmers. —P. C.]

May 1988

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*To the Editor of the* "DUNDEE ADVERTISER."

SIR,

A copy of your issue of 17th instant draws my attention for the first time to a pamphlet just published by Mr. Pearson Hill, entitled "The 'Chalmers' Craze Investigated," with respect to which it will be a relief to your readers to find that the compiler does not now claim the invention of the Adhesive Postage Stamp for Sir Rowland Hill! It would have saved editors and writers all over the world much trouble and racking of brains had this important admission been made sooner, and before I had shown this long-standing pretence to be wholly untenable.

But the object of this pamphlet, the pretensions set up for Sir Rowland Hill being at last out of the way, is to draw certain red herrings across the path of Chalmers. "Anybody but Chalmers" is the motto. My reply to this is—Having now disposed of the "Hill" delusion, let that anybody else stand up, and I am ready for him. What is his name? Let him prove his case as I have done mine; prove his invention and the date; produce his plan as I have produced that of James Chalmers; and further prove

that same was officially proposed for carrying out in practice the reformed postal system prior to December, 1837.

That is what is wanted—not a string of vague assertions of which nothing was heard so long as the Hill delusion lasted, or could be palmed off upon a credulous press and public.

To this I will only add, that Sir Rowland Hill himself has left it upon record that up to the year 1834, the proved date of the invention by James Chalmers, "an adhesive stamp for postage purposes was undreamt of."

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*May 19th*, 1888.

May 26, 88



# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

*To the Editor of the* "DUNDEE ADVERTISER."

SIR,

Looking at the letter just published by you from Mr. Pearson Hill, permit me to draw your attention to some of the salient points necessary to be kept in view while your readers are in danger of being misled.

When the late Mr. Samuel Morley proposed an "arbitration," which I accepted, why was nothing more heard of the proposal? Again, in 1883 Mr. Pearson Hill himself challenged the verdict of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" on the subject, when, after a lengthened investigation, the decision was given in my favour—"James Chalmers was the inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp in the month of August, 1834," confirmed by the "Dictionary of National Biography." All usage and right feeling should have led Mr. Pearson Hill to accept this decision, and to retire with dignity if with regret. On the contrary, he sneers at it, and continues his course of wild and reckless abuse of me. As such is and will only be laughed at by all who have impartially read my publications, I have no intention of troubling the lawyers in the matter, let Mr. Hill be as abusive as he may. I am content with the records of standard historical works and the official recognitions of now nearly the entire Philatelic world, including thousands of studious and able men.

Again, I certainly do not gather from Mr. Pearson Hill's late pamphlet that he still looked upon Sir Rowland Hill as having been the *inventor* of this adhesive stamp, distinguishing *inventor* from *proposer*. No direct assertion

is made to that effect, no date assigned to the invention; no plan produced, no attempt to prove the accuracy of that opinion—one which, if still held by Mr. Pearson Hill, he stands quite alone in holding amongst the Philatelists of the world. If Sir Rowland Hill invented this stamp, why did he not propose to adopt it for the purpose of carrying out the penny postage scheme until that course had been pressed upon him by others?

We have the official facts from the lips of the Ministers of the day, and from Members of both Houses of Parliament, that up to the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July, 1839, Mr. Rowland Hill had *not* proposed to adopt the adhesive stamp, that his plan was "that an impressed stamped cover should absolutely be used on all occasions." These proceedings both Sir Rowland Hill in his writings and Mr. Pearson Hill in his letter to you have wholly ignored, while it is proved and admitted that James Chalmers had sent his plan officially to London and to Mr. Rowland Hill himself* a year and a half *before* the introduction of the Bill! Unable to set aside the records of Parliament, Mr. Pearson Hill simply ignores them, upsetting as they do conclusively and unanswerably pretensions now wholly exploded in all quarters where the facts have been impartially investigated, but which he still hopes may be swallowed by the public of Dundee.

I am, &c.,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*May 26th. 1888*

* In his reply to James Chalmers of date 3rd March, 1838, Mr. Rowland Hill makes no mention of having already proposed, or being then in favour of an Adhesive

Stamp; yet, while taking care not to publish this letter, and further ignoring the above-named proceedings in Parliament, your perusal of the details of which lately laid before you is requested, Mr. Pearson Hill has the assurance to write to the "Advertiser" that his father proposed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp in February, 1837! Further assuming, without a pretence of proof, that such was his father's invention.

Such stamp, it is clearly proved, was the invention of James Chalmers in August, 1834, "one of the early postal reformers who held correspondence with the postal reformers of the day, both in and out of Parliament." ("Encyclopædia Britannica"). The date of December, 1837, harped upon by Mr. Pearson Hill, is not the date of the *invention*, but the date given by Chalmers as that of his official proposal of the plan to Mr. Wallace, Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Should the people of Dundee now allow themselves to be led away by the violence and the sophistries of Mr. Pearson Hill, they will yet deeply regret it.

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# THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

## MAY 17, 1888.

THE ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—Mr Patrick Chalmers has for years been assiduously propounding certain opinions as to the invention of postage stamps. These opinions are by no means universally entertained, and Mr Pearson Hill, son of Sir Rowland Hill, has issued a pamphlet for the purpose of enlightening the world as to their worth. He writes in a succinct fashion, and no one can pretend to be informed on the subject who has not read this work. (London: Morrison & Sons & Mallett.)



## MAY 21, 1888.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—A copy of your issue of 19th inst. draws my attention for the first time to a pamphlet just published by Mr Pearson Hill, entitled "The Chalmers Craze Investigated," with respect to which it will be a relief to your readers to find that the compiler does not now claim the invention of the adhesive postage stamp for Sir Rowland Hill. It would have saved editors and writers all over the world much trouble and racking of brains had this important admission been made sooner, and before I had shown this long-standing pretence to be wholly untenable. But the object of this pamphlet, the pretensions set up for Sir Rowland Hill being at last out of the way, is to draw certain red herrings across the path of Chalmers—"anybody but Chalmers" is the motto. My reply to this is—Having now disposed of the Hill delusion, let that anybody else stand up and I am ready for him. What is his name? Let him prove his case as I have proved mine, prove his invention and the date, produce his plan as I have produced that of James Chalmers, and show that same was officially proposed for adoption in the reformed postal system prior to December 1837.* That is what is wanted; not a string of vague assertions† of which nothing was heard as long as the Hill delusion lasted or could be palmed off upon a credulous press and public. To this I will only add that Sir Rowland Hill himself has left it upon record that up to the year 1834, the proved date of the invention by James Chalmers, "an adhesive stamp for postage purposes was undreamt of."—I am, &c.,

Wimbledon, May 19th. PAT. CHALMERS.

## MAY 25, 1888.

#### THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Though, as your readers may remember, I long ago refused to enter upon any controversy with Mr Patrick Chalmers, as he had published a false and garbled version of our correspondence—(see *Dundee Advertiser* of 16th and 30th April, 1883)—yet, as the good people of Dundee are now practically being asked to subscribe money on false pretences, I think it useful to call their attention to his letter in your impression of 21st instant. In the pamphlet I have recently issued on the origin of postage stamps, and the Chalmers' craze—(in which I again charge Mr Patrick Chalmers with falsification of dates and documents, and challenge him to bring an action for libel if my charge be untrue)—I distinctly claim and and prove, by reference to Parliamentary and other publications, that Sir Rowland Hill was the inventor of that very minor detail of postal reform, the adhesive postage stamp—he having suggested the use of such stamps in his evidence of 13th February 1837, ten months earlier than the date which James Chalmers himself gives as that at which he first made his plan public. Yet in his letter in your Monday's paper Mr Patrick Chalmers, referring to this pamphlet, coolly states that "it will be a relief to your readers to find that the compiler does not now claim the invention of the adhesive postage stamp for Sir Rowland Hill!" Could deliberate misrepresentation be carried further? Can any one now doubt that, either through mental or moral incapacity, Mr Patrick Chalmers on this question has ceased to distinguish between truth and falsehood.—I am, &c.,

PEARSON HILL.

6 Pembridge Square, London, W.,
23d May 1888.

* useful to shew that he recognizes that the only material date is the date of publication of the plan.

† His quotations from official documents are apparently "vague assertions" - his "vague assertions" being I suppose, in his own estimation, proofs -

THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER,

MAY 28, 1888.

## THE CHALMERS-HILL CONTROVERSY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Looking at the letter just published in your columns from Mr Pearson Hill, permit me to draw your attention to some salient points necessary to be kept in view while your readers are in danger of being misled. When the late Mr Samuel Morley proposed an "arbitration," which I accepted, why was nothing more heard of the proposal?(1) Again, in 1883, Mr Pearson Hill himself challenged the verdict of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" on the subject, when, after a lengthened investigation, the decision was given in my favour —"James Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, in the month of August, 1834"—confirmed by the "Dictionary of National Biography." All usage and right feeling should have led Mr Pearson Hill to accept this decision challenged by himself, and to retire with dignity, if with regret.(2) On the contrary, he sneers at it, and continues his course of wild and reckless abuse of me. As such will only be laughed at by all who have impartially read my publications, I have no intention of troubling the lawyers in the matter(3) let Mr Hill be as abusive as he may! I am content with the records of standard historical works, and the official recognition of now nearly the entire philatelic world, including thousands of studious and able men. Again, I certainly do not gather from Mr Pearson Hill's late pamphlet that he still looked upon Sir Rowland Hill as having been the inventor of the adhesive stamp.(4) No date is assigned to the invention, no attempt to prove the accuracy of that opinion(5) which, if still held by Mr Pearson Hill, he stands quite alone in holding amongst the world of philatelists.* If Sir Rowland Hill invented this stamp, why did he not propose to adopt it for the purpose of carrying out the penny postage scheme until that course had been pressed upon him by others?(7) We have the official facts from the lips of the Ministers of the day, and from members of both Houses of Parliament, that up to the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July 1839 Mr Rowland Hill had not proposed to adopt the adhesive stamp, that his plan was that "an impressed stamped cover was absolutely to be used on all occasions."(8) These proceedings Sir Rowland Hill in his writings, and Mr Pearson Hill in his letter to you, have wholly ignored, while it is proved and admitted that James Chalmers had sent his plan officially to London, and to Mr Rowland Hill himself, a year and a half before the introduction of the Bill! Unable to set aside the records of Parliament, Mr Pearson Hill simply ignores them, upsetting as they do conclusively and unanswerably pretensions now wholly exploded in all quarters where the facts have been impartially investigated, but which he still hopes may be swallowed by the public of Dundee!(9) I am, &c., PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon, May 26.

Irrelevant
~~Now~~ matter introduced, to distract attention from the main charge against him – viz. falsification of dates & documents of
(1) Suggestio falsi – It was ~~really~~ I who tried to place all facts before Mr S. Morley when he spoke to me about it – It was Mr Morley who soon dropped Chalmers, finding he could not believe anything he said.

(2) See pars 27 and 33 (foot note) ~~in "The Origin of Postage Stamps"~~ Chalmers himself ~~fights against their decision~~ that Mr R. Hill was the first to publish his plan & that James Chalmers invented his property.

(3) The statement for the Prosecution has been temperate, doubtless always seems "wild and reckless abuse" to the criminal.

(3) Worst fight "Discretion is the better part of ——— cowardice"

(4) If it be "abusive" in me to openly charge Chalmers with fraud – offering to prove the fact, what is his conduct in slandering for seven years, a public benefactor like Sir Rowland Hill?

(5) No reader of my pamphlet can have any doubt on this point.

(6) "How beautifully he lies" The date 13 Feb. 37 is given no less than 7 times in my pamphlet. See especially par: 12

(7) Sir R. Hill professed it from the very first – See his evidence & pamphlet. also. "The Origin of Postage Stamps" – pars 10-27 and many others –

(8). See "The Origin of Postage Stamps" pars 30 & 34. This is a most dishonest misrepresentation of the debate – but even if the House had passed a unanimous vote that Mr R. Hill had not proposed the use of the adhesive stamp up to that date, it would not get over the fact that his evidence and pamphlet prove, beyond question that he did so in Feb. 1837.

(9) Which was interpreted and means He-haw, he-haw, he-haw!

* A fair specimen of Pat Chalmers useless misrepresentation. He well knows that the London Philatelic Society are totally opposed to his claim. He has just published a letter, full as usual of misrepresentations, addressed to Mr Henderson of the Manchester Philatelic Society giving them additional statements as he finds they don't agree with him!

THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER,

JUNE 2, 1888.

## THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—As I fully expected, Mr Patrick Chalmers, though publicly accused of falsifying dates and documents, and of deliberate misrepresentations of fact, made to support a worthless claim, declines to take the only course—an action for libel—by which a man so charged can clear his character. He has "no intention of troubling the lawyers," or, rather, has no intention of giving lawyers the opportunity of "troubling" him.

Your readers will appreciate the significance of his decision when I remind them that, if my accusations were in any way untrue, Mr Patrick Chalmers, by taking the case into Court, could not only obtain heavy pecuniary damages, but would have the finest public opportunity of establishing his father's claim (if it were well founded) by bringing it before a tribunal where every statement must be made on oath, and be subject to the severest cross-examination.

This ordeal he will not face, even for the manifest advantages which, if he were speaking the truth, he would obtain.

Satisfied with having, after five years' uncontradicted misrepresentations, deceived some persons into a belief that his father first invented penny stamps, he is content, as his letter of 26th inst. shows, to remain under the gravest charges of fraud. If his thus submitting to be publicly discredited could in any way advance the claim he has put forward there might be a possible explanation of his conduct—the hope of solid reward might to him be ample compensation—but the very claim for which he seems willing to sacrifice every consideration of truth and honour must obviously be fatally injured rather than benefited by his shrinking from the ordeal which, for the second time in five years, I have publicly dared him to face.

As pointed out in my last letter, Mr P. Chalmers on this question seems to have lost sight of the distinction between truth and falsehood. Could better proof of this be desired than his extraordinary assertion that I give no date for Sir Rowland Hill's suggestion of the adhesive stamp, or than the fact that the other assertions in his letter of 26th inst. are for the most part mere bald repetitions of misstatements which, in my pamphlet on the Origin of Postage Stamps, have already been fully exposed?

Could any sane person have been so foolish as to supply me—just when it was most useful—with so abundant a crop of misrepresentations as those contained in Mr P. Chalmers' last two letters—misrepresentations which require no knowledge of postal matters to discover, and which even the least intelligent of your readers who has seen my pamphlet could not fail to detect?

Surely after this exposure I may safely leave the public to draw their own conclusions as to what are the real facts of this truly threadbare case.—I am, &c.,

PEARSON HILL.

6 Pembridge Square, London,
31st May 1888.

*P.S.*—I purpose, with your permission, in another letter to deal—quite in a friendly way—with the statements of Miss Walker, which also appear in your paper of 28th instant.

misprint for "probable"

# THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER,

## MAY 28, 1888.

### MR CHALMERS AND THE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—I do recollect one evening very long ago my father, the late Thomas Walker, Notary Public, Dundee, was late of coming home to supper, and explained that he had been detained in Mr Chalmers, the bookseller's shop. "He is a most ingenious man. He has been busy for some time, he says, devising a plan for reducing the expense of postage, and he thinks it would succeed if carried out." He went on to say that Mr C. thought that the postage to pay for a letter ought to be the same whether the letter came from London or from Perth, these expenses of postage being so hard on poor people who had friends at a distance. Therefore his plan was that letters should be paid for by stamps made for the purpose, to be sold at the Post Office, to be put outside the letter by the person who wrote the letter: that people might be able to supply themselves with those stamps, "so that after your letter is addressed you will have nothing to do but gum on a little square piece of paper in one corner." My father was exceedingly delighted, and added:—"He has showed me his whole plan, even the little bit of paper with 'Value one halfpenny' printed upon it, and he demonstrated the same to us." I have quoted the sentences, which are exactly as my father uttered them, to the best of my recollection; and all this happened, as it appeared to my youthful mind, a good while before Rowland Hill's invention was published. That astonished my father not a little. I have seen it to be my duty to make the above statement to the Editor of the *Dundee Advertiser*.—I am, &c.,

A. L. WALKER.

8 Windsor Street, 25th May 1888.

(!! This refers to the writer of an anonymous letter giving that signature.

In another letter P. Chalmers quotes as a great authority in his favour the assertions of this anonymous writer! Probably himself or one of his family or servants is the writer in question.

Note

* This may readily explain the ease with which the old people in Dundee adopted the 1834 theory. Believing honestly that James Chalmers invention was some two or three years earlier than Rowland Hill's (which is proved to have been in 1837) they would naturally suppose the date to have been 1834 or thereabouts.

# JUNE 5, 1888.

### THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Though, as stated in my last letter, the question about the origination of the adhesive postage stamp is truly threadbare—one, indeed, which has by most people been long ago relegated to the ever-increasing class of public nuisances—I ask your permission to say a few words in reply to Miss Walker's letter which appears in your paper of 28th ultimo. Her letter is so typical of the so-called "evidence" upon which the Chalmers claim is now based, that my showing in perfect friendliness its insufficiency will practically answer others of similar character.

I need scarcely point out that all the circumstantial statements which have appeared at first or second-hand, about old people recollecting James Chalmers showing them his adhesive labels, or of their having actually helped him to print, gum, or cut them up some fifty years ago, though very interesting, are quite useless as evidence on the only question at issue, viz., the date at which all this took place — such recollections being perfectly consistent with Mr James Chalmers own statements as regards his plan—and he surely must be the best authority on such a point—namely that the date at which he "first made it public" was "nearly two years" before 1st October, 1839, which necessarily must mean close upon the end of 1837.

Indeed, without in the least imputing a want of good faith on Miss Walker's part, such evidence reminds one of the attempts sometimes made to establish a fictitious *alibi*, the witnesses deposing to real facts, which, however, occurred not at the time they contend for, but on some other occasion.

Now the only evidence which could be of any use to prove that James Chalmers when writing in 1839-40 did not know what he was talking about, and ought to have said "1834" as the date of his scheme, when over and over again he would persistently and consistently keep on saying "1837," would be clear and unquestionable documentary evidence as to date. Not a particle of such evidence, however, has as yet been produced by Mr Chalmers' advocates. Miss Walker's testimony on this point is vague in the extreme. She remembers her father's telling her he had seen Mr James Chalmers' stamps, and goes on to say that "all this happened, according to my youthful mind, a good while before Rowland Hill's invention was published." What possible weight—say in any Court of Justice—would be accorded to any number of such statements, based upon some fifty years' "recollection," or rather forgetfulness, of events, when flatly contradicted by Mr James Chalmers' own written testimony?

The words just quoted "a good while before Rowland Hill's invention was published," raise in my mind a very probable explanation as to how the idea, long prevalent in Dundee, that James Chalmers originated adhesive postage stamps may have arisen. Those of his friends and neighbours who saw in November 1837 (the earliest date he claims) his plan of adhesive stamps, were doubtless as little aware as he himself then was that a similar plan had already been suggested months before by Mr Rowland Hill in his evidence of 13th February 1837. When, therefore, in May 1840 the adhesive postage stamps first appeared, probably many "Dundonians (now of 60 years' standing)" at once jumped to the very natural conclusion that here at last was James Chalmers' scheme in operation, which he had shown to them some two and a-half years before.*

Old beliefs rapidly crystallise, and, indeed, sometimes get all the stronger as memory and judgment fail, but, luckily for those long past middle life, old people are never expected to part with opinions, however erroneous, to which for any reason they prefer to cling.

With all apologies for the length of this letter, and with thanks for your having kindly afforded me so much of your time and space.—I am, &c.,

PEARSON HILL.

6 Pembridge Square, London, W.,
2d June 1888.

Dundee Advertiser.

MONDAY, MAY 28, 1888.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE CHALMERS-HILL CONTROVERSY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Looking at the letter just published in your columns from Mr Pearson Hill, permit me to draw your attention to some salient points necessary to be kept in view while your readers are in danger of being misled. When the late Mr Samuel Morley proposed an "arbitration," which I accepted, why was nothing more heard of the proposal? Again, in 1883, Mr Pearson Hill himself challenged the verdict of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" on the subject, when, after a lengthened investigation, the decision was given in my favour—"James Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, in the month of August, 1834"—confirmed by the "Dictionary of National Biography." All usage and right feeling should have led Mr Pearson Hill to accept this decision challenged by himself, and to retire with dignity, if with regret. On the contrary, he sneers at it, and continues his course of wild and reckless abuse of me. As such will only be laughed at by all who have impartially read my publications, I have no intention of troubling the lawyers in the matter, let Mr Hill be as abusive as he may. I am content with the records of standard historical works, and the official recognition of now nearly the entire philatelic world, including thousands of studious and able men. Again, I certainly do not gather from Mr Pearson Hill's late pamphlet that he still looked upon Sir Rowland Hill as having been the inventor of the adhesive stamp. No date is assigned to the invention, no attempt to prove the accuracy of that opinion which, if still held by Mr Pearson Hill, he stands quite alone in holding amongst the world of philatelists. If Sir Rowland Hill invented this stamp, why did he not propose to adopt it for the purpose of carrying out the penny postage scheme until that course had been pressed upon him by others? We have the official facts from the lips of the Ministers of the day, and from members of both Houses of Parliament, that up to the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July 1839 Mr Rowland Hill had not proposed to adopt the adhesive stamp, that his plan was that "an impressed stamped cover was absolutely to be used on all occasions." These proceedings Sir Rowland Hill in his writings, and Mr Pearson Hill in his letter to you, have wholly ignored, while it is proved and admitted that James Chalmers had sent his plan officially to London, and to Mr Rowland Hill himself, a year and a half before the introduction of the Bill! Unable to set aside the records of Parliament, Mr Pearson Hill simply ignores them, upsetting as they do conclusively and unanswerably pretensions now wholly exploded in all quarters where the facts have been impartially investigated, but which he still hopes may be swallowed by the public of Dundee.—I am, &c., PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon, May 26.

### MR CHALMERS AND THE POSTAGE STAMP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—I do recollect one evening very long ago my father, the late Thomas Walker, Notary Public, Dundee, was late of coming home to supper, and explained that he had been detained in Mr Chalmers, the bookseller's shop. "He is a most ingenious man. He has been busy for some time, he says, devising a plan for reducing the expense of postage, and he thinks it would succeed if carried out." He went on to say that Mr C. thought that the postage to pay for a letter ought to be the same whether the letter came from London or from Perth, these expenses of postage being so hard on poor people who had friends at a distance. Therefore his plan was that letters should be paid for by stamps made for the purpose, to be sold at the Post Office, to be put outside the letter by the person who wrote the letter: that people might be able to supply themselves with those stamps, "so that after your letter is addressed you will have nothing to do but gum on a little square piece of paper in one corner." My father was exceedingly delighted, and added:—"He has showed me his whole plan, even the little bit of paper with 'Value one halfpenny' printed upon it, and he demonstrated the same to us." I have quoted the sentences, which are exactly as my father uttered them, to the best of my recollection; and all this happened, as it appeared to my youthful mind, a good while before Rowland Hill's invention was published. That astonished my father not a little. I have seen it to be my duty to make the above statement to the Editor of the *Dundee Advertiser*.—I am, &c., A. L. WALKER.

8 Windsor Street, 25th May 1888.

DUNDEE ADVERTISER

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1888

## THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

### AMUSING DISCUSSION IN DUNDEE TOWN COUNCIL.

Yesterday the monthly meeting of the Dundee Town Council was held—Provost Hunter presiding. There were also present—Bailies Gentle, Ogilvie, M'Culloch, Tulloch, Macdonald, and Doig; Dean of Guild Mathewson; Treasurer Nicoll; and Messrs Robertson, Whyte, Speed, Kay, Perrie, Foggie, Bradford, Ferrier, Philip, M'Kinnon, Craig, Black, and Adamson.

Treasurer NICOLL said—I wish to call attention to the minute of the Finance Committee refusing to give a subscription of £5 for the purpose of erecting a bust of the late James Chalmers, the inventor of the adhesive stamp. (Laughter.) Some people seem to treat this matter lightly.

Mr FOGGIE—No wonder. (Laughter.)

Treasurer NICOLL—More especially Mr Bradford.

Mr BRADFORD—Hear, hear.

Treasurer NICOLL—But I have to say if that gentleman had read the literature that Mr Chalmers had been sending to Dundee—(laughter)—he would have understood the subject sufficiently.

Mr BRADFORD—I hardly think it. (Laughter.)

Treasurer NICOLL—I have no doubt Mr Chalmers, our townsman, was the inventor of the adhesive stamp. ("Question.") But apart from that, the application which comes before us today is from the Burns Club. There was a deputation from that Club which met the Provost, Bailie Ogilvie, and myself in regard to the bust they intend to erect in the Albert Galleries to the memory of Chalmers. I moved at a meeting of the Finance Committee that we should subscribe to the extent of £5 to the fund, and I have no hesitation in proposing that to the Town Council. Mr Patrick Chalmers is most persistent in what he is doing. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Mr James Chalmers was a most excellent man in his day. He did a great work for Dundee and for the country, and I think it is the least the town can do to support this movement originated by the Burns Club. I find Mr Foggie was against giving this £5, but some time ago we found him ready to give £500 to one of the churches, which would not have been to the public advantage. ("Question" and "Oh, oh.")

Bailie TULLOCH seconded the Treasurer's motion.

Mr BRADFORD—I consider this a question with which the Council should have nothing to do. I have read some of the numerous pamphlets on the subject, and it appears to me to be by no means settled that Mr Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive stamp. It seems to me that Mr Pearson Hill is very much more logical than the other man.

Bailie GENTLE—Logic would not have much power here. (Laughter.)

Mr BRADFORD—I think the question who has the real honour of the invention should be settled before we have anything to do with this proposal. (Hear, hear.) The amount of money is a mere bagatelle; but there is a matter of principle involved. The question is not settled, and the papers have still letters on the subject.

Bailie GENTLE—I thought one of the papers had given it up. (Laughter.)

Mr BRADFORD—Well, the *Dundee Advertiser* has another letter on it to-day. I have not read it, because these letters are far too numerous, and life is too short to go over them all. (Laughter.) We had the matter brought before us five years ago by the Treasurer, who has persisted ever since in championing his friend, Mr Patrick Chalmers, in his endeavour to see honour done to the memory of his father. But if we let him have his own way in this matter he will perhaps be asking us next to raise a monument to his other friend, the Marquis of Lothian. (Great laughter.) I move the approval of the minute.

Mr FOGGIE seconded.

Mr CRAIG objected to the spending of public money for private purposes.

Bailie OGILVIE—I am to support the motion. I do so as a native of Dundee. I am proud of my fellow-townsman. It is hardly fair for Mr Bradford and such people who have only recently come to Dundee to oppose the motion. (Great laughter.)

Mr BRADFORD—If Bailie Ogilvie means that I am a more recent importation than himself, I quite agree with him—(laughter)—but when he says I have only recently come to Dundee, it shows he has not been very observant of what has been taking place during the last 30 or 40 years. (Laughter.)

Bailie OGILVIE—Mr Chalmers did a great deal more than Mr Bradford would give him credit for. He was a public-spirited man, and did much so far as postal matters were concerned. (Hear, hear.) I held these opinions long before Mr Bradford came to Dundee. (Laughter.)

Mr BRADFORD—I quite agree with you. (Laughter.)

Bailie OGILVIE—I don't think Mr Bradford should complain of the enormous quantities of

Anonymous letter giving that signature.

In another letter P. Chalmers quotes as a great authority in his favour the assertions of this anonymous writer! Probably himself or one of his family or servants is the writer in question.

Note

* This may readily explain the ease with which the old people in Dundee adopted the 1834 theory. Believing now that James Chalmers' invention was some two or three years earlier than Rowland Hill's (which is proved to have been in 1837) they would naturally suppose the date to have been 1834 or thereabouts.

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With all apologies for the length of this letter, and with thanks for your having kindly afforded me so much of your time and space,—I am, &c.,

PEARSON HILL.

6 Pembridge Square, London, W.,
2d June 1888.

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Mr BRADFORD—Well, the *Dundee Advertiser* has another letter on it to-day. I have not read it, because these letters are far too numerous, and life is too short to go over them all. (Laughter.) We had the matter brought before us five years ago by the Treasurer, who has persisted ever since in championing his friend, Mr Patrick Chalmers, in his endeavour to see honour done to the memory of his father. But if we let him have his own way in this matter he will perhaps be asking us next to raise a monument to his other friend, the Marquis of Lothian. (Great laughter.) I move the approval of the minute.

Mr FOGGIE seconded.

Mr CRAIG objected to the spending of public money for private purposes.

Bailie OGILVIE—I am to support the motion. I do so as a native of Dundee. I am proud of my fellow-townsman. It is hardly fair for Mr Bradford and such people who have only recently come to Dundee to oppose the motion. (Great laughter.)

Mr BRADFORD—If Bailie Ogilvie means that I am a more recent importation than himself, I quite agree with him—(laughter)—but when he says I have only recently come to Dundee, it shows he has not been very observant of what has been taking place during the last 30 or 40 years. (Laughter.)

Bailie OGILVIE—Mr Chalmers did a great deal more than Mr Bradford would give him credit for. He was a public-spirited man, and did much so far as postal matters were concerned. (Hear, hear.) I held these opinions long before Mr Bradford came to Dundee. (Laughter.)

Mr BRADFORD—I quite agree with you. (Laughter.)

Bailie OGILVIE—I don't think Mr Bradford should complain of the enormous quantities of literature coming to Dundee. It is all in the way of business for him. (Roars of laughter.)

The PROVOST—I am to vote for the amendment. I don't think the Council should commit itself to the minute, which states that Mr Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive stamp. Mr Chalmers in a letter stated that he was not the inventor.

Bailie OGILVIE—No, no.

The PROVOST—If you say "No, no," I will read the letter to you. It is dated 1840, and Mr Chalmers goes on to say—"Several plans had been submitted to the House of Commons Committee, 'including yours.' From all these I was naturally induced to believe that I was first in the field, and consequently became a competitor. Your letter, however, of the 18th January undeceived me on that point, although I cannot help saying that my scheme has rather a closer alliance to the one adopted than can be inferred from the copy of your evidence sent to me." I would be the first to give honour to a townsman, but I think we should not interfere with this matter. (Hear, hear.)

Treasurer NICOLL, in reply, said—We are all glad to hear the sweet voice of Mr Bradford again. (Laughter.) He has been absent about two years, and——

Mr BRADFORD—Be as truthful as you can. (Laughter.)

Treasurer NICOLL—Mr Bradford indulges in sneers; but I can put up with them—even the sneer about "my friend Lord Lothian." (Laughter.) Mr Bradford seems jealous that he cannot get into such good company. (Great laughter.)

While the Treasurer was speaking the members disappeared one by one into the lobby, until it was discovered there were only fourteen members present. It was announced that there was not a quorum present, but just at the moment a member came back.

Bailie GENTLE—A quorum! Let us take the vote. Tyle the door. (Great laughter.)

The Councillor who had entered, thinking the business was over before he came in, made a dive at the entrance, and again disappeared. The business then came to an abrupt termination.

Treasurer NICOLL gave notice that he should move at next meeting—"That the Town Council subscribe £5 towards the expense of erecting a bust of the late James Chalmers for his services in connection with the adoption of the adhesive postal stamp and the acceleration of the postal system throughout the country."

There was a letter on the table from the Social Democratic Federation Society requiring that the Meadows should be thrown open to the public on Sundays as on week days, but as the members had dispersed in confusion the letter will have to lie over till the July meeting of Council.

THE DUNDEE COURIER AND ARGUS, FRIDAY, JULY 13,

## DUNDEE TOWN COUNCIL.

An adjourned meeting of the Dundee Town Council was held yesterday—Provost Hunter presiding. The other members present were—Bailies Gentle, Ogilvie, and Doig; Treasurer Nicoll; Messrs Adamson, Robertson, Whyte, Willsher, Cowan, Kay, Foggie, M'Kinnon, Storrie, Philip, Taylor, Low, Stephenson, and Craig.

THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP CONTROVERSY.

Treasurer NICOLL moved the following motion, which he had given notice of at a previous meeting:—"That the Council subscribe £5 for the erection of a bust of Mr Chalmers for his services in connection with the adoption of the adhesive postage stamp system and the acceleration of the postal system throughout the country." In doing so, he said he thought they would only be doing a graceful thing to commemorate the memory of one who had been a very useful public man. He hoped there would be no division on such a small matter.

Bailie GENTLE seconded.

Mr FOGGIE moved that the sum asked be not granted. He said that, while there was no doubt Mr Chalmers was a very worthy citizen of Dundee, he did not think it was their duty to interfere in the dispute at present going on between his relatives and those of Mr Rowland Hill. (Applause.)

The TREASURER here said that Mr Foggie was misunderstanding his motion. It said for his services connected with the adoption of the adhesive postage stamp.

Mr TAYLOR—Now, gentlemen, don't waste a couple of hours discussing this trifling matter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr FOGGIE said that what Mr Nicoll had said did did not change his opinion in the slightest. Treasurer Nicoll might put whatever face he liked on the matter, but he (Mr F.) held that as a corporate body they should have nothing to do with the matter.

Mr Craig here stood up, and

The PROVOST said—As short as possible now, Mr Craig.

Mr CRAIG—Oh, yes. We will just take our time and do the work properly. Proceeding, he seconded the amendment. It was, he said, a different thing if this bust were to be presented by the public generally, but in place of that the Treasurer came and asked them to give £5 to help the Burns Club to present it. He held that the funds of the town should not be devoted to assisting private parties to do anything they wished in matters of this kind. Then the Treasurer had no right to alter his motion.

The PROVOST—Treasurer Nicoll is quite in order in what he did.

Mr CRAIG—Is this to assist the Burns Club to provide this bust?

The TREASURER then said he thought if Mr Craig would withdraw from seconding Mr Foggie's amendment the motion would be carried unanimously. Many citizens had subscribed to this, and he was only asking the Council to subscribe £5.

Bailie OGILVIE said he thought Mr Craig was getting somewhat muddled in this matter—(laughter)—because he (the Bailie) had not seen a single statement anywhere which would lead him to believe that this was to be a bust presented by the Burns Club in memory of Mr Chalmers. The members of the Burns Club were only taking the initiative in the matter.

Mr CRAIG—I have simply to ask Bailie Ogilvie to read last month's minutes. That is all he requires to do.

Bailie OGILVIE—I have read them, and they did not appear to bear it out.

Mr CRAIG—They do.

Bailie OGILVIE—No, no; they are only taking the initiative in the matter. Considering the position Mr Craig occupied, I also wonder that Mr Craig is not more patriotic, for he was floated into this Commission on the head of postage stamps—(great laughter)—and should hail with great satisfaction their desire to do something for the inventor of these stamps. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr PHILIP said the Town Council was not the authority to judge this matter, and he therefore agreed with the amendment.

Mr ROBERTSON said he thought the Council should keep themselves entirely clear of this dispute. He had just received some literature in reference to this matter from Mr Patrick Chalmers, who in one pamphlet said that he had just erected a memorial to Mr Chalmers, crediting him with the official consent of the Town Council as having been the originator of the adhesive postage stamp, and that for the second time. He asked if this statement were true, and if the Town Council had ever made such a declaration.

Bailie GENTLE—There is no doubt about it.

Treasurer NICOLL said that four or five years ago a motion was proposed in reference to the matter, and they would find it recorded in one of the minutes that the Town Council of that day was quite satisfied that he was the inventor of the postage stamp.

The PROVOST—At the same time it is perfectly correct that they gave no authority for the erection of the headstone.

Mr CRAIG—For the headstone, but not the inscription.

The PROVOST—Just so.

Mr ROBERTSON then said he held that it was a very serious matter for this pamphlet to be knocking about all over the world if not true.

After some further discussion, a division was taken, when there voted—For the motion, Provost Hunter, Bailies Gentle and Ogilvie, Treasurer Nicoll, and Messrs Cowan, Taylor, Storrie, Low, and Adamson (9); and for the amendment—Messrs Whyte, Willsher, Speed, Kay, Foggie, Philip, Stephenson, M'Kinnon, and Craig (9).

The TREASURER—This is the first time, Provost, you have had the honour and privilege of exercising your casting vote. (Laughter.)

The PROVOST—Then I will give you the benefit of it. (Laughter and applause.)

The motion was accordingly declared carried.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.



*To the Editor of the "DUNDEE ADVERTISER."*

SIR,

As I intend shortly to present a reply to the pamphlet which Mr. Pearson Hill has at length been good enough to publish, and which reply, I trust, the public of Dundee will do me the favour to read, I do not trouble you with any detailed answer to his letter in your issue of 2nd inst., the violence of which, indeed, defeats and answers itself.

I will only ask permission to repeat that Mr. Pearson Hill makes no pretension as to Sir Rowland Hill having specially *invented* the adhesive postage stamp, saying that such could not possibly have been invented until the proposal of a uniform rate of postage had been brought forward, when such a stamp was a matter "of very minor detail, certain to occur to scores of people"—the proposal, however, to use same for the purpose of carrying out the penny postage scheme in practice having originated with Sir Rowland Hill in February, 1837, nine months prior to the same proposal of James Chalmers, as to which we shall see.

Meantime, it is a gain of no small importance that we have already got quit of the delusion as to the adhesive postage stamp having been specially the invention of Sir Rowland Hill—the dispelling of other and still more important delusions will follow.

I am, &c.

PATRICK CHALMERS

WIMBLEDON,

*June 5th. 1888*

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*From the* "City Press," *July 4th*, 1888.

"The Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp.—Mr. Pearson Hill's recently published pamphlet, defending Sir Rowland Hill's right to be considered the originator of the Adhesive Stamp, has called forth a further rejoinder from Patrick Chalmers, who presents a case on behalf of his father the strength of which no one of honest judgment can possibly deny. Not content with general dealing with Mr. Hill's arguments, Mr. Chalmers considers them one by one, his contention on behalf of his father being invariably accompanied with evidence which it would be difficult to call into question for a moment. Alluding to the part Mr. Alderman Whitehead has taken in the controversy—the end of which seems to be as distant as ever it was—Mr. Chalmers remarks: 'I now respectfully ask Mr. Whitehead, about to be Lord Mayor, to read the copy of this publication, and by so doing become satisfied that it is to James Chalmers we owe the plan which at a critical moment saved and has carried out uniform penny postage. Let me further trust that Mr. Whitehead will take an opportunity to admit this, and by so doing establish in the place of any further controversy 'Peace with honour.' May it be so. The pamphlet, which is written in the form of a letter to the Dundee Burns Club, is published by Messrs. Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange."

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

A Bill has just passed the Commons House of Parliament by which the Corporation of the City of London has, for substantial reasons assigned, been deprived of its ancient privilege of appointing the three Judges undermentioned, exercising important civil and criminal jurisdiction over a wide area of the metropolis — a mere preliminary, in the opinion of many, to more sweeping changes in the constitution and privileges of this Corporation.

I have availed myself of this expression of Parliamentary and public opinion to address the following letter to these Judges, to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and some other members of the Corporation :—

## "THE ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

"Sir,—'The City has in great measure to thank itself for this blow.' Such is the verdict of the *Times* with reference to the City Corporation having just been deprived of its privilege of electing its own Recorder, Common Serjeant, and Judge of the City of London Court—a verdict confirmed by the Press generally, and by public opinion. And so long as these high officials just named, also the Aldermen and the Members of the Common Council, shut their eyes, ears, and mouths to grave and irregular practices, known to and admitted by thousands at home and abroad, so long will that Corporation continue to invite being shorn of its privileges, and become lowered in the estimation of the public.

"In a letter addressed to Sir John Monckton, of date February 26th, 1886, and published by me in the papers, and in a subsequent pamphlet, entitled, 'The Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee,' I stated 'that the Sir Rowland

Hill Committee, to the obscuring of the truth, and consequent detriment to the general well-being, have concealed from the public, from H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and from others, vital and essential facts, while having erected a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, and while collecting money from the public on the strength and prestige of his name.' And 'I have given the names of this Committee, including certain Aldermen of the City of London.'

"What is to be said, or can be thought, of a body which has permitted such an allegation as this to be publicly made with silence and with impunity if untrue, and at the same time permit this Rowland Hill Committee to continue year after year to issue from under the very roof of the Mansion House its appeals to the public, while still keeping back vital and essential facts.

"I have no desire, Sir, to resuscitate this matter, though it will be evident to you that under the estimation now evinced both in and out of Parliament with respect to the City Corporation, a ready and still greater attention would be given to statements only too well founded. My object in now addressing you is rather to invite your good offices in getting Mr. Alderman Whitehead, or other responsible member of this Rowland Hill Fund to do me that justice the hitherto refusal of which has been to me and to my cause, oppression, and to the public what I need not designate. What I ask of Mr. Whitehead will be found at page 15 of the pamphlet herewith,* entitled 'A Reply to Mr. Pearson Hill,' and which I trust will be favoured with your perusal. I am quite aware that a pamphlet upsetting preconceived ideas is unwelcome, but I trust other considerations will outweigh any repugnance on your part to reading same. The opinion of your own paper, the *City Press*, upon the subject is enclosed. *

"I am, Sir,

"Yours respectfully,

"PATRICK CHALMERS.

"Copy of the other pamphlets referred to will be sent you if desired.

"WIMBLEDON,

"*July 20th, 1888.*"

* already sent you.
P. C.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

A condensed list lately circulated by me of publications which have recognised James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, included thirty names of the London press—a "fairly numerous" body of the provincial press—and a "very universal" number of the Scottish papers. The list was headed by the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and "Dictionary of National Biography," the leading biographical works of the day; while the Glasgow Post Office Magazine, "The Queen's Head," also recognised James Chalmers in an able article on the subject.

I further added, that in America, eighteen (now twenty) Philatelic Societies had officially recognised James Chalmers, including the American Philatelic Association itself, or convention of American Philatelists at Chicago, in which important city a "Chalmers Society" had been formed. This Society has now obtained a charter of incorporation under the laws of the State of Illinois, the first instance of such a Society having become so incorporated. Historical Societies, State Libraries, Scottish Clubs, Philatelic Journals, and Newspapers, had cordially joined in the recognition.

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Through the courtesy of a valued correspondent, I am now enabled to particularise the following German Philatelic Journals, representing a most numerous body of Continental Philatelists, now recognising James Chalmers, and supporting my claim on his behalf:—

1. VIENNA.—The "Wiener Briefmarken Zeitung," Ed.: H. Koch.

2. do. The "Velt Post," Ed.: Sigmund Friedl.

3. LEIPZIG.—The "Illustrites Briefmarken Journal," Ed.: Gebrüder Senf. Organ of 29 Philatelic Societies.

4. BERLIN.—The "Mittheilungen des Berliner," Phil. Club. Organ of this Berlin Society.

5. do. "Der Sammler," Ed.: Dr. Brendicke.

6. MUNICH.—"Das Postwerthzeichen," Ed.: Th. Haas. Organ of the Bavarian Philatelic Society.

7. DRESDEN.—"Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung," Ed.: E. W. Grossman. Organ of the Dresden Philatelic Society.

8. FRANKFORT.—The "Illustrite Frankfürter Universum," Ed.: H. J. Danth.

9. MOHRISCH OSTRAU.—The "Philatelistichen Borsen," Ed.: H. Sauer.

10. STOCKHOLM.—"Tedning för Frimerkramlare." Ed.: R. I Bruzelius.

11. PARIS.—"L'Union des Timbrophiles," Ed.: J. Nalés, Journal of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie de Paris.

12. DOUAI.—"L'Echo de la Timbrologie," Ed.: Fremy Fils.

13. CONSTANTINOPLE.—"Le Timbre Levantin," Ed.: J. Tchakidji.

The rapidity and extent of the above recognitions form an emphatic testimony to the force of my evidence and to the justice of my cause; and this, I am further informed, will now be powerfully advanced in consequence of the late publication of Mr. Pearson Hill, and my "Reply" to same.

PATRICK CHALMERS,

*Hon. Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of twelve American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,
*July*, 1888.

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

*From* "THE PHILATELIC ADVERTISER AND COLLECTORS' REFEREE."—S. HELLIER, London, *July*, 1888.

"To the intense gratification of Mr. Patrick Chalmers, and we may say of all interested in this controversy, Mr. Pearson Hill has at last published a pamphlet urging his father's (Sir Rowland Hill's) claims to having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. Unfortunately, however, he has tried to strengthen his cause by indulging in very abusive personalities, which are at all times most obnoxious, but in this case altogether ridiculous and most insulting—more like schoolboy spite than the words of a man engaged in a serious dispute of international interest and importance.

"It is gratifying, however, to find that none of Mr. Hill's so-called proofs have any substantial foundation, and it will be with feelings of great satisfaction that those who recognise Mr. James Chalmers as the right man in this matter, will hear that Mr. Patrick Chalmers has just published an exhaustive reply to Mr. Hill's pamphlet, clearly proving to the minds of all impartial and sober-minded reasoners that Mr. Chalmers' claims are indisputably founded on truth and justice."

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*From the* "ILLUSTRITE BRIEFMARKEN ZEITUNG,"—LEIPZIG, *August* 15*th*, 1888. *Editor*, Dr. A. MOSCHKAU, *the friend and correspondent of* Sir ROWLAND HILL *and of* Mr. PEARSON HILL.

"To a correspondent who asks 'Which view does the editor of this paper take concerning the affair Hill-Chalmers so frequently referred to lately?' the learned Dr. Moschkau replies:—

"'How could we do otherwise than believe that Chalmers is in the right! We have had personally some correspondence with Sir R. Hill a short time before his death, and we propose to refer to same some time later on in this paper.'"

The importance of the above admission in favour of James Chalmers cannot be exaggerated, and to which I now beg to draw the attention of the Press and others at home.

P. C.

## JAMES CHALMERS AND THE A. P. A. CONVENTION.

SO MUCH has been printed in regard to the invention of the adhesive postage stamp that many readers are tired of the subject. But the searcher after truth must ofttimes suffer annoyance and vexation; and my again taking up the pen in this controversy arises from the fact that certain misleading representations of this case have recently been made.

In the July issue of the *Quaker City Philatelist*, occurs the following:

Members intending to be represented at the coming Convention by proxy, should be especially careful to give full instructions how they desire their vote to be cast, in case the Hill-Chalmers controversy is brought up, as it inevitably will be. It will be remembered that last year certain members, whose names are too well known to need repetition, procured many proxies without so much as intimating that they intended to spring the afore-mentioned dispute upon the Convention. It is needless to say they rushed a resolution through in favor of Chalmers, many votes having been cast for it which would have been against it, had the party been present.

Now let me point out the inaccuracies in the above statement. First: It was well known, long before the date of the Chicago convention, that a resolution endorsing the claims of James Chalmers as the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp would be presented at the convention—in fact, an announcement of the convention by a Chicago daily paper stated particularly that the Chalmers question would be taken up, and the writer hereof personally mailed some two hundred marked copies of that paper to members. It will, therefore, be seen that the question was fully and publicly announced and not sprung upon the convention. Second: If by "certain parties" it is meant to designate the Chicago trio of Chalmers advocates, Messrs. Gadsden, Wolsieffer and Bradt, the alarming (?) number of proxies held by them was, for the three, *thirty-three*,—fifteen less than the number held by New York's delegate, Mr. H. L. Calman; and the proxies held by these three were, without doubt, well satisfied with the action taken. Third: The last sentence of the above extract is utterly and entirely wrong, as the records of the convention most conclusively prove. The writer could certainly not have read the reports intelligently, for we cannot believe he would willfully so misrepresent matters. To begin with, the President's opening address plainly paved the way for the resolution that followed. There was no mistaking the position he took, and when he referred to "the invention of James Chalmers of Dundee," the "certain members" knew that the resolution would receive the thoughtful consideration of the assembly. How the resolution was "rushed" is shown by the official reports, wherein it appears that at the morning meeting of the second day Mr. Wolsieffer moved the appointment of a committee of three to frame some suitable resolution in regard to the invention of the adhesive postage

stamp; Messrs. Wolseiffer, Mekeel and Stone were appointed such committee. When called upon at the afternoon meeting to report, the committee begged to be allowed further time, and did not report until the last meeting, the morning of the third day. Can that be justly called "rushing" a question through?

The committee who had the matter in hand were, to begin with, thoroughly acquainted with the subject. They considered the case carefully and thoughtfully, and, withal, impartially. They had, among other evidence, letters from men who were then living, who had known James Chalmers, and who testified that they clearly remembered the essays that Chalmers had prepared in 1834. When the committee submitted their report, it was adopted without discussion; the only event marking it being one negative vote presented, half apologetically, by Mr. Mitchell, in behalf of one of his proxies.

I have given the foregoing account of the passage of this resolution, in order to overcome the misstatements contained in the paragraph I quote. Most people object to "rushing" a motion of any kind, and an assertion such as is quoted is apt to incite sympathy were it true; but I guess I have clearly pointed out the fallacy of it.

There are many members of the A. P. A. who have not considered this question; have thought it of little consequence, etc. There are, besides, a few members who strongly advocate a rescinding of the resolution passed last year It is, therefore, likely that the question will again be brought up at Boston.

It is because of this that I now proceed to discuss the relative merits of James Chalmers and Sir Rowland Hill in their relation to the invention of the adhesive postage stamp; the scheme that saved the postage reform bill from failure, and made it the success it became.

For years it was the generally accepted belief that Sir Roland Hill, a politician of the times, had invented the penny postage system and the adhesive postage stamp. It is only of late years that Mr. Patrick Chalmers became possessed of information that led him to believe his father, James Chalmers, to be the real inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, and that Hill had but appropriated the idea, and not only appropriated it, but used every endeavor to suppress any knowledge or recognition of the great services rendered by Chalmers. The son had at first but a slight case, but the more he searched for the facts the firmer his case stood, and evidence was ultimately found in abundance. He made, perhaps, at the outset, the mistake of presenting an incomplete case, and his opponent, Pearson Hill, son of Sir Rowland, uses to this day the arguments urged against the immature case first presented by Chalmers. But now the case is presented so fully as to thoroughly convince the impartial critic, as witness the many endorse-

ments of the British and American press, and the leading literary authorities of England.

At last Mr. Pearson Hill found himself cornered and obliged to defend himself. This he attempted to do in a recent pamphlet, which abounds in personal abuse of Pat Chlamers; reiterates so called proofs long ago disposed of; and proves only the extent of folly a desperate man may sometimes be driven to. To this effusion Mr. Pat Chalmers has replied in a letter to the Dundee Burns Club. For the readier comprehension of my readers, I will here reproduce in parallel columns, the so-called "case" presented by Pearson Hill, and the facts as they pertain to James Chalmers:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. (afterwards Sir) Roland Hill proposed adhesive postage stamps in his evidence of 13th February, 1837.<br>Mr. Hill's "proposal" merely consisted of the following, in answer to a suppositious case:<br>"Perhaps this difficulty may be obviated "by using a bit of paper just large enough "to bear the stamp, and covered at the back "by a glutinous wash, which the bringer "might, by applying a little moisture, attach "to the back of the letter, so as to avoid the "necessity of redirecting it." Then he goes on to withdraw the compulsion to use a stamp—"Better at first, at least, accept the "penny in cash for penny letters, so that every "stamp used would be *universally* the im-"pressed stamp." | James Chalmers printed "essays" of adhesive postage stamps in 1834, showed them to his neighbors, etc. Mr. Prain, who is still living, writes: "With regard to the *date* of 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. Chalmer's premises before I left." (Mr. Prain's testimony was before the A. P. A. resolution committee.) |
| Mr. James Chalmers himself, gives November, 1837, as the date at which he first made his plan public. | While November, 1837, may have been the date of Mr. Chalmers' *official* presentation of the case, evidence abounds of previous publicity. Furthermore, Mr. Chalmers all along urged strongly the adhesive stamp, while Mr. Hill only appropriated the idea at the last moment, when nothing else would save the penny postage scheme. |
| In October, 1839, unaware of Sir R. Hill's evidence above referred to, Mr. James Chalmeas claimed to have originated such stamps. | This correspondence between Hill and Chalmers, is held by Mr. Pearson Hill. The letter of Chalmers to Hill were official correspondence, but were removed, it would appear, by Mr. Hill, *who will make public an extract only*, from Chalmers' letter of 1840. |
| In May, 1840, however, after having read Sir R. Hill's evidence, Mr. James Chalmers at once withdrew his claim to priority, and expressed his regret he had, in error, ever put it forward. | This letter is the one of which an extract is printed. The so-called withdrawal is largely conditional, even in the extract printed, and wholly unworthy of being considered as such in a legal sense. The suppressed portion of this correspondence could not fail to substantiate Mr. P. Hill's statements, *were his* deductions from the extract correct. His not presenting them but persistently suppressing them, is proof that they do not sustain his deductions. |

It has been the policy of the opponents of Mr. Chalmers to belittle the postage stamp that saved the bill; they call it of little importance, a "very minor detail"—and so it seemed to have been considered by Rowland Hill. This in itself goes to show that Hill was not the great mind he was so long considered to be. Chalmers, on the other hand, appreciated the impor-

tance of that "very minor detail"—the key to the situation that opened up the entire penny postal system, and for lack of which it might have remained locked fast for many years It is most emphatically to the persistence and inventive genius of James Chalmers that we are indebted for the success, at that time, of the scheme.

Rowland Hill labored long and well for the success of the postal measure. He accomplished much. He adhered to his plan of stamped wrappers until convinced of their comparative worthlessness, and then took up the adhesive postage stamp. Having received so much praise, he likely enough thought it all belonged to him, whereas he was rather but a gatherer and compiler, so to speak, of other men's ideas. His limited mind could not appreciate the vast importance of what to him appeared a "very minor detail." And without doubt, at least in my mind, he did not imagine, at that time, that he was depriving Mr. Chalmers of any great honor. But that in after life he realized the importance of Chalmers' invention and the extent of his own imposition, I cannot but believe.

I trust that A. P. A. members have borne with me and followed through this somewhat tedious statement. In justice to a great and important question that your Association has to grapple with, you should be versed in it so that you can vote intelligently.

Let me, in conclusion, call your attention to the first sentence of the paragraph I have quoted as a text. Be especially careful to give instructions in this Chalmers case. Consider the proper action to take, and then see that your proxy is bound to act as your judgment dictates.

*S. B. Bradt.*

—*From the Stamp Collector, August, 1888.*

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
August 9th 1888

Dear Sir

It is with much pleasure that I receive again a letter from you after an interval of silence for which I am afraid I myself am chiefly responsible ~~for~~, being comparatively an idle man while I am aware of the many calls upon your time and attention. - I am sorry indeed, however, to notice from your letter a disposition to go back from the solemn Resolutions adopted under your Presidency at the late Chicago meeting as to the adhesive postage stamp invention, every thing that has since occurred going to strengthen rather than to weaken the evidence upon which those Resolutions were founded. I think you must have overlooked or forgotten that evidence, so I consequently take leave to hand you again copy of my pamphlet of 1884 containing same. You have not alone the testimony of an entire community, but you have the specific testimony as to the date, the year 1834, of men who took part in the matter and saw the stamps, with much corroborative evidence. -

Then as to the point of "who first proposed to adopt this plan for the purpose of carrying out the

penny postage scheme in practice", if my late pamphlet, "Letter to the Dundee Burns Club", does not convince you that it was to my father we owe that proposal and not to Rowland Hill, anything I may state within the limits of a letter will be of no avail. –

As to the penny postage scheme itself we seem quite to agree, that same was "an ingenious combination of the ideas of others" for which "Hill deserves great credit". Also, that "he certainly did not invent uniform postage or cheap postage or the use of stamps of any kind for postage." These are just the delusions of = taming here, handed down and fostered by Hill himself, and spread now largely seeing their mistake by our press and biographers, "that it has been my aim to dispute and refute efforts on my part I trust to have your powerful aid in getting set aside.. If we do not quite agree ~~to~~ about this Fifth Report having been the model ~~of~~ from which Hill ~~took~~ his scheme, we at least agree that the ideas were not his own, while I submit that the total silence shown by Hill in his works as to this identical Fifth Report is a proof that it was the concealed model from which he took a plan handed down as of his own conception. Be that as it may, we are agreed the plan was not his own conception.

You also admit that neither "was the use of stamps of any kind for postage". Here, too, we are agreed. What, then, is to be the subject matter of

of reference which you named for=
fore to hand over to this Committee
you speak of? You say we are not
indebted to Hill for this - if not
to my father to whom then are
we so indebted? That is the point
to be answered - not by vague
insinuations or assertions but by
proof as put by me in the enclosed
letter of May 19th to the Dundee
Advertiser - and unless you see
your way to produce some such
proof I trust you will not carry
out this proposal of reference. The
interests of the A. P. A., it may further
seem to you, are concerned in not
dealing without full consideration
in this matter. Unless you have
another candidate to bring forward,
Hill being given up, what will be
said by those large body of your
members, by the Kem witted Scots=
men, & loyal Germans, now support=
ing me, should you now turn round
in the manner proposed, and what
will be the effect upon your Associ=
ation? Let me beg of you, therefore,
Sir, to set your face against any
proposal of the sort that may be
brought forward. -

I enclose several leaflets which
favour me by reading, and I have
a further one in the press of much
importance to follow next week.
A statement in explanation of Mr
Pearson Hill's charge against me of
garbling or withholding corres=
pondence I am now drawing up,

to follow in a month or so
the perusal of which will tend to
show the means which have been
used to propagate this Paulend
Hill delusion, and to further show
the sort of opponent I have had
to deal with. —

Believe me
Yours very Truly
Pet. Cushmeis

Mr. S. K. Tiffany
Worcester
Mass:

& see "Confession" & my lets
"Reply to Mr. Pearson Hill."

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
August 9th 1888

Dear Sir

I now hand you the further leaflet alluded to in my late letter — and this leads me to ask you to be good enough to tell me, from what sources or from whom, in your opinion, did Sir Rowland Hill derive the idea of a low and uniform postage, with the valuable principles of charge by weight and prepayment by stamp."

You admit such were no original conception on his part, yet you attach little or no importance to ~~what~~ this Fifth Report of the Com^n as having been in any way his model. Favour me, then, by saying from

what sources he got these ideas?
This is now a very important part of
the matter, and I trust you will
not deny me the benefit of your
opinion thereupon.

Yours very Truly

Pat. Chalmers

Mr. L. K. Tiffany
Worcester
Mass.

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
August 13th 1888

Dear Sir

You ask for the production of some published record on the part of Chalmers as to his having invented the adhesive stamp in 1834, but you have overlooked that the proposal of substituting a penny stamp postage on newspapers in place of the then existing fourpenny stamp on the sheet never assumed a form sufficiently definite to call for a published proposal of this stamp from Chalmers. Nor was he an idle man like Hill, whose occupation was gone and he in search of some question of the day to take up for a livelihood, but a busy man too fully occupied to write unnecessary letters to the newspapers.* As soon as the uniform penny postage proposal assumed a definite shape, you find Chalmers at once sending his proposal to the Select Committee of the House of Commons, to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and to Pascal and Hill himself, a year and a half before the Bill was introduced into Parliament, & up to which period Hill had not proposed to adopt the adhesive stamp for the scheme. You also overlook that it was Cole and the Mercantile Committee who really carried the scheme through Parliament. –

Then, on what grounds are you to propose a fresh Committee of investigation on your side of the water, the members living probably hundreds of miles apart, when the matter has already been investigated here on the spot by a tribunal of the highest position and authority and whose world-wide reputation & livelihood depend upon the accuracy of their judgment & proceedings, and for these very reasons selected by Mr. Pearson Hill himself –

* though I cannot say he never did so.

a tribunal of learned men to whom my witnesses were known personally or by reputation, as within easy call. By testimony so overwhelming as to set aside pre-conceived ideas, that tribunal tells you that the adhesive postage stamp was the invention of James Chalmers in the month of August, 1834 – and it is at such a decision as this that your doubts are now displayed and which you think you can manage better.

I trust then, Sir, that in your own interest and in the welfare of the Association over which you preside, you have given no countenance to what is virtually a proposal to try over again, under irreparable disadvantages, the proceedings of the Encyclopaedia Britn already recorded in history, to which Mr Pearson Hill himself assented, & by which he and his supporters are bound by every rule of honour to abide.. And this proposal, too, in the face of your Presidential address of 1887 and of the solemn Resolutions then arrived at, the force & propriety of which everything that has since occurred only confirms. Read that address again, and, admitting as you now do, that Rowland Hill invented neither the uniform penny postage scheme nor a stamp of any kind, upon what possible grounds, wholly incomprehensible to me as to others, are you to turn your back upon yourself or to expect the Association at large to follow that example.

Yours faithfully

Pet. Chalmers

Mr. J. K. Tiffany

Worcester Mass:

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*From the* "ILLUSTRITE BRIEFMARKEN ZEITUNG,"—LEIPZIG, *August* 15*th*, 1888. *Editor*, Dr. A. MOSCHKAU.

"To a correspondent who asks 'Which view does the editor of this paper take concerning the affair Hill-Chalmers so frequently referred to lately?' the learned Dr. Moschkau replies:—

"'How could we do otherwise than believe that Chalmers is in the right! We have had personally some correspondence with Sir R. Hill a short time before his death, and we propose to refer to same some time later on in this paper.'"

The importance of the above admission in favour of James Chalmers cannot be exaggerated, as all Philatelists at home and abroad will understand.

P. C.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

## FURTHER IMPORTANT RECOGNITION OF JAMES CHALMERS.

*From the* "DEUTSCHE VERKEHRS ZEITUNG," *or German Traffic Journal—"organ of the General Post Office and Telegraphic Affairs, and their Officials."* — BERLIN, *August* 31*st*, 1888.

"Until a short time ago Sir Rowland Hill, the late British Post Office Secretary, known through his reforms in Postal matters, has been looked upon as the inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. However, lately, only through careful investigations, it has been ascertained that this service is due to the bookseller, James Chalmers, of Dundee, who died in 1853.

"Chalmers' carefully worked-out ideas and plans were laid before the British Treasury, and his system of the Adhesive Postage Stamp was adopted by Treasury Minute of the 26th December, 1839. At that time Rowland Hill was an official of the British Treasury.

"On the 6th May, 1840, namely forty-eight years ago, the first issue of Adhesive Postage Stamps appeared in England."

The article goes on to notice the periods at which other nations adopted "the indispensable invention of Chalmers, until such had been adopted by all the countries of the globe as time passed on."

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The above article is being reproduced by such leading German papers as the "FRANKFORT GAZETTE," and others.

P.C.

WIMBLEDON,
*September*, 1888.

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
Sept. 6th 1888

Dear Sir

I am now in receipt of your long & much esteemed favour of 23d. Augt., the perusal of which disclosures one of the impressions I had arrived at from the contents of your previous letter of 25th July, in which I understood you to say that the Chicago Resolutions were to come up again at the Boston meeting, when you intended to propose that the matter in question should now be referred to a Committee to investigate & report.

From this I naturally concluded you had changed your opinion as to James Chalmers as expressed by these Resolutions, or if still of the same opinion as then you would certainly have stated it was your intention to meet any such adverse proposal by a direct negative. –

My replies of 7th & 13th August, consequently, to the tenour of which you take some exception, I must now ask your indulgence with respect to as having been written under an erroneous impression for which I cannot hold myself altogether responsible. –

However, you misapprehend the reason for my expostulations, as any anxiety I felt arose from the retarding effect the views of this appointment would have upon the progress my cause continues to make on the Continent. –

It is now, however, with intense satisfaction that I read your opinion remains unchanged, and that I follow the reasoning and arguments put forward in support of my case, more able & powerful, indeed, than I have myself succeeded in presenting it. – And if this opinion, as you say, can only be shaken by the overturning of the veracity and testimony of my witnesses we may safely discard the idea of any such possibility – indeed, you say the barriers attempted to be set up by Mr. Pearson still have in fact no existence at all. –

It is thus with pleasure that I have again & again read over your valuable letter, for the contents of which my thanks are specially due. –

And this, too, extends to the information you have favoured me with as respects the origin or antecedents of the penny postage scheme itself, shewing that by putting together one thing & another no originality of conception was called for or exerted on the part of Sir Rowland Hill, however able & ingenious the compilation itself. – We have thus respectively arrived at the same conclusion or terminus if by different roads, and that such has been the case only strengthens the fact itself. –

I have not yet seen any detailed account of the late Boston meeting, but which, I trust, went off to your satisfaction, & I remain,

Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
Pat. Chalmers

Mr. L. K. Tiffany
St. Louis

November 1888.

# The Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund.

*To the* RIGHT HONOURABLE

JAMES WHITEHEAD,

LORD MAYOR, *Mansion House.*

MY LORD,

Again the Trustees and supporters of the above-named Fund have met, this time under the chairmanship of your Lordship specially identified with this Fund, and again the complaint is that subscriptions do not come in. Though London has got up the respectable sum of £429, and Ireland £254, such towns as Birmingham, Leeds, and Bristol have contributed respectively only one guinea, £2 and £4, while the whole of Scotland has brought in only £19.

In a letter which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship's predecessor last year, I ventured to point out what may be looked upon as the cause of this laxity and indifference, with a probable remedy,—giving proof that both the public and the Post Office *employés* were now well aware that the late Sir Rowland Hill, however great his services, invented nothing whatever, but took all his proposals from prior sources, and that, consequently, when now appealed to in his name they do not come forward. More especially is this indisposition manifested in Scotland, the adhesive Postage Stamp, which at a critical moment saved and has carried out the reformed postal system, having been the invention and proposal of a native of Scotland, James Chalmers, of Dundee, the merit of which has been usurped by Sir Rowland Hill. From the Glasgow Post Office, second to none out of London, has been issued a publication pointing out this usurpation, nearly 5000 copies of which have been purchased by the servants of the Post Office throughout the Kingdom at large. No room is thus left for surprise at the poor response made to your Lordship's unwelcome invitation in the name of Rowland Hill.

Some remedy to this continued failure, I went on to state, might be found in withdrawing the name of Rowland Hill and coming forward in your proper designation—that of the Trustees of the Post Office Benevolent Fund—further stating that to continue using the name and prestige of Rowland Hill as a supposed great inventor in inviting subscriptions while having years ago abandoned the point of originality on his part, an abandonment yet withheld from the knowledge of the public, was not dealing openly and candidly with the public, and referring to my publication, "*Concealment unveiled; a Tale of the Mansion House,*" for particulars of this abandonment.

This letter to your Lordship's predecessor, I may add, has been widely circulated in the United States and on the Continent as well as in this country, and has been spontaneously published in the French and German languages in Continental journals for the perusal of the now numerous adherents abroad as well as at home of the cause of James Chalmers. The same will probably be the case with this present letter addressed to your Lordship.

Nor has your Lordship yet explained why in the letter addressed by your Lordship to Mr. Pearson Hill and lately published by him, your Lordship misquoted in its most essential feature the inscription now upon the statue of Sir Rowland Hill, as already pointed out by me to your Lordship.

Before concluding, I ask your Lordship's permission to state a further remedy whereby, if carried into effect, the Post Office Benevolent Fund from a state of mendicant poverty would spring into a flourishing and self-respected institution. Why should the servants of the Post Office remain an exception to the general class of wage-earners in not providing out of their weekly earnings for a Benefit Fund amongst themselves? Every self-respecting body of wage-earners has such a Fund entitling members to a payment when sick or incapacitated, with a payment to the relatives of a deceased member; and why not the *employés* of the Post Office? Let but 50,000 out of the 70,000 or 80,000 in that service subscribe or agree to have kept back from their wages only a penny a week, and a yearly sum of £10,800 starts up as the grand result, relieving the Mansion House of a heavy and thankless task, while at the same time getting quit of the objectionable begging and alms receiving feature of the Fund patronised by your Lordship. And why should the public be asked with ever-increasing appeals to maintain this Benevolent Fund for those who, if they refuse, will not even by such a small sum as a penny a week do something for themselves? Moreover, the merchants, traders, and the public already contribute to the servants of the Post Office sums before which your Lordship's figures dwarf into insignificance. Under the system now in vogue of a house-to-house canvass at Christmas by the letter-carriers, it is calculated that a sum of quite £15,000 a year is altogether contributed, of which not less than £3,000 is obtained in London alone! Yet, in the face of all this, your Lordship keeps ever "asking for more," and this on behalf of a body of men perfectly capable, and I believe willing if permitted, by means of a little self-respecting organisation amongst themselves of dispensing altogether with the dole dealt out to them from the Mansion House.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Mayor,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon, *November 20th*, 1888.

December 10 1888

*With* P. CHALMERS' *respectful compliments.*

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

A kindly letter from Mr. John D. Wears, of Rosemount, having appeared in the "*Dundee Advertiser*" and "*Dundee Courier*" on the above matter inviting a search in their records for the production of any early letter on the subject from the pen of James Chalmers, I may remark that any such letter was more likely to have appeared in the columns of the "*Dundee Chronicle*," of which paper Mr. Chalmers was printer and publisher, but no copies of which, as far as I can ascertain, are now in existence.

The evidence, however, as Mr. Wears points out, as to the invention of this stamp by Mr. Chalmers in the year 1834 is so conclusive from the pens of several living witnesses as to require no additional testimony on that point, while Mr. Wears is himself enabled to add to that testimony by stating that he was shown the adhesive stamps by Mr. Chalmers prior to the summer of 1836.

Some elucidation seems desirable on my part of that portion of Mr. Wears' letter where he states: "It is, I presume, generally known that on the 13th February, 1837, Sir Rowland Hill first suggested the employment of adhesive stamps to be used, bear in mind, in exceptional cases only." What Mr. Wears alludes to is this:—When the then Mr. Rowland Hill was under examination before the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry on the date mentioned, a difficulty arose as to what was to be done in the case of a person unable to write taking a letter and a penny to a Post Office, a stamped cover being compulsory, no money to be accepted in prepayment of the letter. The penny would buy one of the impressed stamped wrappers or covers, which was Mr. Hill's plan of prepayment, but the wrapper would obliterate the address, and the person could not write. In such a case, and in such a case only, says Mr. Hill, "perhaps this difficulty may be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back by a glutinous wash, which the bringer might by applying a little moisture attach to the back of the letter, so as to avoid the necessity of redirecting it." Going on at once, however, to withdraw the compulsion to use a stamp at all—"Better, at first at least, accept the penny in cash for penny letters, so that every stamp used might be *universally* the impressed stamp." And this penny in cash was accepted up to the year 1855.

Here, then, was a momentary allusion to a bit of gummed paper, showing that Mr. Hill had heard of Chalmers' invention of 1834, but without seeing its value or proposing its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the proposed scheme, and up to July, 1839, nothing was heard of any such proposal on the part of Mr. Hill. On the other hand, Mr. Chalmers sent his plan, as already published by me, and urging its adoption to carry out the scheme, to Mr. Wallace, Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, in December, 1837;

to Mr. Cole, Secretary of the City of London Mercantile Committee; and to Mr. Hill himself, in February, 1838. Mr. Hill replied on the 13th March in something like disapproval of the plan. Such plan, however, found strong support from others, and became ultimately adopted by Treasury Minute of 26th December, 1839, two months after the Passing of the Penny Postage Bill.

Mr. Chalmers then sent in his claim as the originator, but Mr. Hill, then in despotic power, was to allow no second person to share with him the merit of this great reform, and in his reply of 18th January, 1840, put Chalmers aside on the ground of having himself been the first to propose the adoption of this stamp, a mere pretence and afterthought bred of the success which had attended Chalmers' proposal. In reply Mr. Chalmers returned Mr. Hill a copy of his (Mr. Hill's) letter to him of 13th March, 1838, showing that then Mr. Hill had no relish for the plan of the adhesive stamp just laid before him. "You *then* said nothing of having already proposed or being in favour of an adhesive stamp—what is this you tell me *now*?"

It is thus conclusively proved by the correspondence, wholly independent of any such early letter being found as Mr. Wears suggests should be searched for, that James Chalmers was the the first to propose the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the penny postage scheme in practice, not Sir Rowland Hill.

But Chalmers had to submit. Such is a brief sketch of the way in which James Chalmers and Dundee have become dispossessed of their due.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*December* 10*th*, 1888.

# The Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund.

## THE PENNY-A-WEEK PROPOSAL.

*To the* RIGHT HONOURABLE

JAMES WHITEHEAD,

LORD MAYOR, *Mansion House.*

MY LORD,

On the 20th November last I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the subject of the Memorial Fund above named. The annual Meeting had just been held under your Lordship's presidency—the usual complaint of want of support was put forward—such towns as Birmingham, Leeds, and Bristol had contributed respectively only One Guinea, £2, and £4, while the whole of Scotland had brought in only £19.

The causes of the poor results complained of were noticed in my letter—the name of Rowland Hill had ceased to draw, while the public had become tired of these continued appeals in behalf of the servants of the Post Office.

I ventured to suggest two remedies for this state of matters: one, that the appeal be made in the name of the Post Office Benevolent Fund, omitting the name of Rowland Hill; the second remedy proposed was that of a weekly subscription of one penny on the part of the Post Office *employés* themselves. Let but two-thirds of the number agree to this, and a yearly sum of over £10,000 would be obtained, thus bringing up the Fund from a state of mendicant poverty to one of affluence, besides relieving the Mansion House of a heavy and thankless task, and at the same time getting quit of the objectionable begging and alms-receiving feature of the Fund patronised by your Lordship.

With how much satisfaction, then, my Lord, do I and those who have supported my suggestion read the account of the Meeting which has just been held at the Mansion House, presided over by your Lordship, in behalf of the "Hospital Saturday Fund," at which Meeting the principle of a Penny Weekly Subscription on the part of the classes who benefit by the Hospitals has been brought forward and unanimously approved of. And how largely is our satisfaction added to by finding that the chief speaker in favour of this principle is none other than the Secretary of the Post Office himself, Sir Stevenson A. Blackwood—with, under reserve, the further approval and sanction of the Postmaster-General. The servants of the Post Office in London are to be invited to subscribe their weekly pennies—a proposal which the Secretary has no doubt will be heartily responded to, and whereby the sum of £3,500 a year in London alone would, the Secretary states, be raised, or about twice as much as the entire income from all sources, including interest of invested funds, of your Lordship's "Rowland Hill" Fund scraped together from all parts of the United Kingdom! Why, then, any further appeals to charity in behalf of the sick or disabled Post Office *employés?* What more powerful argument and illustration in favour of my second remedy—the levy of a weekly penny—could be desired than those now put forward by the Post Office Secretary himself? And can those who thus so easily

and heartily can do so much for the Hospitals do nothing for themselves? Should not the wants of the Post Office Benevolent Fund be a "first charge" on those pennies? Or, are Sir Stevenson Blackwood's *employés* in London alone to hand over this £3,500 a year to the Hospitals, and then come begging for relief to themselves through the Lord Mayor of the day at the Mansion House? No! Charity here will begin at home, and Sir Stevenson Blackwood has given the *coup de grace* to the "Mansion House 'Rowland Hill' Fund" meetings, with their incessant appeals to the benevolent.

Moreover, if your Lordship still retains a hankering after these meetings and appeals, or any doubt as to their early withdrawal in at least the name of Rowland Hill, I respectfully ask your Lordship's perusal of the fresh evidence I have just been enabled to produce in support of my contention that, however great his services, Sir Rowland Hill was no originator, the uniform penny postage scheme having been merely an unacknowledged reproduction of the prior proposals of other men. And more especially as respects the Adhesive Postage Stamp which saved the scheme, that such was the invention and first the proposal of James Chalmers, of Dundee, the merit of which has been shabbily usurped by the reputed inventor of the reformed postal system. The short pamphlet of which I ask perusal is entitled, "*Mr. John Francis, of the Athenæum, on the Plan of Sir Rowland Hill,*"* and why it is so entitled is because this well-known man of letters, and friend of Sir Rowland Hill, entirely confirms in the record he has left behind him the account of the matter presented by myself. No Lord Mayor, after reading these few pages, will again ask money in the name of Rowland Hill.

Or, if the claims upon your Lordship's time and attention are too great to admit of a personal perusal, I trust some of your Lordship's brother Aldermen and colleagues in the Corporation, to whom a copy of this evidence is also sent, will see to this matter and ask themselves, "Is the Mansion House longer to be made a centre for asking money in the name of Rowland Hill?" Nor let your Lordship and the Corporation rest under any delusion that no one is in this matter looking on. Not only in this country but in the United States of America and in every chief city of the Continent, as your Lordship may read, there are now numbers of intelligent men and able writers watching the proceedings of the Mansion House of the City of London, as well as over the vindication of the name and services of James Chalmers.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord Mayor,
Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,
PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon, *February 2nd*, 1889.

* Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange.

[opy.]



Cornell University Library,

ITHACA, NEW YORK,

*March* 11*th*, 1889.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge with hearty thanks the receipt of your valued gift to this Library:—"Mr. John Francis, of the *Athenæum*, on the Plan of Sir Rowland Hill." By PATRICK CHALMERS. Second Edition, 1889.

I have read with interest this contribution to the history of the introduction of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, and have just referred to our set of the *Athenæum*, and find in our copy of the issue of April 28th, 1838, the blue threads running through the paper as you describe them.

The pamphlets on this question which you had previously presented to this Library are kept together in a temporary binder, and we shall be glad to receive any others on this subject.

With renewed thanks for your kind remembrance of this Library,

I am,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. HARRIS,
*Acting Librarian.*

# JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST.

*From the* "NORTHERN ECHO," *Darlington, March 18th*, 1889
(a plain-speaking North of England daily paper).

"A new publication on the 'Adhesive Postage Stamp and the Proposed Postage Jubilee' is to hand from the pen of Mr. Patrick Chalmers, being Press Notices on his late pamphlet, from quotations in which I am glad to observe that the London press—with the exception of the *Times*—are to some extent following the *Northern Echo* in recognising the claim put forward on behalf of the late Mr. James Chalmers. Readers may perhaps remember that I expressed my belief in this column some months ago that the merits of the claim could be easily determined by a reference to *Hansard*. Mr. Chalmers quotes from *Hansard* irrefragable proof of the accuracy of this assertion; and adds that there were further proofs in the records of the Treasury, but that Mr. Rowland Hill removed those records!"

[This official correspondence of 1839 and 1840 is now in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill, who, in his late pamphlet, has not ventured to publish same, under the excuse that such has been placed in the hands of the President of the London Philatelic Society. On application to that gentleman he replies that he has not got this correspondence, and refers me for same to Mr. Pearson Hill! All who have read my publications are aware that I have already done so without being favoured with any reply, my last letter, indeed, having been returned to me unopened. Such, then, is the state of matters. Looking at the manner in which Mr. Pearson Hill has fenced against the production of this correspondence, no impartial person can for a moment doubt the tale same would tell; and that, under all the clouds of sophistry, mystification, and abuse which Mr. Pearson Hill has raised up, he has in reality not a leg to stand upon.—P.C.]

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

With reference to a late circular on the above subject giving an account of a letter addressed to the Lords of H.M. Treasury by the Bankers and Merchants of Dundee in support of the plan of James Chalmers, I desire to withdraw that portion of same attributing this letter to be in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill, as of course I cannot *prove* this to be the case. Those who have read the circular, and have followed the controversy, will therefore form their own conclusions independent of me as to whether this Dundee letter is or is not in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill equally with the plan to which it refers and the entire correspondence betwixt Mr. James Chalmers and Sir Rowland Hill, as admitted by Mr. Pearson Hill to be in his possession, but who as respects this Dundee letter declines to reply either way, the question having been plainly put before him.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*26th July*, 1889.

July 1889

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

## Letter of the Bankers and Merchants of Dundee to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

After the passing of the Penny Postage Bill in August, 1839, Mr. Rowland Hill was appointed to a position in the Treasury for the purpose of superintending the carrying out of the scheme which he had introduced, but for the working of which in practice he had failed to propose any practicable plan. The Lords of H.M. Treasury consequently applied to the public for plans and suggestions for that purpose, by Treasury Minute of date 23rd August, Mr. Hill being then at the Treasury.

James Chalmers, of Dundee, had in December, 1837, and again in February, 1838, already proposed to the proper authorities, and to Mr. Rowland Hill himself, the plan of an Adhesive Postage Stamp, and now in response to this public appeal from the Treasury sent in his plan for the third time.

A copy of the *Arbroath Herald*, of date October 11th, 1839, has been brought to light, from which I am now enabled to show that on this last-named occasion the proposal of Mr. Chalmers was accompanied by an influential memorial on the part of his townsmen in Dundee advocating the plan which he had brought forward. The article in the *Arbroath Herald* is as follows:—

"POSTAGE IMPROVEMENT.

"Mr. James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, has for many years, as perhaps most of our readers may be aware, taken a very active interest in directing public attention to the means and importance of accelerating the mail and in the general improvement of the Post Office establishment. It was chiefly through his exertions, prior to the use of railways, a gain of two days was effected in the correspondence between London and Liverpool and this neighbourhood. He has lately applied himself to mature a plan for carrying into effect the uniform postage of one penny; and in consequence of the recent Treasury Minute inviting competition on the best mode of carrying into effect the principle recommended by Mr. Rowland Hill and now sanctioned by the Legislature, Mr. Chalmers has transmitted his plan to the Lords of the Treasury, accompanied by the following certificate subscribed by about one hundred and fifty of the principal bankers, merchants, writers, shipowners, and others, in Dundee."

Here follows the certificate or letter dated September 30th, 1839, to the same effect as above, first setting forth the early postal services of Mr. Chalmers, and ending by "respectfully recommending his plan, a specimen along with a description of which they had seen, to the favourable consideration of the Right Honourable the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury."

For this copy of the *Arbroath Herald*, from which the above is taken, I am indebted to friends in Arbroath (the birthplace of James Chalmers), including Mr. J. M. McBain, banker there, and author of the work "Arbroath Past and Present," already mentioned in my last pamphlet, page 32, and also author of the "Bibliography of Arbroath Periodical Literature and Political Broadsides." The *Herald* was a weekly paper published in Arbroath. It only existed for one year, but has since been resuscitated.

Having applied to the Treasury here for permission to inspect the above official letter to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, I have been favoured with the following reply :—

" Treasury Chambers,
" 19*th June*, 1889.

" Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo and 17th instant, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that the document which you ask permission to inspect is not in their possession, nor is it amongst the papers preserved at the Record Office.

" I am, Sir,
" Your obedient Servant,
" (Signed) R. E. WELBY.

" P. Chalmers, Esq.,
" Wimbledon."

I shall be doing no injustice, therefore, to Mr. Pearson Hill, and this the more especially as he declines to acknowledge or even to open any communication from me, by concluding that the document in question is now and has been throughout this controversy in his hands, along with the plan to which it refers, and the entire correspondence betwixt our respective fathers, as admitted by Mr. Pearson Hill to be in his possession.

Here, then, is a further and most impressive instance of the system pursued by Sir Rowland Hill in endeavouring to efface all traces of evidence disproving his pretensions to having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. The official correspondence betwixt James Chalmers and himself, the inspection of which would have proved the justice of Chalmers' claim, was removed from the Treasury—advantage is equally taken of his position there to carry into his own possession this official letter of Chalmers' townsmen, proving that up to that period nothing whatever had been heard or known as to the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp having been proposed or contemplated by Mr. Hill himself. When the subsequent Sir Rowland Hill comes to write what purports to be a "History of Penny Postage," all reference to the proceedings in the Houses of Parliament, officially proving as they do that, up to the introduction of the Bill in July, 1839, he had *not* proposed to adopt the Adhesive Stamp, is carefully omitted. Proof upon proof thus demonstrates that Mr. Rowland Hill's statement of 18th January, 1840, to Mr. Chalmers, that he had himself proposed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp *prior* to the proposal to that effect by Mr. Chalmers in December, 1837, obscured the facts, and was a mere pretext and afterthought bred of the success which had attended Chalmers' invention and proposal.

In this same system of suppression of documents and evasion Sir Rowland Hill has been faithfully followed by his son: the correspondence is still withheld; the official letter of the Bankers and Merchants of Dundee in support of their townsman, withheld even from his friends in the London Philatelic Society and elsewhere, it was hoped would never see the light; all reference to the Parliamentary proceedings of July, 1839, is equally evaded in Mr. Pearson Hill's publications as in those of his father, as being insurmountable and conclusive against his pretensions; and to that system of suppression and evasion has been added one of mystification of facts and of ungentlemanly abuse of myself, my witnesses, and supporters. As has been well said—" Violence is the characteristic of despair."

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon,
*July*, 1889.

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.

Sept. 5th 1889

Dear Sir

I was much pleased to-day at finding your enquiry of yesterday for any publications of mine still going on, as this shows me you continue to take an interest in my adhesive stamp matter. I consequently send you copy of my latest pamphlet which I think you have not got, "Mr. John Francis &c" – Also, copy of a statement termed "Explanation", which will show you how an ignorant & confiding public is imposed upon. –

I have looked up 3 copies of the Timbre Levantin, which after perusal, please return, also the card enclosed.

Several of the later Philatelic papers sent me are also herewith, and which I hope you will not forget to return me when done with, as I am seldom favoured with more than one copy. The enclosed Bric-a-Brac I do not again require.

Are you a member of the London Philatelic Society?

Yours Truly

A. J. Pletthorpe Esq
Bingham

Pot. Tholmers

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.

September 18th 1889

Dear Sir

I wrote you on 5th Inst. with a parcel of philatelic papers, and now take leave to put you in mind to return same, as in the main they are the only copies I have.

Some new evidence of consequence has transpired, & which will be made known shortly.

Yours faithfully

Pot. Holmes

A. J. Polletherse Esq
Bingham Notts

Elementary

*With P. CHALMERS' respectful compliments.*

# Mr. Gladstone on Penny Postage Reform.

In his late speech at Saltney Mr. GLADSTONE took occasion to point out the many advantages derived at the present day from the penny postage reform as compared to the pre-existing system when the rates of postage were not only high and beyond the reach of the working man, but where, moreover, double and treble rates were charged irrespective of size and weight, every "bit of paper" in or about a letter being liable for a postage. The happy change to our present system he attributed solely to the courage, genius, and invention of SIR ROWLAND HILL.

As this statement carried with it much unintentional injustice to the real originator of the principle of "charge by weight" in place of by sheet, an injustice which could be readily pointed out, I addressed to Mr. GLADSTONE the following letter:—

"ORIENTAL CLUB,
"HANOVER SQUARE, W.,
"*October 30th*, 1889.

"SIR,

"In your late speech at Saltney as reported in the papers, where you "speak of the great boon of penny postage, and which you attribute to the courage "and genius of SIR ROWLAND HILL, you further emphasize the value of the principle "of charge by weight in place of charge by sheet, or "bits of paper," leaving it to be "understood that such great principle emanated originally from SIR ROWLAND HILL.

"Permit me, Sir, in justice to the memory of my countryman, the late "Mr. WALLACE, M.P. for Greenock, to point out that, in moving on the 9th July, "1835, for 'a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the "'management of the Post Office,' that well-known postal reformer urged, amongst "other improvements which he had already submitted to the Postmaster-General, "that 'letters shall be charged by weight, and that charges on letters having "'envelopes, or on double, or on such-like letters, shall be discontinued.' As we "are approaching the Jubilee celebration of the great postal reform of 1840, when it "is desirable exactly to know what proposals of SIR ROWLAND HILL of 1837 were "original on his part, and what we owe to other men, permit me respectfully to ask if "you have merely overlooked what I now point out; or if, in your opinion, the "valuable principle of charge by weight was originally the conception and first the "proposal of SIR ROWLAND HILL.

"I remain, &c.,
"(Signed) PAT. CHALMERS."

To this letter I have not been favoured with any reply; but any one, by turning up Hansard, vol. 29, July 1835, may read Mr. WALLACE's speech and proposal, as above, for himself.

As other speakers than Mr. GLADSTONE, as well as writers in the Press, will shortly be commemorating the Jubilee year of the great Postal Reform of 1840, the entire merit of which, both as respects conception and execution, it has hitherto been the habit to attribute to SIR ROWLAND HILL, it is desirable on such an occasion that more correct views should be disseminated. Consequently, the following queries are here respectfully put in advance. Are you aware—

1. That the reformed postal system was not the work of one year nor of one man, but that the abuses and mismanagement of the Post Office occupied the attention of the public and of public men both in and out of Parliament for many years prior to the advent of SIR ROWLAND HILL; that a "Commission of Inquiry" was at length appointed, much evidence both as to complaints and remedies obtained, and which Commission issued in all ten reports?

2. That the Fifth Report of this Commission of date April, 1836, recommends the enactment of a low and uniform penny postage on *Prices Current*, and similar mercantile publications, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters, and charged by sheet, to be now prepaid by stamp impressed upon the sheet of paper, and charged by weight in place of by sheet, at the rate of one penny the half-ounce—Mr. WALLACE, as above proved, having long previously already urged the principle of "charge by weight" on letters?

3. That the then Mr. ROWLAND HILL, about this period, and otherwise unoccupied, fortunately joined this body of postal reformers, of whom his elder brother, MATTHEW DAVENPORT HILL, M.P. for Hull, was one; receiving prior to the issue of his pamphlet of 1837 from Mr. WALLACE "an additional half-hundredweight of those heavy blue-books," beyond those into which "he had already dipped," his "only sources of information for the time"?—(*See* "Life of Sir R. Hill," page 246, under date 1836).

4. That neither in his pamphlet of 1837, nor in his "Life," written by himself, does SIR ROWLAND HILL divulge or make any reference whatever to the provisions of this Fifth Report, identical as they are with his own proposals of 1837 with respect to letters, and which proposals have consequently been mistaken as having been his own conception? "He devised the scheme unaided," says the *Times*, at his decease, "before he had ever been inside a Post Office," its principles were "principles which he first laid down." "The present postage system," says the *Athenæum*, "is the sole and undisputed *invention* of SIR ROWLAND HILL." Never has misconception been more complete. What need to have been "inside a Post Office" when everything lay before him in these blue-books? But more:

5. That, so far from SIR ROWLAND HILL having ever been officially acknowledged as the first person to propose a uniform penny postage on letters, he has been distinctly *officially* told to the contrary as under:—

Extract from Treasury Minute, of date 11th March, 1864, conferring upom SIR ROWLAND HILL, upon his retirement from active service, his full salary of £2,000 a year:

"My Lords do not forget that it has been by the powerful agency of the railway "system that these results have been rendered practicable. Neither do they enter into "the question, as foreign to the occasion, what honour may be due to those who, *before* "*the development of the plans of* SIR ROWLAND HILL *urged the adoption of Uniform* "*Penny Postage.*"

6. That it is thus proved that, however great the services of SIR ROWLAND HILL, invention or originality of conception formed no part of his merits; that, indeed, his penny postage scheme was simply an unacknowledged reproduction of the prior proposals of other men, devoid of any of that genius of invention with which he has been so largely credited.

7. That the non-originality of SIR ROWLAND HILL has been recognised by his Mansion House Memorial Fund Committee subsequent to my having drawn their attention to the above-named Fifth Report, as may be read from the *City Press* of date 18th March, 1882:—

"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 (Sir J. WHITTAKER ELLIS) 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.

It will be seen that the above proceedings on the part of the Committee amounted to a complete admission of the discovery I laid before them, *viz.*, that the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837 was *not* an invention, but only a *copy*. The change in the inscription was important and significant—"He founded Penny Postage" was unanimously abandoned. He "established" it was substituted—while a minority of six to nine were in favour of an inscription merely nominal. At a subsequent meeting at which the Lord Mayor was not present, a third inscription was adopted equally but not so clearly admitting the non-originality of conception.

8. That the "Mercantile Committee of the City of London," a body of London Bankers and Merchants specially associated for the purpose, were largely if not indeed mainly instrumental in obtaining Parliamentary sanction for this reform by a liberal expenditure of time and money, and by having through their Secretary, Mr. HENRY

Cole, obtained over 2,000 petitions from the country in favour of the Bill? Not once has any modern writer or speaker so much as alluded to the influence and labours of this Committee, attributing, on the contrary, the entire merit of the passing of the Bill to the energy of Sir Rowland Hill.

9. That the net revenue from the Post Office previous to 1840 having been £1,634,000, it was not until the year 1863, when Sir Rowland Hill retired, that an equal revenue was obtained, the comparative loss to the revenue in the interval having amounted to fourteen millions sterling?

10. That Mr. Rowland Hill having wholly failed in proposing a practicable plan for carrying out in practice the scheme which he had introduced, the Treasury, by Treasury Minute of date 23rd August, 1839, *after* the passing of the Bill, invited plans and suggestions from the public for that purpose, resulting in the adoption of the Adhesive Postage Stamp in conjunction with Mr. Hill's plan of impressed stamped wrappers or envelopes.

11. That "shortly afterwards" the envelopes had to be destroyed as useless, while, "though working both night and day," the supply of Adhesive Stamps "failed to meet the demand." ["Life of Sir Rowland Hill."] Thus the Adhesive Stamp saved and has carried out the reformed postal system, indispensable moreover to this day to the commerce and revenues of the world.

12. That the Adhesive Postage Stamp was the invention of James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, in the month of August, 1834, and had been urged by him upon the proper authorities as early as December, 1837, and upon Mr. Hill himself in February, 1838—and of which plan Mr. Hill subsequently availed himself of his position in the public service to usurp the merit. For proofs and particulars of this I refer to my publication shortly to appear, entitled

"HOW JAMES CHALMERS SAVED THE PENNY POSTAGE SCHEME.

"Letter of Dundee Bankers and Merchants to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury."

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon,
*November 8th*, 1889.

[COPY.]

WIMBLEDON,
*November 18th*, 1889.

DEAR MR. BRADT,

A copy of the *Chicago Gazette* for this month has just reached me, from which I notice that a Committee of A. P. A. Members is to be appointed to investigate the CHALMERS-HILL matter, my friends in general at the Convention properly assenting, for the reasons named.

Readers of my pamphlets cannot forget that many years ago I assented to the late MR. MORLEY'S proposal for "arbitration;" while you will find, on reference to my pamphlet of 1884, page 32, that I suggested to the Post Office authorities here an examination of my witnesses; but in neither case was anything done.

Though time has thinned their ranks and left the survivors certainly not younger men, it will be found that even now the opprobrious epithet applied to them of being only "men in their dotage" is strangely inapplicable. I shall, moreover, invite them, notwithstanding what has occurred, to reply with readiness to any application that may be addressed to them. You will remember that, a few months ago, MR. MAXWELL, of Hull, was induced under friendly guise to state what he knew, the result being that a maliciously untrue version of his letter appeared in one of your Philatelic journals—statements fastened upon him which he never made, his dates falsified, himself charged by MR. PEARSON HILL with having been talked over or bribed by me; the fact being that, as with other witnesses, our very existence was unknown to each other, nor to this day have we ever met.

It is indeed surprising that a cause which has to be supported in such manner as this, filled out with mere denunciation and abuse, without a pretence of proof, should have found amongst the Members of your Association any sympathy or support whatever. That such tactics will prevail with the intelligent and responsible Committee now to be appointed is of course impossible. Throwing aside all mystification and superfluities, what you will want to ascertain on behalf of your Association is, "When did HILL or CHALMERS invent the Adhesive Postage Stamp, and what proof can you adduce on the subject?"

As not even the warmest friends here of MR. PEARSON HILL, either in or out of the Press, now pretend that SIR ROWLAND HILL ever did invent this stamp, little difficulty promises to be found in arriving at a conclusion confirmatory of the Chicago Resolutions of 1887.

Asking you to be good enough to obtain publicity for this letter in one or more of your journals,

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
PATRICK CHALMERS.

MR. S. B. BRADT,
Grand Crossing, Illinois.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

"How James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme. Letter of the Dundee Bankers and Merchants to the Lords of H.M. Treasury."

SIR,

In handing you copy of the Preface to the above-named pamphlet just published, I will only add, in the words of the *City Press*, an authority second to none ("the adopted medium for all official announcements concerning the Metropolis," and of the Corporation of the City of London)—"Is the man who, at a critical moment and unrewarded, supplied the motive power to the Penny Postage Scheme—a power to this day indispensable to the commerce and revenues of the world, to be left unmentioned, while every possible occasion is availed of to laud the services of Sir Rowland Hill?"

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*December*, 1889.

It remains to be noted that neither the London Press in their late Jubilee articles, nor the Postmaster-General in his Jubilee speech, makes any claim whatever as to Sir Rowland Hill having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

P. C.

# The Jubilee of Penny Postage Reform.

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

Invented by JAMES CHALMERS, bookseller, Dundee, in the month of August, 1834. (See *Encyclopædia Britannica*, after special investigation, and *Dictionary of National Biography*, &c.)

Sent by JAMES CHALMERS in December, 1837, to the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the proposed Penny Postage Scheme of Mr. ROWLAND HILL. The letter of acknowledgment of Mr. WALLACE, the Chairman, is of date 9th December, 1837.

Again sent in February, 1838, to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, endeavouring to obtain Parliamentary sanction to the proposed Penny Postage Scheme. Of this Committee Mr. COLE (afterwards Sir HENRY COLE) was Secretary, and he has bequeathed Mr. CHALMERS' letter and plan as now in use to the South Kensington Museum Library, given in detail at page 29 of my pamphlet just issued.*

At same time, Mr. CHALMERS' plan came under the notice of Mr. ROWLAND HILL, whose reply to Mr. CHALMERS, of date 3rd March, 1838, was unfavourable.

On the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill into Parliament in July, 1839, the Government disapproved of Mr. ROWLAND HILL's plan of an impressed stamped cover (see page 10), and all was dismay, amidst the jeers of the opponents of the scheme, as to how the same was to be carried out. In this dilemma Mr. WALLACE in the Commons, and LORD ASHBURTON in the Lords (see page 11), brought forward the merits of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. Plans were advertised for from the public, and nothing better having been found, the Adhesive Stamp was adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839, *two years after* Mr. CHALMERS *had sent this plan* to Mr. WALLACE, in conjunction with Mr. HILL's plan of the impressed stamped cover (see page 17). A contract for the supply of Adhesive Stamps, at the price of 6d. per 1,000 stamps, was made with Messrs. BACON and PETCH, Fleet Street (see page 21), but it was not until the following May, 1840, that the stamps came into use.

The connection betwixt Mr. CHALMERS as the originator and the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp is thus clearly established. Mr. HILL, however, availed himself of his despotic position in the control of the new Penny Postage system to set aside, by letter of 30th January, 1840, and upon a flimsy pretext, the claim of Mr. CHALMERS, thus usurping the merit to himself.

What is the use of a scheme, however excellent, even had same been original on the part of Mr. HILL, which it was not (see the official *Treasury Minute* to that effect, page 21), if you cannot carry it out in practice? This Jubilee Year of the Reformed Postal System finds the Adhesive Stamp still indispensable to the postal system, the commerce and revenues of all nations. Is its celebration to pass without so much as a word of acknowledgment to the memory of the man who, himself unrewarded, bestowed this boon upon his country and the world?

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*January*, 1890.

* "How James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme. Letter of the Dundee Bankers and Merchants to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury." Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange.

# PENNY POSTAGE REFORM.

A long communication having appeared in the *Standard* newspaper of 9th January from "A Correspondent" on the above subject, in which the origin of the Adhesive Postage Stamp is ascribed to Sir Rowland Hill, I have addressed the following letters to that journal, your perusal of which is requested.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon,
*January 10th*, 1890.

*To the Editor of the* "Standard."

Sir,

Your correspondent on the above subject in to-day's *Standard* has not read up the facts as to the origin of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. A reference to the pages of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Dictionary of National Biography*, and other leading authorities, will show you that such was the invention, in the year 1834, of my late father, James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, a well-known postal reformer and correspondent of Mr. Hume, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Knight, from whom Mr. Rowland Hill, after the publication of the first edition of his pamphlet of 1837, obtained the idea, but without seeing its value or proposing its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the scheme he had introduced. In a letter of 3rd March, 1838, to my father, Mr. Hill wrote disapprovingly of this plan. As late as July, 1839, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on introducing the Penny Postage Bill, stated that Mr. Hill's plan was that "an impressed stamp cover should *absolutely be used in all cases*." Hereupon Mr. Wallace proposed the Adhesive Stamp, which plan Mr. Chalmers had sent him in December, 1837—his letter of acknowledgment to Chalmers is of date 9th December of that year. You can verify all this from "Hansard." After, upon the suggestion of Mr. Warburton, plans had been invited from the public and nothing better found, the Adhesive Stamp was at length adopted by Mr. Hill by Treasury Minute of 26th December, 1839, two years after my father had sent this plan to Mr. Wallace, to Mr. Hill, and to Mr. Cole, Secretary to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, who has bequeathed James Chalmers' letter and plan to the South Kensington Museum Library.

Such was the origin of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon,
*January 9th.*

P.T.O

*To the Editor of the* "STANDARD."

SIR,

Let me add to my letter of yesterday on the subject of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, the origin of which your correspondent so mistakenly attributed specially to the invention of Sir Rowland Hill, that even Mr. Pearson Hill in his late pamplet makes no such special claim —stating, on the contrary, that this stamp, "a very minor detail," must have occurred to "scores of people," as it did in **1839,** years after its invention and advocacy by Chalmers.

Permit me further to state that a specimen of an Adhesive Postage Stamp by James Chalmers of the year 1834 is now in the possession of the eminent Philatelist, Herr Sigmund Friedl, of Vienna, and may now be seen in his Philatelic Museum there; thus confirming by ocular demonstration, the written evidence on the part of Chalmers' former *employés* and friends in Dundee now or lately living, proving the invention and production of this stamp in his premises in 1834, evidence upon which the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and other high authorities have already recorded James Chalmers as having been the originator of this world-wide boon. It will be satisfactory to these high authorities to find their verdict so unexpectedly and conclusively confirmed.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*January* 10*th.*

[The production of this Adhesive Stamp of 1834 supplies the last call which has been made upon me by way of a thorough completion of my evidence. Critical readers of my case, or opponents, have said: "We of course admit the 1838 proofs which we see before us under your "father's signature, and we admit the strong written evidence as to the invention in 1834—but "how comes it that you can show us nothing under your father's signature prior to 1838?—no "copies of letters written or received in confirmation of this 1834 date?" To that last refuge of criticism or opposition I now reply, "Behold the Stamp of 1834!" While as to letters, one now in good standing in Dundee has lately written me—"I recollect quite well the 1846 "presentation. I was then a lad in your father's service." After other reminiscences he states: "After your father's death in 1853 his shop was cleared out and temporary premises "taken for six months to allow extensive alterations to be carried out. Many boxes of old "papers were sent across to the inkwork to be burnt in the furnace there." All this is new to me, as in 1853 I was still abroad and for some years after. Such was the fate of my father's correspondence—but, thanks to the study and persistence of Philately, *there is his Stamp!*

P. C.]

With P. Chalmers' Compts.

February, 1890

# James Chalmers' Adhesive Postage Stamp of 1834.

It is now about a year since I was first made acquainted with the existence of an original postage stamp of 1834, by James Chalmers, in the hands of the eminent Philatelist, Herr Sigmund Friedl, the proprietor of the extensive Stamp Museum at Vienna. Before fully accepting the genuine nature of this remarkable production and circulating this discovery in Philatelic quarters, I have waited to see the reception afforded to this possession of Herr Friedl amongst the Philatelic body in Germany. The result has been all that could be desired, the proofs produced by its possessor of such being a genuine stamp of the year 1834 by James Chalmers have been accepted as undoubted by his fellow-students of Philately in Germany, amongst whom a *fac-simile* has been circulated and the original inspected by the numerous Philatelists on the spot; while an examination of the stamp itself can leave no doubt in any unprejudiced mind that the stamp was produced by the same hand and in the same premises as James Chalmers' stamp of February, 1838, now in the South Kensington Museum Library, many "*fac-similes*" of which are in the hands of Philatelists throughout the world. It will be perceived that both stamps have the *same* diamond-shaped margin enclosing the *same* words, "General Postage, not exceeding one oz., two-pence"—the two-pence at the bottom in *both cases*. I should first have observed that this 1834 stamp is a twopenny stamp for one ounce, not a penny stamp for half an ounce, and is in words identical with the twopenny stamp of the 1838 issue. In the 1834 stamp the word "used" is placed across the stamp to show same has been "used," but for this purpose an improvement is found in the 1838 specimen by having the name and date of the post-office through which the letter passes placed across the stamp, as ultimately adopted along with the entire principle of Chalmers' 1838 specimen, and yet in use.

How freely the authenticity of this 1834 stamp is now accepted by the German Philatelists cannot be better exemplified than by now finding same, after being brought forward in various journals, placed in the frontispiece of "Herr Schwanberger's Jubilee Album," awarded the first prize at the Amsterdam Convention, along with a portrait of James Chalmers and specimen of his 1838 stamp. Herr Schwanberger is co-editor with Dr. Moschkau of the *Illustrite Briefmarken Zeitung*, published by Ernest Heitman, at Leipzig—also publisher of "Schwanberger's Jubilee Album." The frontispiece with above-named portrait of Chalmers, biographical notice, and specimens of his 1834 and 1838 stamps, with specimen of the 1840 stamp by Messrs. Bacon & Petch, taken from Chalmers' plan and letter (see "How James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme," page 21), can be had separately from the Album itself.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*February*, 1890.

P. T. O.

The production of this stamp of 1834 is a further proof, if such was wanted, of uniform penny postage having been a current idea amongst postal reformers prior to the advent of Sir Rowland Hill. The Treasury Minute of 11th March, 1864, stating that the adoption of uniform penny postage had been urged upon the Government prior to the proposals of Sir Rowland Hill is, of itself, conclusive on the point. Other proofs are given in my pamphlet already named. The *Times* of 30th September, 1885, gives us the biography of at least one man, the Rev. Samuel Roberts, of Conway, "one of the earliest advocates of postal reform," who several years prior to 1837 had memorialised the Government to that effect. The Sir Rowland Hill Mansion House Committee abandoned the point of originality of conception on his part, and correspondingly changed the inscription on his City statue. As with the scheme so with the stamp, neither were originally the conception of Sir Rowland Hill, while the production of this stamp of 1834 places beyond further dispute the title of James Chalmers to having been the Originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp—a title already acknowledged by the majority of Philatelists throughout the world, by a large body of the Press, and by the leading biographical works of the day.—P. C.

# Jubilee of the Penny Postage.

## THE SERVICES OF ROBERT WALLACE, M.P. FOR GREENOCK. —THE SIR ROWLAND HILL MANSION HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The following letter has just been published in the *Star* newspaper:—

"THE PENNY POST AND WALLACE, OF KELLY."

"SIR,—Being an admirer of the *Star's* independent spirit, coupled with its firmness on matters of "public interest, I solicit insertion of this short letter. My desire is to ask how it comes to pass that in "all the outpourings of the London Press on the jubilee of the penny postage, not one word that I can see "or hear of has been said of ROBERT WALLACE, of Kelly, then M.P. for Greenock, which he represented "from 1833 to 1845. Mr. WALLACE was one of the soundest and most laborious members that ever sat "in the House of Commons. Among his other great services he was the very first to assail the then "Post Office abuses, and to urge their reform. I am old enough to have a grateful recollection of his "numerous efforts on behalf of the public, and especially in the matter of Post Office reform, and it was "while he was so engaged that Sir (then Mr.) ROWLAND HILL stepped in with his proposal for a penny "postage. That gentleman always frankly attributed to Mr. WALLACE the first conception of what was "carried out, and also that its being so was solely to be attributed to his indomitable and persevering "energy in and out of Parliament. Mr. HILL wrote at the time: 'By four years of incessant "attacks, Mr. WALLACE destroyed the prestige once enjoyed by the Post Office, and exposed it to the "wholesome influence of public opinion.' Mr. WALLACE's services in this cause were universally known "and widely acknowledged. He was presented with the freedom of the city of Glasgow and of the "boroughs of Aberdeen, Paisley, Perth, Dingwall, Inverness, and Dornoch, with an address by the "inhabitants of Kilmarnock, and another from the Postmaster-General of France. His admirers "presented him with a public testimonial in the form of an annuity of £500, for his private means had "suffered through his devotion to the service of the public. He died in 1855 at the age of 82. How the "above labours of a great and noble-minded Scottish reformer, ever staunch and true, come now to be "ignored must puzzle all acquainted with them, and I therefore again ask you to give this short and "imperfect record the wide publicity of the *Star's* circulation.

"Yours, &c.,

"A SCOTS HOME RULER."

Such is the fitting tribute paid to the memory of the man who, by years of labour in and out of Parliament, prepared the soil and sowed the seed from which SIR ROWLAND HILL alone has reaped the produce—the man who gave ROWLAND HILL all the information and arguments which enabled him to draw up his pamphlet of 1837—a Scotchman, like JAMES CHALMERS, who at a critical moment showed ROWLAND HILL how alone the scheme he had introduced could be practically carried out, yet the services of both now equally left out of sight, their memory equally ignored, by the Press and public of their country at such a juncture as this, when, if true to their traditions, the voice of Scotchmen should have been heard loudly asserting their usurped rights.

Further particulars with respect to the services of Mr. WALLACE will be found in the following queries which I respectfully address to H.M. Postmaster-General, the Ex-Postmasters-General, and others present at the late commemorative dinner, where alone the name of ROWLAND HILL was toasted as the man to whom we owe that penny postage reform so loudly praised by the various speakers. Queries likewise addressed to that large body of the Press engaged in erroneously lauding the same name as

P. T. O. for
Amended Circular

that of the great genius who *invented*, proposed, and carried out by his sole efforts and ingenuity the postal reform now being celebrated. Are you aware—

1. That the reformed postal system was not the work of one year nor of one man, but that the abuses and mismanagement of the Post Office occupied the attention of the public and of public men both in and out of Parliament for many years prior to the advent of SIR ROWLAND HILL; that a "Commission of Inquiry" was at length appointed, much evidence both as to complaints and remedies obtained, and which Commission issued in all ten reports?

2. That Mr. WALLACE, M.P. for Greenock, a leading Postal Reformer, in moving, on the 9th July, 1835, for "a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the management of the Post Office," urged amongst other improvements which he had already submitted to the Postmaster-General that "letters shall be charged by weight, and that charges on letters having envelopes, or on double or on such like letters, shall be discontinued"—(*see* HANSARD, Vol. 29)—afterwards repeating this proposal before the Commission of Post-Office Inquiry, which he had been the means of getting appointed.

amongst other information extracted by "Hansard" and these ten Blue-bo

3. That the Fifth Report of this Commission of date April, 1836, recommends the enactment of a low and uniform penny postage on *Prices Current*, and similar mercantile publications, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters, and charged by sheet, to be now prepaid by stamp impressed upon the sheet of paper, and charged by weight in place of by sheet, at the rate of one penny the half-ounce—Mr. WALLACE, as above proved, having long previously already urged the principle of "charge by weight" on letters?

4. That the then Mr. ROWLAND HILL, about this period, and otherwise unoccupied, fortunately joined this body of postal reformers, of whom his elder brother, MATTHEW DAVENPORT HILL, M.P. for Hull, was one; receiving prior to the issue of his pamphlet of 1837 from Mr. WALLACE "an additional half-hundredweight of those heavy blue-books," beyond those into which "he had already dipped," his "only sources of information for the time"?—(*See* "Life of SIR R. HILL," page 246 under date 1836).

5. That neither in his pamphlet of 1837, nor in his "Life," written by himself, does SIR ROWLAND HILL divulge or make any reference whatever to the provisions of this Fifth Report, identical as they are with his own proposals of 1837 with respect to letters, and which proposals have consequently been mistaken in general as having been his own conception? Never has misconception been more complete. But more:

6. That, so far from SIR ROWLAND HILL having ever been officially acknowledged as the first person to propose a uniform penny postage on letters, he has been distinctly *officially* told to the contrary as under:—

> Extract from Treasury Minute, of date 11th March, 1864, conferring upon SIR ROWLAND HILL, upon his retirement from active service, his full salary of £2,000 a year:
>
> "My Lords do not forget that it has been by the powerful agency of the railway "system that these results have been rendered practicable. Neither do they enter into "the question, as foreign to the occasion, what honour may be due to those who, *before* "*the development of the plans of* SIR ROWLAND HILL *urged the adoption of Uniform* "*Penny Postage.*"

Dec 1890

# Jubilee of the Penny Postage.

## THE SERVICES OF ROBERT WALLACE, M.P. FOR GREENOCK. —THE SIR ROWLAND HILL MANSION HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The following letter has just been published in the *Star* newspaper:—

"THE PENNY POST AND WALLACE, OF KELLY."

"SIR,—Being an admirer of the *Star's* independent spirit, coupled with its firmness on matters of "public interest, I solicit insertion of this short letter. My desire is to ask how it comes to pass that in "all the outpourings of the London Press on the jubilee of the penny postage, not one word that I can see "or hear of has been said of ROBERT WALLACE, of Kelly, then M.P. for Greenock, which he represented "from 1833 to 1845. Mr. WALLACE was one of the soundest and most laborious members that ever sat "in the House of Commons. Among his other great services he was the very first to assail the then "Post Office abuses, and to urge their reform. I am old enough to have a grateful recollection of his "numerous efforts on behalf of the public, and especially in the matter of Post Office reform, and it was "while he was so engaged that Sir (then Mr.) ROWLAND HILL stepped in with his proposal for a penny "postage. That gentleman always frankly attributed to Mr. WALLACE the first conception of what was "carried out, and also that its being so was solely to be attributed to his indomitable and persevering "energy in and out of Parliament. Mr. HILL wrote at the time: 'By four years of incessant "attacks, Mr. WALLACE destroyed the prestige once enjoyed by the Post Office, and exposed it to the "wholesome influence of public opinion.' Mr. WALLACE's services in this cause were universally known "and widely acknowledged. He was presented with the freedom of the city of Glasgow and of the "boroughs of Aberdeen, Paisley, Perth, Dingwall, Inverness, and Dornoch, with an address by the "inhabitants of Kilmarnock, and another from the Postmaster-General of France. His admirers "presented him with a public testimonial in the form of an annuity of £500, for his private means had "suffered through his devotion to the service of the public. He died in 1855 at the age of 82. How the "above labours of a great and noble-minded Scottish reformer, ever staunch and true, come now to be "ignored must puzzle all acquainted with them, and I therefore again ask you to give this short and "imperfect record the wide publicity of the *Star's* circulation.

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1. That the reformed postal system was not the work of one year nor of one man, but that the abuses and mismanagement of the Post Office occupied the attention of the public and of public men both in and out of Parliament for many years prior to the advent of SIR ROWLAND HILL: that a "Commission of Inquiry" was at length appointed, much evidence both as to complaints and remedies obtained, and which Commission issued in all ten reports?

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3. That the Fifth Report of this Commission of date April, 1836, recommends the enactment of a low and uniform penny postage on *Prices Current*, and similar mercantile publications, then subject to the same high and variable rates as were letters, and charged by sheet, to be now prepaid by stamp impressed upon the sheet of paper, and charged by weight in place of by sheet, at the rate of one penny the half-ounce—Mr. WALLACE, as above proved, having long previously already urged the principle of "charge by weight" on letters?

4. That the then Mr. ROWLAND HILL, about this period, and otherwise unoccupied, fortunately joined this body of postal reformers, of whom his elder brother, MATTHEW DAVENPORT HILL, M.P. for Hull, was one; receiving prior to the issue of his pamphlet of 1837 from Mr. WALLACE "an additional half-hundredweight of those heavy blue-books," beyond those into which "he had already dipped," his "only sources of information for the time"?—(*See* "Life of SIR R. HILL," page 246 under date 1836).

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7. That in the *Times* of 30th September, 1885, will be found the biography of at least one man, the Rev. SAMUEL ROBERTS, M.A., of Conway, "one of the earliest advocates of Postal Reform," who several years prior to 1837 had memorialised the Government to the above effect. That Mr. ROBERTS was aided in his declining years by a grant of £50 from Her Majesty's Bounty Fund, and by subscriptions from the leading men of the day, in his manifesto returning thanks for which Mr. ROBERTS has stated the proposal of a Uniform Penny Postage to have been well known before ROWLAND HILL joined the circle of the reformers.

8. That it is thus proved that, however great the services of SIR ROWLAND HILL, invention or originality of conception formed no part of his merits; that, indeed, his penny postage scheme was simply an unacknowledged reproduction of the prior proposals of other men, devoid of any of that genius of invention with which he has been so largely credited.

9. That the non-originality of SIR ROWLAND HILL has been recognised by his Mansion House Memorial Fund Committee subsequent to my having drawn their attention to the above-named Fifth Report, as may be read from the *City Press* of date 18th March, 1882:—

"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 (SIR J. WHITTAKER ELLIS) 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.

It will be seen that the above proceedings on the part of the Committee amounted to a complete admission of the discovery I laid before them, *viz.*, that the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837 was *not* an invention, but only a *copy*. The change in the inscription was important and significant—"He founded Penny Postage" was unanimously abandoned. He "established" it was substituted—while a minority of six to nine were in favour of an inscription merely nominal. At a subsequent meeting at which the Lord Mayor was not present, a third inscription was adopted equally admitting the non-originality of conception, but doing so in such a manner as not to disturb the preconceived impressions of the reader or of the public.

10. That the "Mercantile Committee of the City of London," a body of London Bankers and Merchants specially associated for the purpose, were largely if not indeed mainly instrumental in obtaining Parliamentary sanction for this reform by a liberal expenditure of time and money, and by having through their Secretary, Mr. HENRY COLE, obtained over 2,000 petitions from the country in favour of the Bill? Not once

has any modern writer or speaker so much as alluded to the influence and labours of this Committee, attributing, on the contrary, the entire merit of the passing of the Bill to the energy of SIR ROWLAND HILL.

11. That the net revenue from the Post Office previous to 1840 having been £1,634,000, it was not until the year 1863, when SIR ROWLAND HILL retired, that an equal revenue was obtained, the comparative loss to the revenue in the interval having amounted to fourteen millions sterling?—(*See* House of Commons Return of Post Office Revenue, dated 16th July, 1866.)

12. That Mr. ROWLAND HILL having wholly failed in proposing a practicable plan for carrying out in practice the scheme which he had introduced, the Treasury, by Treasury Minute of date 23rd August, 1839, *after* the passing of the Bill, invited plans and suggestions from the public for that purpose, resulting in the adoption of the Adhesive Postage Stamp in conjunction with Mr. HILL's plan of impressed stamped wrappers or envelopes.

13. That "shortly afterwards" the envelopes had to be destroyed as useless, while, "though working both night and day," the supply of Adhesive Stamps "failed to meet the demand." ["Life of SIR ROWLAND HILL."] Thus the Adhesive Stamp saved and has carried out the reformed postal system, indispensable moreover to this day to that system and to the commerce and revenues of the world.

14. That the Adhesive Postage Stamp was the invention of JAMES CHALMERS bookseller, Dundee, in the month of August, 1834, and had been urged by him upon the proper authorities as early as December, 1837, and upon Mr. HILL himself in February, 1838—and of which plan Mr. HILL subsequently availed himself of his position in the public service to usurp the merit. For proofs and particulars of this I refer to my publication just issued, entitled

"HOW JAMES CHALMERS SAVED THE PENNY POSTAGE SCHEME.

"LETTER OF DUNDEE BANKERS AND MERCHANTS TO THE LORDS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY."

PATRICK CHALMERS, *F.R.Hist.Soc.*

*Honorary Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

WIMBLEDON,
*February*, 1890.

An old controversy is recalled by Mr. PATRICK CHALMERS, F.R.H.S., who narrates the true story of the Penny Adhesive Postage Stamp—"*How James Chalmers Saved the Penny Postage Scheme*" (EFFINGHAM WILSON)—and puts the case of "Adhesive Stamp" (CHALMERS) against "Stamped Envelope" (ROWLAND HILL) with undeniable force.—*Saturday Review*, January 18th, 1890.

# The Sir Rowland Hill Committee.

The circumstances attending the change of inscription upon the City Statue of Sir Rowland Hill have been particularised in a short pamphlet published by me in 1886, entitled "Concealment Unveiled: a Tale of the Mansion House," showing from the proceedings of the Committee and correspondence with the Lord Mayor, the Chairman, that the Committee had become perfectly aware that the Penny Postage Scheme was not, after all, an original conception on the part of Sir Rowland Hill, but had not thought proper to make this known while erecting a statue to him and continuing to collect money in his name and under his prestige as a great inventor. Copy of this pamphlet was sent to Sir John Monckton, accompanied by a letter from me, very plainly setting forth the allegation of concealment of what, under the circumstances, the public and subscribers were entitled to know. This letter* was published by me in several of the newspapers, and subsequently published under the additional responsibility of a most scrupulously careful publisher in a pamphlet appropriately entitled "Submission of the Sir Rowland Hill Committee," no attempt having been made publicly to question my allegation. My object, however, was perfectly plain—that object not being to further embarrass the Committee under the trying discovery brought to light, but to make apparent the practical admission from so important a quarter that Sir Rowland Hill was capable of obtaining credit to himself for greater services than those to which he was undoubtedly entitled. The bearing of this feature in Sir Rowland Hill's system of borrowing other men's proposals upon my claim with respect to the Adhesive Postage Stamp is obvious; as with the scheme so with the stamp, the latter idea equally obtained from outside sources, as was the scheme itself.

When a man of note dies, the busy journalist of the day can only reproduce the accepted position of his life and the halo, deserved or otherwise, with which he has managed to surround himself. Daily journalists cannot examine into so as fully to certify all the statements, or ransack old volumes to get at the facts. That is the duty and the task of the later historian, or of some one specially interested, such as has fallen upon myself in vindicating my late father's title to having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. In this way has the Press, as a rule, fallen into the mistake that uniform penny postage, with all the valuable principles of the scheme, were actually the conception originally of Sir Rowland Hill himself. Indeed, in not a few instances, writers, and more especially speakers, would have us believe that Rowland Hill, "touched with the sorrows of the poor," sat down and wrote out this

system of relief from the old postal system clean out of his own head, "though he had never been inside a post-office," and then forced same upon Parliament and the Post Office all by himself. Marvellous genius indeed, if true; but, unfortunately for such writers, it is now seen he had only to consult "HANSARD" and the Blue Books, and listen to what the prior postal reformers of the period told him. Yet all writers have not fallen into the mistake about the genius and invention of SIR ROWLAND HILL, with one remarkable instance to the contrary from the *Newcastle Daily Leader* of January 16th, these remarks find a pleasant confirmation and appropriate conclusion: "The notices which have been published and the speeches which have been delivered "in celebration of the uniform penny postage, elaborate and interesting though they "have been, have omitted several points which ought not to have been overlooked. "Perhaps the most remarkable and important of these omissions is the practical aid "given to the reform by the Committee over which Mr. WALLACE, the Member for "Greenock, presided, and which recommended the adoption of the principle of a "uniform penny postage. It was on the Report of this Committee that the Bill "authorising the reform was passed. The evidence taken was at once strongly con-"demnatory of the old system, and urgent in favour of the plan generally spoken of "as ROWLAND HILL'S, though several other public men in the provinces had advocated "the same scheme even before Mr. HILL'S pamphlet was published in 1837. Few of "the present-day writers seem acquainted with that evidence. . . . ."

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*February*, 1890.

* [*Letter to* SIR JOHN MONCKTON.]

"WIMBLEDON, *February 26th*, 1886.

"SIR,

"I beg leave to hand you, for the information of the Members of the "Corporation of the City of London, copy of a publication just issued by me, entitled "'Concealment Unveiled: a Tale of the Mansion House,' in which I state that the "SIR ROWLAND HILL Memorial Fund Committee, to the obscuring of the truth and "consequent detriment to general well-being, have concealed from the public, from "H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, and from others, vital and essential facts as there "specified, while having erected a statue of SIR ROWLAND HILL, and while collecting "money from the public on the strength and prestige of his name.

"I have given the names composing this Committee, including certain Aldermen "of the City of London, and legitimate reasons are given why it has been incumbent "upon me to give publicity to the proceedings now unveiled. . . . ."

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*From the* "CHICAGO DAILY NEWS," *February 8th* 1890.

"INVENTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

"The Postage Stamp will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary next year. The invention is due to Printer James Chalmers, of Dundee, who died in 1853, and who finally, with his system, the Adhesive Postage Stamp, conquered the whole civilised world. England, fifty years ago, introduced the Postage Stamp, and, according to a decree of December 21st, 1839, issued the first Stamps for public use on May 6th, 1840. A year later they were introduced in the United States of North America and Switzerland, and again, a few years later, in Bavaria, Belgium, and France. One of the most important and valuable collections of Postage Stamps is in the German Imperial Post-Office Museum, which contains over ten thousand Postage Stamps and other postal-delivery devices."—*American Notes and Queries.*

WIMBLEDON,
*February*, 1890.

SIR,

The London Philatelic Society, of which Mr. Pearson Hill is a Member, has now admitted, what I have so long maintained, that Sir Rowland Hill was not the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. Though this Society, as a body, does not yet recognise James Chalmers as having been the originator of this Stamp as most similar Societies throughout the world have now done, the delusion so long existing as to Sir Rowland Hill having originated this stamp is now effectually dispelled. There is no other name now interfering with the claim of James Chalmers.

If you will be good enough to read the circular herewith, you will find proof from an official Treasury Minute and from the proceedings of the "Sir Rowland Hill" Mansion House Committee, that Sir Rowland Hill was not even the originator of Uniform Penny Postage, nor of any one of the valuable principles of the scheme which he so ably introduced and rendered so great service in bringing into effective operation.

Asking the favour of your support in making known the services of James Chalmers as now the undisputed Originator of the Adhesive Postage *Stamp*,

I remain, SIR,

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS,
*F.R.Hist.Soc.*,

*Honorary Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

Mar. 1890

# London Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition

## OF MAY NEXT.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP ON 6TH MAY, 1840.

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**Exhibition of the Stamps of JAMES CHALMERS, Originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.**

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WIMBLEDON, *March 14th*, 1890.

SIR,

My attention having been drawn to the Exhibition of Adhesive Postage Stamps intended to be held at the Portman Rooms in May next, I propose to send in for exhibition, with a donation towards the expenses, and if consistent with your regulations, the following specimens of Philatelic interest :—

1.—*Fac-simile* of letter-press Adhesive Postage Stamps on sheet of paper gummed at the back, submitted by the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, by letter of date 8th February, 1838, to Mr. Henry Cole, Secretary to said Committee—the originals are now in the Library of the South Kensington Museum. The printed explanatory remarks, as by copy herewith, to be at same time displayed :—

*EXTRACT FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES CHALMERS handing his plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late* Sir HENRY COLE :—

"4, CASTLE STREET DUNDEE,
"*8th February*, 1838.

"I conceive that the most simple and economical mode of carrying out such an arrangement "(that of prepayment of letters) would be by slips (postage stamps), prepared somewhat similar "to the specimen herewith shown.

"With this view, and in the hope that Mr. Hill's plan (of a uniform Penny Postage) 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 and singly. . . . 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. . . . Others requiring only one or "two slips at a time could purchase them along with sheets of paper at stationers' shops, 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."

This statement is accompanied by several specimens of a suggested stamp about an inch square. A space divides each stamp for cutting off singly. One of the specimens is stamped across with the *quasi*-postmark, "Dundee, 10th February, 1838," to exemplify what Mr. Chalmers states should be done to prevent the stamp being used a second time.

Brought forward in the House of Commons, the 5th July, 1839 (see "Chronology," page 4). After plans had been called for from the public and nothing better found, adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839.

2.—Photograph of Adhesive Postage Stamp by the same James Chalmers, bearing the *quasi*-postmark, "Dundee, Sept. 24th, 183–," the last figure after the 3 being illegible. The original of this early stamp by James Chalmers is in the possession of Mr. H. G. Hanson, stamp dealer, Cardiff.

3.—Photograph of Adhesive Postage Stamp by the same James Chalmers of the year 1834. In this stamp the word "used" is stamped over the stamp for the purpose of showing how to obviate same being used a second time—a suggestion improved upon in the later specimens, Nos. 1 and 2, by stamping the postmark over the stamp, as ultimately adopted and now in use. The original of this stamp is in the possession of the well-known Herr Sigmund Friedl, of Vienna, and is thus referred to in a Vienna paper announcing the Exhibition there :—

From the *Deutsches Folksblatt*, or German Journal for the People of 4th March :—

"THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION AT VIENNA, 1890.

"On the occasion of the Jubilee of Postage Stamps (6th May, 1840–1890), an Exhibition "will be opened under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce, and contain objects of great "interest, not only for experts, but also for the general public, and especially for students of "historical culture. In the foremost ranks will be found the first type of adhesive stamps "projected in August, 1834, by the Inventor, James Chalmers, and of which the only one in "known existence is at present in the Postage Stamp Museum at Unter-Dobling. This simple "and unadorned little slip of paper, which was only recently unearthed, has become an object "of Philatelic veneration." . . .

As it is stated in your Prospectus that the Exhibition is to be of stamps issued "during the past fifty years," I am uncertain whether these earlier stamps, on the plan and principle afterwards followed in the first English stamps issued by Messrs. BACON and PETCH, the engravers, by order of H.M. Treasury in the spring of 1840, can be admitted. Probably, however, under Class 8, as "Curiosities and Objects of Interest," they may be admissible, as to which I ask the favour of being informed.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

CHARLES COLMAN, Esq.,
*Hon. Secretary* EXHIBITION COMMITTEE,
4, LOMBARD COURT, E.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.
*Exhibition Offices*—4, LOMBARD COURT, E.C.
LONDON, *March 20th*, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your letter of the 14th inst., enumerating the things you desire to exhibit, which will come appropriately under Class 8.

Kindly let me know the value you place upon them, in order that we may fix the insurance.

Yours very truly,
CHARLES COLMAN.

PATRICK CHALMERS, Esq.

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WIMBLEDON, *March 22nd*, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

I have to thank you for your letter of 20th inst. accepting my proposal to exhibit under Class 8 at the forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition certain specimens of letter-press adhesive postage stamps produced, prior to the year 1840, by the late James Chalmers, Dundee, conveying the principle he advocated for the purpose of prepayment of postal matter, and which specimens I will consequently have pleasure in forwarding to you in good time.

As these specimens are not originals but only fac-similes or photographs already widely published as respects No. 1 in the Philatelic Press of the United States of America, France, Germany, and elsewhere, with likeness of James Chalmers as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, such are of no value in case of loss, and therefore need not be covered by insurance.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
PAT. CHALMERS.

CHARLES COLMAN, Esq.,
*Hon. Secretary Exhibition Committee.*

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Philatelists throughout the world and the Press will now see this long-existing controversy as to who was the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp brought to a conclusion in favour of JAMES CHALMERS. The already complete evidence as to his production of this stamp in August 1834, and of his having been the first to urge this plan upon the proper authorities for the purpose of carrying out in practice the proposed uniform penny postage scheme is now confirmed by the production of the stamps themselves. On the other hand the very Society to which Mr. PEARSON HILL belongs, the London Philatelic Society, now admits that Sir ROWLAND HILL did not originate the Adhesive Postage Stamp, thus completing what alone remained to put aside the extraordinary pretensions to that effect, and to dispel a long-existing delusion. I may add that neither the Postmaster-General in his Jubilee speech nor the London Press in their Jubilee articles now make any claim whatever as to Sir ROWLAND HILL having been the originator of this mode of prepayment by Adhesive Stamp, the chronology of which, from its invention by JAMES CHALMERS, to its ultimate adoption at his instance and initiation, is subjoined.

PATRICK CHALMERS, *F.R.Hist.Soc.*,
*Honorary Member of the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris, and of Ten American Philatelic Societies.*

# CHRONOLOGY OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

Invented by JAMES CHALMERS, bookseller, Dundee, in the month of August, 1834. (See *Encyclopædia Britannica*, after special investigation, and *Dictionary of National Biography*, &c.)

Sent by JAMES CHALMERS in December, 1837, to the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the proposed Penny Postage Scheme of Mr. ROWLAND HILL. The letter of acknowledgment of Mr. WALLACE, the Chairman, is of date 9th December, 1837.

Again sent in February, 1838, to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, endeavouring to obtain Parliamentary sanction to the proposed Penny Postage Scheme. Of this Committee Mr. COLE (afterwards Sir HENRY COLE) was Secretary, and he has bequeathed Mr. CHALMERS' letter and plan as now in use to the South Kensington Museum Library, given in detail at page 29 of my pamphlet lately issued.*

At same time, Mr. CHALMERS' plan came under the notice of Mr. ROWLAND HILL, whose reply to Mr. CHALMERS, of date 3rd March, 1838, was unfavourable.

On the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill into Parliament in July, 1839, the Government disapproved of Mr. ROWLAND HILL's plan of an impressed stamped cover (see page 10), and all was dismay as to how the same was to be carried out. The great argument of the opponents of the Bill was, "Why should we be called upon to pass this Bill when no mortal being at that moment had the remotest conception of how it was to be carried into execution?" (see "HANSARD"). In this dilemma Mr. WALLACE in the Commons, and LORD ASHBURTON in the Lords (see page 11), brought forward the merits of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. Plans were advertised for from the public, and nothing better having been found, the Adhesive Stamp was adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839, *two years after* Mr. CHALMERS *had sent this plan* to Mr. WALLACE, in conjunction with Mr. HILL's plan of the impressed stamped cover (see page 17). A contract for the supply of Adhesive Stamps, at the price of 6d. per 1,000 stamps, was made with Messrs. BACON and PETCH, Fleet Street (see page 21), but it was not until the following May, 1840, that the stamps came into use.

The connection betwixt Mr. CHALMERS as the originator and the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp is thus clearly established. Mr. HILL, however, availed himself of his despotic position in the control of the new Penny Postage system to set aside, by letter of 30th January, 1840, and upon a flimsy pretext, the claim of Mr. CHALMERS, thus usurping the merit to himself.

What is the use of a scheme, however excellent, even had same been original on the part of Mr. HILL, if you cannot carry it out in practice? This Jubilee Year of the Reformed Postal System finds the Adhesive Stamp still indispensable to the postal system, the commerce and revenues of all nations. Is its celebration to pass without so much as a word of acknowledgment to the memory of the man who, himself unrewarded, bestowed this boon upon his country and the world?

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*March*, 1890.

* "How James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme. Letter of the Dundee Bankers and Merchants to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury." Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*From the* "LIVERPOOL DAILY POST," *March* 21*st*, 1890.

## THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POSTAGE.

"In connection with the jubilee this year of the reformed postal system of 1840, the services rendered thereto by Robert Wallace, M.P. for Greenock, and James Chalmers, bookseller, of Dundee, are being urged as against the hitherto almost exclusive recognition of Sir Rowland Hill's work in bringing about the reform. This omission has been pretty general. When, on the 5th July, 1839, the Penny Postage Bill was brought forward in Parliament, all was dismay as to how the scheme was to be carried out, the great argument of the opponents of the Bill was, 'Why should we be called upon to pass this Bill when no mortal being at this moment has the remotest conception of how it is to be carried into execution.' In this dilemma Mr. Wallace suggested the Adhesive Postage Stamp. This stamp was the invention of James Chalmers in the year 1834. After plans had been applied for from the public, and nothing better found, the Adhesive Stamp was officially adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839. The London Philatelic Society, of which the son of Sir Rowland Hill is a member, now admits that Sir Rowland Hill did not originate the Adhesive Postage Stamp. The Adhesive Stamp was first issued to the public on the 6th May, 1840."

Specimens of Adhesive Stamps by James Chalmers of a period as far back as 1834 will be exhibited at the forthcoming Stamp Exhibition.—P.C.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

*From the* "VIENNA WEEKLY NEWS,"
VIENNA, *April 22nd*, 1890.

"The Vienna Postal Exhibition under the protectorate of the Marquis Bacquehem, the Austrian Minister of Commerce, which was opened last Sunday, is sure to attract general interest. The Exhibition occupies two spacious halls of the Austrian Museum on the Stuben Ring. Stamp collectors will delight to feast their eyes on the accumulations exposed to view. Half a century has now passed since the first stamp was issued, and the late James Chalmers, the Father of the Stamp, as he is deservedly called, would have reason to feel proud of the inestimable service he rendered the civilised world could he be amongst us at the present day and witness the show now on hand."

(The great Vienna Philatelic Exhibition has resulted in a triumphant vindication of the memory of JAMES CHALMERS as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. The *Velt Post*, with portraits and biographical sketch of the leading German Philatelists now doing honour to CHALMERS, with many other communications, public and private, to the same effect as the above continue to reach me.—P. C.)

P.S.—An official in the London Post Office having written to me offering to exhibit the specimens of James Chalmers' stamps now in the South Kensington Museum at the approaching Post Office Exhibition in the Guildhall of the City of London, specimens of the stamps of James Chalmers will be equally exhibited there as at the Exhibition of the London Philatelic Society.

That such an offer should have been spontaneously made by one an utter stranger to me sufficiently exemplifies the opinion now prevalent in Post Office circles as to who was the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

P. C.

*April 24th*, 1890.

*"THE STANDARD," 7th May, 1890.*

# THE ORIGIN OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

*To the Editor of "THE STANDARD."*

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

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

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

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

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

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRED. A. PHILBRICK,

President of the Philatelic Society of London.

Lamb-buildings, Temple, E.C., May 1.

Copy.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.



*To the Editor of the* "CITY PRESS."

SIR,

In a late issue you announced that specimens of Adhesive Postage Stamps by JAMES CHALMERS from as far back as 1834 onwards would be exhibited by a Post Office official, a stranger to me, at the coming Guildhall Exhibition. This, however, the Post Office authorities have been pleased to forbid. The effect would have been to dispel the last shred of delusion as to the Adhesive Postage Stamp having been the invention of Sir ROWLAND HILL.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*May* 12*th*, 1890.

1890 May

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

## Mr. PHILBRICK'S LETTER to the "STANDARD."

In a letter to the *Standard* newspaper, published in its issue of 7th May, Mr. PHILBRICK, President of the Philatelic Society of London, gives at some length his views upon the origin of the Adhesive Postage Stamp. Coming from such a quarter, the partisanship of Mr. PHILBRICK's views being well known, this letter might have been left unnoticed; but, amongst other matters, Mr. PHILBRICK is pleased to deny my statement that the London Society "now admits that Sir ROWLAND HILL did not originate the Adhesive Postage Stamp," asserting that such statement "is entirely and absolutely untrue."

Such an assertion could not of course be allowed to pass unnoticed, and I accordingly addressed the following letter to the *Standard* in reply:—

"SIR,—In reply to Mr. PHILBRICK's letter in your issue of yesterday, permit me to say that my authority for having stated that the 'London Philatelic Society now admits that Sir ROWLAND HILL did not originate the Adhesive Postage Stamp' is, in the first place, that of Mr. PHILBRICK himself, who in a letter he favoured me with of date 25th May, 1887, states, 'Neither your father nor Sir ROWLAND HILL invented the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes.' Secondly, a paragraph in the *Stamp News* of February last, in which the Editor states, after having been favoured by Mr. PHILBRICK with an interview on the subject, 'The Philatelic Society of London have admitted that they do not suggest that Sir ROWLAND HILL invented the stamp.' I submit, therefore, that I have stated nothing but the fact, and that Mr. PHILBRICK's accusation against me is wholly unjustifiable. I further submit that Mr. PHILBRICK might have been better employed in explaining why, in the position he holds, he has allowed the public to remain all these years under the delusion that the Adhesive Stamp *was* the invention of Sir ROWLAND HILL; also why, in his 'History of Penny Postage,' Sir ROWLAND HILL has allowed his readers to remain under the same delusion? And I further challenge Mr. PHILBRICK to point out any one feature or principle in the Penny Postage Scheme itself which was not, as now admitted to have been the case with this stamp, simply the prior conception of some other man *adopted* by Sir ROWLAND HILL.

"The value of the 'investigation' to which Mr. PHILBRICK alludes may be estimated when it is known that such took place in the year 1882, before I myself was in possession of or had published my evidence on the subject.

"If fifty persons sent in proposals for adhesive labels in response to the Government invitations in 1839, such was two years *after* my father had, to Mr. WALLACE and to Mr. COLE, urged the adoption of his Adhesive Stamp, during which interval its merits were publicly discussed. Specimens of this plan on the principle ultimately adopted and now in use, with my father's letter to Mr. COLE, may be seen at the approaching Exhibitions.

"On the point of priority of proposal, space only permits me to refer to the proceedings of the House of Commons on the 5th of July, 1839, when the Minister introducing the Penny Postage Bill stated 'that the plan of Mr. HILL was that *a stamped cover was absolutely to be used in all cases.*' Mr. HILL had heard in February, 1837, of my father's invention of 1834, but without seeing its value or then proposing its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the scheme he had so ably put together.

"I remain, SIR,

"Yours respectfully,

"PATRICK CHALMERS.

"WIMBLEDON, *May 8th*, 1890."

This letter, contrary to all precedent, the *Standard* has returned to me with refusal to publish, and I appeal to its colleagues in the Press whether such refusal is not against all established rules of reason and courtesy, that where one party to a dispute opens such in the Press, the other party will be heard even where no personal attack, as in this instance, has been made; and I cannot doubt that the Press at large will support me in that view. I am consequently compelled to circulate my reply as I best may, but which reply can never reach the thousands of readers of this unwarranted attack upon my veracity.

It will be seen that my reply was complete and conclusive, perhaps too much so to prove acceptable to the *Standard*, which has lately taken a conspicuous part in favour of my opponents, publishing an article on the London Society side so bristling with mistakes as to make it only charitable to suppose that the article was not actually drawn up by any of the regular staff.

Occupied in important avocations, any forgetfulness on the part of Mr. PHILBRICK is excusable; but I trust Mr. PHILBRICK will now be satisfied that any mistake was his. His views at large have got painfully "mixed." For instance, why drag in the fifty competitors who in 1839 proposed Adhesive Stamps as well as CHALMERS, and so, he infers, equally entitled to the credit, when at same time he admits that CHALMERS proposed this plan in November, 1837? How absurd, too, to stand by what he terms an "investigation" in the year 1882 when there were no materials to investigate except such "extracts" from the correspondence as Mr. PEARSON HILL thought proper to produce! And how ridiculous to imply that Sir ROWLAND HILL proposed to adopt the Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out his scheme in February, 1837, when up to July, 1839, neither the Parliament, nor the Ministry, nor the Press, nor the public, had heard a word to that effect! Casting aside these official records wholly subversive of what he supposes, Mr. PHILBRICK reproduces the oft-exploded fallacy as to this pretended proposal of February, 1837. Again, while pronouncing the plan of Mr. CHALMERS to be in his opinion impracticable, Mr. PHILBRICK allows that the question at issue is which of the two, HILL or CHALMERS, first proposed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the scheme, or, as he puts it, was "first in the field," thus admitting that CHALMERS' plan at least embodied the *principle* of the Adhesive Stamp. Then as to the correspondence—Mr. PHILBRICK states he has all this "in his possession." I ask, by what right

has Mr. PHILBRICK anything of the sort? And by what right and with what object did Sir ROWLAND HILL remove this *official* correspondence from the Treasury where same should throughout this controversy have been, so as to be subject to my inspection as well as to that of my opponents. When, in the Town Hall of Dundee on the 1st of January, 1846, Mr. JAMES CHALMERS was presented with his Testimonial as originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, the chairman, the late Mr. WILLIAM THOMS, Dean of Guild, stated he had "seen this correspondence," his conclusion being just the opposite to that Mr. PHILBRICK gives us to understand. But in vain have I years back applied for copies of these letters, both from Mr. PEARSON HILL and from Mr. PHILBRICK himself. Surely, does not all this display the rôle of the advocate—whose business it is to see or acknowledge nothing disadvantageous to his client—rather than what might have been looked for from one who is an acting Judge in the land?

I consequently beg that those reporting the forthcoming Exhibition may not be led away merely by what they are told by Mr. PHILBRICK or his immediate friends. My father's plan and letter of February, 1838, will there be seen, and though only type set as being only intended to display the *principle* he advocated, will be found to be the very plan subsequently adopted by Sir ROWLAND HILL at the Treasury in December, 1839, and in use to this day.

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I take this opportunity to inform my numerous friends that the only obstacle to a hitherto complete recognition of JAMES CHALMERS in Germany has been removed by the conversion of the learned Philatelist, Dr. MOSCHKAU, the friend and correspondent of the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, to the now recognition of the title of JAMES CHALMERS as having been the inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp in the year 1834, and entitled to all the honour due to the originator of this world-wide boon hitherto mistakenly bestowed upon Sir ROWLAND HILL. Naturally Dr. MOSCHKAU has long hesitated over this step, but now convinced by the logic of facts he has published a long and exhaustive article on behalf of CHALMERS in the *Gartenlaube*, an illustrated paper of the widest circulation through and beyond Germany. This added to my American and French recognitions, with the records of our own leading biographical works, secures the vindication of CHALMERS' services in the records of history, notwithstanding the opposition of a few mere partisans of Mr. PEARSON HILL, who do not even claim this Stamp as having been the invention of Sir ROWLAND HILL, and really do not know what they want so long as they can in some shape or other visit their displeasure upon my devoted head.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*May 12th*, 1890.

# THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

To The Right Hon. SIR HENRY A. ISAACS,

Lord Mayor of London.

My Lord Mayor,

However great the services of the late Sir Rowland Hill, and however deserving to be held in commemoration, no one who has given any impartial study to the history of Postal Reform will pretend that such was actually in its entirety the *invention* of Sir Rowland Hill, or will deny that other men materially aided him in the way of suggestion and co-operation.

Without the adoption of the Adhesive Postage Stamp the scheme of uniform penny postage would have been nipped in the bud as impracticable. That stamp was the invention of my father, the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, in the year 1834, was urged upon the authorities here, including the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, by the inventor in December, 1837, and again in February, 1838, and ultimately *adopted* by Sir Rowland Hill in December, 1839.

Not to weary your Lordship with the proofs of all this, as already set forth in my publications, I will simply call your Lordship's attention to the fact that James Chalmers is now the acknowledged originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp by the great body of Philatelists throughout the world, including twenty American Philatelic Societies—the American Philatelic Association or Convention of American Philatelists from all parts of the United States—the Société Internationale de Timbrologie, Paris—by numerous German Societies and the official Post Office Journal of Berlin—and now at the great Vienna Jubilee Postal Exhibition, as shortly noted in my enclosure herewith. In this country, by the leading biographical works of the day—the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and *Dictionary of National Biography*—by thirty members of the London and suburban Press, and by a numerous body of the Press throughout the United Kingdom. In Dundee, his townsmen, on the 1st of January, 1846, presented James Chalmers in the Town Hall with a Testimonial in recognition of this and other postal services—and of late years the Town Council of this now great City of Dundee have passed a Resolution officially recognising James Chalmers as the man to whom we are indebted for "this indispensable feature in the success of the reformed Penny Postage scheme," besides having officially sanctioned a Memorial being erected over his grave having an inscription to the same effect.

But I now come to the immediate purpose of my now troubling your Lordship. By the enclosed copy letter just addressed by me to the *City Press*, your Lordship will perceive that arrangements had been made whereby the Corporation and the citizens of London could at the Guildhall Exhibition have satisfied themselves at a glance of what others above stated have arrived at by diligent investigation of the statements on both sides, while the Philatelic Society of London, of which Mr. Pearson Hill is a member, now admits that Sir Rowland Hill did not invent the Adhesive Postage Stamp. These arrangements the authorities of the General Post Office have been pleased to interdict and to forbid.

But I am satisfied, my Lord Mayor, that neither your Lordship nor any member of the Corporation has had any hand in this narrow-minded attempt to bolster up a now exploded delusion; and that the time will arrive when the great Corporation of the City of London, ever ready to recognise public service, will yet join in the recognition of the name and services of James Chalmers.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Mayor,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon,

*May* 13*th*, 1890.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

I am just advised of an important accession to my supporters in the person of the learned Dr. Moschkau, a name well known throughout the Philatelic world, the friend and correspondent of the late Sir Rowland Hill. This accession is announced to Lieut-Col. Von Gündel, of Vienna, in the following note :—

"Dear Colonel,—I beg to forward you herewith the last number of the *Gartenlaube* containing my Jubilee article, and request your kind acceptance of same. You will gather from it that on the question of the invention of postage stamps I entirely share the views expressed by you, and for which you deserve the greatest praise.

"I am, with friendly greeting,

"Yours truly,

"OYBIN, *3rd May*, 1890." "DR. MOSCHKAU.

This article is long and exhaustive of the question which has been at issue, and now thoroughly in acknowledgment of the world-wide services of James Chalmers as having been, in the year 1834, the inventor of the Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes. The *Gartenlaube*, an illustrated paper, is published in Leipzig, and my German friends here and abroad inform me has an enormous circulation, put at 300,000 copies, "is the oldest and most wide-spread family paper in Germany, to be found in every coffee-house and hotel, and all over the German-speaking part of the Continent, and beyond its borders." Another agrees that it is "read by millions." This conversion of Dr. Moschkau, hitherto my chief obstacle, to the logic of facts virtually carries the universal recognition of James Chalmers by the German Philatelic world, consisting of tens of thousands of studious and intelligent men.

P. C.

WIMBLEDON,
*May 13th*, 1890.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.



The *Daily Telegraph*, of London, claiming to have the "largest circulation in the world," in its article upon the City of London Postal Jubilee Commemoration at the Guildhall, writes, the 16th May:—

"In January, 1840, the uniform penny rate came into operation throughout these islands, and Parliamentary franking was abolished. Four months later Adhesive Postage Stamps, the invention of Mr. James Chalmers, a Dundee printer, were introduced, and found so ready a sale that supply was at first unable to meet the demand. It is an interesting fact that of these 'labels' — which were not separable by perforation until 1853—over fifty thousand millions have been printed and issued in this country alone between May 1, 1840, and the present time. Within ten years of the birth of penny postage the number of letters annually delivered by 'the Department' had considerably more than tripled itself, and is now estimated, we believe, at between sixteen and seventeen hundred millions—exclusive of post-cards, book packets, and newspapers, to the number of some six hundred additional millions—for the current year. . . . ."

*From* "LE COURIER DE LONDRES ET DE L'EUROPE,"
*May* 18*th*, 1890.



# "À TRAVERS LES EXPOSITIONS.

## "L'EXPOSITION DES TIMBRES-POSTE.

"Ce n'est pas seulement en Angleterre que sera fête le cinquantième anniversaire de l'adoption des timbres-poste. A Vienne, on a organise une exposition des plus curieuses, sous le patronage du ministre du commerce, en l'honneur de cette découverte en apparence si simple, mais néanmoins si utile. Cette exposition s'est ouverte à la fin du mois dernier, et elle comprend une collection aussi complète que possible de tous les timbres-poste des différents pays, depuis leur invention.

"Elle occupe deux vastes salles du musée autrichien, et la variété des spécimens mis sous les yeux des visiteurs est telle qu'elle offre un grand intérêt non seulement aux amateurs, mais même au public en général.

"Elle servira une fois de plus à prouver que ce sont rarement les inspirateurs d'une idée qui, au début, en recueillent le mérite. Jusqu'ici, en effet, on avait cru que le véritable auteur de la transformation postale, qui s'est opérée il y a environ un demi-siècle, aurait été Sir Rowland Hill, et c'est à lui qu'on en faisait remonter tout l'honneur.

"Or, il paraît qu'au contraire, ce dernier avait été un des plus grands adversaires du nouveau mode de taxe, et que le réel inventeur n'a été autre que James Chalmers.

"Dés le mois d'août 1834, celui-ci avait envoyé à l'administration anglaise un échantillon de timbre-poste semblable à ceux dont on se sert aujourd'hui. Cette démarche étant restée sans résultat, il la renouvela en 1837 et en 1838. Ce fut seulement le 26 décembre 1839 que la Chambre des Communes, ne trouvant rien de mieux parmi les différents projets qui lui étaient proposés, s'arrêta à celui de James Chalmers.

"A l'Exposition de Vienne, on pourra voir des photographies des différents spécimens de timbres-poste antérieurs à 1840 et dessinés par l'inventeur lui-même. La controverse sera ainsi terminée et Sir Rowland Hill se verra obligé de laisser à James Chalmers le titre usurpé par lui de 'père du timbre-poste.'"

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.



WIMBLEDON,
*May 26th*, 1890.

SIR,

From information lately obtained, I am now enabled to prove, in the circular herewith, that Sir ROWLAND HILL availed himself of his despotic position at the Treasury to abstract the plan and proposals of JAMES CHALMERS, addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, urging the use of an Adhesive Postage Stamp; also abstracting the entire official correspondence which would have proved the justice of CHALMERS' title to having been the originator of same, thus usurping the merit to himself. Further, that at same time Sir ROWLAND HILL abstracted the official memorial of the Bankers and Merchants of Dundee, dated 30th September, 1839, to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury in favour of the plan of their townsman CHALMERS, said memorial being proof that the adoption of an Adhesive Postage Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage scheme formed no part of the proposals of the then Mr. HILL himself.

Can it be that the leading Press of this country will allow their prejudices in favour of Sir ROWLAND HILL to induce them still to abstain from exposing this shabby fraud upon a simple-minded and defenceless man? and is that man's name and services, already widely recognised in other lands, yet to find no place, with a few exceptions, in the columns of the Press of the United Kingdom?

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

May 26th 1890

# The London Philatelic Society Exhibition.

## THE ADHESIVE STAMP FRAUD BROUGHT TO LIGHT.

### Mr. PEARSON HILL produces Dundee Letters.

In my publication some months ago entitled "How James Chalmers Saved the Penny Postage Scheme," I was enabled through the researches of patriotic men in Arbroath, Mr. BUNCLE, of the *Arbroath Guide*, and Mr. McBAIN, Banker there, to produce from the files of the old *Arbroath Herald*, of date October 11th, 1839, copy of a letter, dated 30th September, from the principal bankers, merchants, and others in Dundee, addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury in support of the plan of their townsman, JAMES CHALMERS, at same time submitted to the Treasury for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage Scheme. This scheme had just obtained Parliamentary sanction, but Mr. ROWLAND HILL had failed to propose a satisfactory plan for carrying it out, and the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury had invited plans from the public.

But no trace of this letter from the Dundee merchants could be found, nor any confirmation as to any such letter having ever existed. No one now living in Dundee could recollect anything of the letter, no allusion to it could be found in the files of the Dundee papers, the Treasury officials in London certified that no such memorial was in the Treasury or amongst the public records, so it was more than hinted that the old *Arbroath Herald* had published what never existed, and that the Dundee memorial was a myth. I ventured, however, to hint, on the other hand, that this memorial had been removed from the Treasury by the then Mr. ROWLAND HILL, and that same was now in the hands of Mr. PEARSON HILL along with the entire correspondence betwixt Mr. JAMES CHALMERS and Mr. HILL, which he admits to have.

Such, it now appears, was and is the fact. In his anxiety to prove that JAMES CHALMERS never displayed his Adhesive Postage Stamp prior to sending that plan to Mr. WALLACE in December, 1837, and that consequently the evidence as to his having invented same in 1834 falls to the ground; that the stamp of 1834, now in Vienna, is equally a myth with the personal evidence, Mr. PEARSON HILL has produced at the London Philatelic Exhibition a letter from Mr. CHALMERS to Mr. ROWLAND HILL of date October 1st, 1839, in which letter is the sentence, "If slips are to be used, I flatter myself that I have a claim to priority in the suggestion, it being now nearly two years since I first made it public, and submitted it in a communication to Mr. WALLACE, M.P." "Look at that," is Mr. PEARSON HILL's argument, "there it is under Mr. JAMES CHALMERS' own hand that the first time he ever said anything to anybody about his Adhesive Stamp was to Mr. WALLACE in December, 1837, while, as I maintain, Sir ROWLAND HILL suggested its use in February, 1837." To any one not blinded by fanaticism on this question, the meaning of Mr. CHALMERS will be clear. Here he was handing his plan, *officially*, for the third time: he had sent it to Mr. WALLACE, Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, *officially*, *first* in December, 1837; secondly,

to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London and to Mr. HILL in February, 1838; and now officially for the third time to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury. It is to this *first official* transmission to Mr. WALLACE he refers, the fact of his having displayed it to everybody who would listen to him on the subject from 1834 onwards being beyond dispute. The evidence of Mr. WM. THOMS, Mr. RITCHIE, Mr. NICOL, Mr. PRAIN, Mr. JOHN D. WEARS, Mr. MAXWELL, Mr. W. WHITELAW, and GEORGE HOOD, is conclusive on that point; while as to the authenticity of the Vienna stamp of 1834 such giants in the Philatelic world as FRIEDL, VON GUNDEL, SCHWANBERGER, HEITMANN, HIMMELBAUER, KOCH, LARISCH, FINKE, Dr. FORMER, VON CLAUER, KRAPP, MALLMANN, STADLBAUER, Dr. MOSCHKAU himself, and a host of others, survey and handle the stamp with reverence, as proved to their satisfaction to be authentic and indeed the "Father of Stamps."

In producing this letter, consequently, under the idea of extinguishing the 1834 theory, Mr. PEARSON HILL has only overreached himself. And now about the Dundee Memorial. This same letter of Mr. CHALMERS to Mr. ROWLAND HILL hands a printed copy of a "Certificate in my favour which some friends have been kind enough voluntarily to forward" to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury; such certificate, then, being part and parcel of the letter brought to light by Mr. PEARSON HILL, he has had no choice but at length to produce the Dundee letter or certificate, although my request of 24th July last to be informed if such was in his possession met with no reply. And a most valuable piece of evidence in my favour this Dundee letter proves to be. First, it proves the old *Arbroath Herald* to be right after all, in spite of the sneers launched upon it and myself in respect to this Dundee memorial, no trace or confirmation of which could be found. But of greater interest is it that now we have the *names* of the patriotic men in Dundee of a past generation (alas! what a contrast to those of the present!) who "voluntarily" aided JAMES CHALMERS in getting his adhesive postage stamp adopted by the Treasury. The letter or certificate has already been given at length in my late pamphlet, setting forth CHALMERS' services in the acceleration of the mail, and now recommending his plan of postage stamps, "specimens of which they had seen," to the favourable notice of the Lords of the Treasury. The following signatures are appended:—

ALEXR. BALFOUR, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.
EDWARD BAXTER, Deputy Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.
WILLIAM THOMS, Banker and J.P.
JOHN STURROCK, Banker and J.P.
JOHN SYMERS, Banker and J.P.
WILLIAM HACKNEY, J.P.
GEO. KINLOCH, J.P.
JAMES BROWN, J.P.
GEORGE DUNCAN, J.P.
JAMES GUTHRIE, J.P.
C. W. BOASE, Banker.
W. CHRISTIE, Banker.
DAVID GUTHRIE, Banker.

ALEXR. KAY, Provost.
W. JOHNSTONE, Bailie.
JOHN BROWN, Bailie.
JOHN CALMAN, Bailie.
WM. BOYACK, Bailie.
JAS. THOMS, Dean of Guild.
CHRIS. KERR, Town Clerk.
WILL. BARRIE, Town Clerk.
CHAS. ADIE, D.D.
JOHN MURDOCH, Convener of the Nine Incorporated Trades.
GEORGE MILNE, Clerk to the Harbour Trustees.
ARCHD. CRICHTON, Sea Insurance Office.
SHIEL & SMALL, Writers.

"Subscribed also by above one hundred Merchants, Shipowners, and others of Dundee."

For the names of which latter we must wait the appearance of the original.

It may be, as indeed it would be wrong to doubt, that the sight of these cherished names who aided us in getting official sanction for that plan which saved and has carried out the Penny Postage Scheme will have some effect in arousing the present generation of influential men in Dundee from the apathy hitherto existing there upon this question of historical interest. Dundee at least should know, what my few friends there will be glad to learn, that its name is now spread and recognised throughout the civilised world as having been the birthplace of that Adhesive Postage Stamp without which the postal service and consequent commerce and revenues of the world would become paralysed. "How can we have known all this?" it may be asked. I reply, simply by having read what others have read in hundreds and thousands, and now being spread by means of the foreign Press to the conviction of millions. But what has been the course of the countrymen and townsmen of JAMES CHALMERS? Why, not six copies outside the Press, and few by the Press, of this evidence have been read throughout the length and breadth of Scotland. I have been sneered at as a bore and a nuisance—my publications tossed into the waste-paper basket—my appeals to leading men of the land treated in the same way, without, with one or two exceptions, even acknowledgment. Yet what are the facts? It is to two Scotchmen we are indebted for this very postal reform of which so much is now being made, and from whom ROWLAND HILL obtained his proposals from beginning to end! ROBERT WALLACE, of Kelly, M.P. for Greenock, who nearly fifty years ago was presented with the freedom of Glasgow and of six other Scottish cities or burghs as having been the real founder of penny postage reform, yet whose very name has been wholly overlooked throughout this "ROWLAND HILL" mania, furnished Mr. HILL with the *materials* for his pamphlet of 1837—JAMES CHALMERS provided him with the working plan. And what did ROWLAND HILL do? He put forward in his pamphlet of 1837 the Penny Postage Scheme as his own; he used his despotic position at the Treasury to put CHALMERS aside upon a flimsy pretext, abstracting the plan which CHALMERS had sent to the Treasury, with the entire correspondence, which together would have proved the justice of CHALMERS' claim. Also, as is now seen, abstracting this Dundee memorial to the Treasury. And is Dundee quietly to submit to this indignity, with, it may now or shortly be said, the eyes of the world looking on?

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To the many proofs official and otherwise, which I have brought forward to show that up to the period of the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill in July, 1839, neither the Government, nor Parliament, nor the Press, nor the public, had ever heard of the Adhesive Stamp as being any part of the plan of Mr. ROWLAND HILL, we have now the further proof from this Dundee Memorial on the part of a commercial community which had taken special interest in the proposed Penny Postage scheme for years, yet had never heard of ROWLAND HILL'S name in connection with a plan they now asked might be favourably considered—the plan of Mr. HILL being known universally as being that of the impressed stamped cover. Mr. HILL, in February, 1837, subsequent to the publication of the first edition of his pamphlet, had become cognizant of CHALMERS' Adhesive Stamp invention of 1834, but without seeing its value or proposing its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage Scheme.

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To return to this letter now produced by Mr. PEARSON HILL, my opponents contend that the plan of 1839 contains what Mr. CHALMERS terms "modifications" upon his plan of 1837–8 of a

nature that render the plan of 1839 impracticable, and that consequently Mr. CHALMERS is not now to be considered. This position I was prepared to contest had the plan been produced; but Mr. PEARSON HILL has not thought proper to produce either the plan of 1839, nor copy letters of Mr. HILL to Mr. CHALMERS of dates 3rd March, 1838, and 18th January, 1840, the importance of knowing the contents of which letters all who have followed this controversy understand, but which copy letters I have ineffectually endeavoured to obtain. As to Mr. PEARSON HILL not having now produced the 1839 plan of Mr. CHALMERS, is it because Mr. CHALMERS in that plan (a copy of which I have now before me taken from the files of this same old *Arbroath Herald* through the research of my Arbroath friends already named) makes the following *additional* valuable suggestions, for all of which Mr. ROWLAND HILL has himself obtained the credit?:—

"That the slips should be printed on paper of a uniform size, and *with ink varying in colour according to the price of the stamp*, under the superintendence of the Stamp Office Department, each slip having a device on it about the size or circumference of a shilling piece, specifying the weight it carries and the rate of postage; and then to be issued to town and country distributors of stamps, to be by them sold in sheets or quantities of sheets to stationers and others to retail as may be required."

Again:—"I would propose that a thin paper should be prepared specially for these stamps. that in each slip there should be a water-mark of a crown and the letters 'P.O.S.', and then printed from dies or cuts made by able artists expressly for the purpose."

Again:—"I propose that those stamps should be printed on paper the size of small post, and that each full sheet should contain a hundred and twenty stamps or slips." Again: "The penny stamp being all of one colour of printing ink, the twopenny or higher stamps to be of other colours of ink. And when put into the Post-office, the Postmaster or his assistants could at a glance, distinguish if the proper stamp was affixed, and could at same time impress the Post-office seal partly across the stamp, which would prevent the possibility of being used a second time; the letter sorter having only in a few cases the trouble of weighing any letter having on it a lower stamp which he suspected ought to have a higher. By having exactly a hundred and twenty stamps on the sheet, it would give facility in the calculation, making one sheet of penny stamps 10s., and that of twopenny stamps 20s."

Mr. CHALMERS then goes on at some length to calculate the probable cost, the result showing that 1,000 stamps would cost 6½d. Here was a valuable guide to Mr. HILL, whose contract with Messrs. BACON & PETCH for the first stamps issued to the public on the 6th May, 1840, was just what CHALMERS had named, 6d. the 1,000 stamps.

Is not all this, taken with CHALMERS' plan of 1837–8, as bequeathed by Sir HENRY COLE and repeatedly published by me, a marvel of completeness — the very thing adopted by Mr. ROWLAND HILL and now in use, but for which Mr. HILL, putting CHALMERS' plan and correspondence, with also the Dundee certificate, in his pocket, took all the credit and all the money? Such was the ROWLAND HILL whose *genius* the country has now been lauding in unmeasured terms, while JAMES CHALMERS died unrequited and unknown!

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*May 26th*, 1890.

# THE ADHESIVE STAMP FRAUD BROUGHT TO LIGHT.

In my publication some months ago entitled "How James Chalmers Saved the Penny Postage Scheme," I was enabled through the researches of patriotic men in Arbroath, Mr. BUNCLE, of the *Arbroath Guide*, and Mr. McBAIN, Banker there, to produce from the files of the old *Arbroath Herald*, of date October 11th, 1839, copy of a letter, dated 30th September, from the principal bankers, merchants, and others in Dundee, addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury in support of the plan of their townsman, JAMES CHALMERS, at same time submitted to the Treasury for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage Scheme. This scheme had just obtained Parliamentary sanction, but Mr. ROWLAND HILL had failed to propose a satisfactory plan for carrying it out, and the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury had invited plans from the public.

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Such, it now appears, was and is the fact. In his anxiety to prove that JAMES CHALMERS never displayed his Adhesive Postage Stamp prior to sending that plan to Mr. WALLACE in December, 1837, and that consequently the evidence as to his having invented same in 1834 falls to the ground; that the stamp of 1834, now in Vienna, is equally a myth with the personal evidence, Mr. PEARSON HILL has produced at the London Philatelic Exhibition a letter from Mr. CHALMERS to Mr. ROWLAND HILL of date October 1st, 1839, in which letter Mr. PEARSON HILL considers that Mr. CHALMERS admits not having published his plan of the Adhesive Stamp until December, 1837. But it is clear that, in pointing to that period, Mr. CHALMERS refers to such as being the date on which he first officially sent his plan to London, the evidence as to his having invented and advocated same in the year 1834 being complete and admitted by the leading biographical works of the day, after special investigation initiated by Mr. PEARSON HILL himself. Moreover, a specimen of his 1834 stamp has just been exhibited at the Stamp Exhibition in Vienna, where all the leading Philatelists of Germany survey and handle the stamp with reverence, as proved to their satisfaction to be authentic and indeed, as they term it, the "Father of Stamps."

In producing this letter, consequently, under the idea of extinguishing the 1834 theory Mr. PEARSON HILL has only overreached himself. And now about the Dundee Memorial. This same letter of Mr. CHALMERS to Mr. ROWLAND HILL hands a printed copy of a "Certificate in my favour which some friends have been kind enough voluntarily to forward" to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury; such certificate, then, being part and parcel of the letter brought to light by

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with Messrs. Bacon & Petch for the first stamps issued to the public on the 6th May, 1840, was just what Chalmers had named, 6d. the 1,000 stamps.

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*EXTRACT FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES CHALMERS handing his plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late* Sir Henry Cole :—

"4, Castle Street, Dundee,
"*8th February*, 1838.

"I conceive that the most simple and economical mode of carrying out such an arrangement "(that of prepayment of letters) would be by slips (postage stamps), prepared somewhat similar "to the specimen herewith shown.

"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 and singly. ". . . 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. . . . Others requiring only one or two slips at a time could "purchase them along with sheets of paper at stationers' shops, 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."

This statement is accompanied by several specimens of a suggested stamp about an inch square. A space divides each stamp for cutting off singly. One of the specimens is stamped across with the quasi-postmark "Dundee, 10th February, 1838," to exemplify what Mr. Chalmers states should be done to prevent the stamp being used a second time.

Brought forward in the House of Commons the 5th July, 1839. After plans had been called for from the public and nothing better found, adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839, and the merit appropriated by Mr. Rowland Hill, then in despotic power.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Wimbledon,
*June*, 1890.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

## Letter from HER MAJESTY'S POST OFFICE to Mr. HAY, Town Clerk of Dundee.

WIMBLEDON, *June 6th*, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

I have just had placed in my hands copy of a letter of date July 4th, 1888, from the Assistant Secretary to Her Majesty's Post Office, addressed to you, intimating, in reply to a letter from you, that according to the records of the Post Office, Sir ROWLAND HILL had proposed the use of an Adhesive Postage Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of uniform penny postage prior to and in advance of such proposal on the part of JAMES CHALMERS.

But what the writer here omits to add is, " so far as we know or care to inquire."

What are the facts on investigation?

First, that JAMES CHALMERS, upon the evidence of a number of cotemporary Dundee citizens and workmen then in his employ, invented and advocated the use of an Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes as early as the year 1834, as now recorded in the pages of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and other leading biographical works of the day, after special investigation initiated by Mr. PEARSON HILL himself. Next, that an original and specimens of this 1834 stamp are now, or were lately, being displayed at the Stamp Exhibitions in Vienna, London, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Dundee. Next, that the inventor, JAMES CHALMERS, officially urged the adoption of this Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the proposed Penny Postage Scheme of Mr. ROWLAND HILL to Mr. WALLACE, Chairman of the House of Commons Committee, in December, 1837, as Mr. PEARSON HILL admits. Again, proposing same to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London in February, 1838, as admitted by Her Majesty's Post Office; and at same time to Mr. ROWLAND HILL himself, whose reply of 3rd March, 1838, was unfavourable.

Next, as to Mr. ROWLAND HILL—nothing is more easily or clearly proved than that, up to the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill in Parliament on the 5th July, 1839, a year and a half *after* the admitted proposal of same by JAMES CHALMERS, Mr. ROWLAND HILL had *not* proposed the use of an adhesive stamp for the purpose of carrying out the scheme. Look at the proceedings as proved from the records of *Hansard*. Here are the words of the Minister introducing the Bill:—

He distinctly only " asked Hon. Members to commit themselves to the question of a uniform " rate of postage of one penny at and under a weight hereafter to be fixed." Everything else was to be left open. " If it were to go forth to the public to-morrow morning that the Govern- " ment 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. I therefore do not call upon the House either to affirm or to negative any such

"proposition at the present. I ask you simply to affirm the adoption of a uniform penny "postage, and the taxation of that postage by weight. Neither do I ask you to pledge yourself "to the prepayment of letters, for I am of opinion that, at all events, there should be an option "of putting letters into the post without a stamp."

"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 on 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."—(See *Hansard*, Vol. 48.)

In this dilemma as to *how* to carry out the scheme in practice, Mr. Wallace favourably suggested the Adhesive Stamp, the adoption of which plan, he had no hesitation in saying from the evidence adduced, would secure the revenue from loss by forgery. Mr. Warburton, also a member of the 1837-38 Committee, "viewing with considerable alarm the doubt which had been expressed of adopting Mr. Hill's *plan of prepayment and collection by stamped covers*," recommended that plans should be applied for from the public.

Again, in the House of Lords on the 5th of August, Lord Melbourne, in introducing the Bill, is as much embarrassed as was the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Commons. The opponents of the Bill use, as one of their strongest arguments, the impossibility of carrying out the scheme in practice. The Earl of Ripon says: "Why were their Lordships thus called upon "at this period of the session to pass a Bill, when no mortal being at that moment had the "remotest conception of how it was to be carried into execution?" Here Lord Ashburton, like Mr. Wallace in the Commons, favourably suggested the Adhesive Stamp, "which would answer "every purpose, and remove the objection of the stationers and papermakers to the measure."

Let it then be clearly noted that, up to the period of the Bill in July and August, 1839, not a word is said in any way connecting Mr. Hill's name with other than the impressed stamp on the sheet of letter paper, or more especially, on the stamped covers. That, *and that alone*, is taken on the one part as *his* plan by all the speakers, official or otherwise—for that alone does the Chancellor of the Exchequer ask for "powers." The Adhesive Stamp is brought in, on the other part, as a distinct proposal, in no way entering into the proposals of Mr. Hill. And it is admitted that the date of acknowledgment by Mr. Wallace to James Chalmers of the reception of his plan of an Adhesive Postage Stamp is the 9th December, 1837.

And how does Sir Rowland Hill get over all these Parliamentary proceedings in his "History of Penny Postage," not published until after his decease? Simply *by ignoring them*, by making no reference to them whatever, and by intimating that the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp formed part and parcel of his original proposals of 1837! A more unworthy attempt at imposition after a lapse of time when it would be hoped all the facts would be forgotten amidst the blaze with which he had managed to surround himself cannot be supposed. And how, too, does Mr. Pearson Hill in his publications get over these Parliamentary proceedings? Just in the same way, by ignoring them—they are insurmountable, and consequently left untouched. And how does the Post Office get over them when writing to you? They don't touch upon these facts—the tradition left by Sir Rowland Hill that *he* was

the originator of the Adhesive Stamp is enough for them, and this tradition is put forward upon you and upon the public, the official facts left untouched. At the date mentioned by the Post Office, February, 1837, subsequent to the publication of the first edition of his pamphlet, Mr. ROWLAND HILL had become cognizant of Mr. CHALMERS' invention of 1834, and made an allusion to same, but without seeing its value or proposing its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the scheme—a blindness anything but creditable to Mr. HILL's discernment. Not until after the passing of the Bill, when plans were invited from the public and nothing better found, did Mr. HILL adopt the Adhesive Stamp by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839, *two years after* Mr. CHALMERS had urged it upon Mr. WALLACE.

Many other proofs from the Press of the period to the same effect may be found in my publication "How James Chalmers Saved the Penny Postage Scheme," and Dundee itself has supplied another in its memorial just brought to light of date 30th September, 1839, to the Lords of the Treasury in favour of the adhesive stamp plan of its townsman, nothing whatever being then known or heard of as to any such prior proposal on the part of Mr. HILL—a mere pretence and afterthought on the part of Mr. HILL subsequently set up, bred of the success which had attended the invention and proposal of JAMES CHALMERS.

To have asked for information on this matter from Her Majesty's Post Office was, consequently, to go to a bigoted and mistaken quarter. The Post Office can only stand by the traditions Sir ROWLAND HILL left behind him—even if convinced of their mistake they cannot admit it—*esprit de corps* forbids. Nor can you be guided by the *Times* and some other London papers steeped to the neck in a blind worship of ROWLAND HILL. Are *they* to turn round upon themselves, and now to tell the public they have all this while been lauding a mere plagiarist? No! Let Dundee, its Press and public, look to themselves, read the facts, note these dates, survey the handiwork and letters of their townsman now about to be placed before them—witness his likeness and record of his services sent from all parts of the globe now recognising him. And let Dundee note that these very stamps, letters, and proofs, as far back as 1834, were offered by a London Post Office official, a stranger to me, for display at the late Guildhall Exhibition, showing that the services of JAMES CHALMERS are now well understood amongst the body of the St. Martin's le Grand establishment, but such proposed display interdicted and forbidden by the heads of the Post Office!—an unseemly exercise of arbitrary power. And why? Because such display would have torn away the last shred of pretence set up for ROWLAND HILL—an interdict which is not only a confession of weakness, but indeed amounts to submission. And while noting all this I trust Dundee will resent with just indignation the abstraction by Sir ROWLAND HILL of the plan and correspondence with JAMES CHALMERS, and will resent more especially the abstraction of the memorial in his favour drawn up by their fathers and sent to the Lords of the Treasury; and finally, let me hope that Dundee will boldly assert its title to having been the birthplace of the Adhesive Postage Stamp which saved the Penny Postage Scheme, and remains to this day indispensable to the postal systems, the commerce, and revenues of the world.

I remain, DEAR SIR,
Yours faithfully,
PATRICK CHALMERS.

WILLIAM HAY, Esq.,
*City Clerk,*
DUNDEE.

[P.T.O.

I subjoin copy of the Post Office letter :—

Copy of letter from the Assistant Secretary of the General Post Office, London, to the Town Clerk of Dundee.

"General Post Office,
"*July 4th*, 1888.

"Sir,

"In reply to your letter of the 23rd ulto., I beg leave to inform you that, according to the records of this department, the use of Adhesive Postage Stamps was first suggested by Sir Rowland Hill in his evidence of 13th February, 1837, given before the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry, and printed at page 33 of their Ninth Report, dated 7th July, 1837.

"A suggestion respecting the use of such stamps was also made by Mr. James Chalmers, but, so far as the official records shew, not earlier than 8th February, 1838. This suggestion is contained in the *Post Circular* newspaper of 5th April of that year.

"I am, &c.,

"William Hay, Esq." "(*Signed*) H. JOYCE.

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I have conclusively shown in the foregoing that, up to the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July, 1839, Sir Rowland Hill had not proposed the use of the Adhesive Stamp for the purposes of the Bill. What took place on the 13th February, 1837, consisted merely of a passing allusion as to a use to which an adhesive stamp might be put in an exceptional case, which could not have occurred until the year 1855 when prepayment of the penny in cash was done away with. The circumstance is fully detailed in my pamphlet already named (page 33), and the allusion merely showed that Mr. Rowland Hill had heard of Chalmers' invention of 1834, but without seeing its value or proposing its adoption for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage Scheme, and which proposal James Chalmers was consequently the first to make. But after the success of Chalmers' proposal, this allusion is seized hold of by Mr. Hill to point to himself as having been the originator, while the correspondence with Chalmers, his plan, and the Dundee letter to the Lords of the Treasury are put into his pocket, as shown in my late circular, "The Adhesive Stamp Fraud brought to Light," and all reference to the speech of the Minister introducing the Penny Postage Bill and the proceedings in Parliament on the occasion carefully suppressed.

The Post Office appears to have amended their "Records" since 1888, probably from now having a better appreciation of the facts above stated, as in their Jubilee speeches neither the Postmaster-General nor the Chief Secretary made any claim as to the Adhesive Stamp having been originated by Sir Rowland Hill, while the London Philatelic Society, of which Mr. Pearson Hill is a member, now admits that Sir Rowland Hill did not invent the Adhesive Postage Stamp.—P. C.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

## THE "ST. STEPHEN'S REVIEW."

[*Copy.*]

"21, JOHN STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.,
"*February* 22*nd*, 1887.

"*From* EDGAR LEE, ASSIST. ED.,

"DEAR SIR,

"I note with considerable interest what you say in regard to your father and the Adhesive Stamp. There is no doubt that such a national matter should be recognised. Permit me to point out that what you ought to do would be to get either your own or your father's portrait into our paper with a good interview something like that with Mr. ——. We could arrange this on a business basis, and as all the Members of the Government see the paper, it should do you a considerable amount of good.

"Faithfully yours,
"(*Signed*) EDGAR LEE."

In reply, I wrote declining any interview or business arrangement, but that I should be glad to receive the voluntary support of the *St. Stephen's Review*.

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I now read in the *St. Stephen's Review* of date 14th inst.:—

"Life on a newspaper is made more or less burdensome by a gentleman signing himself 'PATRICK CHALMERS,' who appears to have some grievances about the original invention of adhesive penny stamps. It is all very well that Mr. CHALMERS should seek to ventilate his views, if he would only do so less copiously. Week by week printed circulars arrive, purporting to prove that penny stamps were not invented by Sir ROWLAND HILL, but by one JAMES CHALMERS—at least that is what a cursory glance at one of these documents leads me to believe is the contention of the writer—but *cui bono?* The public does not care two straws about the matter, or will at best only feel annoyed by any attempt to disturb its belief in Sir ROWLAND HILL. As to Mr. PATRICK CHALMERS, whatever be his facts, he is simply engaged in flogging a dead horse; it would really be more interesting if he would revive the Homeric controversy or some such subject. Certainly I trust he will cease to circularise me on the question of postage stamps."

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As the *St. Stephen's Review* is much read at the West-End Clubs, including one of which I have been a member for thirty-four years, I feel called upon to publish and circulate the above letter proposing an interview.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*June* 16*th*, 1890.

WIMBLEDON,

*June 20th*, 1890.

SIR,

In the *Times* newspaper of 11th inst. there appears an announcement in which your name is prominently brought forward, stating that a Jubilee postal envelope is now being offered to the public at a fancy price, bearing a likeness of the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, with an inscription "He gave us Penny Postage." Now, as the inscription originally framed for the City statue of Sir ROWLAND HILL erected by your efforts was "ROWLAND HILL—he founded Penny Postage," and as the inscription now upon the City statue is "He founded Uniform Penny Postage—1840," permit me, Sir, to ask, what the public now invited to purchase this medallion have a right to know, why have you abandoned the word "founded" and substituted the expression "He gave us," that is, something which he had merely picked up and handed over? Years ago I pointed out to the Mansion House Sir ROWLAND HILL Committee, of which you were Secretary, that the Penny Postage Scheme was no invention whatever on the part of Sir ROWLAND HILL, such having been simply a reproduction ably put together of the prior proposals of other men, but to which the compiler had avoided reference and had consequently obtained credit for having invented or "founded" same; and I am prepared to show, if the press and the public care to give the necessary attention to my evidence, that this Mansion House Committee, or some of them, abandoned the point of "originality" on the part of Sir ROWLAND HILL, yet have ever since been inviting money from the public under his name and prestige as a great inventor. If, then, in substituting for "founded" the mere term "He gave us" you now mean to admit that originality of conception formed no part of the merits of Sir ROWLAND HILL, why not say so distinctly and openly, and let the public know exactly how, in your opinion, the matter stands?

"He gave us Penny Postage!" But how did he give it? And by whose aid? By the aid, Sir, of my father, the late JAMES CHALMERS, whose plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, his invention of 1834, was laid before Mr. WALLACE, in December, 1837, and brought forward by him in Parliament

upon the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July, 1839, when all was dismay as to how the proposed reform was to be carried out in practice. And how did Sir Rowland Hill use his despotic position at the Treasury? He abstracted the plan and proposals of James Chalmers addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury urging the the use of an Adhesive Postage Stamp; also abstracting the entire official correspondence which would have proved the justice of Chalmers' title to having been the originator of same, thus usurping the merit to himself. Further at same time Sir Rowland Hill abstracted the official memorial of the Bankers and Merchants of Dundee dated 30th September, 1839, to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, in favour of the plan of their townsman Chalmers, said memorial being proof that the adoption of an adhesive stamp for the purpose of carrying out the scheme had formed no part of the proposals of the then Mr. Hill himself.

Such, Sir, was the man whom you have unwittingly delighted to honour, further details of which allegations on my part will be found in the enclosed sheet, "The Adhesive Stamp Fraud brought to Light." And as I have already addressed you on this matter without having been favoured with any reply, I feel at liberty to at once circulate copy of this communication to the Press and others, not with any object of embarrassing you, but in the hope that the subject will obtain the public notoriety it deserves, and for the purpose of vindicating the services of James Chalmers. These, already acknowledged by the leading biographical works of the day, and by a large body of the Press, including the papers more immediately concerned with Corporation matters, will I have no doubt yet be acknowledged by the Corporation of the City of London itself, a body of gentlemen ever ready to acknowledge a public service—one moreover, already widely recognised in America, France, and Germany.

I remain respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Sir James Whitehead, Bart.,

Alderman.

The following is from my pamphlet just published in vindication of my father's services :—

"That the non-originality of Sir ROWLAND HILL has been recognised by his Mansion House Memorial Fund Committee, subsequent to my having drawn their attention to the sources from which he took his proposals, as may be read from the *City Press* of date 18th March, 1882 :—

"'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 the Penny Postage." Mr. Northover seconded. The Lord Mayor (Sir J. Whittaker Ellis) 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 Post was established." Eventually this was carried by nine votes to six, the Lord Mayor voting in the minority."

"It will be seen that the above proceedings on the part of the Committee amounted to a complete admission of the discovery I laid before them—viz., that the Penny Postage Scheme of 1837 was not an invention, but only a copy. The change in the inscription was important and significant—'He founded Penny Postage' was unanimously abandoned. 'He established' it was substituted, while a minority of six to nine were in favour of an inscription merely nominal."

The above is of itself proof that this Committee abandoned the point of "originality of conception" on the part of Sir ROWLAND HILL. But much remains behind from evidence of no small interest in my possession, and which I am prepared to publish, as already stated, should the Press and public care to give same the necessary attention; and should I fail to make good my assertion, I undertake to hand over to Sir JAMES WHITEHEAD, towards the funds of the "Post Office Benevolent Fund," the sum of one hundred pounds.—P.C.

July 1890

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

**From the "DUNDEE COURIER," June 26th, 1890.**

"JUBILEE POSTAL EXHIBITION IN DUNDEE.

"Following the example of the Philatelic Society of London, Dundee, the birthplace of the Adhesive Stamp, is to have a Postage Stamp Exhibition of its own. The Committee of the Free Library have kindly placed at the disposal of the promoters of the Exhibition part of the Victoria Art Gallery, where the exhibits have been arranged, and are now on view. The Exhibition will remain open to the public for two weeks. Exhibitions in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps have also been held in Vienna and Leeds, and there is a postal display at the Edinburgh Exhibition. Specimens of British and foreign envelopes, post-cards, and news-bands from the collection of Mr. A. Türkheim, Dundee, are exhibited, and include a good assortment of rare 'Mulready' envelopes and wrappers, and one of the temporary envelopes prepared for the Houses of Parliament in 1840 in consequence of delay in preparing the adhesives. The use of these envelopes must have been very restricted, as they are of extreme rarity. Mr. Türkheim also exhibits a collection in an album, along with two sheets of rare stamps. Some interesting covers, with the charges marked in ink, before a uniform penny postage came in force, and before the introduction of postage stamps, are shown by Mr. Gibb, postmaster. Mr. Walton, of Birmingham, shows some good caricatures of the 'Mulready' envelope.

"A sheet of nearly one hundred stamps is exhibited by Mr. T. M. Wears, solicitor, showing the modes of printing and perforation employed in different countries, comprising stamps printed from copper or steel plates, styled *taille douce* engraving; stamps produced by means of typography or surface printing, styled *épargne* engraving; stamps printed by the lithographic process, and embossed stamps. On the same sheet is a number of forgeries, in juxtaposition to which are the genuine stamps they are intended to represent. So skilfully have the forgeries been executed, it is questionable whether any one but an expert could tell which is genuine and which is bogus. Specimens are also exhibited showing the various methods in use of separating adhesives—for example, perforated, rouletted, scalloped, serpentine, serrated, and dentelated stamps.

"Undoubtedly the most interesting exhibits are those forwarded by Mr. Patrick Chalmers of Wimbledon, son of our illustrious townsman James Chalmers. In this case are to be seen photographs of the stamps invented by James Chalmers in Dundee in August, 1834, the originals of which are in the possession of Mr. Hanson, of Cardiff, and Herr Friedl, of Vienna. One of these is overprinted with the word 'used,' to prevent same being used a second time; the other has the *quasi*-postmark, 'Dundee, September 24, 183–' (the last figure after the '3' being illegible), a method of postmark over the stamp as ultimately adopted and now in use. *Fac-simile* impressions of the Adhesive Stamps—of a different design—sent by James Chalmers to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London in 1838, are also shown, together with the explanatory remarks which accompanied them. The remainder of the case is taken up with portraits of Chalmers from all quarters of the globe, and other objects of interest bearing on the subject."

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Short paragraphs have appeared in the above papers stating that the Exhibition continues to be well patronised, and is of a most interesting nature.

## From the "DUNDEE ADVERTISER," June 26th, 1890.

### "POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION IN DUNDEE."

"The Postal Jubilee is being celebrated in Dundee by an Exhibition which has just been opened in the Victoria Art Gallery, the use of which has been kindly granted by the Free Library Committee. The most interesting exhibits are those forwarded by Mr. PATRICK CHALMERS, of Wimbledon, son of the late Mr. CHALMERS. In his collection are to be seen photographs of the stamps invented by JAMES CHALMERS in Dundee in August 1834, the originals of which are in the possession of Mr. HANSON, of Cardiff, and Herr FRIEDL, of Vienna. One of these is overprinted with the word 'used,' to prevent it being used a second time; the other has the *quasi*-postmark 'Dundee, September 24, 183–' (the last figure after the '3' being illegible), a method of postmark over the stamp as ultimately adopted and now in use. *Fac-simile* impressions of the Adhesive Stamps—of a different design—sent by JAMES CHALMERS to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London in 1838 are also shown, together with the explanatory remarks which accompanied them. A sheet of nearly 100 stamps is exhibited by Mr. T. M. WEARS, solicitor, Dundee, illustrative of the modes of printing and perforation employed in different countries, comprising stamps printed from copper or steel plates, styled *taille douce* engraving; stamps produced by means of typography or surface printing, styled *épargne* engraving; stamps printed by the lithographic process, and embossed stamps. On the same sheet are a number of forgeries, in juxtaposition to which are the genuine stamps they are intended to represent. The forgeries have been executed so skilfully that it is questionable whether any one but an expert could tell which is genuine and which the forgery. Specimens are also exhibited showing the various methods in use of separating adhesives—for example, perforated, rouletted, scalloped, serpentine, serrated, and denticulated stamps. Specimens of British and foreign envelopes, postcards, and news-bands from the collection of Mr. A. TÜRKHEIM, Dundee, include rare 'Mulready' envelopes and wrappers, and one of the temporary envelopes prepared for the Houses of Parliament in 1840 in consequence of delay in preparing the adhesives. The use of these envelopes must have been very restricted, as they are of extreme rarity. Mr. TÜRKHEIM also exhibits a collection in an album, along with two sheets of rare stamps. Some interesting covers, with the charges marked in ink, before a Uniform Penny Postage came in force, and before the introduction of postage stamps, are shown by Mr. GIBB, postmaster. Mr. WALTON, of Birmingham, has some good caricatures of the 'Mulready' envelope. The Exhibition is to remain open a fortnight."

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*EXTRACT FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES CHALMERS, referred to in the above newspaper articles, handing his plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late* Sir HENRY COLE :—

"4, CASTLE STREET, DUNDEE,
"*8th February*, 1838.

"I conceive that the most simple and economical mode of carrying out such an arrangement "(that of prepayment of letters) would be by slips (postage stamps), prepared somewhat similar "to the specimen herewith shown.

"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 and singly. " . . . 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. . . . Others requiring only one or two slips at a time could " purchase them along with sheets of paper at stationers' shops, 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."

This statement is accompanied by several specimens of a suggested stamp about an inch square. A space divides each stamp for cutting off singly. One of the specimens is stamped across with the *quasi*-postmark " Dundee, 10th February, 1838," to exemplify what Mr. Chalmers states should be done to prevent the stamp being used a second time.

Brought forward in the House of Commons the 5th July, 1839. After plans had been called for from the public and nothing better found, adopted by Treasury Minute of date 26th December, 1839, and the merit appropriated by Mr. Rowland Hill, then in despotic power.

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This Adhesive Stamp was invented by James Chalmers in the year 1834, up to which period all authorities, including Sir Rowland Hill, agree that an Adhesive Stamp for postage purposes was undreamt of.

In December, 1837, Mr. Chalmers submitted this plan to Mr. Wallace, Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the proposed Penny Postage Scheme of Mr. Rowland Hill.

Again, in February, 1838, Mr. Chalmers sent his plan to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, as above mentioned. At same time a copy was sent to Mr. Rowland Hill, whose reply to Mr. Chalmers, of date March 3rd, 1838, was unfavourable.

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The public of the present day are not generally aware that on the introduction into Parliament of the uniform Penny Postage Bill on the 5th July, 1839, all was dismay as to how the proposal could be carried out in practice. The plan of Mr. Rowland Hill, as then stated by the Minister introducing the Bill, was that "an impressed stamped cover, to be made by one single manufacturer, was absolutely to be used on all occasions." To this plan the Committee and the Government objected for various reasons, such as being liable to forgery and unfair to the stationery trade at large, who had petitioned against the proposal. In this dilemma Mr. Wallace proposed the use of the Adhesive Stamp. Mr. Warburton suggested that plans should be invited from the public. On the passing of the Bill in August, 1839, Mr. Rowland Hill was appointed to a position in the Treasury for the purpose of carrying out the reformed scheme. The first step taken was to invite plans from the public.

Mr. Chalmers again sent in his plan of an Adhesive Stamp in a letter addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury of date 7th October, 1839, and accompanied by a memorial from over 150 of the leading bankers, merchants, and public of Dundee, urging the adoption of his plan. This fact, with the details of the plan, has lately been brought to light through the

researches of Mr. BUNCLE, of the *Arbroath Guide*, and of Mr. MCBAIN, banker, Arbroath. The signatures include those of such men as ALEX. BALFOUR and EDWARD BAXTER, Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the Dundee Chamber of Commerce; WILLIAM THOMS, JOHN STURROCK, JOHN SYMERS, and three others, Bankers; five Justices of the Peace; the Provost, Dean of Guild, and four Bailies; GEORGE DUNCAN, afterwards M.P. for the town, GEORGE KINLOCH, &c.

On this occasion Mr. CHALMERS' plan, amongst other matters, contained the following additional proposals, for all of which Mr. HILL has himself obtained the credit:—

"That the slips should be printed on paper of a uniform size, and *with ink varying in colour according to the price of the stamp*, under the superintendence of the Stamp Office Department, each slip having a device on it about the size or circumference of a shilling piece, specifying the weight it carries and the rate of postage; and then to be issued to town and country distributors of stamps, to be by them sold in sheets or quantities of sheets to stationers and others to retail as may be required."

Again:—"I would propose that a thin paper should be prepared specially for these stamps. that in each slip there should be a water-mark of a crown and the letters 'P.O.S.', and then printed from dies or cuts made by able artists expressly for the purpose."

Again:—"I propose that those stamps should be printed on paper the size of small post, and that each full sheet should contain a hundred and twenty stamps or slips." Again: "The penny stamp being all of one colour of printing ink, the twopenny or higher stamps to be of other colours of ink. And when put into the Post-office, the Postmaster or his assistants could at a glance, distinguish if the proper stamp was affixed, and could at same time impress the Post-office seal partly across the stamp, which would prevent the possibility of being used a second time; the letter sorter having only in a few cases the trouble of weighing any letter having on it a lower stamp which he suspected ought to have a higher. By having exactly a hundred and twenty stamps on the sheet, it would give facility in the calculation, making one sheet of penny stamps 10s., and that of twopenny stamps 20s."

Mr. CHALMERS then goes on at some length to calculate the probable cost, the result showing that 1,000 stamps would cost 6⅕d. Here was a valuable guide to Mr. HILL, whose contract with Messrs. BACON & PETCH for the first stamps issued to the public on the 6th May, 1840, was just what CHALMERS had named, 6d. the 1,000 stamps.

This, it will be seen, taken in conjunction with the plan of 1837–38 already given, is a marvel of completeness, the very thing adopted by Mr. ROWLAND HILL, and now in use. However, neither plan, Dundee memorial, nor official correspondence with CHALMERS, as I have in a late circular already stated, are now to be found in the records of Her Majesty's Treasury. While adopting the plan and proposals Mr. ROWLAND HILL simply put the whole, along with the Dundee Memorial to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, in his pocket, taking all the credit and all the reward, while JAMES CHALMERS died unrequited and unknown!

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*July*, 1890.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.



WIMBLEDON,

*July*, 1890.

SIR,

I beg to hand you copy of articles from the Dundee Press descriptive of the Jubilee Postage Stamp Exhibition now being held in that city, in which the recognition of JAMES CHALMERS forms a prominent feature.

In a late communication I stated that Sir ROWLAND HILL had availed himself of his position at the Treasury to abstract the official correspondence between himself and the late JAMES CHALMERS, bookseller, Dundee, with other official documents, which would have proved the latter to have been entitled to the merit of having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

As Mr. PEARSON HILL has not thought proper either to restore this correspondence, which he admits to be in his possession, or to publish same in his writings on the subject, or to take any notice of a request for copies, you will have no difficulty in concluding that my claim on behalf of my father is indisputable. I trust same will consequently be favoured with your support. I may add that this claim is now widely admitted both at home and abroad, including the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and other leading biographical works of the day, after special investigation initiated by Mr. PEARSON HILL himself.

I remain, SIR,

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

[Copie.]

# Le Timbre-Poste Adhésif.

*Au Rédacteur en Chef du* Timbre-Poste.

Monsieur,

Mon attention ayant été attirée sur une lettre de M. Pearson Hill, publiée dans le dernier numéro de votre journal, et qui contient aussi une lettre adressée par M. Philbrick, dans laquelle je suis accusé d'avoir fait certaines allégations fausses, je demande à votre courtoisie ordinaire la permission de répondre.

Je n'ai jamais dit que j'avais été "invité par les *employés supérieurs* de la Poste" de montrer à la dernière exposition de Guildhall des spécimens des timbres-poste de James Chalmers ainsi que m'en accuse M. Pearson Hill; j'ai dit au contraire, en termes précis, que c'etaient ces "employés supérieurs" qui etaient intervenus pour empêcher l'un des fonctionnaires, qui m'est complètement étranger, d'exposer ces modèles de timbres-poste. Bien loin d'être considéré comme "un imposteur" par la masse des employés, la justice de mes réclamations est généralement admise, et il n'est pas besoin d'autre preuve que l'offre spontané d'un des membres de la Poste de montrer à l'Exposition les timbres et le projet de Chalmers. Je peux ajouter aussi qu'un long article en revendication des titres de James Chalmers, publié il y a quelque temps dans le "*Queen's Head*," journal de la Poste de Glasgow, a été ecrit par un fonctionnaire de la Poste, qui m'est egalement tout-à-fait étranger, et que 5,000 exemplaires de ce numéro ont été achetés par les employés de la Poste anglaise. En outre à l'occasion de la célébration de la cinquantaine postale, les

chefs de la Poste n'ont pas réclamé pour Sir Rowland Hill la gloire d'avoir inventé le timbre-poste adhésif. L'accusation de M. Pearson Hill contre moi n'est par conséquent que le produit de son imagination.

Il en est de même de ses remarques sur ce qui a eu lieu entre moi et la Société Philatelique de Londres. C'est moi qui le premier ai demandé la permission d'exposer les timbres, et je n'ai jamais dit autrechose ; je n'ai pas dit non plus que le comité admettait mes prétentions.

Ensuite M. Pearson Hill déclare que le timbre-poste de James Chalmers, exposé dernièrement à l'Exposition de Vienne, comme ayant été fait en 1834, n'est qu'un double du timbre-poste Chalmers qu'il a lui-même exposé à l'Exposition de Londres. Malheureusement pour lui le timbre exposé par M. Pearson Hill porte à travers l'imitation d'une marque postale, "Dundee, Sept. 30th, 1839," tandis que celui de Vienne porte le mot "Used" imprimé à travers le timbre pour empêcher qu'on s'en servit une seconde fois. Cela prouve clairement que ce timbre est une première tentative de Chalmers antérieure à celle par laquelle il suggéra le système d'annuler les timbres-poste en affixant la date et le timbre du bureau de poste. M. Pearson Hill est donc encore en faute ; son timbre au lieu d'être une imitation de celui de Vienne en est complétement différent par ce point matériel. Quoi que M. Pearson Hill puisse dire, le fait que Chalmers avait inventé le timbre-poste adhésif en 1834 est établi d'une manière concluante par des témoignages personnels et par la production du timbre de 1834 lui-même, à la satisfaction des organisateurs et des visiteurs de l'Exposition de Vienne, et ne laisse aucune doute dans tout esprit impartial. Les plus hautes autorités biographiques de nos jours, auxquelles M. Pearson Hill fit appel, sont, après un long examen spécial, arrivées à la conclusion que "James Chalmers fut l'inventeur du timbre-poste adhésif en 1834," et "que

M. Pearson Hill n'avait pas pu ébranler cette conclusion." Je suis ensuite accusé d'avoir dénaturé le caractère de la lettre de M. Rowland Hill à M. Chalmers en date du 3 Mars, 1838. *Pourquoi donc* M. Pearson Hill *ne produit-il pas cette lettre elle-même?* Pourquoi M. Chalmers, lorsque deux ans après il se plaignait de ce qu'on n'avait rien dit de sa proposition du timbre-poste adhésif, aurait-il renvoyé à M. Hill une copie de sa lettre, si ce n'est pour appuyer sa réclamation? C'est inutilement que M. Pearson Hill repousse cette conclusion, quoiqu'il cherche à tenir secrets les termes de la lettre elle-même.

Il est donc évident que toutes les accusations portées contre moi par M. Pearson Hill, n'ont, quand on y répond catégoriquement, aucun fondement. Ce Monsieur a en outre bien voulu entrelarder ses allégations d'épithètes, qu'il m'applique, telles que "monomane," "imposteur," "absolument faux" "une erreur ou un mensonge," etc., expressions qui ne sont employées d'ordinaires que quand on n'a pas d'arguments valables, et que je laisse avec confiance au jugement et à l'appréciation de tous ceux qui ont lu cette lettre.

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Un mot au sujet la lettre de M. Philbrick, que j'ai examinée dans une circulaire spéciale dont un exemplaire est à la disposition de tous vos lecteurs. Mes autorités pour avoir dit ce que M. Philbrick me reproche sont—1° Une lettre de M. Philbrick lui-même en date du 25 Mai, 1887, qu'il m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser et où il dit, "Ni M. votre père ni Sir Rowland Hill n'ont inventé le timbre adhésif en matières postales." 2°, Un paragraphe du *Stamp News*, où la rédacteur en chef, après avoir eu l'honneur d'une entrevue avec M. Philbrick au sujet de cette question, dit: "La Société Philatelique a admis qu'elle ne soutient pas que Sir Rowland Hill ait inventé le timbre." Au sujet du fait

que la correspondance est en possession de M. PHILBRICK, je demande dans ma circulaire " par quel droit M. PHILBRICK en est en possession et dans quel but Sir ROWLAND HILL a emporté du Ministère cette correspondance officielle ? " C'est en vain que depuis des années je demande copie de ces lettres à M. PEARSON HILL et à M. PHILBRICK lui-même. Des pages d'injures et d'insultes lancées contre moi n'aveugleront pas l'observateur impartial sur la valeur de ce fait dans la discution. Heureusement j'ai été à même de prouver avec l'aide de mes amis d'Arbroath, en Écosse, et quoique sans le secours de cette correspondance, que c'est à JAMES CHALMERS que nous sommes redevables du bienfait du timbre-poste adhésif.

Agréez, etc.,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*Le 5 Aout*, 1890.

# Le Timbre-Poste Adhésif.

WIMBLEDON,

*Le 7 Août*, 1890.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer ci-joint une lettre en réponse à celle de M. PEARSON HILL, publiée dans le dernier numéro de votre journal, *Le Timbre-Poste*, et que je vous prie d'avoir la bonté de publier dans votre prochain numéro. Ma lettre, quoique longue, n'est pas plus longue que celle de M. PEARSON HILL, et il est important et il est juste que la réponse soit soumise à ceux qui ont lu l'attaque. Je compte donc sur votre justice pour l'insertion de ma lettre.

Permettez moi de vous dire que j'ai répondu à votre lettre du 15 Mars, 1888, dans laquelle vous me faisiez certaines questions au sujet de mes réclamations. Après avoir fait traduire votre lettre en anglais, j'ai rédigé en anglais une réponse à chacune de vos questions, qui étaient au nombre de douze, et vous ai envoyé le tout le 26 Mars, vous renvoyant ainsi que vous en exprimiez le désir les questions que vous m'aviez envoyées. Si mon envoi ne vous est jamais parvenu ou s'il a échappé à votre attention, il n'y a aucune faute de ma part, et ne provient certainement pas d'un manque de courtoisie de moi envers vous.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de mes sentiments très distingués.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

Monsieur MOENS,
BRUXELLES.

Ayez la bonté de me dire si ma lettre sera publiée, selon la règle et la courtoisie.

# INVENTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE question being occasionally asked, "Did an adhesive postage stamp exist prior to the year, 1834?" the proved date of the first invention of such a stamp by James Chalmers, I ask attention to the following:—

Had any such system of prepayment of letters existed or been invented in France or the Continent prior to the English reformed postal system of 1840, Frenchmen would, of course, have been the first to lay claim to the merit. So far from having put forward any such claim, the adhesive stamp for postage purposes has been accepted by France, as by every other country, as having been an invention and proposal emanating from this country. In proof of this, I ask reference to the official letter with which I have been honoured from the Secretary of the French Post Office, published at page 65 of my pamphlet, "How James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme," as well as to the official recognition of James Chalmers by the "Société Internationale de Timbrologie," Paris. In the same pamphlet may be found an extract from the Post Office Journal of Berlin, recognising James Chalmers in place of Sir Rowland Hill—also an official letter from the Italian Post Office to similar effect. The learned "Encyclopædia Britannica," now recognises Chalmers in place of Hill, and further as the first man in history to have conceived the idea of an adhesive postage stamp; also the "Dictionary of National Biography." The President of the American Philatelic Association, than whom no man has more intimately studied the history of postage stamps, has written, "Up to 1834, I have found no trace of an adhesive postage stamp." Sir Rowland Hill, in his "History of Penny Postage," referring to Mr. Knight's proposal of an impressed stamped wrapper in the year 1834, states that an adhesive postage stamp had been up to that period "undreamt of." Herr Franz Himmelbauer, of Vienna, an admitted and learned student of the subject, in an exhaustive article upon the history of postage stamps, concludes, "We should always separate adhesive stamps from wrappers or envelopes, the latter are a practical embodiment of an idea which is centuries old, the former an invention of James Chalmers, citizen of Dundee."

No one can now assert, in the face of the above authorities, that an adhesive postage stamp had existed or been proposed for postage purposes prior to the year 1834.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*August*, 1890.

With P. CHALMERS' Compliments.



From "PHILATELIA," *Brunswick, August*, 1890.
TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

# HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE SCIENCE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

By Lieut. Col. Karl Von Gundel, of Vienna.

It is remarkable that, whilst stamp-collecting is continually attaining larger proportions, and periodicals, hand-books and stamp-albums, all of the best class, abound, but little has been done for the more interesting branch—the history of this science.

As a matter of fact, it was only a few years ago that the question to whom the invention of postage stamps should be ascribed was thoroughly ventilated. This question, which for some time past has been decided in the United States of North America in favour of James Chalmers, and which was raised in the first instance in Germany about the middle of the year 1887, must now be considered definitely disposed of also by us in favour of James Chalmers. In England it no longer occurs to anyone who has given attention to this question, if even the most infatuated supporter of Sir Rowland Hill, to ascribe to the latter the invention of postage stamps; but there are a few who bring forward trifling excuses for not admitting that James Chalmers was the real inventor of the adhesive postage stamp. I have written more than twenty-five essays in most German Philatelic Journals in support of Chalmers' right. The "Gartenlaube," a periodical of large circulation, has inserted in its widely-read columns, an article from the pen of Dr. Alfred Moschkau (the friend and correspondent of the late Sir Rowland Hill) in favour of Chalmers, a circumstance which justifies my contention that Chalmers' victory in the great cause is an accomplished fact also in Germany. That there should, nevertheless, be a few who still refuse to admit the truth and justice of Chalmers' cause is a matter of little importance; no telling proofs to the contrary can be adduced, empty phrases are insufficient to dispose of the matter, and further opposition is but a hopeless effort, a fight against windmills!

# Ueber die Erfindung der Briefmarken.

Die Frage wird oft aufgeworfen: Hat eine adhesive Briefmarke bevor dem Jahre 1834 existirt? Denn dies ist das bewiesene Datum der ersten constatirten Erfindung einer solchen Briefmarke durch James Chalmers, und zum Beleg hievon erlaube ich mir auf folgende Thatsachen hinzuweisen:

Wenn ein ähnliches System der Vorausbezahlung für den Brieftransport in Frankreich oder anderswo auf dem Continente erfunden worden wäre, bevor dasselbe im reformatorisch umgestalteten englischen Postwesen im Jahre 1840 zur Anwendung gelangte, so würde sicherlich die französische Nation, oder irgend eine andere auf dem Continent, die darauf Anspruch hatte, denselben geltend gemacht haben. Dieses ist jedoch von keiner Seite geschehen, und wir finden, dass die adhesive Briefmarke in Frankreich sowie in jedem andern Lande der civilisirten Welt als eine von England aus emanirende und dort zuerst gemachte Erfindung zum practischen Gebrauch verwendet wurde. Als Beweis hievon erlaube ich mir, mich auf den offiziellen Brief zu beziehen, mit dem ich durch den Secretär des französischen General-Postamtes beehrt worden, und der sich auf Seite 65 meines Pamphlets abgedruckt befindet, betitelt: "Wie James Chalmers die Penny Post rettete," sowie auf die offizielle Anerkennung des James Chalmers durch die "Société Internationale de Timbrologie" in Paris. In dem nämlichen Pamphlet ist ein Auszug aus der "Berliner Post-Zeitung" zu finden, in dem dem James Chalmers an der Stelle des Sir Rowland Hill Anerkennung geworden, — sowie eine offizielle Zuschrift des italienischen Postamtes zu gleichem Behuf. Die gelehrte "Encyclopædia Britannica" anerkennt jetzt James Chalmers an der Statt des Sir Rowland Hill als den ersten Mann in der Geschichte, der die Idee einer adhesiven Briefmarke hatte; das Nämliche thut jetzt auch der "Dictionary of National Biography." Der Präsident der Amerikanischen Philatelischen Gesellschaft, denn welchen Niemand die Geschichte des Briefmarkenwesens mehr eingehend studirt hat, hat sich über den Gegenstand der uns beschäftigt in folgender Weise geäussert: "Bis zu 1834 habe ich keine Spur einer adhesiven Briefmarke finden können." Sir Rowland Hill bestätigt in seinem Werke "History of the Penny Postage," in dem er des Vorschlages des Herrn Knight vom Jahre 1834 bezüglich eines Umbandes erwähnt, auf dem der Markenwerth eingedruckt ist, dass bis zu der Zeit "nicht die Spur eines Traumes" von einer adhesiven Briefmarke existirt hatte. Herr Franz Himmelbauer in Wien, ein anerkannt fleissiger und zuverlässiger Gelehrter über den Gegenstand, schliesst einen erschöpfenden Aufsatz über die Geschichte der Briefmarke in folgender Weise: "Es ist stets angemessen und zu empfehlen, die adhesive Marke vom Umband "und der Envelope mit eingedrucktem Postwerth separat zu halten, indem die letztern die Ver-"körperung einer Jahrhunderte alten Idee sind, während die adhesive Briefmarke eine Erfindung "des James Chalmers in Dundee ist."

Niemand wird nun, Angesichts der oben erwähnten Autoritäten, behaupten können, dass eine adhesive Briefmarke vor dem Jahre 1834 existirt hat, oder für Postzwecke in Anwendung gebracht worden ist.

WIMBLEDON, *September* 1890.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

# Ueber die Erfindung der Briefmarke.

Verbesserte Uebersetzung.

Die Frage wird oft aufgeworfen: Hat eine Adhesif-Briefmarke vor dem Jahre 1834 existirt? Denn dies ist das bewiesene Datum der ersten constatirten Erfindung einer solchen Briefmarke durch James Chalmers, und zum Beleg hievon erlaube ich mir auf folgende Thatsachen hinzuweisen:

Wenn ein ähnliches System der Vorausbezahlung für den Brieftransport in Frankreich oder anderswo auf dem Continente erfunden worden wäre, bevor dasselbe im reformatorisch umgestalteten englischen Postwesen im Jahre 1840 zur Anwendung gelangte, so würde sicherlich die französische Nation, oder irgend eine andere auf dem Continent, die darauf Anspruch hatte, diesen geltend gemacht haben. Es ist dies jedoch von keiner Seite geschehen, und wir finden, dass die Adhesif-Briefmarke in Frankreich sowie in jedem andern Lande der civilisirten Welt als eine von England kommende und dort zuerst gemachte Erfindung zum practischen Gebrauch verwendet wurde. Als Beweis hievon erlaube ich mir, mich auf den offiziellen Brief zu beziehen, mit dem ich durch den Secretär des französischen General-Postamtes beehrt worden, und der sich auf Seite 65 meines Pamphlets, betitelt: "Wie James Chalmers die Penny Post rettete," abgedruckt befindet, sowie auf die offizielle Anerkennung James Chalmers durch die "Société Internationale de Timbrologie" in Paris. In dem besagten Pamphlet ist ein Auszug aus der "Berliner Post-Zeitung" zu finden, in dem James Chalmers an Stelle Sir Rowland Hill's Anerkennung geworden, — sowie eine offizielle Zuschrift des italienischen Postamtes zu gleichem Zwecke. Die gelehrte "Encyclopædia Britannica" erkennt jetzt James Chalmers an Stelle Sir Rowland Hill's als den ersten Mann in der Geschichte an, der die Idee einer Adhesif-Briefmarke hatte; das Nämliche thut jetzt auch der "Dictionary of National Biography." Der Präsident der Amerikanischen Philatelischen Gesellschaft, welcher wie kein Anderer die Geschichte des Briefmarkenwesens eingehend studirt hat, äussert sich über den Gegenstand, der uns beschäftigt, in folgender Weise: "Bis zu 1834 habe ich keine Spur einer Adhesif-Briefmarke finden können." Sir Rowland Hill bestätigt in seinem Werke "History of the Penny Postage," in dem er des Vorschlages des Herrn Knight vom Jahre 1834 bezüglich eines Streifbandes erwähnt, auf dem der Markenwerth eingedruckt ist, dass bis zu der Zeit "nicht die Spur" einer Adhesif-Briefmarke existirt habe. Herr Franz Himmelbauer in Wien, ein anerkannt fleissiger und zuverlässiger Gelehrter über den Gegenstand, schliesst einen erschöpfenden Aufsatz über die Geschichte der Briefmarke in folgender Weise: "Es ist stets angemessen und zu empfehlen, die Adhesif-Marke vom Streifband "und der Enveloppe mit eingedrucktem Postwerth getrennt zu halten, indem die letztern die "Verkörperung einer Jahrhunderte alten Idee sind, während die Adhesif-Briefmarke eine "Erfindung James Chalmers in Dundee ist."

Niemand wird nun, Angesichts der oben erwähnten Autoritäten, behaupten können, dass eine Adhesif-Briefmarke vor dem Jahre 1834 existirt hat, oder für Postzwecke in Anwendung gebracht worden ist.

Wimbledon, *October* 1890.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

As unfounded statements and imaginary charges with the object of throwing discredit upon me continue to be brought forward by my opponents in certain Journals into the columns of which no reply from me will be admitted, I have no resource but to circulate reply as I best may, thus having now to ask your kind perusal of the "Letter" herewith.

P. C.

WIMBLEDON,

*October*, 1890.

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

Copy.

"14, Springfield Road,
"Wimbledon, *October* 13*th*, 1890.

"Dear Sir,

"I am anxious to obtain a list of the names and addresses of the Members of the London Philatelic Society. The list of names I have already found in a copy of the *Philatelic Record*, to which journal I now subscribe, but the publishers have not acceded to my request for the addresses. I should be glad if you can favour me with these, and thereby oblige

"Yours truly,
"(*Signed*) PATRICK CHALMERS.

"Douglas Garth, Esq., *Secretary*,
"The London Philatelic Society."

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"5, New Court, Lincoln's Inn,, W.C.,
"*October* 13*th*, 1890.

"My dear Sir,

"I thank you for your letter just received. I am sorry to say I am under very strict orders not to give the addresses of our Members. We had some discussion upon the subject at one of our meetings, and it was unanimously resolved that I should not be at liberty to furnish Members' addresses except with their individual permission. I am very sorry to be obliged, therefore, to refuse your request.

"Yours truly,
"(*Signed*) DOUGLAS GARTH.

"P. Chalmers, Esq."

[over.

"WIMBLEDON,

"*October* 15*th*, 1890.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"I regret to find that it is not in your power to furnish me with the addresses of the Members of the London Philatelic Society. For some time past a system has been pursued by certain Members of putting forward unfounded statements and imaginary charges against me in certain journals, into the columns of which no reply from me will be admitted, tending to throw discredit upon me and my claim in behalf of my late father as having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, while at same time these writers avoid any reference to the salient points of this controversy, such as the proceedings in Parliament upon the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill in July, 1839, conclusively proving from official sources that up to that period SIR ROWLAND HILL had not proposed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out the new scheme.

"The journals to which I specially allude are the London *Standard*, the *Timbre-Poste* of Brussels, and the *Philatelist* of Dresden, while I have also reason to conclude that the same system has been pursued in the United States of America in journals not sent to me, thereby misleading the Philatelic body there, and alienating support from my cause.

"To these attacks upon me I have had no difficulty in drawing up conclusive replies. Thousands, however, and amongst them the Members of your Society, who have read the attacks have had no opportunity of seeing the replies, and thus have I been led to the request with which I troubled you. While, therefore, the influential name of your Society is made use of as being in opposition to my claim, the Members at large see only these attacks.

"I am satisfied, Sir, that you personally have taken no part in nor have any sympathy with such a mode of controversy—one, indeed, which is virtually a confession of weakness, an admission that the cause these writers and journals profess to advocate will not even bear examination—proceedings on a par with the representation made to the Press that I 'am only a person of weak mind who claims the invention of the Penny Postage *Scheme* for his father,' and consequently that I am unworthy of attention.

"I remain,

"Yours faithfully,

"(*Signed*) PATRICK CHALMERS.

"DOUGLAS GARTH, Esq., *Secretary*,
"THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY."

THE

# CHALMERS-HILL CONTROVERSY.

WIMBLEDON,

DECEMBER 22nd, 1890.

TO THE EDITOR OF DES "PHILATELIST,"

SIR,

My attention has been called to a letter in your issue of this month from the pen of M. I. Siewert of Moscau, any detailed reply to which from me may be dispensed with because M. Siewert has evidently not read my publications personally, but has taken his impressions from what has appeared in the "Timbre-Poste" and "Philatelist," full, and I am told satisfactory, replies to which I have already drawn up and circulated. Or, like the writers in the journals, M. Siewert has simply drawn upon his imagination for his statements while evading the vital points of the case.

Asking you to be good enough to publish this note in your next issue,

I remain,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

PATRICK CHALMERS

# ZUR CHALMERS-HILL FRAGE.

WIMBLEDON,

DEN 22TEN DEZ., 1890.

LOBL REDACTION DES "PHILATELIST."

Meine Aufmerksamkeit ist auf einen, aus der Feder des Herrn I. Siewert in Moskau herrührenden Artikel gelenkt worden, welcher in der Nummer vom 15 November Ihres geschätzten Blattes veröffentlicht worden ist.

Ich glaube, auf diesen Artikel nicht näher eingehen zu sollen, denn Herr Siewert scheint meine Brochüren nicht selbst gelesen, sondern seine Anschauungen aus den im "Timbre-Poste" und "Philatelist" erschienenen Artikeln empfangen zu haben, auf diese aber habe ich bereits ausführlich und—wie man mir sagt—in zutreffender Weise geantwortet.

Oder auch, Herr Siewert hat bei Abfassung seiner Ansichten, wie andere Mitarbeiter der genannten Journale, mit Umgehung der Stützpunkte, ganz einfach seiner Einbildungskraft die Zügel schiessen lassen.

Mit dem ergebenen Ersuchen diesen Brief in die nächste Nummer Ihres geschätzten Blattes aufnehmen zu wollen,

zeichnet,

hochachtend

PATRICK CHALMERS.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

WIMBLEDON,
*January*, 1891.

SIR,

Herewith I beg to hand you copy of my Petition to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, asking their Lordships to call upon Mr. PEARSON HILL to restore to the possession of the Treasury the official correspondence betwixt the late JAMES CHALMERS and the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, with other official documents, all removed from the Treasury by Sir ROWLAND HILL when in the pay and service of Her Majesty's Treasury.

By what right and with what object did Sir ROWLAND HILL remove this correspondence, as also the memorial of the bankers and merchants of Dundee in support of their townsman? In my efforts to vindicate the services of my late father, I have been charged with "attacking a dead man." Here, then, I am asking that Sir ROWLAND HILL may be allowed to speak for himself, and I trust to have the support of all well-wishers to the cause of truth and justice in now ventilating this matter.

Yours respectfully,

PATRICK CHALMERS.

*With P. Chalmers' respectful compliments.*

# Sequel to Pamphlet

"PETITION TO THE LORDS OF H.M. TREASURY FOR RESTORATION OF OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE REMOVED BY SIR ROWLAND HILL."

[*Copy of this Pamphlet has been already laid before you, but if overlooked or mislaid another can be sent.*]

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*February*, 1891.

On the issue of the above publication some weeks ago, copies were at once sent to the friends and supporters of Mr. Pearson Hill in the Post Office and elsewhere. After sufficient lapse of time for their consideration of same, I addressed the following letter to Mr. Pearson Hill himself:—

"WIMBLEDON,
"*January 26th*, 1891.

"SIR,

"I beg to hand you copy of a pamphlet published by me, entitled 'Petition to the Lords of H.M. Treasury for Restoration of Official Correspondence removed by Sir Rowland Hill'; and I further beg to ask if it is your intention to restore to the Treasury this official correspondence and other documents therein named, removed by Sir

Rowland Hill when in the pay and service of H.M. Treasury.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"PATRICK CHALMERS.

"PEARSON HILL, Esq.,

"6, Pembridge Square, W."

The above communication was returned to me through the Post Office, marked "Refused." A more distinct refusal than this to restore this correspondence or to allow Sir Rowland Hill to speak for himself in this matter could not be looked for—a fitting conclusion to a course of proceeding on the part of Mr. Pearson Hill, which practically amounts to his surrender in the question which has been at issue. In his own publications this correspondence in its entirety, the very thing from which to have enabled a correct judgment to be arrived at, has been conspicuous by its absence. My endeavours to obtain copy of same, or now its restoration to its proper resting place, the Treasury, have been fruitless. What greater proof can be desired that this correspondence will not bear investigation? That the grounds upon which Sir Rowland Hill put aside the claim of James Chalmers and assumed to himself the merit of the Adhesive Postage Stamp are untenable? And that thus a grievous wrong has been done to a deserving man and to a generous public.

I have proved from the official proceedings in Parliament, upon the introduction of the Penny Postage Bill in July, 1839, that up to that occasion Sir Rowland Hill had *not* proposed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp for the purpose of carrying out this measure in practice. "Why should we be called upon to pass this Bill," argued its opponents, "when no mortal being at that moment had the remotest conception of how it was to be carried into execution?" On the other hand, I have proved that James Chalmers submitted and urged the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp to Mr. Wallace as early as December, 1837; again to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London, and to Mr. Hill himself in February, 1838. That in the dilemma which existed in Parliament as to how to carry out the Bill in practice, Mr. Wallace in the Commons, and Lord Ashburton in the Lords, called for the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp. In response to the appeal to the public in August, 1839, *after* the passing of the Bill, for plans, Mr. Chalmers for the second time, and after an interval of nearly two years, again urged this plan. That on this occasion, Mr. Chalmers' address to the Lords of the Treasury was accompanied by a certificate from his townsmen in support of his plan—a fact only now come to light from Arbroath; that correspondence betwixt Mr. Hill

and Mr. Chalmers took place, the result being that Chalmers was put aside and that Mr. Hill assumed to himself the merit of this invention and proposal, putting forward and handing down same to posterity as his own. On what possible grounds can this assumption be justified! And every impartial mind and every writer not dazzled and blinded by the late inordinate glorification of Sir Rowland Hill will repeat the question with something more than surprise, and will ask at the Treasury in vain. Everything that could throw light on the matter was carried off there and then by Sir Rowland Hill, and would never have been heard of as far as he was concerned. and that is the answer of the hitherto supposed great originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

To fitly characterise this ungenerous proceeding on the part of Sir Rowland Hill towards a simple-minded man and a confiding public had better be left to the critic and historian than now entered into here by the victim's son. My object will have been attained should I have succeeded in inducing the Press and public of this country now unanimously to acknowledge and emphatically to record the name and services of James Chalmers in the great work of Penny Postage reform.

Effingham Wilson & Co., Printers, Royal Exchange, London, E.C.

Copy.

# Letter to the Secretary to Her Majesty's Treasury.

Wimbledon,
*March* 10*th*, 1891.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of 4th December last, handing a Petition to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury praying that their Lordships would be pleased to call upon Mr. Pearson Hill to restore to the Treasury certain official correspondence and other documents removed from the Treasury by the late Sir Rowland Hill while in the pay and service of the Treasury, I beg now to inform you that the major portion of such correspondence and documents, or of copies of same, has since come into my possession.

The Pamphlet herewith, "Discovery of Contents, with Letters from Mr. Rowland Hill, Mr. Wallace, M.P., and others," will explain in what manner this possession has been arrived at, and I am satisfied the particulars would prove of interest to their Lordships should their Lordships find leisure to peruse same.

I have read in a Philatelic journal copy of a letter of date 14th January last, addressed to your Assistant Secretary by Mr. Pearson Hill, the contents of which, setting aside the verbiage and vituperation in which the writer of same has indulged, are simply a repetition of his refusal to make public or to return to the Treasury the correspondence I have asked for. This resolution on the part of Mr. Pearson Hill, it will now be seen, proves detrimental to no one but himself. Mr. Pearson Hill refuses to disclose these letters, sheltering himself under the plea that same were private, though at same time he has not hesitated to publish an "Extract" from one of these letters purporting to favour his own views. No one who now reads what has come into my possession will be at a loss to understand Mr. Pearson Hill's reasons for still withholding this correspondence under the plea of "privacy."

As to official letters or documents, Mr. PEARSON HILL disclaims having any in his possession, and that consequently he cannot return the missing letters in response to the demand of your Under-Secretary.

Happily, I can now supply this deficiency, copies of the official letters of JAMES CHALMERS to the Lords of the Treasury, of dates 1st and 7th October, 1839, having now been found amongst the papers of Mr. CHALMERS, confirming his title to having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp as ultimately adopted by the Treasury and yet in use.

I am likewise now in possession of the text and signatures to the missing memorial of the Bankers, Merchants, and others of Dundee, to the number of 84, of date 30th September, 1839, addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, in support of the plan of their townsman—a document proving that, up to that period, the mercantile community knew nothing of, and had heard or read nothing of any proposal or pretension on the part of Mr. HILL in connection with the stamp in question, and respecting which document you have already informed me that same "is not now in the possession of the Treasury, nor is it amongst the papers preserved at the Record Office."

Thus, both on the part of the Treasury and on the part of Mr. PEARSON HILL, the possession of or knowledge of the contents of these official communications is disclaimed. What, then, has become of these missing letters and documents, wholly condemnatory as they were of the pretensions of Mr. HILL to having been the originator of the Adhesive Postage Stamp?

I remain, respectfully, SIR,
Your obedient Servant,
(*Signed*) PATRICK CHALMERS.

SIR R. E. WELBY,
*Secretary H.M. Treasury,*
WHITEHALL.

# The Adhesive Postage Stamp.

[*Copy.*]

14, Springfield Road,
Wimbledon, *March* 12*th*, 1891.

My Lord Provost,

Having but a short time ago laid before your Lordship copy of a pamphlet in vindication of the postal services of my father, the late James Chalmers, a townsman of Dundee, your Lordship will naturally feel surprised and probably annoyed at my now troubling your Lordship with a further publication on the same subject.

But in the interval, my Lord Provost, an event has put me in possession of the very evidence then pointed out as having been unobtainable either from the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury or from Mr. Pearson Hill.

The death of an aged relative (by whose decease your Lordship's local charities will largely benefit) has disclosed the existence amongst my late father's papers of copies of the very correspondence and other documents removed from the Treasury by Sir Rowland Hill.

It has thus been my duty at once to make the facts public, proving as they conclusively do that it is to James Chalmers we owe the adoption, at a critical moment, of that Adhesive Postage Stamp which saved the Penny Postage scheme from untimely collapse, and continues to this day indispensable to the postal service, the commerce, and the revenue of the nation.

I am further enabled to give the names of those in Dundee who, in a Memorial addressed to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, of date September 30th, 1839, aided in procuring the adoption of this valuable invention and proposal, and which names will doubtless prove of interest to the present generation of the now great city of Dundee.

Trusting I have said sufficient by way of explanation and apology for thus again troubling your Lordship and others,

I remain, my Lord Provost,
Yours most respectfully,
(*Signed*) PATRICK CHALMERS.

*To* Lord Provost Mathewson,
Dundee.

th P. CHALMERS' respectful compliments.

# The Chalmers-Hill Controversy.

Remarks on Mr. PEARSON HILL'S Letter of date January 14th, 1891, addressed to FRANK MOWATT, Esq., Under-Secretary to Her Majesty's Treasury, and published in the "*Monthly Journal*" and "*Philatelic Record.*"

In refusing to restore the correspondence of 1839–40 betwixt the then Mr. Rowland Hill and James Chalmers, Dundee, called for by Her Majesty's Treasury, Mr. Pearson Hill shelters himself under the plea that said correspondence is "private," and that consequently he is not bound to produce same. Anything more untenable cannot be supposed. The Treasury having invited plans from the public for the purpose of carrying out the Penny Postage scheme, Mr. Rowland Hill, the official in the pay and service of the Treasury in charge of the matter, adopts a certain plan; but, in setting aside the claim of the man who had submitted that plan addressed, along with two explanatory letters to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, and assuming the merit to himself, Mr. Hill writes from his private residence. Consequently, correspondence which ought rightly now to have been found in the records of the Treasury must, according to Mr. Pearson Hill, be considered "private," and cannot be produced. Is the Treasury to submit to this?

Again, Mr. Pearson Hill hands in a pamphlet he has published, "The Chalmers Craze Investigated," conspicuous for unfounded reflections upon me, while the correspondence, the very thing wanted, is conspicuous by its absence beyond an "extract" apparently telling in his own favour, but which extract I have repeatedly reproduced and shown to bear no such interpretation—while no impartial person has attached or will attach any importance to just such extract as Mr. Pearson Hill has thought proper to produce.

Again, while thus himself adopting such a suppression as this, and at same time admitting he seldom troubles himself to read my publications, Mr. Pearson Hill thinks proper to charge me with suppressing correspondence—a charge to which I give the most unqualified denial. It is over eleven years since I have been honoured with any letter from Mr. Pearson Hill, while several letters I have addressed to him have either remained unacknowledged or have been returned unopened.

Again, while I have shown James Chalmers, whose claim I advocate, to have been a postal reformer, and this to great purpose, many years before the then Mr. Rowland Hill entered the field—to have further been the correspondent of the leading postal reformers of the period, including Mr. Rowland Hill himself, the reply of Mr. Pearson Hill in his pamphlet to all this may be summed up as being one which simply denounces my cause as an imposture.

Again, in proof of his own claim, Mr. Pearson Hill points to the opinions expressed many years ago by two newspapers. Why, I have produced a hundred such in my favour at home and abroad, including one of the very papers, when better informed, to which Mr. Pearson Hill triumphantly points, and including the official journal of the Berlin Post Office, with letters to similar effect from the heads of the Post Office in France and Italy.

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Again, Mr. Pearson Hill puts forward James Chalmers' plan of 1839, terming same "crude and impracticable," as being the plan upon which my claim rests. Such an assertion on the part of any one who had read my publications would be a deliberate misrepresentation, as I have therein distinctly stated that it is upon Chalmers' plan of 1837, again put forward by him in 1839 on the above-named occasion, and frequently reproduced by me—the plan ultimately adopted by Mr. Rowland Hill and in use to this day—that Chalmers' title rests. But Mr. Pearson Hill "seldom troubles himself to read" my productions, and consequently will be allowed here to have erred through ignorance.

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Again, Mr. Pearson Hill asserts that his father had proposed the adoption of the Adhesive Stamp as early as the 13th February, 1837, ten months before Chalmers laid his plan of 1837 before Mr. Wallace and the Committee. Here again I am enabled to prove Mr. Pearson Hill's ignorance of the facts, as since he wrote the above-named letter to the Treasury the following letter from Mr. Rowland Hill has been found, with others, amongst the papers left by James Chalmers, acknowledging Chalmers' plan of an Adhesive Postage Stamp to be printed on sheets to be gummed at the back with an adhesive substance, and to be sold in sheets or singly, all as ultimately adopted and now in use. Mr. Hill writes as follows :—

"6, Adelphi Terrace,
"*March 3rd*, 1838.

"Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. (*sic*), and to thank you for the suggestions it contains, which I shall probably make use of in my evidence before the Committee. Pray excuse the delay in replying to your letter—the Committee has so engrossed my time that I have not had an opportunity till now.

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It is thus seen that Mr. Pearson Hill's assertion is completely disproved by Mr. Rowland Hill himself—that in reply to Chalmers as late as the 3rd March, 1838, Mr. Hill makes no pretension to having already proposed the Adhesive Stamp or of having held any intention of doing so. On the contrary, he thanks Chalmers for the suggestion, of which he will probably make use, and which he ultimately did make use of to the very letter. On the subsequent occasion in

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It is to be hoped, therefore, that before Mr. Pearson Hill again writes upon this subject either in a pamphlet, in letters to the Press, or to the Treasury, or, above all, in his promised record to be preserved in the British Museum, he will make better endeavour to acquaint himself with the facts, his non-acquaintance with which has hitherto been obscured in a cloud of verbiage and strong language.

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In conclusion, Mr. Pearson Hill, unsuccessful in his attempt, not communicated to me, to obtain a verdict in his own favour from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and with a purse filled to repletion, seems now to desire to drag a poor man like myself through the Courts of Law, where the pages of *Hansard* are not admitted as evidence, where he might produce just such portion of the correspondence betwixt our respective fathers as suited him, and where every prejudice and predilection would be in his favour. But justice will indeed have failed in this land if my cause does not otherwise meet with its due recognition. Let Mr. Pearson Hill produce this correspondence, of which I have now given a portion, in accordance with the legitimate demands of Her Majesty's Treasury, and any man of common attainments can then understand to which of the two, Chalmers or Hill, we are indebted for the Adhesive Stamp, without troubling a Court of Law. Mr. Pearson Hill's hitherto refusal to produce this correspondence only proves that his pretensions cannot be sustained, and the above letter from Mr. Rowland Hill to James Chalmers confirms this.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,

*July 27th*, 1891.

P. CHALMERS' *respectful compliments.*

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PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*August*, 1891.

For further information as to the undoubted title of James Chalmers, reference is respectfully made to the Pamphlet just published, "Action of Her Majesty's Treasury—the Correspondence called for and refused"—(Effingham Wilson & Co., Royal Exchange).

# DIE CHALMERS—HILL STREITFRAGE.

Da vor kurzem in einem oder mehreren deutschen Philatelistischen Journalen, ein Bericht von höchst missleitendem Character über obigen Gegenstand erschien, so bittet der Unterzeichnete, einigen aufrichtigen und leichten Berichtigungen Aufmerksamkeit schenken zu wollen. In der That, ist der Schreiber von den falschen Aussagen welche dieser Bericht enthält, so empfindsam, dass er es selbst nicht gewagt hat seinen Namen zu unterschreiben; noch weniger den Titel der Brochüre zu geben, deren Inhalt er sich zu erläutern bemüht. Dies gethan zu haben würde ihm nicht gepasst haben, weil das Titelblatt selbst viele Auskunft giebt, welche es unmöglich war zu läugnen, und unangenehm bekannt zu machen.

Das Titelblatt heisst: "Handlung der Finanz, Kammer Jhrer Majestät. Die Correspondenz gefordert und verweigert. Weiterer wichtiger Brief von Herrn Wallace, Parlamentsmitglied," und über keinen von welchen Punkten der Schreiber es wagt ein Wort zu sagen. Er berichtet diejenigen Leser welche durch die Annahme seiner Aussagen getäuscht worden sind nicht, dass die Lords der Finanzkammer Ihrer Majestät Herrn Pearson Hill aufgefordert haben, der Finanzkammer die Correspondenz welche zwischen unseren beiderseitigen Vätern stattgefunden zurück zu erstatten, damit hierdurch bewiesen werden könne, aus welchen Gründen Sir Rowland Hill, es sich gegen alle Gewissheit hat erlauben können, den Verdienst der aufklebaren Briefmarken sich selbst an zu massen. Er sagt seinen Lesern *nicht*, dass Herr Pearson Hill verweigert hat dieser rechtmässigen Aufforderung nach zu kommen und dadurch sich und seine Anmassungen gänzlich unhaltbar gemacht hat. Er sagt seinen Lesern *nicht*, dass Briefe von Herrn Wallace, Parlamentsmitglied, Vorsitzender des "Select Committées des Hauses der Gemeinden über Porto 1837 und 1838," jetzt von mir vorgelegt worden sind, wodurch anerkannt ist, dass James Chalmers derjenige ist von welchem er den Vorschlag über die aufklebaren Briefmarken erhielt, welchen er in einem entscheidenden Augenblicke im Hause der Germeinden vorbrachte. Er sagt seinen Lesern *nicht*, dass der derzeitige Minister, bei dem Vorlegen des "Penny Postage Bill" im July, 1839, erklärte, der Plan von Sir Rowland Hill sei, "dass absolut und in allen Fällen ein eingeprägter Umschlag zu gebrauchen sei." Und hauptsächlich sagt er seinen Lesern *nicht*, dass der folgende Brief, von Sir Rowland Hill an Herrn James Chalmers, worin er den Vorschlag von Chalmers aufklebaren Postmarke anerkennt, jetzt von mir veröffentlicht worden ist; ein Brief, von welchem eine Abschrift während allen diesen Jahren im Besitze von Herrn Pearson Hill gewesen ist, dessen Veröffentlichung er jedoch unterdrückt hat, während er mich in England sowie im Auslande als einen Betrüger hinstellte:

6, Adelphi Terrace,
*3te März*, 1838.

Mein Herr!

Ich bekenne mich zum Empfang Ihres Briefes vom 9 crt. (sic) und danke Ihnen für die darin enthaltenen Winke, von welchen ich wahrscheinlich in meinen Aussagen vor dem Komité Gebrauch machen werde. Entschuldigen Sie gütigst die Verzögerung Ihren Brief zu beantworten, aber das Komité had meine Zeit dermassen in Anspruch genommen, dass ich bis heute keine Gelegenheit dazu hatte.

I verharre, mein Herr,
Ihr ergebener Diener,
gezeichnet: ROWLAND HILL.

J. Chalmers, Esq.

Hier haben wir es endlich mit der Unterschrift von Rowland Hill selbst, dass so spät wie am 3 May 1838, er sich keine Anmassungen macht schon den Vorschlag gemacht zu haben die aufklebare Freimarke ein zu führen, oder irgend welche Absicht gehabt solches zu thun. Im Gegentheil, er dankt Chalmers für die Winke von welchen er wahrscheinlich Gebrauch machen wird, und schliesslich in jedem detail Gebrauch machte. Trotzdem, und ungeachtet dieses Briefes, welchen der anonyme Schreiber kaltblütig ignorirt; ungeachtet der officiellen Erklärung des Ministers, welche er gleichfalls nicht kennt; ungeachtet des Briefes von Herrn Wallace, hat dieser Schreiber die Unverschämtheit die oft verworfene Täuschung, dass Rowland Hill die Annahme der aufklebaren Freimarke im Februar, 1837, vorgeschlagen habe, zu wiederholen! Sir Rowland Hill, und dies sieht man jetzt durch seine eigene Unterschrift, hatte dergleichen gar nichts gethan. Erst nachdem die Annahme dieses Planes ihm durch den Erfinder James Chalmers, aufgedrungen war; erst nachdem die Annahme desselben durch Herrn Wallace und anderen, innerhalb und ausserhalb des Parlaments aufgedrungen war, gab Sir Rowland Hill seine Einwilligung zur Annahme. Obgleich ihm die *Idee*, in der Weise wie ich öfters dargelegt habe, in Februar 1837 zugekommen, war er blind über deren Verdienst und warf dieselbe unnütz auf Seite und kein Gedanke kam ihm in den Sinn solche für den Zweck der "Penny Postage" aus zu führen, bis James Chalmer's Vorschlag allgemeinen Beifall und Unterstützung, gefunden und der Erfolg desselben gesichert war. Dann, und nicht eher, war an die Andeutung von Februar 1837, gedacht und vorwärts gebracht worden; ein einfacher Vorwand und Nachgedanke welcher aus Chalmer's Erfolg erdacht war, dieser Schreiber aber in einen Vorschlag vergrössert, welcher ihm für den Verdienst, dessen Urheber gewesen zu sein berechtigt. Im Gegentheil ist es gänzlich zu Sir Rowland Hill's Ungunsten, dass er im Februar, 1837, von dieser Idee Kenntniss gehabt ohne deren Werth zu sehen und sofort die Annahme derselben vorzuschlagen.

Ich hoffe, dass diese Bemerkungen, den Deutschen Philalisten, die Augen und den Sinn gegen die grausame Täuschung öffnen werden, welche meine Gegner hier und im Auslande versucht haben, auf dieselben ein zu wirken.

Ich rechne ferner darauf, dass die Deutsche Philatelistische Welt sich wie ein Mann, an mich schliessen wird, um zu fordern, dass der Rest der Correspondenz zwischen Sir Rowland Hill und James Chalmers, von Herrn Pearson Hill, gemäss der legitimen Forderung der Finanz Kammer Ihrer Majestät vorgelegt werde, oder sollte diese Correspondenz nicht vorgelegt werden, dass die Anprüche des Herrn Pearson Hill als unhaltbar erklärt werden, und der Name von James Chalmers allgemein als derjenige anerkannt werden soll, welchem wir die Gabe von aufklebaren Freimarken verdanken.

PATRICK CHALMERS.

WIMBLEDON,
*September*, 1891.

Copy

Copy of Certificate forwarded in Mr. James Chalmers's letter of 1st October 1839.

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Dundee 30 Sept. 1839.

We certify that Mr. James Chalmers, Bookseller here, has for many years taken an active interest in the acceleration of the Mails and the general improvement of the Post Office Establishment, and his services in this way have been repeatedly noted with commendation in respectable periodicals. Chiefly through his exertions in directing attention to the means and importance of accelerating the Mail, two days were gained in correspondence betwixt this and Liverpool prior to the use of Railways. Since the proposal to establish a Uniform Rate of Postage was announced, Mr Chalmers has devoted much attention to the subject, and has been at great pains to discover the best method of carrying the scheme into effect. We have seen a specimen along with a description of his plan of ~~obtaining slips~~ using stamped slips, which appear to us to possess several peculiar

ns in the printed and see pp

and important advantages. We beg therefore respectfully to recommend his plan to the favourable consideration of the Right Hon^ble the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Signed Alex Balfour Chairman of Chamber of Commerce
Edw^d Baxter - Deputy Chairman of Do -
William Thoms - Banker and J.P.
John Sturrock - Banker and J.P.
John Sprangers - Banker & J.P.
William Hackney - J.P
George Kinloch - J.P
Jas Brown - J.P.
Geo. Duncan - J.P
Jas Guthrie - J.P.
C. W. Boase - Banker
W. Christie - Banker
David Guthrie - Banker
Alex. King - Provost
W. Johnstone Bailie
John Brown Bailie
John Calman Bailie
Jas Thoms - Dean of Guild
Chris. Kerr Town Clerk
Will Barrie — Do.
Chas Adie D.D
John Murdock - Convener of the Nine Incorporated Trades
Arch. Crichton Sea Insurance Office

(over)

Geo: Milne - Clerk to the Harbour Trustees

Thiell and Small - Writers.

Subscribed also by above one hundred Merchants Ship owners and others of Dundee -

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This certificate - described by Mr James Chalmers as one his friends and neighbours had kindly signed in his behalf - was forwarded by him to the Treasury in support of his claim to have put forward his scheme of adhesive stamps "nearly two years" before August 1839 -

It is obvious that had there been any truth in the statement made by Mr Patrick Chalmers that his father suggested such stamps in 1834 - some reference to such a claim would have made -

It is scarcely necessary to add that no proposal to establish a Uniform Rate of Postage had been announced prior to the appearance of Sir R. Hill's pamphlet - See "Origin of Postage Stamps" pages 43 - 61 and other

Copy

11 Downing Street
Whitehall
March 24th 1864.

My dear Rowland Hill.

On receiving your letter of the 16th I immediately took steps to expedite the circulation of the papers.

It was not intended in the Treasury Minute to imply a negation of any claim to originality, as I think you may see if in reading it, you lay a stress on the word development.

I am very glad however that you have taken that subject into your own hands and appealed to the proper tribunal – that of opinion – through the proper medium – that of Parliament. Your explanations may fairly regarded as a challenge to the world and will both, we trust, and relatively, have their right, fair and effectual light when the subject before it is mentioned in Parliament.

I trust you are experiencing the benefit of repose.

I remain
Most faithfully Yours

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11 Downing Street
Whitehall
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My dear Sir Rowland Hill.

On receiving your letter of the 18th I immediately took steps to expedite the circulation of the papers –

It was not intended in the Treasury Minute to put a negation on your claim to originality, as I think you may see if in reading it, you lay a stress on the word development.(1)

I am very glad however that you have taken that subject into your own hands and appealed to the proper tribunal – that of ~~public~~ Opinion – through the proper medium – that of the press. Your explanations(2) may fairly regarded as a challenge to the world, and will both positively and negatively have thrown light, probably effectual light, upon the subject before it is mentioned in Parliament.

I trust you are experiencing the benefit of repose.

I remain
Most faithfully Yours
(signed) W. E. Gladstone.

(1) This explanation would seem to imply that in the passage in the Treasury Minute expressing the honour that "may be due to those who before the development of the plan of Sir Rowland Hill urged the adoption of the uniform penny postage" it was simply intended to refer to those persons like Mr. Wallace, Hume, Warburton, the Francis Committee, who gave the plan, after it was brought out, their cordial and zealous support. RH.

(2) The Life of Sir Rowland Hill Vol 2 pp. 492.
"The Post Office of 50 years ago" pp. 33 – 36.

24 Mar. 1864

Copy

The Rt. Hon^ble
W. E. Gladstone M.P.

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Resp^d. Treasury Minute
on Sir Rowland Hill's retirement

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There were present deputations from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Council of the United Synagogue, the Society of Hebrew Literature, the Jews' College, the Jews' Free School, and representatives of every synagogue in London.

The ground having been reached, by the excellent arrangements of the police, soon after 11, the coffin was conveyed into the little mortuary house at the entrance, which was ornamented with wreaths of heart's-ease, camelias, azaleas, and the broad leaves of the lily of the valley. The coffin was placed on the bier, and then the Rev. B. H. Ascher, Burial Rabbi of the United Synagogue, offered a short prayer. The Chief Rabbi was unable to attend. He is at Brighton recovering from an illness, and sent by telegram and letter, as well by his son Dr. H. Adler, to express his regret at being prevented from following the funeral of his oldest friend. Among other telegrams was one received by the Rev. A. Löwy, secretary of the Anglo-Jewish Association, from the Baron de Castelnuove in Tunis, chief of the Alliance Israélite there, to express condolence to the family.

After the entrance prayer the coffin was carried to the place of interment—not by any paid bearers, but, as the custom is, by the voluntary service of members of the congregation to which the deceased belonged. The grave is situated some distance from the monument of the Baron and Baroness Meyer de Rothschild, yesterday marked with fresh wreaths, and from the tomb (already bordered with thick ivy) of the late Sir Anthony de Rothschild. They are surrounded by other graves, and this is placed in an open part of the ground. It is not, ho a family vault. The Jewish law does not permit mor one body to be buried in a grave, and this prescrip strictly adhered to in the case of pauper burials as i of the richest Israelite. Thus, the grave once clo not re-opened, and the living are not exposed to da from the dead. The procession to the tomb was hea by the boys of the Jews' Hospital, chosen because t are orphans. There were also on the ground child from the Jews' Free School, Infant School, Westn ster Free School, Borough Schools, Jews' College, Step School, Bayswater School, Gates of Hope School, Portuguese Orphan School. On their way the bear paused, and the officiating rabbi delivered a brief addr selecting for his text the words, "Know you not t there is a Prince and a great man fallen this day Israel?" He referred to the political work wh gave peculiar importance to the career of the l Baron Lionel de Rothschild and held him to imitation in adding, "He was accessible and sympathized with every one, the poor as w as the rich. He also was the spokesman in the council merchant princes. He whose advice was sought by stat men did not disdain to listen patiently to the tales of w and misery. Many a man who crossed his threshold witl heavy heart, full of anxiety and anguish, left his house wi joy and gratitude; and thus he gained for himself, not on the blessings and prayers of the needy, but also the adm ration and love of the world at large, and, let us hope, t crown of glory in Heaven." The Rev. B. H. Ascher co cluded with the following prayer:—

"Holy Father in Heaven, God of life and death,—Wi a heart full of tears, but with eyes of hope, we look up Thee for Thy mercy and Thy kindness. Do Thou recei the pious departed in Thy infinite kindness with his beat fied ancestors in the regions of bliss and eternity. Ser Thy truth, Thy light to console his descendants with Tl sacred word. Inspire them with filial feeling to follow the footsteps of their revered father. O, Fountain Mercy, as the deceased was a messenger of peace and ha piness to man, grant from Thy celestial regions that may bring the message of peace and comfort to his spous who so lovingly, so patiently stood at his side alike in we and woe, gladness and sadness. Send Thy comfort and Th consolation to that God-fearing mother in Israel, who h brought solace and pleasure to many. O, pardon h errors, cast his sins into oblivion, remember only his pio



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history of Sir Rowland Hill's efforts to obtain the establishment of a uniform charge for postage of one penny for a single letter, which resulted in the passing of the Act of 1839 and the Treasury Minute of January, 1840. A splendid public testimonial to his worth, to which the corporation of London contributed, must have been gratifying as a proof that the benefits he had conferred upon the country were appreciated by the public. The latest report of the Postmaster-General showed how wonderful had been the growth of the system. In 38 years the post-offices and receptacles for the deposit of correspondence had increased from 4,500 to over 25,000. The chargeable letters and newspapers despatched in 1839 numbered about 106 millions; they had increased, including book and sample packets and post-cards, to the enormous total of nearly 1,478 millions, or about 14-fold. Post-office orders for money remitted had risen from 188,000 in 1839 to 18,500,000 in 1878, or 100-fold. The public net revenue, meanwhile, had, after a temporary depreciation on the adoption of the lower rate of charges, advanced nearly half a million pounds per annum, and was yearly increasing. But the triumphs of Sir Rowland Hill's genius had not been confined to his own land. There was not now any country claiming to be civilized which had not adopted a low-priced scale of postage prepayable by stamps. In conclusion, the Chamberlain said,—I have now to perform the pleasing duty of presenting to you the resolution of the Court, enclosed in a casket which has been prepared for its reception. I offer you the right hand of fellowship in the name of the corporation whom we represent, and who deeply regret that they cannot receive you in person, as is their wont on such occasions as the present. We congratulate you that

See other side.

part of the kingdom to another. The inevitable consequence was that, although the Post Office enjoyed a legal monopoly for the conveyance of letters, all kinds of expedients were adopted for the independent and illicit transmission of correspondence at a cheaper rate. Members of Parliament and official personages enjoyed the privilege of franking letters under their signature. There was a large traffic in these franks, for it was the common perquisite of dependents of great personages to procure and sell them, and, besides this, they were forged to an enormous extent. Letters were sent in booksellers' parcels, in bales of goods, in parcels by common carriers, and all kinds of ingenious modes were devised for evading the exactions of the Post Office. In those days a letter was a costly affair, and thrifty people, in consequence, had recourse to many devices to avoid the expense of even necessary correspondence. Bankers hesitated to transmit money, lawyers to communicate with their agents, merchants to send orders or to forward invoices, while private friends were either silent altogether, for fear of taxing their correspondents unduly, or waited for the precarious chance of a friendly frank. In many large towns four-fifths of the commercial correspondence was illegally transmitted by private enterprise at a much lower cost than that of the official tariff. Nevertheless, the Post Office system was regarded as a marvel of organization, and, in answer to all criticisms, it could point to a large sum annually earned for the Exchequer. Herein lay the strength of the early official resistance to Sir ROWLAND HILL'S efforts. He could not impugn the organization of the Post Office, which worked well in detail, though,

porary in their character, and very uncertain in their consequences. They do not advance the country permanently in its course, and sometimes they may even obstruct it. But the men who procured the repeal of the Corn Laws may claim some of the honour which is attached in the proverb to the man who makes two blades of corn grow where only one grew before. They have made a permanent and an indestructible addition to the food of the people, and to the sources from which it is derived. Mr. VILLIERS and his friends have the satisfaction of knowing that the present population of this country could never have been fed, and, consequently, that its vast development of late years would have been impracticable, but for the success of their labours. So far, their work has stood the test of time, and must stand it permanently. Two or three years ago there would, perhaps, have been nothing visible to mar the completeness of this satisfaction. The system of Free Trade, of which the repeal of the Corn Laws was the commencement, seemed accepted among us as a kind of axiomatic principle. It was like a part of the British Constitution, which we could not conceive being called in question. It was, however, always ominous that the principle made such slow and doubtful progress in foreign countries, still more that it was actually repudiated by the United States and in some of our colonies; and at length we are confronted by a violent reaction against it abroad, and not a few persistent voices are heard even among ourselves which question its unreserved application. A letter we printed yesterday, just addressed by Mr. BRIGHT to an American periodical, reads like a cry of something like despair at this spectacle. "I "should despair," he says, "of the prospects of "mankind if I did not believe that before long "the intelligence of your people would revolt "against the barbarism of your tariff." We trust there is no occasion for such gloomy apprehensions. The whole world has been passing through a period of commercial depression, and at such a time men clutch at every theory which promises an explanation of their misfortunes and a remedy for them. When business revives, as there is good reason to hope it has begun to do, people in England, at all events, will be too busy with making profits to fight against so well established a principle as that of Free Trade. Mr. VILLIERS's statue is the memorial of a man who adhered to his faith in that principle in the hour of its darkest eclipse, and the recollections of those past struggles and victories may afford us opportune encouragement during the momentary period of doubt through which we are passing.

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Many years ago, at a time which to the present generation will seem like the middle of the dark ages, though it was within the memory of men still living, the poet COLERIDGE was making a solitary tour through the Lakes. He stopped one day at a wayside inn for refreshment, and while he was there the rural postman came by, bearing a letter for the waiting-maid. The charge for postage was a shilling—no exorbitant sum in those days, so distant and yet so near. The girl looked wistfully at the letter, and then returned it to the postman, saying that she could not afford to pay for it. The tender-hearted poet at once proffered the necessary fee, which the girl reluctantly accepted; but when the postman was gone she explained to her benefactor that he had spent his money in vain. The letter was only a blank sheet of paper, but on its outside were some apparently insignificant marks, of which she had carefully taken note before she returned the missive to the postman. They had told her all she wanted to know, for she and her brother, from whom the letter came, had agreed upon this mode of communication in order to evade the exorbitant demands of the Post Office. "We are so poor," she said, "that we have invented this manner of cor-"responding and franking our letters." We recall this once well-known story because it illustrates, better than a pile of statistics could do, the contrast between the postal arrangements of to-day and those of less than fifty years as subsequent experience has proved, its system was incurably vicious; but he could and did prove that its mode of levying its charges was unjust and obstructive. He pointed out that the cost of transmitting letters was insignificant as compared with that of their collection and delivery. Hence he argued that if a uniform rate, sufficient to cover the necessary expenses, were levied on all letters, the distance to which they were conveyed might be left out of account in appraising the charge. By fixing the rate as low as possible, he calculated that the increase of correspondence and the extinction of illicit modes of conveyance would speedily recoup the revenue for its immediate loss, and in the meanwhile the correspondence of the country would be relieved from a burdensome and unjust tax. In the light of subsequent experience, Sir ROWLAND HILL's argument looks so irrefragable that it is difficult to see why it was at one time so vehemently opposed. But we can all be wise after the event, and it would be unjust not to acknowledge that the superior wisdom with which we regard the matter after forty years' experience is due in the main to Sir ROWLAND HILL's courage and sagacity. He fought the battle and won it, hopeless as his enterprise seemed at first, and we enjoy the fruits of his victory. What those fruits are, in almost every relation of life, it is difficult to estimate and almost impossible to exaggerate; they are a part of our daily life and almost as natural to us as the air we breathe; and yet they are of such recent growth that the author of the reform is still among us to witness the benefits he has conferred on all classes of his fellow-creatures, and the story of COLERIDGE and his wasted shilling is only an illustration of what might have happened any day in distant parts of the country less than fifty years ago.

A few figures, taken partly from a memorandum drawn up by Sir ROWLAND HILL himself on his retirement from the Post Office in 1863, will afford some measure of the extent of his reforms. During the twenty years from 1815 to 1835 there was no increase whatever in the Post Office revenue, whether gross or net, and, therefore, the inference is fair that there was no increase in the number of letters annually transmitted during the same period. In 1838, the last complete year of the old system, the number of chargeable letters delivered in the United Kingdom was 76,000,000. In the first five years after the reforms had come into full operation the number increased threefold; in 1863 it had mounted to 642,000,000; while in 1877-8 it reached the astonishing number of 1,057,732,300, or an average of 32 per head for the whole population of the British Isles. Thus while the number of letters remained stationary at three per head of the population for the twenty years before mentioned, it has increased more than tenfold in the last forty years. In the face of these astonishing figures it is hardly necessary to consider what was the immediate financial effect of the revolution wrought by Sir ROWLAND HILL. That has long since become an insignificant question in comparison with the social results produced. As a matter of fact, the profits of the Post Office fell off considerably for some time; but the gross revenue returned to about the old level in less than ten years, and the net profits had risen in 1863 from £1,660,000—the figure at which they had stood before the change—to about £1,790,000. In 1877-8 the net revenue was officially returned as £2,057,000, showing an increase of £110,000 upon that of the preceding year. As there is a reverse side to everything, some may be disposed to question whether this portentous increase in the amount of the country's correspondence is, after all, an unmixed advantage. If those who supported Sir ROWLAND HILL in 1836 and the following years could have foreseen that the time would come when London would have more than a dozen deliveries a day, each bringing its burden of correspondence, always troublesome and too often trivial, they might have thought, as some of us certainly think now, that it is possible to have too much of a good thing. The plague of circulars, for instance, must be attributed, at least indirectly, to the reforms which were com-

of the Post Office. "We are so poor," she said, "that we have invented this manner of corresponding and franking our letters." We recall this once well-known story because it illustrates, better than a pile of statistics could do, the contrast between the postal arrangements of to-day and those of less than fifty years ago. It can hardly be necessary for us to say to whom the momentous change is mainly due. The illustrious author of it, Sir ROWLAND HILL, is still living, and at the patriarchal age of eighty-three he yesterday received a tardy recognition of the services he has rendered alike to his country and to mankind by the proffer of the freedom of the City of London, unanimously voted by the Court of Common Council. The health of Sir ROWLAND HILL, unhappily, prevented his attending at the Guildhall and receiving the gift of his franchise in person, and it was therefore presented to him by a deputation at his own residence. If the distinction thus lost some of its prestige it will lose none of its true significance in the eyes of the public. It has not, however, been necessary for the veteran reformer of our postal system to wait thus long for his appropriate reward. That has long since been accorded in the gratitude of his countrymen for an emancipated Post Office and in the practical adoption of his system throughout the civilized world. Nevertheless, it was fitting that the City of London, the official representative of the first commercial community in the world, should, even at this late hour, record its sense of benefits conferred by the efforts of the originator of the Penny Postage, not only on commerce, but on society at large.

When Sir ROWLAND HILL first set himself, now more than forty years ago, to the task of postal reform, the communications of the country, though officially regarded as a model of efficiency, were, as compared with what we are now accustomed to, in a very rudimentary state. Letters as a rule were not prepaid, and could be refused by those to whom they were addressed. They were charged according to a tariff increasing very rapidly with their weight and with the distance they were carried, so that the briefest communication had to pay several pence for conveyance from one part of the kingdom to another. The inevitable consequence was that, although the Post Office enjoyed a legal monopoly for the conveyance of letters, all kinds of expedients were adopted for the independent and illicit transmission of correspondence at a cheaper rate. Members of Parliament and official personages enjoyed the privilege of franking letters under their signature. There was a large traffic in these franks, for it was the common perquisite of dependents of great personages to procure and sell them, and, besides this, they were forged to an enormous extent. Letters were sent in booksellers' parcels, in bales of goods, in parcels by common carriers, and all kinds of ingenious modes were devised for evading the exactions of the Post Office. In those days a letter was a costly affair, and thrifty people, in consequence, had recourse to many devices to avoid the expense of even necessary correspondence. Bankers hesitated to transmit money, lawyers to communicate with their agents, merchants to send orders or to forward invoices, while private friends were either silent altogether, for fear of taxing their correspondents unduly, or waited for the precarious chance of a friendly frank. In many large towns four-fifths of the commercial correspondence was illegally transmitted by private enterprise at a much lower cost than that of the official tariff. Nevertheless, the Post Office system was regarded as a marvel of organization, and, in answer to all criticisms, it could point to a large sum annually earned for the Exchequer. Herein lay the strength of the early official resistance to Sir ROWLAND HILL's efforts. He could not impugn the organization of the Post Office, which worked well in detail, though, correspondence, always troublesome and too often trivial, they might have thought, as some of us certainly think now, that it is possible to have too much of a good thing. The plague of circulars, for instance, must be attributed, at least indirectly, to the reforms which were completed in 1840, no less than the innumerable benefits of cheap and uniform postage. Nevertheless, it would be preposterous to doubt that the benefits of the system immeasurably outweigh its inevitable disadvantages. Sir WALTER SCOTT could tell of a time, within the memory of his own friends, when the mail bag from London, which took ten days in transmission, had been known to arrive with only one letter in it. Now-a-days, if the mails between London and Scotland are delayed for only a few hours, business is dislocated and whole communities are inconvenienced. If we owe it to the Post Office itself and to its elaborate organization that we receive our letters with regularity, it is to Sir ROWLAND HILL that we owe it that there are letters to receive and that the cost of sending them from one end of the kingdom to the other is what to our fathers would have seemed an insignificant trifle. Nor has this priceless boon been confined to our own country and colonies. In cheap postage, though not in free trade, the example set by Great Britain has been all but universally followed, so that, as the veteran postal reformer yesterday reminded us, a lower rate of postage now carries a letter from the extremity of Europe to San Francisco than was charged in 1839 on a letter sent from Cheapside to Hampstead.

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## THE LATE BARON DE ROTHSCHILD.

Baron Lionel de Rothschild was buried yesterday at the Willesden Cemetery of the United Synagogue. There were no invitations issued to the funeral and it was essentially a family solemnity; but the respect in which the deceased was held caused a very numerous attendance at 148, Piccadilly. The feeling of the religious body to which the late Baron belonged was shown by the fact that along the route from the house to the consecrated ground, all the shops above which Jewish names appeared had their shutters closed as the procession passed by. At New-court business was entirely suspended in the morning, and all the clerks attended the funeral, as did also many of the tenants on the Buckingham estates and from Gunnersbury. The Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Beaconsfield, the Russian Ambassador, the Turkish Ambassador, the Brazilian Ambassador, the Netherlands Minister, the Duke of Manchester, the Duke of St. Albans, the Duchess of Somerset, the Lord Mayor of London, Mr. Sheriff Burt, Mr. Sheriff Bevan, the Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Feversham, Lady Molesworth, Lord Howard of Glossop, Lord Norreys, Earl Somers, Lord Dorchester, Lady Du Cane, Lady Emily Peel, and Baron de Stern were among those who sent their carriages. At the house of mourning there were collected among others Lord Barrington, Mr. Fulke Greville, Captain the Hon. J. Yorke, Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P., Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., Sir Barrow Ellis, Baron H. de Worms, Baron G. de Worms, Mr. A. Cohen, Q.C., Mr. I. Seligman, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, Mr. Cyril Flower, Mr. J. M. Levy, Mr. M. Greger, Sir Albert Sassoon, Mr. R. D. Sassoon, Mr. A. Sassoon, Mr. R. H. C. Pallett. The coffin, placed in an ante room, was covered with wreaths of blush roses, pale noisettes, white stephanotis, and gardenia, with leaves of lilies of the valley. Some of these beautiful and fragrant flowers came from Gunnersbury, but the largest wreaths had been sent by ladies of the family from Paris or Ferrières. There were no ladies at the ceremony, but the carriages of the Baroness and Lady de Rothschild, of Miss Alice de Rothschild, Mrs. Eliot Yorke, Miss Lucy Cohen, Mrs. Wagg, and others followed.

Precisely at 10 o'clock the procession started from the house, but 40 minutes elapsed before the last carriage left. In the first coach were Sir Nathaniel de Rothschild, M.P., and Baron Alphonse de Rothschild of Paris. In the next followed Mr. Alfred de Rothschild and Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, with Dr. Chapmell. In the next were Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, and Baron James de Rothschild and Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of Paris. In the fourth coach were the Earl of Rosebery, the Brazilian Minister, Mr. John Samuel, Sir Coutts Lindsay, and Mr. Joseph Montefiore. The late Baron was also followed to the grave by M. Lambert, Baron Weisweiller (Madrid), Mr. Nathaniel Montefiore, Mr. Behrens, Mr. Bleichröder (Berlin), Mr. Warburg, Mr. Valentine (the Hague), Mr. Arthur Wagg, Mr. Lionel B. Cohen, Mr. Louis Davidson, Mr. Sampson Lucas, Sir William Harcourt, M.P., Mr. Thomson Hankey, M.P., the Hon. H. Bourke, Mr. Rivers Wilson, Mr. H. Cazenove, Sir Benjamin S. Phillips, Mr. Jervoise Smith, Mr. James Spicer, Mr. Nathaniel Cohen, Mr. Lionel L. Cohen, Mr. E. Wagg, Hon. Robert Grimstone, Mr. H. A. Isaacs, Major Snell, Dr. A. Asher, Mr. H. L. Cohen, Mr. Angel, Chief Rabbi El Maleh of Mogador, the Rev. Professor Marks, the Rev. Dr. Hermann Adler, the Rev. A. L. Green, Rev. M. Hast, Rev. I. Samuel, Rev. S. Roco, Mr. Sebag, Mr. Guedalla, Mr. S. Montagu, Mr. Tite, Mr. Israel, Mr. F. Davis, Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. Lewis Emanuel, Dr. Maurice Davis, Mr. M. Adler, the Rev. M. Kaizer, and many others. There were present deputations from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Council of the United Synagogue, the Society of Hebrew Literature, the Jews' College, the Jews' Free School, and representatives of every synagogue in London.

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## SIR ROWLAND HILL.

A deputation of the Court of Common Council yesterday waited upon Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., at his residence in Hampstead, in order to present him with the copy of a resolution conferring upon him the honorary freedom of the city of London. This resolution was passed in January last, but various circumstances prevented the formal presentation until yesterday. Sir Rowland Hill, now 83 years of age, though in the enjoyment of his mental faculties, was not able to visit the City, and it was thought best to let the ceremony be of the simplest kind. The deputation was, therefore, limited in number, and the following gentlemen were appointed to bear the resolution:—Mr. Washington Lyon and Sir John Bennett—the mover and seconder of the resolution in the Court of Common Council—and Mr. Peter M'Kinlay, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, attended by Mr. Scott, Chamberlain, and Mr. Monckton, Town Clerk of the City. A few members of Sir Rowland Hill's family were present.

The deputation having been presented by Mr. SCOTT, as senior officer, the TOWN CLERK read the resolution of the Court in the following terms:—"Resolved unanimously, that the freedom of this city, in a suitable gold box, be presented to Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., in acknowledgment of the great social and commercial benefits this country has derived from the adoption in the year 1840 of his system of uniform penny postage in the United Kingdom."

The CHAMBERLAIN, before handing the resolution and casket to Sir Rowland Hill, said the corporation of London desired to honour itself while complimenting him by inscribing his name on the list of honorary citizens. This desire, by reason of his failing strength, could not be fully gratified, but the Court of Common Council had charged the deputation to present to him a copy of their resolution. Speaking then of Sir Rowland's services to the country, the Chamberlain referred to his labours in conjunction with Lord Brougham and others as a member of the committee of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; to the success which had marked his administration as secretary to the Commissioners for Colonizing South Australia; and to the introduction by him in 1835 of the principle of printing by revolving cylinders armed with type—which in its later developments had revolutionized the production and issue of diurnal literature. To form a just estimate of his achievements in postal reform, it was necessary to recall to mind the former condition of our postal institutions, which might be regarded as having assumed a national form for the first time in 1649, when the House of Commons, jealous of the rivalry of a post established by the Council which this deputation represented, resolved "that the offices of Postmaster, Inland and Foreign, are and ought to be in the sole power and disposal of Parliament." The postal system, so established, could not be regarded as having existed for any but State and public purposes; social and commercial correspondence had been at that date hardly contemplated or provided for. Communications of weighty State importance, indeed, were then conveyed so slowly, and were so imperfectly distributed, that it was matter of history that the intelligence of the Protector Cromwell's appointment did not reach Bridgwater until 19 days had elapsed; while in remote parts of Wales the death of Charles I. was not known for two months. The Parliament of that day objected that the Common Council of London were organizing (not without justification) a system of posts with relays throughout Scotland, yet the loyal inhabitants of the Orkneys were then praying for their departed monarch months after his execution at Whitehall. Passing from that period to one within the recollection of all there, they found little to boast of in reference to the progress in the national postal system during two centuries. It was true that rival posts had been discontinued and monopolies abolished, yet with mail coaches and railway trains the conveyance of correspondence was still dilatory, uncertain, and terribly restricted by the exorbitant rate of postage; so that practically it was no post for the humbler classes. After a reference to the fact that a namesake of Sir Rowland, one John Hill, had suggested the possibility of a penny post two centuries before, Mr. Scott briefly recounted the history of Sir Rowland Hill's efforts to obtain the establishment of a uniform charge for postage of one penny for a single letter, which resulted in the passing of the Act of 1839 and the Treasury Minute of January, 1840. A splendid public testimonial to his worth, to which the corporation of London contributed, must have been gratifying as a proof that the benefits he had conferred upon the country were appreciated by the public. The latest report of the Postmaster-General showed how wonderful had been the growth of the system. In 38 years the post-offices and receptacles for the deposit of correspondence had increased from 4,500 to over 25,000. The chargeable letters and newspapers despatched in 1839 numbered about 106 millions; they had increased, including book and sample packets and post-cards, to the enormous total of nearly 1,478 millions, or about 14-fold. Post-office orders for money remitted had risen from 188,000 in 1839 to 18,500,000 in 1878, or 100-fold. The public net revenue, meanwhile, had, after a temporary depreciation on the adoption of the lower rate of charges, advanced nearly half a million pounds per annum, and was yearly increasing. But the triumphs of Sir Rowland Hill's genius had not been confined to his own land. There was not now any country claiming to be civilized which had not adopted a low-priced scale of postage prepayable by stamps. In conclusion, the Chamberlain said,—I have now to perform the pleasing duty of presenting to you the resolution of the Court, enclosed in a casket which has been prepared for its reception. I offer you the right hand of fellowship in the name of the corporation whom we represent, and who deeply regret that they cannot receive you in person, as is their wont on such occasions as the present. We congratulate you that, notwithstanding the "labor

to convey to the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London his most earnest thanks not only for the honour they had conferred upon him, but for the kind consideration they had shown in sending a deputation of their body to present the resolution to him there, his feeble state of health (which had kept him a prisoner in those rooms for nearly four years) preventing him from going into the City to receive the freedom at their hands. In the fulness of time, when those who could still remember the inconvenience of the former postal system should have passed away, and the public, as years rolled on, should have forgotten, as necessarily they would, everything concerning himself and the reform which it had fallen to his lot to effect, his son and his son's sons would still be able to point with pride to this permanent and visible token of the full and generous manner in which the corporation of the greatest city in the world had been pleased to express its approval of his labours for the public welfare.

Sir Rowland Hill then signed the roll of honorary citizenship, the CHAMBERLAIN observing that the archives in the City Library showed that he was the third of that name and family who had become connected with the city of London. The first was a direct ancestor of his and bore the same arms—viz., Sir Rowland Hill, citizen and mercer, who was Lord Mayor in 1549, a benefactor of Christ's Hospital, and founder of the Grammar School at Drayton, Salop. He was buried in the chruch of St. Stephen, Walbrook, and his epitaph is in Stow's "Survey of London." The second was General Sir Rowland Hill, who in 1814 received the honorary freedom of the City for his services at the battle of Vitoria.

This brought the ceremony to a conclusion.

situated some distance from the monument of the Baron and Baroness Meyer de Rothschild, yesterday marked with fresh wreaths, and from the tomb (already bordered with thick ivy) of the late Sir Anthony de Rothschild. They are surrounded by other graves, and this is placed in an open part of the ground. It is not, however, a family vault. The Jewish law does not permit more than one body to be buried in a grave, and this prescription is strictly adhered to in the case of pauper burials as in that of the richest Israelite. Thus, the grave once closed is not re-opened, and the living are not exposed to danger from the dead. The procession to the tomb was headed by the boys of the Jews' Hospital, chosen because they are orphans. There were also on the ground children from the Jews' Free School, Infant School, Westminster Free School, Borough Schools, Jews' College, Stepney School, Bayswater School, Gates of Hope School, and Portuguese Orphan School. On their way the bearers paused, and the officiating rabbi delivered a brief address, selecting for his text the words, "Know you not that there is a Prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" He referred to the political work which gave peculiar importance to the career of the late Baron Lionel de Rothschild and held him up to imitation in adding, "He was accessible to and sympathized with every one, the poor as well as the rich. He also was the spokesman in the council of merchant princes. He whose advice was sought by statesmen did not disdain to listen patiently to the tales of woe and misery. Many a man who crossed his threshold with a heavy heart, full of anxiety and anguish, left his house with joy and gratitude; and thus he gained for himself, not only the blessings and prayers of the needy, but also the admiration and love of the world at large, and, let us hope, the crown of glory in Heaven." The Rev. B. H. Ascher concluded with the following prayer:—

"Holy Father in Heaven, God of life and death,—With a heart full of tears, but with eyes of hope, we look up to Thee for Thy mercy and Thy kindness. Do Thou receive the pious departed in Thy infinite kindness with his beatified ancestors in the regions of bliss and eternity. Send Thy truth, Thy light to console his descendants with Thy sacred word. Inspire them with filial feeling to follow in the footsteps of their revered father. O, Fountain of Mercy, as the deceased was a messenger of peace and happiness to man, grant from Thy celestial regions that he may bring the message of peace and comfort to his spouse, who so lovingly, so patiently stood at his side alike in weal and woe, gladness and sadness. Send Thy comfort and Thy consolation to that God-fearing mother in Israel, who has brought solace and pleasure to many. O, pardon his errors, cast his sins into oblivion, remember only his pious deeds and encourage him to [illegible]

Court, enclosed in a casket which has been prepared for its reception. I offer you the right hand of fellowship in the name of the corporation whom we represent, and who deeply regret that they cannot receive you in person, as is their wont on such occasions as the present. We congratulate you that, notwithstanding the "labour of sorrow" inevitable to the weight of 83 years, you have been spared to witness the complete triumph of your postal principles; to receive acknowledgments from the State and honours from your Sovereign. Detractors and obstructors you have outlived, or they only survive to swell the ranks of those who applaud. May your remaining days be consoled by the thought that your name and services can never be forgotten, and may the sunset of your life be brightened by the reflection that you have been permitted to become one of the greatest benefactors of mankind.

The casket presented by the Lord Mayor and Corporation is of 18-carat gold and weighs 20 ounces. The front panel is ornamented after a design by the late Mr. Mulready, R.A., for the first penny envelope issued by the Post Office. It represents Britannia as sending forth her messengers to all parts of the globe, and beneath the figure of Britannia is a *fac-simile* in enamel of the penny stamp. At the back is an inscription, at one end the monogram of Sir Rowland Hill, at the other end the family crest, and on the lid the arms of the city of London. It is lined with crimson silk velvet, and stands on a block of coloured marble. There is a base covered with silk velvet, and the whole can be enclosed in a Morocco case lined with satin and velvet.

Sir ROWLAND HILL, in replying to the deputation, spoke with deep feeling of the gratification with which he and all the members of his family received the honour which it had pleased the corporation of London to confer upon him—an honour rendered all the more gratifying by the very generous manner in which the Chamberlain had been pleased to speak of his services. Like every one else who endeavoured to effect improvements in existing institutions, it had been his lot to encounter misrepresentation, injustice, and strenuous, though doubtless often honest, opposition; but, on the other hand, there were probably few innovators who had had the good fortune which had been granted to him: to live to see his plans crowned with a success far exceeding his most sanguine expectations; to find former opponents converted into zealous friends; and, above all, to know—as he did by that day's ceremony and by other tokens which from time to time had reached his hands—that, though nearly 40 years had passed since his plans came into operation, the public still retained a kindly remembrance of his services to their common country, and, as had been kindly said, to the world at large. The present generation, fortunately for itself, had no practical acquaintance with the evils of the old postal system. Probably few even of those assembled around him were aware that a lower rate of postage now carried a letter from Egypt or the furthest parts of Europe to San Francisco than was charged in 1839 on a letter coming from Guildhall (which they had left scarcely an hour ago) to that house, though the latter distance, as the crow flies, was scarcely four miles. The uniform penny postage system seemed, perhaps, now to many persons to be so natural and proper—so thoroughly in accordance with the fitness of things—that they were probably unaware how incredulous many people were 40 years ago as to its propriety, and how narrowly the plan more than once escaped total shipwreck. It might, perhaps, be interesting to them to know that when he first turned his attention to the practicability of reforming the Post Office—though he was confident that the existing rates of postage were in many cases too high—he had no idea of uniformity of rate, and, so far as he was aware, no one else had ever even suggested such a thing. Before making up his mind, however, as to what simplifications of arrangement and reductions of charge were practicable, he set himself to analyze carefully each item of cost in the service performed by the Post Office as regarded letters committed to its charge. In the course of the investigation he found that the chief items of cost were what he might call the terminal services—*i.e.*, those of collection and delivery; and it was then he discovered what was to him the astonishing fact that not only did the cost of conveying a letter from the town in which it originated to its place of destination bear no proportion to the distance it had to be conveyed, but that that cost was so insignificant (only the ninth part of a farthing even for carrying a letter the 400 miles between London and Edinburgh) that it might be ignored, and that a uniform rate of postage, with its manifest advantages in simplifying and still further cheapening the postal arrangements, was in truth absolutely fairer than any other. So little, however, were many people prepared at that time to accept the principle of uniform postage—a change even more inconsistent with their established usages than a uniform rate for passengers and goods by railway would probably be considered at the present time—that, even after all the evidence had been submitted to the Parliamentary Committee of 1838, that committee, when the principle of uniformity of postage was put to the vote, was equally divided, and this question—the very essence of his scheme—was only carried by the casting vote of the chairman—the late Mr. Robert Wallace, member for Greenock, a gentleman, he might add, who had then already distinguished himself for many improvements which he had effected in the details of Post Office management. When the further question was put that the uniform rate should be one penny, this was rejected by the committee—only three voting in its favour and six against it—and instead of the penny rate a twopenny rate of postage was recommended. He would not enter into a long explanation to show how this difficulty was ultimately overcome, and how in the end penny postage was conceded by the Government of the day, not so much, he feared, from any real conviction as to its merits, but as a means, he believed, of securing, on a coming division, the votes of certain influential members of Parliament, whose opposition, on a question wholly unconnected with the Post Office, had become dangerous to the Government. In conclusion, he begged the deputation

Compare what Sir R. Hill did & say here, with the statement by Mr. T. Chalmers in his 1st pamphlet. where he asserts that R. Hill frankly admitted that the Bill adopted his plans without knowing how [illegible]

by post, the same payment as they ~~[illegible]~~ obtained on others, that Mr Charles Knight proposed that the stamp should be on the band or wrapper instead of on the Newspaper itself – The plan however, fell through – the newspaper duty stamp was still retained and continued in force till about 1856 – though reduced to 1d in 1836 –

Newspaper postage has never been held in any way to afford a justification for adopting the same rates as for letters – To this day an ~~half~~ ounce letter goes everywhere in the U.K. for one penny whereas a newspaper however heavy, goes for one halfpenny – The lightest letter being thus charged twice as much as the heaviest newspaper – Let any one today propose that all letters however heavy should (like newspapers) go free for a postage of one halfpenny, and he would find that for proposing a great postal reform, he would be treated with the derision he deserves –

Any body could easily suggest uniform rates of postage (though I don't believe any ever did so before Mr Hill) just as some persons have been foolish enough to suggest uniform rates by Railway for passengers – It was Mr Hill's discovery and demonstration of the fact that distance might be disregarded, and that uniformity was even more just than any charge for ~~long~~ mere "conveyance" that made his suggestions useful and his reform practicable – Sir E. Bulwer Lytton & others may no doubt have made off hand suggestions of uniformity of rate (though I never have met these suggestions) but such suggestions, unaccompanied with proofs of their practicability, would have been as useless as a prohibition now a day, that we should all wear wooden pattens or use hand & locomotive machines

(i) "The Adhesive Stamp" 1881.

Enc. D

**Claim** That the stamp proposed by Rowland Hill originally was not the adhesive stamp of 1840 popularly credited to him but an entirely different thing the impressed stamp of the Excise Office; (p4) that James Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive stamp (p47) that he invented it in 1834 and that (p4) Hill adopted it (from Chalmers proposal) when in office and p4+39 that this adhesive stamp saved the Penny Postage Scheme.

"in the origin of Postage Stamps" for reputation of this nonsense.

**Charge.** p4+48 That even the detached adhesive form of the impressed stamp proposed by Hill was the exception + not the rule and was immediately abandoned by Hill while the adhesive stamp proposed by Chalmers was to be the sole means of carrying out this plan of prepayment.

See 40 &c. A

**Charge.** p. 39. That Hill learned of + adopted Chalmers stamp from the proposal sent in by Chalmers in the "Treasury Chamber" after proposals were called for in 1837 and seeing its great advantages thereafter claimed it for his own.

Memorandum on the introduction of postage by means of stamps in prior to the in Treasury Chambers, Apr 31 May 37

**Charge** p 10. That Hills whole system is to be found in the 5th Report, never acknowledged by Hill but which he shows he had read in the appendix to his pamphlet of 1837. (Absolutely untrue - see Philatelic Record Nov: 1881 - p. 198-201. See also reprints from Times April 81) See also mis-statement on 5 Report p4.

**In support.** p. 19 to 24 cites Hills modes of prepayment from the pamphlet and comments that this is not the stamp we know pp. 24 to 28 as the adhesive stamp. Covers, wrappers, blue pre sheets, monopoly, forgery. Committee suggestions only adopted covers + envelopes on a peculiar paper. p 29+30 the Government did not know how the plan was to be carried out but asked for "powers" only for a uniform rate (by weight + pre paid. p. 32 Treasury advertised for plans + Chalmers sent in his. p31 Chalmers plan of printed gummed cards stating value does away with the monopoly + forgery p32 Patrick Chalmers remembers his fathers claim of this to have been before 1837 p33. Mr Joseph Hume + others knew not that the "letter press stamp could or ought to have been accepted" but that Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive stamp. p36 that such opinion was entertained in Dundee in the 40 this remarks at the presentation to Chalmers "had recommended the adoption of the adhesive slip. p39 plan adopted was practically that of Chalmers. Hills + Bacons testimony before Com on "Chalmers patent" Hills 964 + p 43 Hill and Bacons 1008 1692

B

No evidence of this (See my letter in Dundee Advertiser of 5 June 81)

p 44-6 Comments are mere repetition of Claims

p 47. Hills adoption of Chalmers plan reasserted (Work!

p 48-50 repetition of pp. 4 + 37. p. 52 Question asked which the facts were not made public in 1837 + deduction Chalmers would have then been entitled to his claim p 54

C

p 55 to 57 That Chalmers invented in 1834. Letters of Thos de and repeated statements

p 14 Edward Lytton Bulwer in 1832 moved for a select Committee + proposed that newspapers weighing less than 2oz should pass through the post at a uniform rate of 1d + letters post ½d + repeated this in a speech in 1834 adding irrespective of distance.

D

1835 Wallace proposed precedent should pass the post at a uniform rate of 2d and letters should be charged by weight + repeated this before the Com of Inq.

Bona fond [illegible] Hulder in the 5th Report

p. 56-7 Mathew Davenport Hill in 1834 in a speech following Bulwer advocated Knight's scheme. This was the impressed stamp prepaid wrapper and uniform postage.

E

p 69. Mostly repetition of "forgery" and assertion Hills plan have nearly disappeared.

See B.

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(A) The real difference between them was this - Chalmers urged that none but adhesive stamps should be used - giving as one reason that envelopes would increase by (I think) one third the weight of the mails, while his adhesive stamp would weigh but little - Rowland Hill said let all kinds be prepared, so that the public may choose what it likes best -

(B) The answer to all this baldderdash is easy enough. The adhesive stamp was proposed by Sir R. Hill in his evidence of 1837. The difficulties of adopting the plan - difficulties common to all great changes - and the objections to forgery were not in any way overcome by the suggestion of adhesive stamps - but even if it were so, as these adhesive stamps had from the first been suggested by Sir R. Hill, the credit of overcoming them would clearly be due to him - See "Origin of Postage Stamp" pars 10-27 and par 74.

(C) The fact that James Chalmers' plan was not adopted was, in 1839-40 made known to him - he did endeavour to vindicate

his claim, but, on reading Mr. Rutland's letter evidence of 13 Feb. 1837 - withdrew it - How could any publication of facts then, have given to Mr Chalmers any knowledge he did not then possess?

(3) I don't know where the authority for the statement is to be found - I don't find it in Hansard - but the very statement shews that uniformity of rate was not his proposal for it is stated to be ½ for local papers and 1 for others - see also next note.

E. There is no ground for the pretence that Newspapers being allowed to go free through the post when printed (as all papers then were) on stamped paper was in fact the establishment of uniform rates of postage produced by stamps - Railway Directors travel free over their own lines, but that is no precedent for uniform fares for other people. Newspapers have always, from political & other reasons, been granted special facilities, in the way of postal transmission - In 1834 (and long afterwards) the Government was a sort of sleeping partner in every newspaper - taking its profits, and pocketing the lion's share of the profits - It received a stamp duty of 4d (afterwards reduced to 1d) on every copy printed, it received a duty of 1/6 on every advertisement, and it received 3d per lb duty on the paper on which it was printed - It had therefore the strongest fiscal interest in allowing postal facilities to Newspapers, as anything that increased their circulation increased the profits of the Chancellor of the Exchequer - they were consequently allowed to circulate through the General post free of charge -

About the year 1834 an agitation supported if not commenced, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, was in fact to which the 1st to reducing the Newspaper tax to 1d and Secondly to impose in all cases ~~Newspaper duty tax~~ - ~~and~~ or as to relieve those newspapers which did not go through the post from this charge, and it was in order that the Government should still receive ~~the same~~ on any unstamped newspapers which did circulate by post, the same payment as they ~~would otherwise~~ obtained on others, that Mr Charles Knight proposed that the stamp should be on the band or wrapper instead of on the Newspaper itself - The plan, however, fell through - the newspaper duty stamp was still retained and continued in force till about 1856 - though reduced to 1d in 1836 -

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Any body could easily suggest uniform rates of postage (though I don't believe any ever did so before Mr Hill) just as some persons have been foolish enough to suggest uniform rates by Railway for passengers - It was Mr Hill's discovery and demonstration of the fact that distance might be disregarded, and that uniformity was even more just than any charge for ~~long~~ mere "conveyance" that made his suggestions useful and his reform practicable - Sir E. Bulwer Lytton & others may or may not have made off hand suggestions of uniformity of rate (though I never have met these suggestions) but such suggestions, unaccompanied with proofs of their practicability, would have been as useless as a prohibition now a day that we should all wear wooden or iron shoes instead of locomotives

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About the year 1834 an agitation supported, if not commenced, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, was in fact to abolish the compulsory ~~Newspaper duty tax~~ 1st to reduce the Newspaper tax to 1d and Secondly to use in all cases – ~~and~~ or as to relieve those newspapers which did not go through the post from this charge, and it was in order that the Government should still receive ~~the same~~ on any unstamped newspapers which did circulate

# PROPOSED REDUCTION OF LOCAL AND OTHER INLAND RATES OF POSTAGE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR, 50, BELSIZE PARK, N.W., 27*th March*, 1883.

In the January number of the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, to which my attention has recently been called, the Report of the Postal Committee appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce appears, in which certain alterations in the inland rates of postage on letters and printed matter are recommended. These alterations, doubtless, seem simple and advantageous to your Committee, but if adopted they would, I fear, be attended with results so prejudicial to the well-working of the Postal system, that I venture, very respectfully, to ask permission to lay before you, in this letter, reasons which may, I hope, convince the Chamber of Commerce that to attempt to obtain these changes would be unwise.

My apology for thus troubling you, is that one of the suggestions—that of a halfpenny rate of postage for local letters in large towns—would, if adopted, be so serious a departure from the system of uniform rates of postage, founded by my father, the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, that anxiety to preserve unimpaired the true principle of his Postal Reforms, renders it almost incumbent upon me to point out the evil before it is too late, or indeed before much time has been spent unprofitably in seeking to make such a change.

As it is now more than forty-six years since Sir ROWLAND HILL brought forward his plan of Postal Reform, it is perhaps hardly surprising that many persons have forgotten, and many others of the present generation have never known, the reasons which led him to recommend the adoption of a *uniform* rate of postage, in place of one depending upon the distance a letter had to be conveyed; and as a statement of those reasons will probably be the best answer to the suggestion of your Postal Committee virtually to abandon their teaching, I venture, as concisely as possible, to explain them.

At the time Sir ROWLAND HILL took up the question of Postal Reform (in 1836), the following was the general condition of things:—Every post town in the United Kingdom, except London, had its local rate of one penny, for letters posted for delivery in the town itself or in its surrounding villages—such local posts bearing the technical name of "Penny Posts." In London, owing to the great size of the Metropolis, the penny local rate had, in the first year of this century, been raised to 2d. for the town limits, and 3d. for the suburban or outlying delivery, which latter extended to all places within twelve miles of St. Martins-le-Grand.

As regards letters passing from one post town to another, the minimum rate of postage was fourpence, advancing, step by step, to a maximum of about 1s. 8d. for each "single" letter. These varying rates of postage having, of course, been adopted under the belief, then practically universal, that the greater cost to the Post Office of carrying letters long distances, justified a greater charge to the public—an idea which the Report of your Postal Committee shows to be not quite so extinct as I had supposed.

Sir ROWLAND HILL, starting merely with the strong conviction that the then existing rates of postage were too high, and might advantageously be largely reduced, carefully analysed the various items of postal expenditure, to see what simplifications and reductions in each were possible. He soon saw that the service the Post Office performed for each letter, was divisible into three distinct portions :

1st, The service of COLLECTION, in which were included all duties connected with receiving, taxing and sorting the letter in the post offices of the town in which it originated.

2nd, The service of CONVEYANCE, in which was included the cost of getting the letter from the town of origin to the town of destination, and,

3rd, The service of DELIVERY, in which all duties connected with preparing the letter for the letter-carrier, and dispatching it to its recipient, were included.

The expenditure of the Post Office under the 1st and 3rd services, was obviously common to all letters, whether local or other, the cost of *conveyance* being the only variable quantity.

This cost of conveyance, however, when carefully examined, proved to be infinitesimal—only the ninth part of a farthing *per letter*, even for so long a distance as from London to Edinburgh.

If, therefore, argued Sir ROWLAND HILL, two letters be posted in London, one for delivery therein, and the other for delivery in Edinburgh, the Edinburgh letter should be charged only the ninth part of a farthing more than the local letter, to cover the cost of conveyance. *In other words, the postage on the two letters should be the same, unless it could be shown how so small a sum as the ninth part of a farthing could be collected.*

The injustice of making any distinction between the postage charged on local letters, and on letters going longer distances, having thus been demonstrated, the adoption of a uniform rate of postage became practicable ; and this, as I need not stop to explain, so greatly simplified the work of the Post Office, that it became possible to adopt as the unit of charge for all letters, the then lowest local rate of letter postage, namely one penny.

The advantages of this simplicity, the Report of your Postal Committee—doubtless unintentionally—proposes to sacrifice, and the adoption of their suggestion would, in effect, re-impose the unnecessary and unwise distinction between local and other letters, which Sir ROWLAND HILL'S discovery abolished forty-three years ago.

That the adoption of a halfpenny local rate of postage for letters in large towns, would introduce into the postal service endless complications, and be productive of great public inconvenience, will I think be obvious if I give an illustration of its effect.

The halfpenny rate could not be confined to the towns themselves, but would have to be extended, as were the old "penny posts," to all places within the free delivery of the particular office. For instance, in London the halfpenny rate would have to be applied, not only to letters posted in London for delivery in places like Brixton, Camden Town, Holloway or Kensington, but also to those for outlying sub-offices, like Norwood, Hampstead, Walthamstow and Fulham—places which receive probably three-fourths of all their letters from London itself. But it frequently happens, from the opening of a new railway, or from the place increasing in population, that public convenience is greatly promoted by raising a particular sub-office to the position of an independent post town. Richmond, for instance, was a few years ago so detached from the London district.

Under the present system of uniform postage, these changes can readily be made when required, and the public obtains an unqualified advantage ; but had the scheme for a local halfpenny rate, now proposed, existed when Richmond was made a post town, either the postage on

all letters between Richmond and London (which then ceased to be local letters) must have been doubled—a change sure to have led to public outcry—or, in that and all similar cases, exceptions would have to be made in favour of the inhabitants of those localities; unless, indeed, to avoid these continually increasing exceptional arrangements, all similar postal improvements were withheld.

It would be almost a lesser evil, to adopt, at once, a uniform halfpenny rate of postage throughout the United Kingdom, as has sometimes been suggested, than to re-impose a system so antiquated, irrational and full of inconvenience.

As regards the further reductions which your Postal Committee advises, in the present rates of postage on printed circulars (which rates are already as low as a halfpenny for two ounces), it may perhaps be sufficient to state, that every document passing through the post at the halfpenny rate, is already carried at a dead loss to the public—the mere expenses of collection, conveyance and delivery exceeding that sum; while I need not point out that where, as in this case, the charge for the service rendered has been reduced below prime cost, any augmentation in the number of articles conveyed, increases rather than diminishes the deficiency.

Thus, as regards every trade circular distributed through the post, on which a postage of only one halfpenny is paid, the community at large is already called upon to bear part of the expense, for the benefit of advertisers—an arrangement the existence of which might have been intelligible, while the old ideas in favour of Protection or Bounties prevailed, but which is, manifestly, so contrary to the teachings of political economy, that any aggravation of the mischief, by adopting a rate of postage even less remunerative than that now in force, should, I submit, be carefully avoided.

The fact advanced by your Postal Committee, that other countries now charge a lower postal rate on printed circulars, is, I submit, scarcely of itself a sufficient reason for our following in their footsteps. The English Post Office, like many other of our public institutions, perhaps owes much of its excellence to its having avoided, rather than followed, foreign example.

The pecuniary loss now sustained by the public in the conveyance of Newspapers through the post at the halfpenny rate, may perhaps fairly be regarded as an additional, but indirect vote in favour of popular education—but I presume it would hardly be contended, that a similar argument can be used in favour of advertising circulars.

It is important to bear in mind that the recommendation of your Postal Committee is one of simple reduction of charge, and (unlike the case of the Uniform Penny Postage system) is unaccompanied by any suggestion of simplifications in the working of the existing postal arrangements, which might counterbalance the diminished productiveness of the proposed charge.

As regards the proposals which have sometimes been made, and to which I have alluded above, for reducing the postage on all letters in the United Kingdom to a halfpenny rate—a step to which the suggestions of your Postal Committee, as regards local letters, would inevitably tend—I may as well here point out, that such a change would have the effect not merely of sweeping away altogether the net revenue of the Post Office (now producing more than three millions annually, in relief of taxation), but would change the Post Office from a profitable concern, into a mere spending Department of the State.

So long as the penny is retained as the unit of charge for letters, the Department, being well-to-do, can readily and promptly grant additional facilities, and at once adapt itself to the constantly growing necessities of the public; but if it became a starved Department, as it would under a uniform halfpenny rate, its powers of expansion would be practically destroyed, and the present postal service would become almost crystallised.

Few people, I would point out, have complained of the penny (which now carries a letter of an ounce weight) as an excessive postal charge, and if, as is sometimes urged, the Post Office ought not to be a source of revenue, there are other and far better means of disposing of the present earnings of the Department, than in simple reductions in the rates of postage.

By granting additional dispatches of mails between large towns, more frequent and more rapid deliveries, the net revenue can be reduced almost to any extent desired, but under these additional facilities, further profitable postal business will eventually be created, which will, in its turn, supply the means for yet further extensions and improvements in the service.

It is sometimes asserted that the net revenue of the Post Office is, in effect, a tax on social and commercial intercourse, and as such should be abolished. I need not point out that if the present earnings of the Post Office (£3,000,000 annually) be swept away, some other tax must be imposed upon the public, to make up the deficiency which the withdrawal of that sum from the Exchequer would create. It is not, of course, necessary here to consider what that other tax should or could be, but I would venture to point out that, if the earnings of the Post Office be a tax, it would be difficult to find one which (whether more or less expedient) was, at all events, more just. No one pays postage who is unwilling to do so. Every one who pays it gets an immediate benefit, proportionate to his contribution; while it is collected in such small sums that its impost is hardly felt, even by the poor.

But I venture to suggest whether the earnings of the Post Office, under the present system, are really of the nature of a tax. If the Post Office, by virtue of its monopoly of letter conveyance, now charged—as it did prior to 1840—rates of postage higher than those which would be demanded by any private company, doing the work equally well, such excess of charge would, undoubtedly, be a tax on the public; but if, as I think is the case, the Post Office performs its work cheaper and better than any one else would do it, the net revenue of the Department seems to me to be rather in the nature of a profit on a well-conducted business, and, being paid into the public Exchequer, is, instead of a tax, a most valuable and rapidly increasing aid in relief of taxation—somewhat similar, indeed, to that obtained by the Australian Colonies, through their sales of Crown lands, but differing therefrom, fortunately for us, in being a source of profit practically inexhaustible.

To show the possibilities of the Post Office, as a source of relief, in years to come, to the taxation of the country, I would point out that from mere expansion and improvement of business, the postal net revenue now doubles itself every twenty years. If therefore the Postal system can be protected from unwise interference, the net revenue (now £3,000,000 sterling) would in another sixty years amount to no less than £24,000,000 per annum—an amount sufficient to relieve the taxpayers from all charges now made to meet the interest on the National Debt.

Improbable as such a result may at first sight appear, it may not seem so extraordinary when I point out, that it requires for its attainment little more than that each person in the United Kingdom should write, on the average, about five letters per week—an amount of correspondence not greater than that of my own household.

With every apology for troubling you with so long a letter, for which the great importance of the question at issue will, I trust, be deemed a sufficient justification,

I remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

PEARSON HILL.

4/ Chalmers publicly accused of fraud, and dared to bring action for libel, if the charge were untrue



# THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

*(From Dundee Advertiser, April 16, 1883.)*

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Lest your readers should misunderstand the silence with which, for a long time past, the members of Sir Rowland Hill's family have treated Mr Patrick Chalmers' statements, I ask you to be good enough to re-publish the enclosed communication, which appeared in the *Athenæum* of 14th May 1881. I would add that, Mr Patrick Chalmers having, in the *Citizen* of 26th March 1881, denied the falsification of the correspondence with which I had publicly charged him, I proved to the editor of that paper (see *Citizen*, 16th April 1881), by a comparison of his letters and pamphlets, that my charge was well founded; and in his letter in the *Athenæum* of 21st May 1881 Mr Patrick Chalmers had to admit, and attempt to justify, the mutilation of my letters, which he had previously denied. You will also see from my letter to the *Athenæum* that after his statements had been publicly shown to be untrue Mr Patrick Chalmers republished them, with the unblushing and wholly unqualified assertion that "no exception had been taken" to his statements. This will perhaps be a sufficient indication of the manner in which Mr Patrick Chalmers conducts what he calls "fair and open discussion;" but should any of your Dundee readers desire fuller information on this matter, they will find in the papers I have forwarded to the Town Council that Mr Chalmers has not even yet abandoned his peculiar ideas of truth and honour, and has no claim to any attention. They will see, moreover, that the very question he proposes to discuss has already been decided by the London Philatelic Society—the highest authority in existence on all questions respecting postage stamps and their history—which Society, after giving Mr Chalmers nearly a year to complete his proofs, has unanimously decided against him on every point—a fact to which Mr Chalmers in his subsequent pamphlet characteristically suppresses all reference. One more fact will, perhaps, be sufficient to give your readers a clear insight into this case. The libels which Mr Patrick Chalmers has for years past persisted in manufacturing and circulating against the character of the late Sir Rowland Hill are such as I am wholly powerless to bring under the notice of the Courts of Law, as in this country the law of libel, unfortunately, furnishes no protection to the memory of the dead. No such obstacle, however, stands in Mr Patrick Chalmers' way as regards the charges I have made against him. He well knows that if the accusations in my letter of 30th December 1880 were untrue he would not only be able to claim heavy damages and costs, but he would have, what any honest man in his position would value far more, namely, the finest possible opportunity of asserting his father's claims by bringing the question before a tribunal where every statement must be made on oath, and be subject to the severest scrutiny. Your readers will know how to value the statements of a man who, while professing to desire full investigation, neglects so admirable an opportunity, and prefers to put up with so serious an imputation on his veracity—consoling himself with cowardly and contemptible insinuations against the character of a dead man, whom the whole world has recognised as a public benefactor, well knowing that he can pursue this course without subjecting himself to any legal penalty.—I am, &c., PEARSON HILL.

50 Belsize Park, N.W., 13th April 1883.

Chalmers reply to this challenge was that as he was threatened with legal proceedings, he should then apply to the no notice of what I said !!!

*P.S.*—The following is the communication to the *Athenæum* of 14th May 1881 referred to above :—

*Sir Rowland Hill and Penny Postage.*

50 Belsize Park, May 9, 1881.

In your impression of April 30th you publish as an advertisement a wholly unfounded attack by a Mr Patrick Chalmers on the reputation of the late Sir Rowland Hill. In order that your readers may understand what value to place on Mr Chalmers's assertions, and why I have refused to enter into any further controversy with him, I request you will kindly publish the enclosed letter, which, on receiving his pamphlet, I addressed to him in December last. The statement which Mr Chalmers now makes, and to which he says no exception has been taken, has already been shown publicly to be absolutely and ridiculously untrue, as the enclosed documents will prove to you. These documents are published *in extenso* in the *Citizen* of the 16th of April last—the newspaper in which Mr Chalmers puts forward his so-called discovery.

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Pat. Chalmers, Esq.

* At its next meeting the Town Council of Dundee expressed its regret at having passed its previous resolution in Mr Patrick Chalmers's favour — Mr P. Chalmers often quotes that resolution, but never mentions the after-proceedings of the Dundee Town Council

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Nº 4

Copy

23 April 1883

Mr. Burnet. Esq.
Secretary London Philatelic Society.

Exposing Mr Patrick Chalmer's misrepresentations respecting the decision of the London Philatelic Society on his claim.

Also his dishonesty in mutilating letters, and then denying he had done so.

Copy

13 Gray's Inn Square
London
23 April 1883.

To the Editor, The Dundee Advertiser

Sir,

My attention has been called to a letter from Mr Patrick Chalmers in your issue of the 19th Instant. I shall not venture to criticise the resolution which the Dundee Town Council, without calling for any evidence from the other side, saw fit to pass in favour of the claim advanced by Mr. P. Chalmers on behalf of his father. But I ask your permission to reply to Mr Chalmers' statement to the effect that "as respects the decision of that body before "which Mr. Pearson Hill was pleased to "bring his case, it is enough to say that, "so far from the matter having been fully "investigated, this decision was issued

at

"at least two months before my reply" "was drawn up—its value may thus be appreciated."

"That body" elsewhere more respectfully referred to by Mr Chalmers while the matter in question was still under consideration as a "Scientific Society", wrote to Mr. Chalmers on 1st December 1881 21st Jan^y 1882, 22nd April 1882, 17 June 1882 and 9th October 1882, and in each of these letters called upon Mr. Chalmers for such further evidence in support of his allegations as he might be in a position to furnish. In the last letter we pointed out that eleven months having elapsed since we first wrote ~~to~~ him on the subject, we should now proceed to examine the evidence before us and give our verdict.

That our investigation was full no one, except of course Mr Chalmers, will venture to question after reading our report, but I regret to say that throughout the discussion Mr. Chalmers has continually taken refuge in what I will not qualify more harshly than the suppressio vere. As regards his denial that he ~~has~~ suppressed portions of the correspondence which passed between him and Mr Pearson Hill, I can only say that I have seen his letter to Mr. Hill of 10th Dec^r 1879, and a copy of that gentleman's reply dated 13th idem, and that I am thus in a position to assert that Mr. Chalmers did not give much more than half their contents when he pretended to reprint them in his pamphlets.

I am &c

(Signed) M. Burnet
Secretary to the Philatelic Society, London

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Note: This letter appeared in the Correspondence Column of the Dundee Advertiser of 25 April 1883.

5



# THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

*(From Dundee Advertiser, April 30th, 1883.)*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUNDEE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Though Mr Patrick Chalmers gives an unqualified denial to the charge of having mutilated the correspondence which had passed between us, and refers vaguely to the decision of some unknown and hitherto unheard of tribunal* which, he says, has long ago acquitted him of such unworthy conduct, I unhesitatingly abide by every word in my previous letters; and, to prove that the charge I have made is true, I enclose for your information copies of the mutilated letters, which I ask you kindly to compare with the version of them as published at pp. 10 and 11 of Mr Patrick Chalmers's first pamphlet.

You will see that Mr Chalmers has suppressed about one half of his letter to me of 10th December 1879, and of my reply, which is dated three days later—doing this, as I have previously said, without giving the slightest intimation, even by asterisks, that he was keeping anything back.

I have attached to the copies of the mutilated letters a memorandum showing the importance of the omitted paragraphs, but I need scarcely add that Mr Chalmers does not plead that the parts he suppressed are irrelevant, and even if he had tried to shelter himself under that plea it would have been sufficient to point out that, however irrelevant he might have thought his own observations, he had no right whatever secretly to suppress any part of my letter, simply because he could not, or would not, see its importance. He, however, makes no such defence; he simply denies having in any way mutilated the letters, and your readers will, I think, now know how to characterise his denial, and I can safely leave them to attach the proper value to all his other statements, and to draw their own conclusions as to why he will not bring the question at issue before a tribunal where his evidence would have to be given on oath.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, PEARSON HILL.

50 Belsize Park, N.W., 24th April 1883.

*(Copy).*

10 Rosehill Road, Wandsworth, S.W.,
10th December 1879.

Dear Sir,—I am favoured with your letter of 4th inst. in reply to mine of 29th ultimo, addressed to Mr Edwin Hill, of whose decease I was not then aware.

I have again read over, as I have read before, the words to which you refer me, contained in the 9th Report of the Commissioners of Post Office inquiry, upon which you say (the then) Mr Rowland Hill's claim to the authorship of the adhesive stamp is based. These words must be read by what precedes—it is to obviate "the only objection that occurs to him to the *universal* adoption" of his covers and sheets of paper with impressed stamp that the use of a bit of paper having glutinous wash at the back is at all brought upon the scene—and this to be used *only* in the case of a person unable to write. I am afraid that upon so slight a basis as this any claim on the part of Mr Hill to the merit of the adoption in its entirety of the adhesive stamp in 1840 cannot be established. As you kindly inform me a history of penny postage will shortly be brought out, and which will be read with much interest, I shall not at present trouble you further upon this subject.

You do not seem to be aware that the words of Mr Hill, to which alone you refer me in this 9th Report, are a written statement, word for word, of what he had *previously* said in his pamphlet, in which you infer he despised any such details. The one is a copy of the other. If, as would appear, you think the adhesive stamp an immaterial detail, I am not disposed to disturb this impression.

[*The following, according to Mr Hill, are the paragraphs suppressed by Mr Chalmers*]:—

Permit me to avail of this opportunity to respectfully call your attention to what is going on in the city—and I do so with less apology that it is clear from the above you have not been reading lately the pamphlet of 1837. A little work styled "A Biographical Sketch, &c., of Sir Rowland Hill," by Mr Eliezer Edwards, has been brought under my notice since writing my letter of 29th ultimo. In this work Mr Hill's pamphlet is dealt with, and at page 92 the writer puts forward his version of Mr Hill's proposals for collecting the postage. Weight is given to his statements by the testimonials he gives on back of title page from yourself and other members of your respected family as to your satisfaction with and approval of what he says.

I enclose you a copy of what he does say, and I respectfully ask you to compare his version with the actual proposals in the pamphlet. The writer alludes to "objections" — the four objections in the pamphlet against the "first mode of collection"--the simply paying your penny with the letter. Then coolly leaving out of view totally and entirely the main proposal—the "second mode" of the covers and sheets and impressed stamp—he passes by a sort of somersault and legerdemain to a notice of this exceptional bit of paper with a glutinous wash on the back, which he interprets as meant to obviate the "objections" above-named, leaving the impression that it was in his work of 1837 Mr Hill at once adopted the adhesive stamp for the purpose of practically carring out his scheme. Any allusion whatever to the covers and sheets with impressed stamp is carefully left out, and the implication above-named is artfully insinuated in the place thereof. A more glaring misrepresentation could not well be imagined, and to this you are supposed to be a party, while any case which requires to be supported by such arts must be weak indeed.

I should do you an injustice to suppose you cognisant of this; but, considering this is what has been before the public while they were subscribing to this memorial fund—in the hands of the gentlemen of the Committee and of the speakers at the Mansion House meeting—is before the public now while being asked to subscribe, an immediate public contradiction of so glaring a misstatement is doubtless what you will consider imperative. It is not in this way that you will desire to maintain a claim to the merit of the adhesive stamp.—I remain, dear sir, yours truly and respectfully,

PAT. CHALMERS.

Pearson Hill, Esq., 50 Belsize Park.

*(Copy.)*

50 Belsize Park, N.W., 13th Dec. 1879.

Dear Sir,—There is, unfortunately, scarcely a statement or an argument in your letter of 10th inst. with which I can agree; but having already shown that Sir Rowland Hill was the first to suggest (amongst other postal improvements) the use of adhesive stamps, it seems to me a waste of time to prolong this controversy, at all events until we can find a somewhat more satisfactory basis than your present theory, viz., that though Sir Rowland Hill *did* suggest adhesive postage labels before anyone else, he *didn't*.—Yours very truly, PEARSON HILL.

[*The following postscript. Mr Hill says, was also suppressed*]:—

*P.S.*—I am afraid I can scarcely see my way to the notification to the public which you desire, for, with every wish to meet your views, the only notice which could be issued consistently with truth would be that as one part of Sir Rowland Hill's plan—the use of adhesive labels—had proved even more convenient to the public than he supposed, all the world is cautioned not to subscribe to his memorial. Perhaps when either of us want a free admission to Earlswood, the issue of such a notice would be as good a way as any of earning it. P. H.

MEMORANDUM.

The importance of the paragraphs suppressed by Mr Patrick Chalmers, without his even using asterisks to show he was withholding anything, is obvious. It was necessary to Mr Chalmers to suppress the latter half of his own letter to conceal the fact that it was he, not I, as he has more than once insinuated, that changed a friendly into an unfriendly correspondence—that it was he, who is now trying to pose as the earnest inquirer after truth, the advocate of fair and open discussion, the hater of hard words, who was the first to use them by falsely accusing Sir Rowland Hill's friends of "legerdemain," "artful insinuations," "gross misrepresentations," &c.

The paragraph of my letter of 13th December 1879 which he also suppresses shows the absurdity of his argument which he then advanced, and has since constantly repeated, to the effect that Sir Rowland Hill was not entitled to take credit for the adhesive stamp (though he was the first to suggest its use), because before either had been tried he happened to think the stamped envelope or cover would be found preferable. In other words, according to Mr Patrick Chalmers, if one part of a reformer's plan proves to be even more convenient to the public than he had anticipated, it must be held that he never suggested that part, and he must be denied all credit for his suggestion.

As for the new claim started a few months ago by Mr Patrick Chalmers that his father proposed adhesive stamps as long ago as 1834, that statement is absolutely disproved by no less an authority than James Chalmers himself, who, in his letter of 1st October 1839 (see printed papers in hands of Dundee Town Council), gives the latter part of 1837 as the date when he *first* published his suggestion. PEARSON HILL.

25th April 1883.

* See note at back

The effect of this exposure was to make it no longer safe for Mr Chalmers to deny the mutilation of my letters as he had hitherto done, the the ... ed that the matter suppressed was irrelevant; a statement absolutely untrue as shown ab...

No. 5

Note. As to my having appealed to "a Tribunal" and (as Mr Patrick Chalmers says elsewhere) having been severely reprimanded by it for making such charges against him.

The following are the facts. –

Some time ago, thinking that the publisher of his pamphlets, Mr Effingham Wilson, could hardly be aware of their extreme dishonesty, and, if a man of honor he would not care to be instrumental in the circulation of false and cowardly slanders against the late Sir Rowland Hill, I wrote to him pointing out the character of Mr Chalmers' publications – I received in reply two very insolent letters – obviously inspired by Mr Patrick Chalmers – though signed Effingham Wilson – in which letters the writer pretended he could see no difference between my fairly giving extracts from letters, and Mr Patrick Chalmers' conduct in endeavouring to pass off mutilated letters as the whole correspondence and denying the ~~fact~~ fraud when charged with it. Mr. Effingham Wilson – if the letters be genuine – who still goes on with [illegible] 'ications, appearing to attach more [illegible] e money he was making by thus [illegible] ng attacks upon a dead man than to the injury to his own reputation. but be this as it may, the "Tribunal" and its decision are in fact nothing more than letters obviously prompted by Mr Patrick Chalmers himself and coming avowedly from his own accomplice in slander!!

This is but one of the many instances in which Mr. Chalmers first prepares a small basis of fact, upon which to rear a monstrous mass of falsehood.

As Tennyson says "a lie that is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies".

Pearson Hill

No 6

Note A. The document found at Somerset House is of still more recent date - viz 8th Feb 1838 - nearly twelve months after Sir R Hill's suggestion - but in order to make it appear the earliest document suggestion - but in order to make it appear the earliest document Mr Chalmers falsely dates the date of Sir R Hill's suggestion prior to November 1839 (I think) no matter tell know the real date.



## ORIGIN OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.



TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In your paper of last week, you publish a communication from "A Correspondent," respecting the origin of the adhesive postage stamp, in which he tells us, amongst other things, that an attempt is to be made to obtain money from the Government, in recognition of the services which, it is alleged, were rendered POST-OFFICE by James Chalmers some forty or fifty years ago; adding that "it will be news to many persons to know that to Mr. JOHN S. CHALMERS of Dundee, we are indebted for the adhesive stamp."

I can only say that, to me, it will be, if possible, still more extraordinary news to learn that anyone exists, who still believes in a claim unsupported by anything deserving the name of evidence, and which has been so often and so thoroughly refuted.

Though the real facts of the case have more than once been published, yet, as your paper has a large circulation amongst the numerous employés of this Department—many of whom may, perhaps, take an interest in this question—it may be useful if I briefly recapitulate the leading points in the case, to which I have given considerable attention; referring those who desire fuller information, to the "Life of Sir Rowland Hill," published about three years ago, or to the Reports of the Proceedings of the London Philatelic Society, as published in the *Philatelic Record* of November, 1881, and 1882.

I need scarcely remind your readers that there is one well-understood rule by which, in all scientific societies, rival claims to any invention or discovery are decided, viz., that he is the rightful claimant who was the first to publish his invention or discovery. The justice of this rule is obvious. ✗

Now the earliest suggestion for adhesive postage stamps, in any published document that has yet been produced, is to be found in the Ninth Report of the Commissioners of Post-office Inquiry, issued in 1837. Anyone who will take the trouble to refer to that Report, will see that Sir (then Mr.) Rowland Hill, in his evidence before these Commissioners, proposed, as part of his plan of postal reform, the use of adhesive postage stamps.

For the convenience of your readers I give the following extract from his evidence: "Perhaps this difficulty" [that of employing envelopes in some cases] "might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which the bringer might, by the application of a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter, so as to avoid the necessity of re-directing it." This evidence was given on 13th February, 1837, and the suggestion is repeated, word for word, in Mr. Rowland Hill's celebrated pamphlet, which is dated 22nd February, 1837.

When did Mr. James Chalmers first publish his suggestion? This question is fortunately decided, beyond the possibility of doubt, by Mr. James Chalmers' own letters, which are still in existence.

Where James Chalmers comes upon the scene will perhaps be best understood by your readers when I mention that in August, 1839—some two and a half years after Mr. Hill's evidence had been given, and when the question of penny postage had been successfully fought through Select Committees and Parliament—the Treasury (which had then decided to adopt his plan, including "stamped covers, stamped paper, and stamps to be used separately:" see Treasury Minutes) advertised for suggestions and designs from the public, and in reply to this invitation, some forty-nine individuals, including Mr. James Chalmers, sent in proposals for adhesive labels, or "slips," as Mr. James Chalmers preferred to call them.

How crude and impracticable his suggestions were, may be gathered from the fact that, except where envelopes were to be used, he advised the abandonment of gum (on account of the supposed difficulty of gumming large sheets of paper) and proposed that the stamps should be attached to letters by wafers or sealing wax!

Mr. James Chalmers, unaware of Mr. Rowland Hill's previous suggestions above quoted, and anxious, in view of the premium offered by the Treasury, to prove that he was the first to suggest adhesive stamps, states, in his letter to Mr. Rowland Hill of October 1, 1839, "If slips are to be used, I flatter myself that I have a claim to priority in the suggestion, it being now nearly two years since I first made it public and submitted it in a communication to Mr. Wallace, M.P."

"Nearly two years" from October 1, 1839, carries one back to about the end of 1837; and in other documents which Mr. James Chalmers forwarded, he gives December, 1837, as the date of his communication to Mr. Wallace, and says that November, 1837, was the date at which he *first* published his plan. He himself puts the word "first" in italics.

Mr. James Chalmers' letters, therefore, prove beyond question, that the date at which he "first made his plan public" was at least eight or nine months after Mr. Rowland Hill, in his evidence and pamphlet, had published a similar but far more workable suggestion. (See note A above)

Mr. Chalmers' plans were not adopted—other and better designs having been sent in; but he appears to have thought himself aggrieved, and Mr. Rowland Hill kindly sent him a copy of the Ninth Report, containing the evidence above referred to, in order that he might see he was mistaken in supposing he had been "first in the field." Mr. Chalmers thereupon, in a very creditable letter, dated May 18, 1840, which your readers will find published in *The Philatelic Record* of November, 1881, candidly and fully withdrew his claim to priority, and expressed his regret that he had, in ignorance, put it forward.

Against this clear and positive evidence, under Mr. James Chalmers' own hand, given, moreover, when the facts were fresh in his recollection, and when he had the strongest possible inducement to assign to his suggestions the earliest date that he could consistently with the truth—evidence which, I need scarcely point out, is absolutely destructive of Mr. James Chalmers' claim—his son, Mr. Patrick Chalmers, sets some letters of very recent date (1882), which he says he has received from three or four old people, who say they recollect assisting Mr. James Chalmers in setting up types and gumming paper for adhesive labels, *some forty or fifty years ago*, and that they believe the date to have been 1834!—a date, I may point out, when, owing to the complicated and varying rates of postage then in force, nobody dreamed of prepaying their letters, and when postage stamps would, consequently, have been about as useful to the British public, as flannel jackets to little niggers.

Would even five hundred such "recollections," forty or fifty years after the time, not as to *what* James Chalmers did, but as to *when* he did it, outweigh the clear and positive statements contained in his own letters?

Can anyone suppose that this claim, if just, would have been permitted to slumber for forty years; or reconcile with one's ordinary notions of sanity, the manner in which this claim has been urged and persisted in, after its worthlessness has been repeatedly exposed? The hint now given of a hope that money may be got by it from the Government, may, perhaps, to cynical minds, suggest an explanation of all that has taken place; but, on the other hand, the very fact that anyone should for a moment believe the Treasury would entertain a demand so preposterous, is rather additional evidence that, in some quarter or other, there must be an extraordinary hallucination.

ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

[The above is written by a gentleman who, holding a high official position in the Post-office, enjoys unusual facilities for knowing the facts concerning which he writes. We should be thankful if, after this, we might hear no more of a claim which, for the last three years, has been urged, in and out of season, *usque ad nauseam.*]

✗ The writer of the article in the Encyclopædia Britannica fully admits that I prove Sir Rowland Hill was the first to publish his suggestion, and also that James Chalmers himself admitted Sir R Hill's priority - in other words he admits that I have proved everything which the rule above referred to requires. but he then goes on to say I don't disprove that James Chalmers may have invented them first. That is to say, that I don't prove more than was necessary! The whole article in the Encyclopædia Britannica is full of the grossest blunders - e.g. Mess^rs Delaru are credited with making postage stamps in 1852 (four years before they really did so) and Mess^rs Perkins & Bacon, who had 40 years printed the 1 & 2 labels - 19 th of all the stamps made - are ignored altogether - the latter only being referred to as "a Mr Bacon" who accordingly to the ideas of the writer, seems to have had something to do with the writer - All Mr P. Chalmers assertions as to the "special investigation" by learned writers in the Enc. Brit: and in the Dictionary of National Biography, are nonsense - Beyond sending to the

(Messrs Black of Edinburgh)

Editors of the Enc. Brit., a copy of the Philatelic Record of Nov. 1881 I had no further communication with them for the 2½ years before the Article was published, and assumed they had abandoned all intention of dealing with the question – Meanwhile they seem to have been abundantly supplied with Mr Chalmers' ~~[illegible]~~ statements –

As Dr Johnson said "It requires a great deal of self denial in a Scotchman, at any time to prefer truth to Scotland" –

As regards the "special" investigation by the Editor of the Dictionary of National Biography – it is sufficient to say that I had no communication whatever with them –

Both the Encyclopaedia Britannica & the Dicty of National Biography decide against Patrick Chalmers on almost all other points he raised – ~~[illegible]~~ giving him only the bare point that his father invented the stamps in 1834 but never published his idea – The worthlessness of the evidence on which the claim to this prior invention is founded is fully pointed out in the foregoing letter and in the note appended to document No. 2 – see also "The Post Office of 50 years ago" p: 18-20 & 36.. With all his misrepresentations probably these persons who have been taken in by Mr Patrick Chalmers are not a hundredth part of those who believed, for a time in the Tichborne Claimant – and Chalmers is laying up for himself a reputation hardly to be envied, as copies of his publications, together with the genuine documents from which he gives false & misleading quotations, and his fatuous new letters (which, if he had foreseen the misrepresentations his own would put forward could not have been written more thoroughly to expose them) will be placed where, in due time, those interested in the question may see the real facts of the case –

9ōN

## Memo

The manner in which Mr Chalmers dealt with this letter was so dishonest, and so typical of the way in which, when he has no answer to a charge, he fabricates evidence and misrepresents facts, that it is important to record what he did. The letter, as the date of the paper shews, appeared on the 5 Oct: 1883 – Nearly six months later, viz in March '84, Mr Chalmers, without in any way referring to this letter, or to any of the hundreds of articles which had appeared in this newspaper (then still in existence) – wrote to Mr Blackwood (now Sir Arthur Blackwood) the Secretary of the London Post Office, asking merely the innocent-looking question whether "The Postal, Telegraphic and Telephonic Gazette" was an Official Newspaper expressing the views of the Post Office – As there is in this country, only one Official newspaper, viz The London Gazette, the answer he received, as he knew it would be, was, of course, in the negative, and it is this mere statement that the Postal Telegraphic & Telephonic Gazette is not an Official newspaper, that Mr Patrick Chalmers advertizes as an "Official letter from H. M. Post Office repudiating the statements of [his] opponents" !!

Mr Blackwood would have also answered in the negative the question as to whether The Times was an official newspaper, and might thereupon with equal dishonesty have been quoted as officially repudiating any statement any one liked to select from the columns of that paper during the previous six months –

It will be noticed that in his letter which appears in the Philatelic Journal of America of May last, Mr Patrick Chalmers again repeats this gross misrepresentation the other statement he makes as to the London Philatelic Society having decided against him ~~without giving~~ before he had published his case, ~~[illegible]~~ is equally dishonest, as will be seen by a perusal of Document No. 2.

In my letter which appeared in the Dundee Advertizer of 16th April 1883 I publicly charge Chalmers with wilful falsification of documents, and dare him to take the only course (an action for libel) by which a man publicly so charged can clear his character – pointing out that if my charges be untrue, he would obtain heavy damages, and the most splendid opportunity of bringing his father's claims before a tribunal where every statement must be made on oath and be subject to cross examination – He has never dared to take up that challenge, but heaps falsehood upon falsehood to cover his disgrace P Hill

Copy From
The Postal Telegraphic & Telephonic Gazette - 14 March 1884

## Mr. Patrick Chalmers' pretentions

We had hoped that the very conclusive letter from a high official authority which appeared in our impression of 5th October last respecting the original suggestion of adhesive postage stamps would have settled the question, and that we and the public at large, might have been spared the periodic infliction of pamphlets and circulars from Mr Patrick Chalmers in support of his oft-refuted claim. In this hope we find ourselves disappointed; and have before us a fresh circular of his, which affords a striking proof of the extraordinary extent to which an apparently morbid desire for notoriety may succeed in overriding all other considerations. We do not suppose that many of our readers are likely to be misled by the document before us, but as it is our special function to deal with matters official or semi-official, we will briefly shew what value is to be placed upon Mr. Chalmers' assertions. Mr. Chalmers coolly asserts that it is now "recognised" that his father James Chalmers, was the originator and proposer of the adhesive postage stamp. He makes no reference to the fact that his fathers' letters still in existence prove not

only

only that he did not propose them till nearly a year after Sir R. Hill had done so, but that in May 1840, he honestly and fully withdrew his claim to priority. He ~~states~~ declares (though the assertion has often been disproved) that Sir Rowland Hill's plan was but a copy of some pre-existing suggestion, and that in consequence of Mr. Patrick Chalmers calling attention to this, the inscription on the Rowland Hill Memorial was altered in accordance with his representations. Mr. Chalmers does not mention that when his letter making ~~the statement~~ appeared in "The Standard" about two years ago – with its date April 1st – he was at once contradicted by ~~the Hon.~~ Sec: to the Memorial Committee, Mr. Alderman Whitehead; we may also point to the fact ~~and~~ that the inscription on the Monument, as any one who runs may read, states that Sir Rowland Hill was the "Founder" of the Uniform Penny Postage system, and therefore, so far from supporting Mr. Chalmers' assertions it directly contradicts them. But perhaps the most lamentable instance in which Mr. Chalmers indulges in the suppressio veri, is where he quotes as conclusive evidence of his charges against Sir Rowland Hill, the paragraph from the Treasury Minute of 11 March 1864 in which a passing allusion is made by "My Lords" to such honor as "may be due to those who before the "development of the plans of Sir Rowland Hill, urged the adoption

adoption of Uniform Penny Postage". The highly complimentary Minute on Sir Rowland Hill's retirement in which this passage occurs, our readers will find quoted at full length, in the "Life of Sir R. Hill" Vol II. p. 391, and they will see that a note is appended to this very passage, shewing that the statement was at once challenged by Sir Rowland Hill, that the Treasury in reply admitted the ~~error~~ correction, and stated that they had had no intention of questioning his originality. In Patrick Chalmer's letters and pamphlets know that he has read this book. His suppression of the above fact, which shews that the statement he quotes as an authoratative decision in his favour was a mere clerical error immediately corrected and admitted, can therefore hardly have been unintentional

Rudhaus
letter of 5 Dec. 188

(A)

Copy

7. July 1887

Sir S. A Blackwood KCB
Secretary of the Post Office.

Contradicting the statement of Mr. Chalmers that he had an "Official letter from H.M. "Post Office repudiating the opinions of his opponents."

Copy

7th July 1887

Dear Sir –

My letter to Mr. Chalmers of the 24th March 1884 was merely a reply in the negative to his question if the "Postal, Telegraphic and Telephonic Gazette" was an Official Journal in the sense that the Post Office was responsible for anything therein contained.

The accuracy or inaccuracy of any particular statement was

P. Hill Reqd

not

not even raised in Mr. Chalmers' letter, and certainly was not referred to in mine.

Faithfully yours

(signed) S. Arthur Blackwood.

6. Pembridge Square W
London 27 July 1887

Dear Sir.

Some one has kindly forwarded to me copies of the Philatelic Journal of America for April, May & June of this year, from which I gather that the Editor of that paper and some of your Philatelic societies are believers in the claims put forward on behalf of Mr James Chalmers of Dundee, to have been the originator of the adhesive postage stamp - These gentlemen probably being unaware of the exposé of these claims made in a paper I read before the London Philatelic Society in November 1881.

I have not the pleasure of knowing any member of the many Philatelic Societies in America, but your name has been suggested to me, by Mr. Bacon, Secretary of the London Philatelic Society, as one to whom information might be sent with the certainty of its being properly and impartially applied, and I venture therefore to trouble you with the accompanying printed documents which, with the notes appended thereto, will enable you and others readily to understand the worthlessness of the claim in question

I should perhaps explain that although the earliest authentic suggestion of adhesive postage stamps known is undoubtedly Sir Rowland Hill's proposal made in his evidence on 13th Feby 1837, - and therefore that whatever credit be due for it is undoubtedly due to him - yet the moment the practicability of using stamps of any kind (rather than money) for the prepayment of postage was made manifest, the question of making the stamp adhesive has always seemed to me so completely a mere matter of mechanical detail

Tiffany Esq

detail - so certain to occur to dozens of people - that had Mr. P Chalmers been content to put forward his claim without falsely charging Sir Rowland Hill with fraudulently appropriating the idea, I should hardly have deemed it necessary to contradict him, or to attempt to convince any one who chose to believe him that they were mistaken. The errors of other people not, as a rule, troubling me much more than graver evils did the celebrated Lord Chesterfield, of whom it was said that "no one bore the misfortunes of others with greater philosophy;" but as Mr. P. Chalmers from the very beginning has chosen to impute fraud, and to take a cowardly advantage of the defect in our law of libel, under which no one can be prosecuted for slandering the dead, I have thought it necessary in the accompanying and other documents, to place permanently on record a pretty complete refutation of his assertions, and exposure of his misrepresentations -

These documents I ask you kindly to place before the Philatelic Society of which you are President, and to communicate them to the Editor of the Philatelic Journal of America - if you think fit - and such other persons as you may select.

The following are the documents in question which I send you by Book Post:-

No 1. The Philatelic Record (London) of Nov: 1881 containing full statement of the facts, and Mr. James Chalmer's renunciation of all claim to priority.

No 2.

No. 2. The decision of the London Philatelic Society absolutely rejecting Mr Patrick Chalmer's claim, with a memo., printed in red, shewing the dishonest course followed by him in connection with that award.

No. 3. Reprint from the Philatelic Record of Feby 1883 shewing several cases of Mr Patrick Chalmers distortions of facts and suppressions of truth.

No. 4. Letter of mine in Dundee Advertiser of 16th Apr. 83 in which I publicly charge Mr. P. Chalmers with falsifying documents and dare him to bring an action for libel if my charges be untrue.

No. 5. Second letter of mine, publishing the omitted portions of the correspondence, and shewing their importance, in reply to Mr Chalmers' re-iterated denial of having mutilated my letters.

No. 6 Letter in "The Postal Telegraphic & Telephonic Gazette" of 5th October briefly giving facts and shewing the worthlessness of the "evidence" upon which alone the claim that James Chalmers invented stamps in 1834 is based, with M. S. memo. (most important) shewing the absolute untruthfulness of his assertion (repeated in effect in his letter in the Philatelic Record of America of last May) that he has an Official letter from H. M. Post Office repudiating the statements of his opponents -

No. 7. A re-print of Sir Rowland Hill's pamphlet of 22 February 1837 proposing Penny Postage, with account of

"The

"The Post Office of 50 years ago" — just published by Messrs Cassell, in which the first suggestions for Postage Stamps are noticed.

Should it be thought desirable to publish any of these documents in the Philatelic Journal or any other paper, I would suggest, as a selection

No. 1. From p. 194 2/3 to 201½ — or at least that portion commencing at p. 198 which is marked in red ink

No. 2. The proceedings of the London Philatelic Society of London on 28 Octr. 1882, with the note printed in red at the end — this last is most important as shewing the untruthfulness of Mr Chalmers ~~other~~ favourite assertion that the Society decided the case without waiting to hear what he had to say. —

No. 4 The marked passage beginning "one more fact" to end of letter, and

No. 6. This should be given in extenso, especially with the M. S. Memo. at the end explaining how the so-called "Official repudiation" was obtained.

To all these matters I venture to call the special attention of your Society, though but that I am assured you take an interest in this question I should hardly have ventured to trouble you with the documents and with so long a letter. to shorten which, however, I have necessarily left many points unnoticed.

I should add that I am told Mr Chalmers is mad on this question, having postage stamps on the brain, as badly as Mr Dick in Copperfield had the beheading of Charles I. Pray make what use you like of this letter. —

Yours very truly

Pearson Hill

P.S. No one on this side of the water pays Chalmers any attention. His documents find their proper resting place in the Official waste paper basket. —

There is no truth whatever in his statement of Mr Samuel Roberts having proposed Kensum Pole

Copy. (B) 29. Oct: 1887

Mr. Alderman Whitehead.
Hon: Sec: Rowland Hill (Mansion House) Memorial Committee

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Exposing the absolute untruthfulness of Chalmers' statements as to the "Submission" of the Rowland Hill Memorial Committee, or as to their having acknowledged the truth of his allegations.

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Note. Mr Alderman Whitehead, in "The Standard", publicly contradicted Chalmer's assertion on this point when it first appeared in April 1882.

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Copy

Highfield House
Catford Bridge
Kent S.E.
29th October 1887.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your letter of the 24th. Instant, there is not the slightest excuse for the assertion of Mr. Patrick Chalmers that the Memorial Committee admitted that Sir Rowland Hill was not the originator of the Penny Postage Scheme, or that they changed the inscription for the City Statue in consequence of his or any other representations.

No doubt of any kind was at any time expressed by a single member of the Committee as to Sir Rowland Hill's right to be considered the originator and founder of the system. The only difference

Pearson Hill Esq.

of

of opinion amongst us was as to what would be the most suitable and impressive inscription for the statue. One proposal (my own) was that it should run "He gave us Penny Postage", another "He founded Penny Postage"; a third "Founder of Uniform Penny Postage" Eventually and after Mr Patrick Chalmers' contention had been fully considered, we decided that it should be the last of these three.

The words on the Memorial in Westminster Abbey which describe him as the "Originator of the Penny Postal System" were written by the late Dean Stanley, and were submitted to and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Thus you see we were agreed that both "founder" and "originator" correctly describe Sir Rowland Hill's position in connection with this great public boon.

I think I ought to add that Mr Chalmers afterwards sent to each member of the Committee numerous letters and pamphlets on the subject: but neither the Committee, nor so far as I know, any individual member of the Committee thought that his communications called for reply

I am Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
(Signed) James Whitehead

6. Pembridge Square W
London
31. October 1887.

J. K. Tiffany Esq.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 23rd Ult: and though I contemplate preparing another printed paper, addressed to the London Philatelic Society on the Chalmers' nonsense, (a copy of which shall be sent to you) I now write to deal with a few points in your letter, doing so I need scarcely add, in perfect friendliness and with all apologies for troubling you with so long a communication.

I am glad you propose to compare the statements I sent you with official and other documents in your possession. If you will do the same with Chalmers' statements I have no doubt you will have your eyes opened. If there be any published Parliamentary or Official documents which you require for this purpose, let me know, and I will endeavour to procure them for you.

I can well understand that gentlemen in America should, other things equal, attach more value to the opinions of their own Philatelic Association than to those of the London Philatelic Society, but can it be pretended that the American Association has taken equal pains to ascertain the truth?

When, in November 1881, my paper (of which I forwarded you a copy) was read before the London Philatelic Society, that society, with my entire concurrence, forwarded a copy to Mr. Chalmers for his reply. They read every one of the multitudinous documents he had published and sent to them on the question, and after waiting month after month for any further information he might wish to supply, did not proceed to judgment till he had had nearly a year to complete his case, nor until they had given him due notice that they could wait no longer. Their judgment was given, therefore, after having heard both sides.

See Report of Proceedings of the London Philatelic Society for 28 October 1882.

Is not the case of the American Philatelic Society totally different?

They

They (after having, as your letter shews, been abundantly supplied with Mr. Chalmers' statements) make no application to Sir Rowland Hill's representatives for their counter-statement, nor do they even inform them that the question was to come under consideration. Can any reason be shewn why their decision should be entitled to more weight than any other opinion founded on purely ex-parte evidence?

One portion of your letter, I must confess, for a moment raised in my mind the idea that in your autumnal wanderings you must surely have visited "Alice in Looking-Glass House" where as you will remember, in Lewis Carroll's amusing story, everything goes by the rule of contraries, where you run away from a thing if you want to get near it, and where people are first imprisoned and afterwards tried for offences they have not yet committed. I refer to that part of your letter where you suggest such very different explanations of the silence of James Chalmers, and the silence of Sir Rowland Hill's representatives -

James Chalmers suggests adhesive stamps, and on the strength of having first made his plan public in November 1837, he claims, or rather expresses a belief, that he was "first in the field". He is referred by Sir Rowland Hill to his evidence of 13th Feby. 1837, and thereupon (finding that his suggestion had been anticipated by many months) he candidly abandons his claim, and says nothing more about it.

The explanation in "Looking-glass House" would probably have been what you suggest - viz: that having openly abandoned his claim when he found it untenable, his after-silence meant that he was so confident of its truth, that he considered any further assertion of it unnecessary! Would not the Common sense verdict be that as people do not generally abandon claims likely to be profitable, without full examination, his silence clearly "indicated the weakness of his claim"?

On the other hand Sir Rowland Hill's representatives have not been silent altogether. Your association supposes we have been

silent

silent, only because you have not seen or let us know you wished to see our answer. We brought the question in 1881, before the most competent tribunal (the London Philatelic Society) for decision. That decision after Chalmers's replies had been heard, was wholly in our favour. We know that by the Post Office authorities Chalmers' claims are utterly scouted. We expose his persistent and deliberate untruthfulness and in my letter in the Dundee Advertiser of 19 April 1883 I publicly charge him with fraud and falsehood and dare him to bring an action for libel if my charges were untrue - a step which he has never ventured to take. Having done all this we treat his further statements with the contempt they deserve.

But, on "Looking-glass-house" precedents, you suggest that our long silence may be interpreted as indicating the weakness of our claim! To me it seems to shew - almost quoting your own words as applied to James Chalmers - that there is so little doubt that Sir R. Hill was the inventor, that we do not trouble ourselves to discuss the matter.

I hardly understand the distinction you draw between my being a witness or an advocate. I do not admit that in a case like this an advocate has the slightest right to depart from the strict truth; and I am sure when contrasting my statements with those of Mr. Chalmers, you will attach sufficient weight to the fact First: That he has over and over again been convicted of deliberate misrepresentation, while I challenge any one to point out a single statement of mine which is untrue, and Secondly. That while Mr Chalmers, through long absence abroad, admits he has no personal knowledge of the facts, I speak from special information, not merely through being the son of the late Sir Rowland Hill, but from a 37 years personal and intimate knowledge of postal matters past and present, having for 22 years (1850 - 1872) held an appointment in the Secretary's Office of the General Post Office London - a Department with which I can state in constant communication.

I have just read the resolutions adopted by the gentlemen who

met

met at Chicago on 8th August last to the effect that the "Association "upon proof by living witnesses, do endorse the claims made "by Mr Patrick Chalmers" &c. To quote the late Lord Westbury, I can only say "I have received their decision with the most "respectful amazement"!

Unless the old gentlemen ~~from~~ of Dundee appeared before the conference, and had their testimony tested by cross-examination (which I don't suppose was the case) how can it be asserted that the Association has proof by living witnesses? To be accurate the first resolution should have run "Resolved that as Mr "Patrick Chalmers (whose word has been shown to be worth nothing) "says he has proof by living witnesses, this Association do endorse "his claims" &c. Is not that the true statement of the case, and does not the simple statement of it show the absurdity of the whole proceeding? Is it not about on a par with the resolutions which, a few years ago, used to be passed by persons who (having heard one side of the case only) declared that Arthur Orton was the real Sir Roger Tichborne? or with the proceedings of the Dundee Town Council which, in March 1883 passed a somewhat similar resolution, and the next month, after they had seen the exposure of Patrick Chalmers's dishonesty, expressed their regret at having been so foolish?

This letter has now reached so formidable a length, that I will reserve to another day some further points to which I think it necessary to call your attention before preparing that "Square" statement which you desire, merely enclosing herewith copies of three letters from Sir S. Arthur Blackwood, The Secretary of the Post Office, from Mr Alderman Whitehead, Hon: Secretary of the Rowland Hill (Mansion House) Memorial Committee, & from Mr. M. Burnett, late Secretary of the London Philatelic Society — (the highest possible authorities on the several points upon which they flatly contradict Mr Chalmers) — proving that the three assertions made by him, to which some persons have appeared to attach much weight viz: 1st That he has an official letter from H.M. Post Office repudiating the opinions of his opponents. 2nd That the Rowland Hill (Mansion House) Memorial Committee have admitted the truth of his (Chalmers) assertions and altered the inscription on the City Statue in consequence, and 3rd That the London Philatelic Society decided the question against him without waiting for his reply, are each & all of them deliberate misstatements of fact

Encs A

Yours very faithfully
Pearson Hill

long, and when thieves fall out, honest men may come to their own.

Pray make whatever use you think fit of my letters -

Yours very faithfully

Pearson Hill

P.S. I enclose you the re-print from the "Citizen" of 19 April 1881 referred to in my paper of Nov: 1881. and invite your special attention to the manuscript note thereunto appended.

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

3rd Nov: 1887.

Dear Sir

Taking what may perhaps seem to you almost an unfair advantage of your admission that the subject of the origination of postage stamps is interesting to you, I send you herewith a letter (which I regret is so long) on some of the points suggested by your letter to me of the 23rd September last

Pray dont think it necessary to reply to each letter - but reserve your judgment till you have the whole facts before you, when I feel pretty confident what your verdict must be.

In one point your letter seems to suggest a belief in your mind that

J. K. Tiffany Esq

P.H.

Mr. Chalmers has succeeded in establishing his claims in this Country - I think you attach more weight than is due to his assertions to this effect, and to the numerous extracts he gives from provincial newspapers — paragraphs read one day & forgotten the next — and which if genuine come from persons wholly ignorant of the facts, but which are doubtless in most instances simply paragraphs which Chalmers has himself communicated to the papers and then re-prints and puts forward as independent testimony in his favour - (See p. 200 (2nd paragraph) of the Philatelic Record of Nov. 1881 for an instance of this so doing)

In one of his recent leaflets or pamphlets he records how his letters have appeared in "The World", "The Truth", "The St. James Gazette", "The Standard" and many other London papers without receiving any contradiction.

He does not, however, state that in these papers his letters appear only as paid advertisements. The very fact of a letter so appearing is, in this country, taken as proof that the Editor thinks so little of the subject or the writer, that he has refused to insert it in any other manner. It stands self-condemned and no body expects to see it receive any notice.

The Wholesale Review which supports Mr Chalmers, has a very indifferent reputation. It is the lowest of the "Society" Journals with so limited a circulation that it is glad to jump at anything to attract attention. It backs up Chalmers, and in return Chalmers advertises it in his pamphlets as a "First Class" publication probably he and it will quarrel before

Another favourite misrepresentation which he still repeats viz: that Sir Rowland Hill's plan was a "concealed copy" of the recommendations of the 5th Report of the Commrs of Post Office Inquiry has been already sufficiently exposed, as not only untrue but impossible

See Philatelic Record - P. 200-1 see also paper No 3 in my first letter

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I now come to a point to which you very properly attach much importance, and upon which it is only right you should have the fullest explanation. The point is why I do not publish in full the letters which passed between Sir Rowland Hill and James Chalmers - I think I shall be able to give you ample reasons for the course I have adopted -

I may mention that before reading my paper of Nov. 1881. to the London Philatelic Society, I shewed the original documents to Mr. Philbrick Q.C. the President of that Society, in order that he might see that in the ample quotations I had given therefrom I had in no way misrepresented the meaning of the letters, or kept back anything of importance to the question at issue.

If, in this matter of the Chalmers' claim, I were dealing with an opponent who observed even the barest rules of honesty, I should long ago have given the letters full publicity: but the extraordinary manner in which, during the last seven years, Mr. Pat. Chalmers has conducted his case, shews that he is too dishonest to be trusted with any information, as he is certain to distort or misrepresent it.

Of his deliberate misstatements of fact I have given you abundant evidence - he is equally dishonest in his dealings with letters and official or other documents. I have just shewn you a specimen of

his

intentional and persistent distortion of the Treasury Minute of March 1864. Of his conduct as regards the 5th. Report (1836) misrepresenting its meaning and even inserting the "(?)" in ~~its~~ this pretended quotation from its recommendations, to twist their meaning to help his false charge against Sir Rowland Hill, you have already been informed. His mutilation of my letters in his first pamphlet – omitting essential portions without even shewing that he was keeping anything back – his flat denial in "The Citizen" of 26 March 1881 of having done so, his conviction of this fraud in "The Citizen" of 19 April 1881, and his other early falsehoods in this case, are shewn in the paper I read before the London Philatelic Society, of which you possess a copy, and as you are aware, he repeated this bare faced denial and had its dishonesty again exposed, in the letters which appeared in the Dundee Advertiser in April 1883 – Numberless other cases of his intentional misrepresentation or garbling of documents also exist, some of which are exposed in Paper No. 3 inclosed in my first letter to yourself.

But the point to which I would now especially direct your attention is the deliberate and circumstantial misstatement (referred to in the second paragraph on page 200 of the Philatelic Record of Nov. 1881) made by him to account for his father never pressing a claim during his lifetime. Viz. that Mr. James Chalmers ... up to 1846 "had not the smallest idea of Rowland Hill's personal "claim to the merit of this stamp". I shew that this statement, made without the slightest qualification, was, as James Chalmers' own letters proved, absolutely untrue. This statement you will bear in mind was made by Mr. Patrick Chalmers before he knew that his father's letters were in existence, and thus furnished a check upon his mendacity. How did Mr. Patrick Chalmers meet this exposure? Did he express, as any honest man would have

have done, regret that he had made so positive a statement without a shadow of evidence to support it? Not at all – he sought to cover his discomfiture by additional dishonesty. He adopted a common trick of his when brought face to face with a charge he cannot disprove. He pretends he is accused of something else, and then furnishes a plausible answer to a charge which has never been made. His reply was (I give the substance from recollection) "Mr. Hill complains that I did not refer to the letters between his father and mine – how could I do so when the letters had not been published?" I need not point out to you that I had made no such ridiculous "complaint" I charged him with falsehood – to which he makes no defence.

After such conduct can you entertain a doubt that his eagerness to know exactly what his father's letters do or do not contain, is not in order that he may learn the truth – about which he cares nothing – but that he may know how far he may safely indulge in reckless misstatement whenever he may fancy this will suit his purpose?

So long as I hold these letters over him, some limit is placed on his career of misrepresentation. He has to exercise at all events some little caution lest similar exposures under his own father's hand should await him. He is far too dishonest to be trusted with documents. Arthur Orton might just as well have expected to be furnished with copies of all Sir Roger Tichbourne's letters in order that he might the better know how to frame his case.

As regards the extracts I have given from Mr. James Chalmers' letters you will see by a reference to the Philatelic Record of Nov: 1881 that they are not merely a few words here and there, as Mr Patrick Chalmers would like you to believe – and such as he himself

himself constantly gives – but continuous and entire paragraphs without break, such as could not possibly be affected by other portions of the context.

Should any body, however, suppose that in the other letters or portions of letters not published, Mr James Chalmers may have flatly contradicted himself, or made other statements which would in some way neutralize his admissions, I would point out First that Mr. James Chalmers was neither such a goose, nor so dishonest as to say first one thing and then ~~another~~ the opposite, and Secondly that to provide even for this possible supposition, I do not keep the letters hidden away in my own possession – Every original document whether written or printed, and ~~all~~ duplicate copies of all papers which I possessed in the Chalmers' case I have placed in the hands of Mr. F. A. Philbrick Q.C – President of the London Philatelic Society – a gentleman with special knowledge on the matter at issue, and of the highest honour and skill in weighing evidence, so that he may see that I have kept back nothing which could in any way help the case ~~now~~ set up on James Chalmers' behalf.

Ultimately these letters will be placed by me, probably in the British Museum, side by side with Mr. Patrick Chalmers' statements and the documents (official and other) which expose his misrepresentations, so that to all time those persons who take any interest in the question will be able to form a correct judgment both upon the claim and the claimant.

As you are aware I have long ago refused, on account of his dishonesty, to enter into any controversy with him. To keep

up

6. Pembridge Square
London. W.

J. K. Tiffany Esq.

5th December 1887.

Dear Sir -

1. I have, of late, been so much occupied that I have been obliged to delay longer than I had intended the further communication I promised you respecting the origination of adhesive postage stamps -

2. My previous letters, with the documents sent therewith, will I think have disposed of a host of Mr. P. Chalmers' misstatements, and this present letter will, I trust sufficiently clear away the heap of rubbish which he has accumulated during the last seven years, so that we may at last get down to solid ground upon which to rest the real facts of the case -

3. There are multitudes of Mr Chalmers' misstatements which I need scarcely waste your time in exposing, but if there be any upon which you desire information, pray let me know. I must, however, say a few words as regards his assertion that Mr. Samuel Roberts of North Wales, and other persons had suggested Uniform Penny Postage before Sir R. Hill did so, as - when dating back Mr. James Chalmers' claim to 1834 - this becomes an essential part of his case, in order to prevent the absurdity of that date being at once demonstrated by the simple fact that, at that time, practically no one dreamed of prepaying letters, and therefore postage stamps would have been utterly useless except in view of some contemplated change in the postal system.

4. Mr. Samuel Roberts was, I have no doubt, a perfectly honest man - but he was one of about a dozen others - mostly light headed -

who

who, though they made no sign when their help might have been useful, have from time to time come forward, after the plan had succeeded, to claim the suggestion of Penny Postage. Such forms of hallucination are by no means uncommon; a well known case being that of George IV, who towards the end of his life, used to assert that he had commanded the British Army at Waterloo, and a more recent instance is that of the caricaturist George Cruikshank, who as you may remember, got it into his head in his old age, that he, and not Charles Dickens was the real author of Oliver Twist.

5. Though Mr Chalmers asserts that Mr. Roberts' suggestions were well known to the Post Office long before 1837, and were also communicated by him to a Welsh Society with an unutterable name, he nowhere produces a particle of documentary evidence containing these proposals. He can shew nothing but Mr Roberts' own recent letters, and an anonymous notice of his death in The Times newspaper, written of course by some friend of Mr Roberts – possibly by Mr Chalmers himself.

6. I need scarcely point out that a mere bald suggestion (if ever made by Mr Roberts or any one else) that a system of Uniform Penny Postage should be adopted, without the proposer shewing that it was just and practicable, would have been as useless as a bare suggestion now-a-days to adopt a uniform rate of fare by Railway, coach or cart, for passengers or goods – but not even so much as the mere bald suggestion of any such scheme by Mr Roberts has as yet been produced.

At St Martins le Grand – though the records of that Department are models of completeness – nothing whatever is known of Mr Roberts or his claim, except what he himself alleges in his non very recent letters, while as regards the Welsh Society (not named above) a leading "Druid" to whom I have applied has failed to discover any

record of such a communication.

"Taffy" is not generally addicted to giving up too readily his own property – his peculiar weakness, if one's early traditions are to be trusted, is entirely in the other direction. Patriotism, or rather provincialism is undoubtedly one of his strong points, yet if we are to believe that Mr Roberts ever made any such suggestion, we must necessarily accept the conclusion that even the Welsh Society threw over its compatriot, and for the last fifty years or more has joined in the universal plot for the suppression of all evidence of rival claims to Sir Rowland Hill!

Even if Mr. Roberts and Mr. James Chalmers were so self-sacrificing as to destroy every particle of documentary evidence in their own possession, which might have assisted their claims, how could they possibly have procured the destruction of every copy of every newspaper or other publication not in their possession, in which their proposals, if ever made, appeared? The fact that even after all Mr. P. Chalmers researches during the last seven years, he can produce no document of earlier date than Sir Rowland Hill's pamphlet containing their alleged suggestions, is pretty good evidence that none exist, and, as has been pointed out elsewhere, valuable ideas never published being about as useless to the public as good advice never given, any claims founded thereon are too absurd to deserve attention.

See "The Post Office 150 years ago" pp. 56-7

Mr. P. Chalmers further statement that a Parliamentary (or other) Commission enquired into and reported upon Mr. Roberts plan is absolutely untrue. Where is their report, or where in any Report is mention made of Mr. Samuel Roberts or any plan of his?

Mr. P. Chalmers gravely expects his readers to believe that because a subscription was got up for Mr Roberts in his old age, to which Mr. Bright and others subscribed, therefore it must have been Mr. Roberts who first suggested Penny Postage!! He might just as well have urged

that

that therefore it must have been Mr Roberts who discovered the North West Passage!

Meeting Mr Bright one day I asked him whether he had intended by his subscription to the fund for Mr. Roberts, to imply that that gentleman was the originator of the Penny Postage system. His answer was "Certainly not – I was asked to subscribe on the ground that Mr "Roberts was an old Reformer now in difficulties. I did not know that he had "any thing to do with Postal Reform". I then told him that a paper placing that interpretation on his so doing had been published by a Mr. Patrick Chalmers – "Chalmers" said Mr Bright, "Why that is the person who "is always sending me papers about Postage Stamps – I never read "them. I put them into my waste paper basket".

But another statement of Mr. P. Chalmers' in connection with this point affords perhaps one of the most glaring instances of his intentional distortions of fact. In one of his leaflets, published about March 1884, – of which doubtless you have a copy – he quotes a passage from the Treasury Minute of March 1864, on Sir Rowland Hill's retirement, in which a passing allusion is made "what honor "may be due to those who before the development of the plans of Sir Rowland Hill ~~plan~~" urged the adoption of the uniform Penny Postage system" You will see by the enclosed copy of a leading article in the Postal Telegraphic and Telephonic Gazette – which was communicated to Mr. P. Chalmers – that this passage which he put forward without any qualification as a "Declaration by The Treasury" in his favour, was, as he well knew a mere clerical error, at once challenged ~~and~~ by Sir R. Hill and admitted by The Treasury! Yet he not only suppressed this fact at that time (March 1884) but he still goes on repeating this assertion in his later pamphlets, notwithstanding the exposure of its dishonesty.

See. The Post Office of 50 years ago" p. 30-3

Enc:

another

month after month, and year after year, a running exposure of his unlimited lie ability would be a sheer waste of time, and about as dignified as a street row with a sweep. but by my playing a waiting game, his misrepresentations must in the end like "Chickens and Curses come home to roost" Every dishonest and garbled statement and distortion of facts in which he indulges, simply strengthens my hands – he only makes the case blacker than ever against himself. What does it matter if for the time he is still alive, or at large, some persons are taken in by his assertions? Not many are likely to be so afterwards. Sir Rowland Hill's reputation will be unaffected by the dirt which Chalmers tries to heap upon it, which will inevitably recoil upon his own head and Mr Patrick Chalmers will succeed in establishing for himself the lasting character of a man who, in a morbid craze for notoriety, or the yet more contemptible hope of obtaining money from Government on a worthless claim, does not hesitate to slander the dead, and to set aside every consideration of truth and honour.

Yours very faithfully,

Pearson Hill

P.S. My next letter will give the facts upon which I rely to establish Sir Rowland Hill's claim even to this minor detail of his great reform, and will deal with the so-called "evidence" upon which the Chalmers claim alone is based. after which I think it will be unnecessary to trouble you with any lengthy correspondence.

or any one else, and not even a hint that he, James Chalmers, had ever made any suggestion of adhesive postage stamps before. The whole paper fits in entirely with the statements and dates given by James Chalmers in his letters of 1st October 1839 and 18 May 1840 (see Philatelic Record Nov: 1887. pp 198-9) as to when he "first" made his plan public - viz "November 1837" - "nearly two years before" the Treasury Minute" of 23 August 1839.

Yours very faithfully
Pearson Hill.

Kindly let me know whether you receive this letter - as also that of 31 October last - though I will trouble yourself to reply at any length -

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.
London

7. Decr. 1887

L. K. Tiffany Esq.

Dear Sir.

I send you yet another letter (far longer than I could wish) which will I think sufficiently clear away the rubbish which has been abundantly accumulated by Chalmers, so that in my next letter you may have the square statement you desire.

I admit I hardly like inflicting upon you such a mass of correspondence as that which you have - I hope patiently - endured; but the fact that I know more about Sir Rowland Hill's reforms than almost any body now living, may possibly make my letters acceptable additions to your collection of documents on Postal questions

Heaps upon heaps of Chalmers' misstatements I necessarily pass unnoticed, but I think it useful

to

to tell you that some two years ago, a friend of mine (a Lieut Colonel in the army) who had seen Chalmers' letter in the Whitehall Review of 29 Oct. 1885 (in which I counted I think it was eleven untrue statements) asked me why I did not answer it. I told him that I had absolutely refused to have any further controversy with the fellow, but would place in his hands papers upon the case that he might understand it. He returned them to me with the following note. "I have been so busy on Lord "R. Churchill's Committee, that I could not "answer your note before. Thanks for the "papers. The man is a low class liar with "probably a dangerous craze, you can do no "more" This is but a sample of the opinion entertained of Chalmers by those who know the facts, and will shew you that his assertions have scarcely met with that general acceptance which he wishes you to believe.

I enclose you a few other documents, one of which being extremely rare, I will ask you to return to me when done with. It is the copy of the Post Circular of 5th April 1838 in which James Chalmers suggestions are printed in full, with a very important editorial note by Sir Henry Cole - You will notice that in Mr. Chalmers's pamphlet issued at the beginning of 1886, he reproduces nearly all this paper, but leaves convenient breaks, which he fills up with his own comments. I suppose his reason for so doing is, that as he asserts this paper of 8th Feby 1838 fully confirms the evidence that James Chalmers invented adhesive stamps in 1834, his readers may suppose this confirmatory evidence is to be found in the parts not quoted.

Pray read the document carefully through and find if you can the slightest trace of any such confirmation. Note that James Chalmers always speaks of the Uniform Penny Postage, as "Mr Rowland Hill's plan" not a word about Samuel Robert

6 Pembridge Square
London W.
10th Jan.y 1888 –

J. K. Tiffany Esq.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 29th Nov.r which I have delayed acknowledging so long, in hope of being able to send you the promised "Statement of Case" along with the Parliamentary Papers you wanted, I have however to ask your further indulgence in regard to time, as my candidature in South Hackney has greatly interfered with all other matters – Meanwhile I send you by Book Post, by the same mail containing this letter, in two parcels, the 9th Report of the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry (1837) and the 1st 2nd and 3rd Reports of the Parliamentary Committee on Postage (1838). I have also included a copy of the act of Parliament of 17 Augt. 1839, establishing Penny Postage (2nd & 3rd Vic: Cap. LII) in order that you may see by the marginal note to Sec V, the truth of my statement to you (which you will also find supported by numberless instances in the Parliamentary papers now sent) that "Stamped Covers" was constantly employed as a convenient generic term for all kinds of postage stamps, as distinguished from payment of postage in money – not, as W.P. Chalmers asserts as distinguished from adhesive stamps – between which and stamped

Covers

covers proper, there was no necessity of drawing any sort of distinction

I am not quite sure by the wording of your letter whether you already possess the "Life of Sir Rowland Hill and History of Penny Postage" published in 1880 by Messrs Delarue & Co., or whether you intended to include it in your "wants". If the latter, pray let me know, and I will at once send it to you. For it is obviously greatly to my interest, when defending my father's reputation from Chalmers' cowardly slanders, that there should be in America, in the most competent hands, copies of the real documents giving the true facts, so as to neutralise the nonsense and misrepresentations circulated by the latter. The more these genuine documents are read and studied and compared with his garbled extracts therefrom, the more clearly will his ignorance and dishonesty be made manifest.

I lately came across some specimens of the "big and little letters" - one of Mr. Henry Cole's clever devices - which are referred to in the "Life of Sir Rowland Hill" Vol 1. p. 294, and I send a specimen of each with the printed Parliamentary Papers for your library -

I presume you have long ago safely received my letters of 8th & 9th December with enclosures -

Now let me just clear away one or two points upon which you

you have misunderstood my letter of 31st October last.

First, banish from your mind all idea that I have anywhere intended to complain that your Societies have acted unfairly towards myself, in not inviting me to reply to Chalmers' statements made since the date of my paper of Nov: 1881 - I am much too thick skinned to complain of unfairness - My main object in writing to you was to expose his cowardly attacks against my father's memory; I was also sure, and I am still sure, that your Societies will gladly welcome information which will enable them to detect the imposture which has been played upon them. Their own self respect, and the respect in which they must naturally wish their opinions to be held by all persons conversant with the facts, are far more important considerations than any feeling I might be supposed to have in the matter, to induce them to make a more thorough examination into the case -

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In my October letter, when I spoke of the London Philatelic Society as the "most competent" authority on the question at issue, I had no thought of drawing a comparison between the London and American Societies - My meaning, as I think you will see on

reperusal

repercussal, was to contrast the London Philatelic Society, before which I had brought the matter, with the Dundee Town Council, the London Commissioners of Sewers, newspaper Editors and other bodies selected by Mr. Chalmers—

From what I know of the members of the London Philatelic Society, I am certain that no pre-conceived ideas as to Sir Rowland Hill's claims would influence them for a moment, if sufficient cause were shewn for disallowing them - Certainly any such trifling disqualification on their part, if it existed at all, would be more than amply counterbalanced by the fact that original documents - such as those I am now sending you - were more readily accessible to them than to the gentlemen in America, and that they also have the advantage of meeting people who, like many of the members of the Mansion House Committee, were personally acquainted with Sir Rowland Hill and knew him to be a man with the highest sense of honor - See for instance in the "Life of Sir R Hill" Vol 1. p. 263, how Mr. Charles P. Villiers M.P. speaks of him, and note the observation of the Editor of the Athenaeum, quoted in the Philatelic Record for Novr 1881. p. 197, that "no one who knew the late "Sir Rowland Hill can suppose that he would claim credit for ideas "which were not his own". Sir Rowland Hill has indeed been described by one who knew him intimately, as "the most horribly conscientious man" he ever met.

The London Philatelic Society knew also from personal experience the absolute untruthfulness of Mr. P. Chalmers - a most important factor in the case - of this knowledge abundant proof is given in Mr. Burnet's letter to the Dundee Advertiser of which I sent you a

copy

Copy in my letter of 31st October last.

As regards my proposed amendment to the "Preamble" I at once admit that what you tell me shews that it is not altogether accurate - though as the decision was avowedly based upon the letters from the old people at Dundee of later date than my paper of Novr. 1881 - the only document of mine which the Societies appear to have seen - it must, I think, be admitted, (inasmuch as I was not asked for any counter statement) that this decision was undoubtedly founded on ex-parte evidence. Is it not probable that your Societies attach far too much weight to the letters which they suppose to come in reality as well as in appearance from the old people of Dundee? The obvious impossibility of anybody being able, by mere recollection, fifty years after date, to fix the exact year when James Chalmers printed and gummed a particular kind of label (he, as a printer by trade doubtless printed hundreds of similar labels for jam pots and pickles) is not the only difficulty in the way of accepting their testimony - What value would you put upon the evidence of a Witness in Court if the plaintiff were allowed to sit by him, and, out of hearing of the Judge, to prompt his replies? Yet these old people are admittedly in correspondence with Mr. Patrick Chalmers - a man who has been convicted of every possible fraud in this matter, who I have and the remotest doubt prompted Effingham Wilson's dishonest letters to me - Can there be any doubt that their answers have been influenced by him?

or

or that "the voice is the voice of Patrick, though the hands are the hands of "Sawney"?

Now for another point - What James Chalmers says in the printed paper forwarded by him in May 1840, as to his having first published his plan in November 1837, may possibly, as you suggest, be interpreted as only meaning that he did then first make it public in a certain manner i.e by publishing an article to which specimens of his stamps were affixed - your inference being that he may have made it public long before in some other fashion: but if so, what could possibly have been his object in going out of his way to make a statement so useless not to say damaging to his case by giving the wrong date when he was, as his letter shews, trying to explain why he had thought he was "first in the field"? At all events no such interpretation can possibly be put upon the statement in his letter of 1st October 1839* where he says "If clips" [adhesive stamps] "are to be used I flatter myself "I have a claim to priority in the suggestion - it being now "nearly two years since I first made it public, and submitted "it in a communication to Mr. Wallace M.P."

* See Philatelic Record. Nov: 18[illegible] p. 197.

What possible value can be attached to any supposed recollections of the old people of Dundee against these statements as to when James Chalmers first made his plan public, given under his own hand when the facts were fresh in his memory? Statements which, moreover, are as perfectly consistent with the ~~[illegible]~~ probabilities of the case, and with every document relating thereto which has yet been discovered, as Mr Patrick Chalmers' statements are inconsistent.

Yours

You yourself notice James Chalmers' total silence as to any claim for suggestions in 1834 - Is not that silence, at such a time, strong presumptive evidence that no such suggestions were ever made by him until Sir R Hill's proposed reforms had rendered the use of postage stamps possible -

See pp. 19-20

In "The Post Office of 50 years ago" the absurdity of supposing that any one proposed adhesive postage stamps in 1834, when letters were almost invariably sent unpaid, is pointed out: and in the Reports and evidence I now send you it is constantly shewn that prepayment of postage, (and consequently the use of Postage stamps), would be impossible in conjunction with the rates of postage varying with distance then in force -

On this point, indeed, I would call your attention to the fact that in the evidence of one of the old people from Dundee - Mr. Whitelaw - quoted in the Philatelic Journal for America - the very facts he mentions, so far from supporting the 1834 claim, directly disprove it. He says that "When it had been settled that the Penny Postage system was to be adopted, James Chalmers set to work to draw out a plan of adhesive stamps" &c. Now in 1834 the Penny Postage system had not even been heard of. Its adoption was not "settled" till 1839 - Probably Mr Whitelaw meant to say "when Penny Postage had been proposed" (i.e. in 1837) or may have had lingering in his memory the recommendation of the Commissioners of P.O. Inquiry (see 9th Report page 8) to adopt the system experimentally in the London District; but the date of their report is no earlier than 7th July 1837 - which again fits

in

in with all James Chalmers' own statements - But does not this ~~or Mr Hill instead, how does any~~ authentic break-down of Mr. Whitelaw's evidence by the simplest test, show the impossibility of trusting to mere memory for facts so long gone by? Shall I be treading on the sacred corns of the American Philatelic Societies if, in all humility, I venture to suggest that our better knowledge on this side of the water of the general facts of the case, enables us to score One against them, in being the better able to sift such evidence?

See how every authentic statement by James Chalmers and others, the evidence given, and every fact great and small as shown by the Parliamentary papers I send you, fits naturally and perfectly into the contention that he did not propose adhesive stamps till Sir Rowland Hill's proposed reform created the opening for them (i.e in 1837 - the date he himself gives) and on the other hand how every statement has to be strained from its natural meaning and heaps of impossibilities ignored, in order to maintain the claim that he invented them in 1834 - years before they could possibly have been used.

In the 9th Report you will not only notice that Sir Rowland Hill at page 33 proposes the adhesive stamp, but (what I have mentioned above) that the Commissioners in their Report - page 8 - dated 7th July 1837 advise their adoption. This is a pretty complete refutation of Mr. P. Chalmers' rediculous assertions that Sir R Hill withdrew his suggestion - that his plan of postal reform was adopted without knowing how it was to be carried out - and that but for James

Chalmers

Chalmers coming to the rescue in 1839 with adhesive stamps Penny Postage would have been a failure! Surely as a writer of nonsense Mr. P. Chalmers talents are of the highest order! Note also the complete refutation of his assertions that to James Chalmers' printed paper of 8th Feby 1838, now in the South Kensington Museum, Sir Rowland Hill was indebted for the idea of adhesive postage stamps - Not only, of course, did Sir R. Hill's evidence of 13 Feby 1837 forestal that paper by nearly twelve months, but his evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee of 1838 in which the use of adhesive stamps was again strongly urged by him, was given on 7th Feby 1838 - just one day earlier -

See answer to question 129.

I am so busy just now with other matters that I must conclude this letter with best compliments & wishes for the new year - with again begging you not to trouble yourself to reply until you have read the "Statement of case", unless there be any points upon which fuller information is desired by you

Believe me
Yours very faithfully
Pearson Hill

P.S. Is there any chance of your crossing the water? If so I should be very pleased to see you and place documents in your hands that I cannot well trust to the post -

Here & there in the letters I have sent you I quote the arguments in "The Post Office of 50 years ago" I don't quote the work as an authority because I merely wrote that book - I think it is only right to let you know this fact privately - I am not sure whether I have already done so or not -

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.
London
12. Jan^y 1888

Dear Sir

I send you herewith a few (?) other notes on the adhesive stamp case - mainly in reply to your letter of 29th Nov^r -

I also send you all the Parliamentary Papers you asked for - I am very glad to be able thus to ease my conscience for inflicting upon you so lengthy a correspondence -

My Hackney candidature has taken up my time so much that

I have had to defer finishing the Statement of case - but you shall have it before long

Of course you are at perfect liberty to shew all my letters to anybody you please, and I need hardly say that should you desire to obtain independent opinions or confirmatory evidence of any of my statements from Dr Philbrick QC - the President of the London Philatelic Society or from any one else - I cannot possibly object to your so doing -

Yrs very faithfully

Pearson Hill -

PS. Let me know whether my letters reach you safely - I do not ask this without reason* -

I send you by this post a Hackney Newspaper which may interest you -

* my letters of 5th & 7th Decr contained a very rare printed enclosure - viz: the First Circular of 5th April 1838 - not yet acknowledged -

over

London
14. Jan^y 1888

J. K. Tiffany Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your letter returning "the Post Circular" of 5th April 1838 has just reached me this morning — I will enquire into the points you raise respecting prepayment under Dockwra's plan and let you know — I think however, you will find all information in the 9th Report I am sending you — I will also ascertain

"of the President of the London Philatelic "Society"?

If some knave came forward to claim your father's landed property would not you not maintain that he was bound to prove his case — that you were not to be expected to let him rummage your private correspondence and title deeds &c. to enable him the better to shape a fraudulent claim? you having shewn the m^t to impartial & competent judges. Besides the only real point of any importance — at all events amongst scientific societies — is who first published his suggestion — I point to 13 Feb^y 1837 — which is 12 months earlier than anything Pat Chalmers can shew after 8 years search — Yours very truly

Pearson Hill

the facts about the adhesive (medicine) stamps & give you chapter & verse

I have had to divide the Parliamentary papers I am sending you into four packets as they exceed the limit of weight when sent in two packets – so please see you get them all.

I was obliged to cut the 2nd Report Report on Postage into two volumes in order to bring it within the limit of weight but as you will doubtless wish to have the books bound again more substantially this is not of much consequence.

Is my not the argument that there must be something in the correspondence prejudicial to my case, or I would certainly have published it, be answered with equal justice, "that there can "be nothing in it prejudicial to "my case or I certainly should not "have ventured to place it in the hands

6. Pembridge Square W.
London.
18 Feby. 1888.

J. K. Tiffany Esq.

Dear Sir -

Your letter of 30th Jany announcing the safe arrival of the documents I sent has reached me - I am glad you are pleased with them and that my father's case will be in such good hands -

Though, of course, it would be undesirable to publish any statement of the case while your investigations are incomplete, I think it would be unwise and hardly fair to spring the whole case, without notice, on the Boston Meeting - Chalmers and his friends would justly complain that they had had no opportunity of preparing any reply. Though perhaps such opportunity may be previously afforded when I publish, as I purpose soon doing, the "Square" statement I am preparing -

The maps were missing from the 9th Report when I received it. The Report is rather difficult to obtain, as many years ago almost all copies were bought up by stamp collectors for the sake of the three Dickensian "Essays" it contains, so I deemed myself fortunate in securing one even without the maps -

I will try to obtain the misrepresented 5th Report, and the other documents you desire. Meanwhile I am sending you the "Life of Sir Rowland Hill and History of Penny Postage" (2 Vols) which I am sure you will find interesting - Note especially the letter from Mr. Charles P. Villiers MP. (Vol 1. p 263) on Sir R. Hill's great disinterestedness as regards any credit for the plan, and also the cordial manner in which throughout the History, Sir R. Hill everywhere gives others credit for their useful suggestions, as a refutation of Chalmers' twaddle

twaddle about Sir R. Hill having a perfect mania for claiming everything ~~to~~ for himself. In some of his publications Chalmers asserts that Sir R. Hill never did claim the adhesive stamp, while at the same time he has for 8 years constantly accused him of and abused him for so doing! Surely the fellow must be insane!

See his letter in The Whitehall Review of 29 Oct. 1885

With reference both to the supposed recommendations of the 5th Report, and to Chalmers' assertion that Samuel Roberts, long before 1837 proposed uniform penny postage — (a proposal which if ever seriously made must have come to the knowledge of Mr. Robert Wallace M.P. the then recognized parliamentary Champion and leader of postal reform) — read Mr. Wallace's statement (Vol I. p. 446) as to Sir Rowland Hill having been "the "real inventor and only discoverer" of the plan.* What are Chalmers's assertions worth against the knowledge of the facts possessed by such a man as Mr. Wallace?

* It is important to bear in mind that it was to Mr. R. Wallace that Chalmers is said to have communicated his suggestion

The eagerness with which Mr Wallace — throwing aside all his own plans — welcomed Sir Rowland Hill's scheme of Uniform Penny Postage† is ample proof that had any similar scheme been proposed by Mr. Samuel Roberts or any one else, it would equally have received his cordial and unselfish support; but you will see from the quotation from his speech in July 1836* that up to that date no idea whatever of uniformity of charge had come to his knowledge.

† Life of Sir R Hill See Vol I. p 267

* See Vol II. p 494.

As regards the reports of Parliamentary Debates I fear I shall not be able to send you printed copies. They are only published in a permanent form in "Hansard's Parliamentary Debates". I should think that at Washington you must have a complete set in some of your National Museums or Libraries. At the General Post Office London, there is a set which I can readily consult, and I will obtain

written

written copies of any speech you desire, but though I am certain nothing will be found therein that in any way supports Chalmer's claim – except when distorted from its obvious meaning – I am bound to say I do not myself attach much importance to what is reported to have been said in Parliament respecting Sir R. Hill's proposals, when we have the far more trustworthy testimony of his own pamphlets and his evidence before Parliamentary Committees.

I have made enquiries at the Inland Revenue Department about the Medicine Stamps. I find they were imposed by the 42 Geo III. Cap 56. Sec 11, and 44 Geo: III Cap: 98. Schedule B. They were first issued in 1802 and have been in use ever since; and though the user and not the Government supplied the gum or paste, I am bound to say – whatever effect it may have on the question now at issue – that they are in my opinion, exactly what is now meant by an adhesive stamp; i:e a stamp not impressed upon the article liable to duty (as the newspaper stamp) or upon some larger thing like an envelope or cover, but printed on a small piece of paper just large enough to hold it, and which can be pasted or gummed upon the article for which it was intended.

You will remember that in my paper printed in the Philatelic Record of Nov: 1881, and in one of my letters to Mr. P. Chalmers published in his first pamphlet, and in my letters to yourself I have always expressed the opinion that the proposal for adhesive as well as other kinds of postage stamps in a plan of postal reform which (by establishing uniformity of rates) for the first time made the general use of stamps for postal purposes possible – was a matter of only minor detail. I don't suppose that either Sir Rowland Hill or James Chalmers had the medicine stamps in their recollection when suggesting adhesive

postage

postage stamps, but the suggestion of the latter stamps, (though indubitedly first made by Sir R. Hill) really amounted to little more, in considering the history of adhesive stamps, than a proposal that when stamps were again to be applied to a purpose (postage) for which they had previously, in a limited fashion been used or suggested*, a particular and convenient form of stamp then (1837) in common use should also be available for that purpose -

* See "The First Issue of 50 years ago" p. 18

I enclose copy of the Memt. by Sir Rowland Hill on prepayment of postage by means of stamps. It is a very rare document, so please return it to me when done with, but keep it till after the Boston meeting if you like; for which purpose also I will, if you desire it, return you the Post Circular containing James Chalmer's paper of 8th Feby. 1838. I am in two minds whether I won't run over, and (if strangers are admitted) attend the Meeting, to "fight the good fight" in earnest and smite the Chalmerites hip and thigh - but I fear I could hardly spare the time.

Enc.

As regards the above Memo: I don't think it is of much use in dealing with the Chalmers' claim, inasmuch as it is of later date than James Chalmer's paper of 5th Feby. 1838. It is of use, however, in meeting the absurd statement that Sir R. Hill's plans were adopted without any one knowing how they were to be carried out, that the Treasury had to advertise for plans, and that James Chalmers came to the rescue! The Memo. (13 June 1839) is of earlier date than the Treasury minute of 23 Augt. 1839 -

The Treasury Minute led to other plans being suggested, none of which, however, were so practicable as Sir R. Hill's own proposals but at the same time it procured most valuable information as to how the stamps could be best manufactured so as to prevent forgery

Mept.

Messrs. Perkins & Bacon's invention for reproducing exact facsimi
being adopted by the Government.

What utter nonsense it is to talk of the Government not
knowing how the plan was to be carried out! No government
would ever feel or admit such incompetency, and true or
untrue the statement is altogether irrelevant - Sir R. Hill
knew how to carry out his own plan, and for that very reason
was appointed to an office in the Treasury to superintend its
introduction.

With reference to this point I have enclosed inside Vol
of the "Life" now sent, a cutting from "The Times" of 7th June 1879 giv
an account of the Deputation which presented Sir R. Hill with the
Freedom of the City of London - Read the statement in Chalmers's fi
pamphlet where he misrepresents Sir R. Hill as "frankly co
informing" the deputation that the plan was adopted without
the Government knowing how it was to be carried out. Then read
what really was said.

Please also bear in mind when reading "the Life", and
necessary publicly announce that I offer a reward of One thousa
Dollars to any one who can find that part "in the Life just
published" where as Mr. Patrick Chalmers asserts* with regard to
adhesive stamps that "Sir Rowland Hill goes on to admit that
"even this exceptional use of the gummed paper was withdrawn
"in the next paragraph". This is perhaps as big a lie as any
even P. Chalmers could tell, though he certainly runs it very hard
by his assertion in his latest pamphlet just issued - p. 4. that
"Mr Hill had already written to Mr. Chalmers on 3rd March 1838 to the
"effect of not being in favour of an adhesive stamp". Let your friend
Mr. Mekeel - if he still believes in Chalmers, write and tell him the

*See his first pamphlet pp. 115-116, or Philatelic Record (London) Nov. 1881 p. 200.

H

this statement has been characterised as a deliberate falsehood, and ask to be favoured with the exact words. Chalmers, if you can get him to give a definite answer, will have to acknowledge that this is "a lie drawn at a venture" or else will have to fabricate (as he has before done), a bogus letter* to support his statement. In the letter of 3rd March 1838 there is nothing whatever that can possibly be construed into such a statement — a fact which you can readily ascertain if you care to ask Mr. Philbrick. The Fabian policy, explained in my letter of December last, has again borne good fruit for after use.

* Compare the fictitious letter at pp 34–35 of the pamphlet "Decision of the Encyclopædia Britannica" of 1886 — with what his father did really say in his letter of 15 May 40 as shewn in the Statistic Record of N.W.: 81. p 199.

Now for another "fog" in which some people, who are caught by mere similarity in <u>name</u>, seem also to lose themselves, and to which reference is made in one of your recent letters: viz the idea that Sir R. Hill's plan of Postal Reform was after all not original, because some letters were previously carried for a penny. Such persons seem to imagine that Sir R. Hill claimed to have discovered some hitherto unrecognized virtue in a penny, and to have for the first time proposed it as a postal rate for letters. There is no more virtue in a penny (except that it pays) than in the halfpenny now charged on post cards or newspapers, and so far from its having been in 1837 an unknown postal charge, almost every post town in the United Kingdom, except London, had its <u>local</u> letter rate of one penny. Indeed, up to that date, such local posts were known in the Department by the technical name of "penny posts". In Sir R. Hill's pamphlet (see reprint p. 33) he states that there were at that time about 200 such posts in England alone.

If Sir Rowland Hill had had nothing better to urge than that all letters should be charged one penny, without rhyme or reason, he would have received and deserved about as much attention as any wiseacre who might now propose uniform

Railway

Railway and other fares. Any simpleton could have made such a suggestion, and would have been properly rewarded with a cap and bells – Sir R. Hill's great and valuable discovery was that the actual cost of mere conveyance per letter, was quite irrespective of distance, and was so infinitesimal (only the 9th part of a farthing even from London to Edinburgh) – that there was no reason for making a distinction in the charge upon a local letter and one going to another post town in the United Kingdom however distant.

"Penny Posts" had existed in the Post Office almost from the earliest times – Sir Rowland Hill's discovery was that all posts might be "penny posts" – that uniformity of charge was not merely a convenient, but a fairer charge than any other, and that by the simplifications he proposed not only might a great boon be secured for the public, but the department might, in a pecuniary point of view, ultimately be greatly the gainer –

If, in order to preserve a claim to originality, Sir R. Hill ought to have selected some rate of postage until then unknown he would have been much puzzled. The "single" inland postal rates then varied through every etch from 1 to 1/8½ – he might perhaps have overcome the difficulty by following the opinion of a cynical freind of mine, who so detests letter writing that he declares "Sir Rowland Hill would have been a much greater public "benefactor if he had made the postage a guinea instead of a penny".

When I send you the 5th Report I will enclose a memo. explaining its real bearing upon the questions at issue, but the above remarks as to the absurdity of any one expecting attention who merely proposed uniform penny postage without shewing its practicability, applies pretty well to any supposed deductions from the recommendations

of

of that Report, and apply wholly to the nonsensical claim on behalf of Samuel Roberts.

I see you express a fear lest you should weary me by questions. Pray have no such fear - It is a pleasure to me to give the information, as I am glad to know what is wanted and to place on record facts with which I am perhaps more familiar than any one else. Especially do not hesitate to press for information on any point which to you seems doubtful. I do not know a single weak point in Sir Rowland Hill's case or a single strong one in James Chalmers', so never fear to press cross examination up to the hilt. Even as regards James Chalmers letters, which for reasons I have given I for the present withhold, I can have no possible objection to your writing to Mr. Philbrick and asking him whether they contain anything which in any way supports the claim set up by Mr Patrick Chalmers, or that in the slightest degree vitiates the extracts published by me in the Philatelic Record of November 1881 —

Yours very sincerely

Pearson Hill.

PS. I have in my own possession two very interesting parchment "adhesive stamps" They are the remnant of a row of six that came into my fathers' possession about 30 years ago. They are some of the stamps prepared about 1763 under the celebrated "Stamp Acts" for taxing the American Colonies. They bear the cypher G.R., the Royal arms, and "America II shillings VI pence" They were of course intended to be affixed to documents which could not have been sent over to be stamped. As far as we are concerned, we may I think regard them as the most unprofitable set of stamps ever made!

myself to read anything Chalmers says, but I have just glanced through his latest pamphlet – a most astounding collection of misrepresentations and wilful distortion of facts I never met. The man must be a monomaniac, no sane person, however dishonest, would tell so many useless falsehoods!

He may rave as much as he likes, – the statues to Sir Rowland Hill's memory and the honoured grave in Westminster Abbey will out live all recollection of Chalmers and his contemptible and cowardly attacks –

Yrs very sincerely
Pearson Hill

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

24 Feby 1888

J. K. Tiffany Esq

On the 20th instant I sent you by Registered letter-post the Memo as to prepayment by Stamps, by Sir R Hill (13 June 1839) and the two volumes of the "Life" – Vol: 2 containing cuttings from The Times. These will I trust reach you safely –

I now send the Acts 4th Geo III. Cap: 56 and 44 Geo. III. Cap. 98 which will shew you that stamped labels to be stuck on packets boxes, bottles &c containing Patent medicines existed in this country even since 1802 – i.e. more than 30 years before the date which Mr. P. Chalmers falsely gives

as that when his father first invented adhesive labels -

I also send you the 5th Report (with memo), the Report on Postage 1843 and the Report of the Committee on Perforation of Stamps (Archer's patent) 1852 - being the whole of the papers you asked for except the Parliamentary Debates which I fear I shall not be able to obtain

Test Chalmer's statements by these the genuine documents - you will not find him right upon a single material point - the whole enormous erection of falsehood which he has built up will come down like a house of cards under any skilful scrutiny -

I am getting on - slowly I must admit - with the general statement of facts so long promised - and which is very necessary - The whole business is so sickening - I am constantly putting it aside when any sufficient excuse offers itself - To apply an old saying "The more you stir the Chalmer's mess, the more it stinks"

As a rule I never trouble

that there is not the slightest ground for the assertion by P.C. that Sir Rowland Hill contemplated the use of embossed stamps like dead stamps – This idea has been doubtless put forward to give the impression that something very ~~clumsily~~ clumsy was contemplated. – This is a common trick of the "Chalmers" the "suggestio falsi".

You will find that after the publication of the Philatelic Record of Nov. 1881 in which I claim for Sir Rowland Hill priority of publication of the suggestion of adhesive stamps – that gives rise to one of his complaints in a leaflet as objecting to his father's claim on the ground that he had not officially published his plan – He inserting the word "officially" (which I had never used) in order no doubt to create the belief that my objection was a mere "red tape" objection such as no one but a government official would dream of advancing –

The Newspaper stamps were never embossed they were hand stamped in red ink – such as you will find on any British newspapers filed in your public libraries up to about the year 1856 – though about the year 1853 or 1854 machines were used instead of hand stampers –

What is more ridiculous than the assertion that James Chalmer's idea of adhesive stamps overcame the difficulties about forgery? Other things

/

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

28 April 1881

J. K. Tiffany Esq

My dear Sir

I have been so very busy of late that I have not had time to reply to your last letter – and must even now ask for a few days further grace –

After an arduous struggle with the spirit of Procrastination – I have at length completed the "square statement" of the facts, which I have had printed, & of which I send you 10 copies per Book post – I also enclose for your

library copies of "Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper" of 8th & 15th Jan^y 1859 containing an amusing account of Sir Rowland Hill's difficulties with the post office – It was written by his brother Matthew Davenport Hill – the well known philanthropist the Recorder of Birmingham –

With regard to the pamphlet on the "Origin of Postage Stamps" (alias the "disgrace" statement so long promised) I should tell you that I have sent copies to all Pat Chalmers's prominent friends who are now engaged in endeavouring to set up a marble bust of James Chalmers at Dundee in commemoration of that the said James Chalmers did not do. So that ample opportunity will be afforded to Pat to make such reply – more or less untrue of course – as he may think fit – Though I trust you will not find in the pamphlet a single word that is discourteous, (unless "base and cowardly" must be so regarded) I have taken care to frame my charge – in such plain terms that the book is undoubtedly libelous, (intentionally so made) in order that you & other people may judge from his not daring to bring the case into court, of the probable amount of truth in anything he says –

Referring to your last letter I may just say

Railways were invented – as worthless, in face of James Chalmers's run adrupsius, as the evidence of any one would be who now asked us gravely to listen to the "important evidence" some old woman could give us to the existence in 1834 of Ghosts & Witches –
It is impossible that Chalmers could have invented such stamps before there was any chance of their ever being useful (see paragraph 52 of pamphlet sent herewith) –

Again as regards the statement that Sir R. Hill merely combined several improvements in his plan of Postal Reform – First of all, every invention consists of a new combination of known things – Boilers pistons, cylinders, cranks, fly wheels, valves & engine beams were all in use long before Watt invented the steam engine – The locomotive is a combination say, of a squirt, a boiler & a water cart – but does any one dream of therefore disputing Watts' & Stephenson's claims to have invented these machines? In Sir R. Hill's case indeed he did make one most important discovery which no one before found out, and few even afterwards cared to believe – viz that the cost of mere conveyance might properly be omitted in calculating postage, and that a uniform rate was preferable: but of this more in my next, as I have already detained you from your business away with me to a greater extent than I anticipated when I began

Yours very faithfully Pearsonstyle

Let me know if you want any more copies of the pamphlet I now send.

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

equal it is easier to forge a stamp on a small piece of paper than when on a government made envelope, as in the latter case both stamp and envelope must be successfully imitated – Could anything be less difficult to forge than the crude stamps which James Chalmers submitted – of which you have a facsimile in the American Philatelic Journal of April 1887? It happens that the only attempts at forgery we have ever had, have been to imitate the adhesive stamp. The withdrawal from circulation of the Sunheads envelope was not from any danger of forgery but almost entirely because the design occupied too much of the space that was required for the address & the quality of the paper was too poor – besides the design itself having been turned into ridicule & thus condemned by the public – It was moreover

immediately followed by the envelopes bearing Wyon's embossed head - which is still used, as no withdrawal of envelopes in favour of adhesive stamps ever took place. It is perhaps useful also to notice that Sir R Hill had, as I think you will find from his evidence, no fear of the stamp on envelopes being forged - it was the Inland Revenue Department that pressed for the use of Dickenson's threaded paper - I write this from recollection - but you will easily see if I am right on this point

The assertion that after the stamped envelopes were issued, counterfeits were made in France & sent over to this country - originating I think in the evidence of Col: Maberley (a very hostile witness) and carefully re-produced by Chalmers - had no foundation whatever in fact - What collector can shew any of these spurious envelopes?

~~Which~~ The statement that Sir Roland Hill's plan was adopted without any one knowing how it was to be carried out, is another specimen of the manner in which Chalmers puts forward any statement he thinks will suit his purpose wholly regardless of its truth - The statement is absolutely untrue -

With regard to your suggestion that some attempt should be made to cross examine the witnesses who testify that James Chalmers invented stamps in 1834 - I think after reading the memo: I have drawn up in "The origin of postage stamps" you will almost agree with me that it would not be worth while even to cross the street to hear what they have to say - I shew that the statement must be untrue - As untrue as the statement of any one that he invented "Return Railway tickets" as an easy way of preparing passengers" (see similar Claim as regards stamps advanced for Chal[illegible] before

P.S. In my last letter I forgot, and in this letter I had till now forgotten - to say that on again reading the recommendations of the 5th Report I have come to the conclusion that in one of my notes on a printed paper I sent you some time ago - pointing out Patrick Chalmers misrepresentations - I made a charge against him which I now think may be unjust - Fortunately you are the only person to whom I have made it -

I pointed out that in his quotation of the Recommendations of the Commissioners of P.O. Inquiry in that Report, while they merely propose that Pence Current exceeding ½ ounce in weight or containing advertisements should

be

charged the same as Newspapers – then 4d per copy) – Chalmers had, in order to distort the meaning to suit his purpose, inserted the figures (1) in the quotation marks

It is quite true that he has made this wholly unwarrantable insertion – but looking to the fact that, shortly after, the Stamp duty was reduced to one penny – and that the Commissioners plainly refer in their Report to some contemplated (though unnamed) reduction – Chalmers may perhaps truthfully assert that he inserted the figure rather for the purpose of explanation than for the sake of deceiving –

Please therefore kindly run your pen through the note in question.

By the way I see that in your last letter you suppose I have referred you to Mr. Pemberton as the custodian of the Chalmers correspondence – I don't know any Mr. Pemberton – it was Mr Philbrick Q.C and president of the London Philatelic Society to whom I referred –

I suppose there is but little chance of your coming over the water – if you do I will certainly show you the letters –

Yours very faithfully

Pearson Hill

Enc. B.

(B)

THE DUNDEE COURIER AND ARGUS,

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1888.

## THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

SIR,—I have in two different weeks in the *Dundee Courier* read that the date of the invention of the adhesive stamp has been a mistake. That Rowland Hill's evidence (in which adhesive among other kinds of postage stamps were purposed) was given on the 13th of February, 1837, is a lie. He goes on with a number of dates, which I believe to be a batch of made-up lies altogether. There is no use of saying much more about it. I question very much if the same man ever spoke to Mr Chalmers in his life. I believe he has been prompted to say what he has said by Pearson Hill or some of his friends. There is little mistake of it. He has been ashamed to put his name down. He says he is "A Lover of Truth," and I believe he is a maker of lies. He will be getting a share of the £200 that was to be given for the best stamp. Some people can do a great deal for money. The carter says, "The money makes the mare to go." It was Rowland Hill who made the slips, and they did not suit. Mr Chalmers' was a small stamp, about an inch square. It was I, William Whitelaw, who gummed the stamps in the month of August, 1834, and Mr David Maxwell was a boy in Mr Chalmers' office at the same time, and soon after left to go and learn the mechanic business with Messrs Umherston & Kerr, and was bound with an indenture. That indenture is dated the 1st November, 1834.* I have never seen Patrick for more than 50 years, and my address is No. 2 Black Street, Townhead, Glasgow.

WILLIAM WHITELAW.

Glasgow, May 2, 1888.

!!

I don't even know who "A Lover of Truth" is = W.

!!

Perhaps not. but he has been in correspondence with him.

* This date is of no value. 1st I don't think Mr David Maxwell comes forward to support this statement ~~that he started then~~. 2nd The fact that he went to Messrs. Umherston & Kerr in Nov: 1834 is not at all inconsistent with the fact that in 1837 he may have helped to gum & cut up James Chalmers stamps, unless we are to believe that he never on a single occasion looked in upon his old

Old comrades & gave them a help in their work. 3rdly It is directly contradicted by James Chalmers own statements, and he must know better than any one else —

6. Pembridge Square. London W
9th June 1888.

J. K. Tiffany Esq.

My dear Sir.

I trust you safely received my letter of 28th April last and the copies of my pamphlet on the Origin of Postage Stamps which I then sent you.

The "few days grace" for which asked, before replying more fully to the questions raised in your letter of 13 March have extended themselves into weeks, but I have been busy fighting a battle in the Dundee papers against Patrick and all his hosts, with the result that thus far the Finance Committee of the Town Council report against subscribing to the James Chalmers bust; though as the project is being pushed by the Dundee Burns Club (which is, I am told, a small society of working men, quite under Pat Chalmers' thumb) the bust will no doubt ultimately be placed in the New Art Gallery.

You will remember that in Pickwick the Hon.le W. Slumkey M.P. was presented with a silver coal scuttle, as a public testimonial – the greater part of the purchase money being, it was alleged, indirectly subscribed by himself – a precedent which no doubt Pat Chalmers may find useful on this occasion – though I am bound to add that James Chalmers was a very useful and honourable man, and that had the bust been intended to commemorate what he really did, instead of what he never did, not a word could be said against the proposal.

I send you copies of my letters in the Dundee Advertiser, and of Pat. Chalmers' extraordinary replies – he has apparently become quite incapable of telling the truth, and altogether declines my challenge to clear his character by an action for libel.

One rather useful result of this controversy – before I took part in it – has

has been to produce a letter from Mr. Whitelaw, who you will remember is one of the principal "living witnesses" for the 1834 claim. His letter, which I send herewith shews beyond question that he is not a mere witness, but an advocate who, like Pat himself, does not care what statement he makes if he thinks it will support his case. See his assertion that the statement "that Rowland Hill's evidence (in which adhesive among other kinds of postage stamps were proposed) was given on 13 Feb^y 1837 is a lie"!! and that it was Rowland Hill who proposed the "slips" which were a failure!! What value can any body place upon evidence coming from such a source?

Enc B

The idea of placing any reliance on the evidence of these old people of Dundee, who after fifty years pretend they can recollect not merely facts (which might not be difficult) but the dates, and correct order in which the several facts occurred seems to me so absurd that I am sure you will not be offended if I say, in perfect friendliness, and knowing Postal history as I do, that I can scarcely comprehend your suggesting that steps should be taken to cross examine them. Let me put a parallel case. Suppose I were to start a cock-and-bull story that the President of the United States, years ago, paid a great compliment to Sir Rowland Hill by appointing on his recommendation Mr. William Nye, and "Ah Sin" (vide The Heathen Chinee) the first postmaster in California and that certain old "darkies" men there can recollect or are "convinced" that this took place in 1837. You would doubtless point out that the date given could not possibly ~~have~~ been correct, inasmuch as California did not at that time form part of the United States, and therefore that the President could not possibly have made such an appointment in 1837; and moreover that these gentlemen's own letters shew that they never entered that State till 1850 – just as I point out that inasmuch as prepayment of postage practically did not exist, and could not have been adopted in 1834, postage stamps could not then have been invented as there was no opening for them, and moreover that James Chalmers himself

himself gives 1837 as the date at which he first made his plan public. What would you say to my suggesting that the evidence of the old "darkies" was so very important that it should be thoroughly sifted? Would not your reply be that even if there were no written evidence to the contrary, the obvious impossibility of the statement they sought to prove destroyed even the small amount of credence which, under the most favourable circumstances could possibly be attached to mere recollections of events so long gone by?

I remember many years ago reading an account, I think of the Battle of Inkermann, where the writer pointed out that though many of the important events that took place in that battle were distinctly remembered and graphically described by the soldiers who had taken part therein, hardly any two people agreed as to the order in which these events occurred. He instanced the difficulty any one would have, say, after a Ball or Fête, in giving the correct order in which the many little incidents he recollected took place. To take an instance nearer home I myself would not venture to say, without referring to the documents, whether any particular point in this controversy was dealt with in my first, or second, or third letter to you - or whether ~~any particular~~ the great reduction of postage in the Postal Union was effected before or after I left the Post Office in 1872, and when we remember that in the Chalmers' case the recollection has to go back 50 years or more, it seems to me obviously impossible to attach any value to such statements in attempting to decide whether James Chalmers' plan preceded or merely followed that of Sir Rowland Hill. Even if we were certain that the witnesses had not already been "primed" as to what they were to say, the feat they try to accomplish is a physical or mental impossibility - They can no more prove such facts by their unaided memory than any one of them could raise a hundred ton weight by his unaided strength. How can you cross examine those that you cannot compel even to take an oth?

See especially on this point my letter to the Times of 5 June (Doc A)

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Having now much relieved my mind, I proceed to deal with

those

these points in your letter of 18th March and its enclosure, which have not already been sufficiently answered in my pamphlet on the Origin of Postage Stamps.

The paper on the Collection of Postage by means of stamps is not only earlier in date than the Treasury Circular, but what is just now of some importance, is earlier than the debate in the House of Commons of 5th July 1839, of which P. Chalmers now tries to make so much; asserting (falsely of course) that it was then authoritatively stated by Government that up to that date Sir Rowland Hill's plan did not include the use of adhesive postage stamps. ~~With respect to this Debate I enclose a separate memo.~~

Enc: C *

You say it is "desirable to know how much Wallace knew of Chalmers prior to December 1837. So far as I know neither Wallace, Hume, Warburton, Charles Knight, Mr. D. Hill, Rowland Hill, or any of the early postal reformers ever heard of him — Patrick Chalmers does not produce a single letter or other document in support of his bare, and consequently worthless statement. Until Sir Rowland Hill's plan of Uniform Postage was announced, James Chalmers' exertions seem to have been confined exclusively to local matters — such as obtaining an acceleration of the mails to and from Dundee.

As regards the American stamps they were prepared under the authority of the celebrated Stamp Act — the date of which I see the Encyclopaedia Britannica gives as 1765. Of course they were never used. though they show that adhesive stamps are at least 120 years old

With respect to Wallace's proposal that letters should be charged according to weight, you seem to misunderstand it. He never abandoned the idea, and it is entirely in accordance with and not opposed to his proposals to adopt a less oppressive scale of postage on letters going long distances. It is important you should understand this point, so I will try to make it clear. Wallace never contemplated that a half ounce letter should be charged the same postage whatever distance it

* Looking at my (81) note on p. 2 of Enc: A. I don't think any memo. can be required — See also Note B on Enc D — The Ch: of Exchequer's two objections were compulsory prepayment and placing the manufacture of stamps in the hands of one firm — The first he overcame by allowing letters to go unpaid. The second was overcome partly by allowing any one to form paper to be stamped but chiefly by the adhesive stamps proposed by Sir R Hill in Feby 37 — See "The Origin of Postage Stamps" pp: 10–27 — Read also the debate in Hansard illegible Vol. 48. 3rd series p. 1361.

it was carried. Postage with him was not to be (as now) regulated solely by weight, but by weight and distance combined, instead of, as then in some cases, by number of enclosures and distance.

The local "Penny Post" letters and the London District (2 & 3) Post Letters were all charged by weight, but as a weight of I think 4 ounces was allowed I don't ~~think~~ suppose many letters were ever charged double.

As regards "General Post" letters, however, i:e letters going from one post town in the U.K. to another, the case was wholly different, a most complicated and absurd system of charge being in operation, as is explained in "The Post Office of 50 years ago" p:4. If a letter was under one ounce in weight, its weight in no way determined its postage; it was charged single, double or treble rates according to the number of its enclosures, though, as the "Big and Little" letters I sent you shew the "single" letter might far out-weigh the double or treble letter. If however a letter exceeded an ounce in weight it was treated in a totally different manner. The number of rates of postage to which it was liable, was then calculated entirely according to its weight, one rate being charged for every quarter of an ounce. But these rates were not uniform rates, they depended on the distance the letter was carried (See Table in Post Office of 50 years ago - p. 4) Thus a five fold letter i:e a letter weighing 5 quarter-ounces - going to Croydon from London (10 miles) was charged 4 × 5 = 20: One going to Liverpool 11 × 5 = 55: and one going to John O'Groats 20 × 5 = 100 plus ½ = 100½ or 8/4½.

Wallace desired that letters below an ounce in weight, should be charged on the same system as those above that weight. i:e that a quarter ounce letter should be charged as a "single" letter, without reference to the number of its enclosures: but he had no idea whatever of uniformity

in

in the rates of postage to be so charged.

You will find his suggestion made, or repeated, in the 4th Report certainly not in the 5th in which I think the question of letter postage never comes up.

The other points in your Memo are answered by notes thereon. This I return herewith. Enc D

I send you a second edition of the Origin of Postage Stamps. One of the Welsh Postmasters has sent me a translation from Mr. Samuel Roberts' works on Penny Postage in which, writing in 1846, he more than once refers Rowland Hill as the author of the system*. This I note at p. 18. I also in p. 22 call attention to P. Chalmers' fabrication of fictitious letters, and add at the end a Memo which I expose his matchless mendacity. A few other verbal alterations have been made which I have marked in pencil. I also send a copy of the Philatelic Record of May 81 containing a letter of mine and an important one from Mr. Westoby.

* a copy of this shall come later on.

In the same packet I enclose the 4th & 5th Vic: Cap: 96. I had some difficulty in getting it, as it is now out of print. As you prefer to get these documents direct – and though very pleased to send them I quite see that there are good reasons why you should not even appear to be under any obligation to me – I have called on the publishers of these Parl.y papers – Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode of East Harding Street London EC to ascertain what arrangements they make for supplying distant applicants.

They tell me the usual plan is for persons to send with their list of "wants" the money for the purchase, and the documents are then sent by post. On my pointing out that you (whose name I gave) could not suitably tell the publishing price, they replied that sometimes a deposit of £1 or even 10/- was sent to be "worked off" in

in documents, the balance being returned when desired. But finding, according to another rule, that if on any occasion the moneys were insufficient, a month might be lost to you by their writing for the difference before sending the papers, I have given them my own guarantee that you will repay them, so that you should not be subject to such delay. The cost of these smaller publications is very moderate - the 4th & 5th Vic. Cap. 96 now sent being only one shilling, so I should think a £1 deposit would be ample.

I shall like to know the effect on your mind of the "Prince of Wales Stamps". Mr Philbrick highly approves of it - so you will see does Westoby.

I may excuse haste - as the hour of post is close at hand -

Yr. very faithfully
Pleasants

10. June 1888.

P.S. After all my letter was too late for Saturday's mail, so I kept it back to add a few words.

I enclose for you to see (and keep if you desire) one of the adhesive medicine labels - This is of course quite a modern specimen, but the general character of the stamp is identical with those I remember as far back as 1850, and I have little doubt is similar to those used in 1834

Page E

Patrick Chalmers has recently issued two other documents

of

of which doubtless you have received copies - One is a translation of a paper in the German Philatelic Journal the "Postwertzeichen" (no doubt communicated by himself) in which amongst other misstatements there is repeated that extremely disingenuous falsification for which he was called to account in the Philatelic Record (London) of Feb.y 1883 - of which I sent you a re-print long ago - viz: in order to make it appear that Sir R. Hill in his pamphlet did not suggest adhesive stamps, he quotes from that pamphlet the paragraphs in which the stamped covers and sheets of paper only are mentioned He deliberately keeps back the fact that in the very next paragraph Sir R Hill proposes the adhesive stamps - This paragraph he characteristically suppresses !!

In the other paper - a printed letter addressed to Mr Henderson of the Quaker City Phil.c Society (to whom I intend to send documents) he amongst countless other misstatements again quotes as proof that Sir R. Hill did not originate the Penny Postage, the clerical error* in the (long ago, as he knows, challenged and corrected) in the Treasury Minute of 11 March 1854 on Sir R Hill's retirement, wherein reference is made to those who before the development of Sir R Hill's plans [were supposed to have] urged the adoption of Penny Postage. This deliberate misrepresentation was, you will find, exposed in the leading article in The Postal Telegraphic and Telephonic Gazette of 14th March 1884 of which some time ago I sent you a M.S. copy. I now send for your information a copy of Mr Gladstone's letter in which you will see the meaning which he the writer of that minute intended the passage to bear -

* Mr. Gladstone's letter shews that this was a passage misunderstood than a clerical error

Enc F

I dare say you will tell me again that it is but little use to convict P. Chalmers of these frauds - that great license is allowed to an advocate or so - but I am perhaps too strongly prejudiced in favour of the feeling - universal in this the Old Country - that a man who is guilty of systematic fraud and misrepresentation in one set of statements are utterly worthless. If in a single instance you find that I have attempted to deceive you or have been guilty of even the slightest equivocation - throw me over at once, and accept Patrick Chalmers as the fearfully slandered and injured innocent he now impudently tries to appear -

Pearson Hill

P.S. I enclose cuttings from Standard & Mercury of 9th June which may interest you

Copy of Official reply from the Assistant Secretary of the General Post Office, London, to the Town Clerk of Dundee, who had written asking whether Sir Rowland Hill, or James Chalmers first proposed the use of adhesive postage stamps:

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General Post Office
July 4. 1888.

Sir,

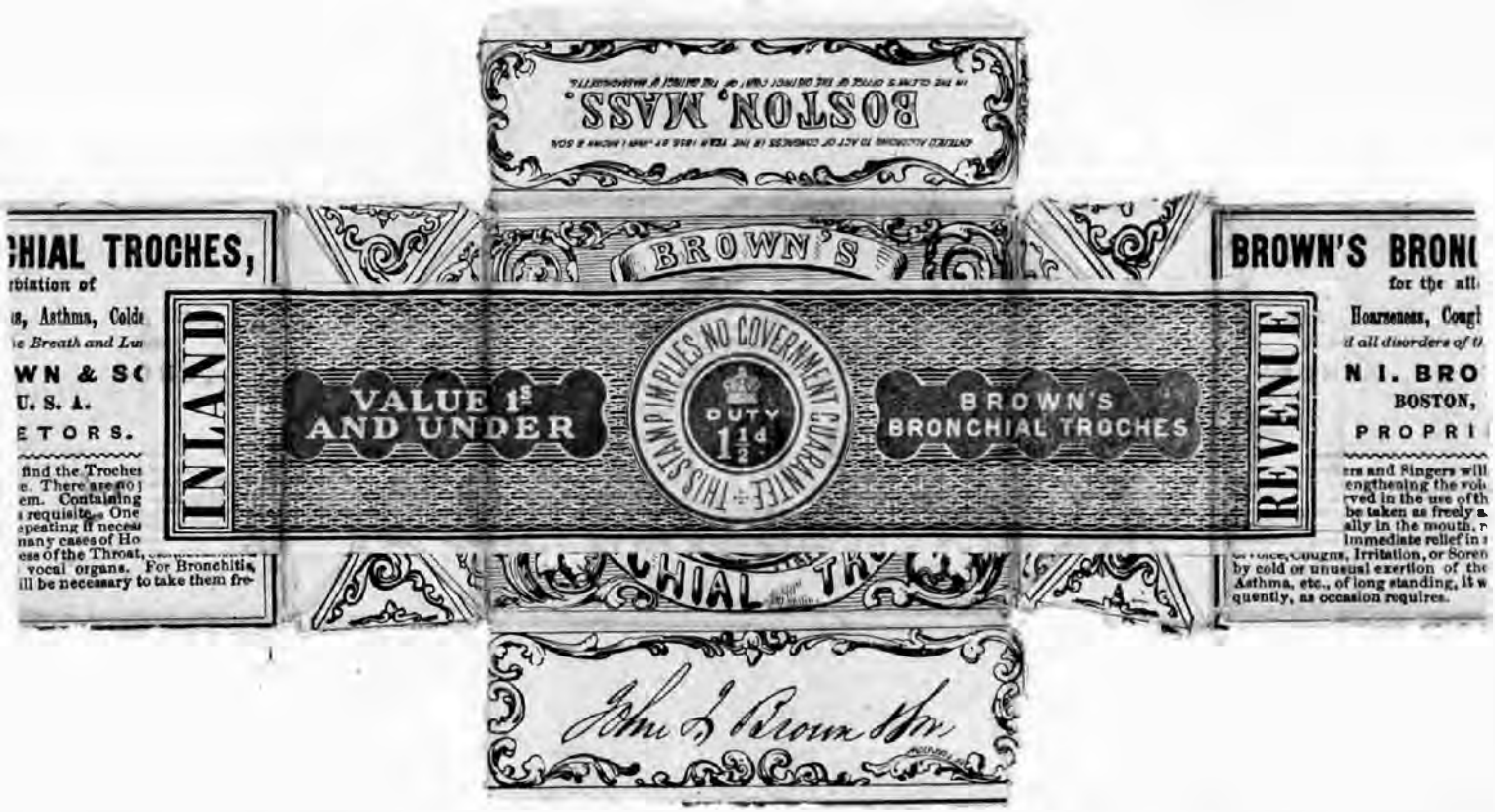
In reply to your letter of 23 Ultimo I beg leave to inform you that according to the records of this Department the use of adhesive postage stamps was first suggested by Sir Rowland Hill in his evidence of the 13 February 1837 given before the Commissioners of Post Office enquiry, and printed at page 33 of their 9th Report dated July 7. 1837.

A suggestion respecting the use of such stamps was also made by Mr. James Chalmers, but so far as the official records shew, not earlier than the 8th February 1838. This suggestion is contained in "The Post Circular" Newspaper of 6th April of that year.

I am &c

(Signed) A. Joyce.

Mr. Hay Esq.


BROWN'S
INLAND
REVENUE
VALUE 1s AND UNDER
THIS STAMP IMPLIES NO GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE
DUTY 1½d
BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES
BOSTON, MASS.
John L. Brown & Son
CHIAL TROCHES,
BROWN'S BRONC
for the all
Hoarseness, Coug
N I. BRO
BOSTON,
PROPRI

voted for giving a second casting vote in favour of the resolution. But we doubtfully assert it was a unanimous vote in favour of his father having been "first in the field". He has recently published a statement that the inscription he has recently put on a new headstone over his father's grave – stating that James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme from collapse by his penny stamps – had been put on without the official sanction & approval of the Dundee Town Council. You will see by the enclosed newspaper cutting that the Town Council repudiates all responsibility for the inscription having never authorised a new headstone. When will people learn that a lie is not to be believed? Yrs very faithfully

(P.S.) Pearson Hill.

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

London
24th July 1888

My dear Sir

I send you by this post (Registered Book Post) some printed copies of the recent correspondence on the Chalmers Craze which has lately appeared in the Dundee Advertiser & elsewhere.

I am pondering over the possible causes of your long silence – my letters to you of 28th April & 9th June last having been up to the present unacknowledged – possibly you are too busy to write in these electioneering

J. K. Tiffany Esq.

times, or perhaps you may have
taken up my invitation that you
should come over and inspect
James Chalmers original letters
but I should be glad of a line
to know you have received them
all right, and also the packet of
10 copies of my pamphlet on the
Origin of Postage stamps sent last April.

I have been having some
little correspondence with Mr
George Henderson, of 1422 Chestnut
Philadelphia - and have
him, if you & he meet at Boston &
shew you what I have written -
I have also had some correspondence
with Mr. L. Aldrich of Boston
on the Chalmers case - and have sent
him many (modern) documents -

The Dundee Town Council has
voted the £5 for the bust of Chalmers
the proposer after matters having modified
its form specially to avoid expressing
any opinion on the disputed question
of priority - the votes for and against
were equal - the Provost (who had also

"repudiated the opinions" of his friends

I send this under cover to the Postmaster of Boston. as I am not sure whether if sent direct to Mr. Jones it would reach you before you sailed for the meeting

Yrs very faithfully
Pearson Hale

P.S. Be sure to ask Mr Geo: Henderson of Philadelphia (Quaker City Phil: Society) to show you my letters of 19th & 21st instant

I hope you received my letters of 28th April 9th June & 21st July - With the 1st I sent 10 copies of my pamphlet on the origin of Postage stamps & other documents - In the 2nd I answered fully your questions, especially those about Wallace's suggestion of charging letters by weight & in the 3rd I enquired after the other two letters, to which I had rec'd no reply.

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

London

28 July 1888

J. R. Tiffany Esq.

My dear Sir

I am not sure whether the enclosed copy of a Certificate given in Sept. 1839 by James Chalmers' contemporaries in Dundee will be of service to you at the Boston Meeting. but I send it, as it seems to me useful in further disproving, if it be necessary to do so, the supposed recollections of the old people in Dundee, which form the whole evidence in support of Chalmers' 1834 claim.

The certificate was sent in by James

Chalmers to the Treasury in his letter of 30 Sep: 1839, in support of his claim that he was "first in the field" and, as you will see is like every other genuine document perfectly consistent with the statement he makes in his letters of 1st October, 1839 and 18th May 1841 - viz that he first made his plan public "nearly two years before" the Treasury minute of August 1839 - for, as I shew in my "Origin of Postage Stamps" and in my letters to yourself, and as an examination of the Parliamentary Reports and evidence I have sent you will amply establish, his "proposal to establish a Uniform Rate of Postage was announced" prior to the

space of Sir R. Hill's pamphlet.

Can any reasonable person suppose that when James Chalmers was doing his best to establish his priority, that this certificate would have been silent as to the 1834 claim, if that claim had had the slightest foundation?

I also enclose copy of a letter which has been sent from the Assistant Secretary of the General Post Office London in reply to enquiries by the Town Clerk of Dundee - which the believers in Chalmers assertions will find rather difficult to reconcile with his statement that that Department has

P.S. In my letter to Mr George Henderson I point out, anent the 5th Report, that Chalmers' statement that the Commrs recommended "low and uniform rates of postage, pre paid by stamp, at the rate of 1d per half ounce" is absolutely untrue. Where the half ounce comes in, the stamp duty was to be only ½ – Where the penny stamp duty was paid, the weight was unlimited – and in either case the ½ or 1 stamp duty covered not one transmission only, but even a dozen if desired – I suggest whether the otherwise inexplicable fact of Sir R. Hill making no reference in his pamphlet or evidence to this Report, and the Commissioners and his enemies at the Post Office never discovering his alleged plagiarism is not easily explained by

by them all knowing perfectly well that the plans were totally different — and that the low rates charged on newspapers and other printed matter were no precedents for letter postage? — a simple explanation for one worthy of belief than the complicated explanation put forward by Mr. Chalmers — (See reprint from The Philatelic Record of Nov. 1882 — p. 2)

50 Belmont Parks
26 Oct. 1905

Dear Mr. Phillips

I am getting very
uneasy at the probable
effect of the "Judgment" of the
Philatelic Society in the
Chalmers case, if that
judgment be anything
like what you sketched out.

Chalmers might I think
fairly claim it as proving

him the vote -

He might say that the real point at issue was whether Sir R Hill originated the plan of low & uniform rate of postage prepaid by stamp, which is the essential characteristic of his plan of Penny Postage

He would say that I assert Sir Rowland was the originator & he (Chalmers) asserts that he took the plan from others - notably from the 5th Report - as regards uniformity & amount of rate and from James Chalmers as

regards stamps - The Philatelic Society (he will say) investigated the fact and shew that Sir R. Hill was not the originator - Simply they give ~~him~~ a different origin to the idea - Chalmers will say he does not care a fig whether it was the 5th Regiment or any other one - he has stated it was not Sir R Hill, and the Philatelic Society decide that he is right.

I think I could shew you pretty conclusively that the idea that uniformity of charge was practically adopted

as regards newspapers, prior to 1837 is inaccurate, unless you are also prepared to admit that uniformity of charge also existed as regards "Franks" which were delivered free, whatever distance they were carried.

That the Newspaper stamp was never regarded as a payment for postage, any more than the Member's signature on the cover of a "Frank" was regarded, will I think be clear to you when I point out

1st That all newspapers whether they went by Post or not had to be stamped

2nd That the newspaper was entitled to free transmission because it was a newspaper not because it bore a stamp - indeed as it might be sent through the post twenty times without any additional charge, it is hard to see how the stamp could be regarded as a postage stamp.

and 3rd That Newspapers were actually

liable to postage in many cases which postage was always paid in money (or after 1840 in postage stamps) over and above the value of the Impressed Newspaper stamp. For instance up to 1854 no stamped newspaper could be posted in one part of London for delivery in London - or I think circulate in the local deliveries of any Post town unless the additional postage of 1d was paid -

I quite remember when London Newspaper agents to get over this difficulty, used to send the newspaper they wanted delivered through the post in London down the river by steamer to the

posted at Gravesend, as that place was then just beyond the limits of the London district post.

I should be very glad if you could spare me an hour any day you like & talk over the matter, which would I think be according to precedent, as the plaintiff usually has right of reply.

Newspapers have always had exceptional privileges. They have them now. If all that is required is to suggest that letters should be treated as newspapers, let any one try to get the Government to issue that a letter however heavy, shall be delivered in the United Kingdom for one halfpenny.

Instead of the last paragraph of the proposed judgment I left out, I think it might be better & more dignified to say simply

"That the Philatelic Society thereupon expressed their regret that when these facts were known, instead of withdrawing his charges, instead of republishing them with the assertion that no exception had been taken ~~to what he said~~ his statements

Yr. faithful
Pearson Hill

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.

July 8th 1886

Sir.

I take leave to send you as one who takes interest in the history of the postage stamp, copy of a pamphlet lately published by me on the subject.

Much delusion exists on the subject of the penny postage reform. Originality formed no part of the great services of Sir Rowland Hill.

Yours very respectfully

Pat Chalmers

F. A. Philbrick Esq
L. C.

4

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.

November 12th, 1886.

Sir,

As you take much interest in the question of penny postage reform, and the origin of same & of the Adhesive Postage Stamp, I beg to hand you copy of a further pamphlet I have just published on these matters.-

Yours respectfully
Pat. Chalmers

F. A. Philbrick, Esq
Q. C.

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
November 18th 1886

Sir,

I am much obliged by your note of 16th, and though finding you do not agree in my conclusions, I will not say I am sorry; because it is not desirable, even if to be expected, that the relatives or immediate friends & executors of the late Sir Rowland Hill ~~as seem~~ should become disabused of long cherished convictions. –

My purpose, however, in now addressing you is to hand you a pamphlet on the Committee part ~~part~~ of the question which you have not yet seen, and no doubt

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
November 18th 1886

Sir,

I am much obliged by your note of 16th, and though finding you do not agree in my conclusions, I will not say I am sorry; because it is not desirable, even if to be expected, that the relatives or immediate friends & supporters of the late Sir Rowland Hill ~~as seen~~ should become disabused of long cherished convictions. –

My purpose, however, in now addressing you is to hand you a pamphlet on the Committee part ~~front~~ of the question which you have not yet seen, and no doubt your wish is to see all particulars.

If the Committee have any explanation to put forward why do they withhold such? It is too late now to pretend that I am beneath their notice – without some movement on their part there is only one conclusion at which all impartial readers ~~of~~ at home & abroad of my late pamphlet can arrive, and these readers will now be counted in thousands, while history, too, will support me.

You will have perceived that amongst my most effective adherents are actually the three City papers themselves – my letter to Sir John Monckton, moreover, having been published in their columns. In

the face of all of which this Committee can "only run away & hide themselves" – at the sametime by one or ~~others~~ more of their number or adherents putting it forth in the press that I "claim the penny postage scheme for my father," and further returning me in the handwriting of one of their late Secretaries that evasive letter given at page 14, signed "John Staples". –

What does all this amount to – this silence, this misrepresentation, and this evasion – if not to the clear admission that by any fair means or open argument my case is unanswerable?

I am sure, therefore, that should you, or any future writer in your Magazine, again take up the pen on the subject, it will be to call upon this Committee to publish their explanation under their own signature & authority if any such explanation they have – or failing this, to announce your withdrawal from the company of such allies, and from a cause unsupported in the manner I have exposed. –

Yours very respectfully

Pat. Chalmers

F. A. Philbrick Esq.
L. C.

Copy.

1, Mayfield Road,
South Wimbledon, S.W.
May 19th 1887

Sir, Statements with reference to me, as evidenced by the enclosed circular letter, having appeared for sometime past in the "Philatelic Record" understood to be the official organ of your Society, permit me respectfully to ask if the articles therein published having said reference to me and to my publications are to be considered as emanating officially from your Society.

As a precedent for my now troubling you with this enquiry,

permit me to refer you to page 59 of the pamphlet herewith where a corresponding enquiry was submitted by me to the Secretary of H. M. Post Office, and to ~~the~~ which I was favoured with the prompt and distinct reply there given. –

I am &c

(signed) Pet. Chalmers

E. S. Barrow Esq
Secretary
The Philatelic Society
of London.

(Copy)

P. Chalmers Esq.

Lamb Building Temple
20 May 1887.

Sir,

I have a copy letter to the Secretary of the Philatelic Society from you under date 19th inst enquiring as to the "official organ" of the Society.

No doubt you will hear from him in reply: but as you sent to me also I have to state what indeed you might read in the Philatelic record that the Society does not possess any "organ" official or otherwise: & has no control or voice in what that journal publishes.

I have received from time to time the pamphlets you have sent me: advancing claims to have your late Father regarded as the originator of the adhesive postage stamp.

These pamphlets have been from time to time considered by the Philatelic Society London. I speak for myself & for all the members who have

read them, when I say that in our unanimou
opinion they do not support your allegations: & th
the Society on full consideration adheres to it
former careful & deliberate decision, communica
to you at the time it was come to.

You remember the Society had your written
statement and all the evidence you chose to lay
before it & also the original papers & letters of yo
Father to Sir Rowland Hill. It had also the offici
papers & reports of the Parliamentary Committee
& of the Department: & the investigation was lon
painstaking & conducted judicially & fairly.

The unanimous award was that your Father
claims were not substantiated: that your allegat
are not correct & we utterly deprecated your atta
on the memory & character of Sir R. Hill as al
unfounded & ungenerous.

You print on 12 May that the "Post office
repudiate the statements in the Record. Sha
the best authority for saying if you mean
to insinuate the P. Office or any of the official
there believe in the claims of your father, y

are utterly wrong & in error.

They repudiate them as strongly as I do: because they are aware of the whole facts, as was and is the London Society: & do not judge on the mere extracts which are dextrously pieced together to make an apparent case look attractive. You say on to may it is usual for reasonable men to "accept an award when made against them". I am sorry to see you thus convict yourself by your own words if you wish to rank as a reasonable man. How you reconcile your statements with facts you must know is to me inexplicable no reiteration proves a disputed fact & no one can judge till they see the whole evidence. It is perfectly useless to my mind to talk as you do of the opinions of those who are in your favour but who have never had the documents before them on which alone a judgment can be properly come to: and you have as I know entirely put a wrong construction on the acts & letters of the City Authorities in representing either the Lower

Clerk or the late City Solicitor as favouring your views: in attributing the change in a proposed inscription on Sir R. Hill's Statue to any act on your part or any idea that your allegations were well grounded.

I am sorry to have to write you this: but your continued letters to me: & persistent mis-statements both of facts & of motives in others compel me very plainly, very decidedly to tell you my own opinion & that of every competent authority I have had the opportunity to consult with on the matter.

I have little doubt you have entirely persuaded your own mind of the justice of the claims put forward for your late Father: he himself was the first when he knew all the facts to disclaim as he did under his own hand those pretensions you now so pertinaciously put forward. In conclusion I reserve to myself the right to make this letter known in case you should still continue to misrepresent the matter as you have in the past I request you will in common fairness not keep this letter back.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedt servt
Fred: A. Philbrick
Presdt Philatelic Soc
London

copy

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LONDON.

41 Lothbury Lane,
London. E.C.

May 23rd 89.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th inst; which was read at our last meeting.

I was instructed to write & inform you —

1. The Philatelic Society of London has no "organ" official or otherwise. If you refer to the "Philatelic Record" you will see that Journal distinctly states that fact. For instance as recently as in page 202

Clerk or the late Lord Beaconsfield as favouring your views: in attributing the change in a proposed inscription on Sir R. Hill's Statue to any a[illegible] on your part or any idea that your allegation[illegible] were well grounded.

I am sorry to have to write you this: but your continued letters to me: & persistent mis-statem[illegible] of facts & of motives in others compel me [illegible] plainly, very decidedly to tell you my ow[illegible] & that of every competent authority I [illegible] had the opportunity to consult with on th[illegible] ter.

[illegible] have little doubt you have entirely persua[illegible] your own mind of the justice of the claims put fo[illegible] your late Father: he himself was the first who [illegible] he knew all the facts, to disclaim as he did, under [illegible] hand those pretensions you now so pertinac[illegible] put forward. In conclusion I reserve to myself th[illegible] right to make this letter known in case you shou[illegible] shall continue to misrepresent the matter as y[illegible] have in the past I request you will in comm[illegible] fairness not keep this letter back.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedt servt
Fred: A. Philbrick
Prest Philatelic Soc[illegible]
London

copy

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY,
LONDON.

41 Leadenhall Lane,
London. E.C.

May 23rd 87.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th inst; which was read at our last meeting.

I was instructed to write & inform you —

1. The Philatelic Society of London has no "organ" official or otherwise. If you refer to the "Philatelic Record" you will see that Journal distinctly states that fact. For instance as recently as on page 202

of the number for January last.

2. The Society sees no reason to alter in any way, its already expressed decision, as to your claims on behalf of your late father. The decision was unanimously, was pronounced after full investigation & on the whole evidence submitted.

Yours truly

E. D. Green

Secretary

P. Chalmers Esq

a.
28 Cwf

9

Wimbledon,
May 24th 1887

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 20th Inst., in which you state that my late father "himself was the first when he knew all the facts to disclaim as he did under his own hand, those pretensions you were so pertinaciously put forward", may I beg to be favoured with a copy of the three Mr. Rowland Hill's letter to my father of date 18th Jan.y 1840 in which his view of these facts is laid down - also of the "copy prefixed of date 13th March, 1838" alluded to in my father's reply of May following, the only portion of this correspondence which has been made public.

I am, Sir
Your obedt. Servant
Pt. Chalmers

F. A. Philbrick Esq.
Q. C.

P. Chalmers Esq,

Lamb Building Temple
25 May 1887.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 24th begging to be favoured with a copy of the letter written by the late Sir Rowland Hill to your Father & of a "copy prefixed of date 13 March 1838." I am not able to comply with your request as I otherwise should for the simple reason, that I have not a copy of the documents you ask for.

They and many others were produced and left with the Philatelic Society London on the occasion of their having the matter submitted to them

your own written statements in reply, after a full copy of what Mr Pearson Hill alleged had been sent you for your comments & observations were also before it & if from them (which of course you have kept, but which you seem in your many prints to entirely ignore) you cannot get what you require, you had better apply to Mr Pearson Hill to whom the documents he furnished were returned, after the investigation had terminated.

Your letter to me calls for a remark - you insert an innuendo of an utterly misleading kind. you describe

Sir Rowland Hill's letter as one "in which his view of the facts is laid down".

Evidently with the desire to imply that in his answer your Father was misled by statements you would aver to be erroneous in Sir R. H's communication.

The facts told your Father by Sir R. Hill were all absolutely true and were shewn to be correct by the documents produced at the investigation. Neither your Father nor Sir R. Hill invented the adhesive stamp for postage purposes Several people suggested some such idea: of whom your Father was one: but in a crude & quite unworkable form: & it was not till after the

authorities had on Governt.
reducing the rate to 1d decided
on adopting the principle, that
the practical carrying it into
effect was accomplished thro
Messrs Perkins & Bacon.

Nor did your Father originate
the principle of compulsory pre-
payment. Adhesive stamps to
denote duty had been in use for
40 years, tho not in the Post Office
Mr. C. H. Whiting (among other people)
designed plenty of examples for
postal service both before & at
the time your Father had the
rough type form he sent up as
a specimen printed in Dundee
You accuse Sir R. Hill with
appropriating as his own the prior
proposals of other men: & of
plagiarism – both charges are
utterly unfounded & so demonstrated.
I can only wonder that you do
not recognise the real facts.

Yours obly
Fred: A. Philbrick

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

5th June 1887

Dear Mr Philbrick

The April & May numbers of the "Philatelic Journal of America" have been sent to me by an unknown friend (?) from which I see that our old friend Pat: Chalmers is

hard

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11

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5th June 1887

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hard

as with, communicating with the several American Philatelic Societies, some of them appear to believe in him, while the editor of the journal Mr. C. H. McKeel avowedly stands up for him -

There is also in the Gray Number a letter from Pat. repeating his two pet falsehoods -

i.e: that the London Philatelic Society decided, without hearing what he had to say, and that the Secretary of our Post Office has repudiated the statements of his (Pat's) antagonists.

Though disinclined to break my rule of absolutely refusing to notice Chalmers, I am not sure it might not be well to give a supplementary paper to the London Ph: Society

dealing with the case as it has developed itself since my paper of December 1881.

What say you to it — & when is the next meeting?

I don't quite care to send another paper to the Editor of the Phil: Journal of America who may be a friend of Pats & misrepresent facts after the fashion of the Editor of the Whitehall Review — but could you tell me the name of the President (in any action

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

and trustworthy member)
of the Principal American
Philatelic Society to whom
I might safely send such
documents?
Also do you know the
address of Major Evans
who, I gather from Pat's
letter is taking up the
case (by correspondence)

in America? I send & y. clerk did not
perhaps place food offered you till Tuesday
ammunition usefully on Wednesday – I hoped
in his hands – he very glad to come
I called at Y. Chamber round and talk over
on Saturday, afternoon the matter – if there
an the chance of finding would save you trouble
for – but you were away any time you like to fix

except Tuesday after 4 Pm
or Friday 10th when I expect
to be in the Committee
room of the H of C. on the
Sunday (Post Office) question
all day

Yrs very faithfully

Pearson Hill

Private

PS. I am just coming out with
a little work - "The Post Office of
50 years ago" containing reprint
of Sir Rowland Hill's pamphlet
of Feb.y 1837. I think you will like it
but I don't give my name as the writer

13

7th July 1897

Dear Mr Philbrick

I called to bring you a presentation copy of "The Post Office of 50 years ago" of which I have to ask your kind acceptance.

I also bring a couple of the Red penny labels on Dickensian threaded paper — I will make further search for your other wants — I am

preparing

the reply to "Bat." for the next meeting of the Phil: Soc: in October next when I hope to make him happy as a toad under a harrow—

See pp: 18-20 & p: 36 of the accompanying book: written for his special benefit

Yrs. very faithfully

Pearson Hill.

worst of d

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

18. Nov. 1887

Dear Mr Philbrick

As Mr. Westoby says you are again looking into the Chalmers case, it may be useful for you to see the letters which have passed between myself & Mr Tiffany, with whom I am still in correspondence -

I rather doubt the policy of trying to run Chalmers into the trap of admitting that the specimen (Chalmers) stamp "under the ounce Two pence" was made in 1834. as he would so easily get out of it again by saying that the wording of the adhesive stamp in 1838 was, of course, modified to suit the new arrangements. The best line of

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Pearson Hill.

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I rather doubt the policy of trying to run Chalmers into the trap of admitting that the specimen (Chalmers) stamp "Under the ounce Two pence" was made in 1834. as he would so easily get out of it again by saying that the wording of the adhesive stamp in 1838 was, of course, modified to suit the new arrangements. The best line of

of defence seems to me to be that taken in the letter in the "Postal Telegraphic & Gazette" of 5th Oct. 1883 -

I send you herewith the Philatelic Journal of America of September last as requested by Mr Westoby, who had been good enough to lend it to me -

As Mr. Westoby points out in his letter to me, one of Chalmers own witnesses shews that it was after the decision to adopt Penny Postage, that James Chalmers began to work at the adhesive stamp he probably meant, after the announcement of the plan i.e in 1837, which of course puts James Chalmers after Sir R Hill in point of date, and this statement is confirmed by a certificate from the leading men of Dundee dated 30 September 1837, sent in by James Chalmers himself to the Treasury of which I enclose you a copy -

I have no doubt that Patrick Chalmers knew of this certificate (which was printed at the time) and this knowledge would account for his eagerness to prove that Samuel Roberts had proposed Penny Postage before Sir Rowland Hill (of which no evidence has ever been produced) so as to prevent the ground from being cut from under his feet by this document.

If you like to fix any time for talking over the matter, let me know, and I will come to your chambers any afternoon except Tuesdays -

Yrs faithfully

Fearnehill

P.S. I will look up the old essays one of these fine days.

11

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

4 April 1888

Dear Dr. Philbrick

I shall have great pleasure in placing all documents essays &c in your hands to help in perfecting your work on the Postage stamps of the U.K. Could you fix a time for me to bring them to you?

My many thanks for your help in revising my Memo on the Quakers' crage. I have adopted

Almost all your suggestions of this morning received the "proofs" for correction - you shall have some to have an early copy -

In haste

Yrs very faithfully

Pearson Hill

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

18th March 1885

Dear Mr Philbrick

Many thanks for your kind letter which I might before now have acknowledged.

I send, by my son Rupert Torrens Hill — who is now reading with Mr. Tuxeton for the Bar — the first sheet of black penny labels. Perhaps you will kindly let him have the 24 proofs & essays respecting which I wrote to you. I have told him to

call for them about 4.15 Pm the same afternoon that you receive this letter...

I make him my messenger, as I should like to introduce him to you – I think you will find he has a head upon his shoulders–

You are too old a friend for me to have much hesitation in telling you that? did not quite contemplate making you a present of the essays I sent in Decr. 1882 and in April last – I sent them in accordance with what I gathered from your letter was a wish on your part to make an offer for them.

Now that I do not get from the G.P.O the sets of new foreign & colonial stamps as they come out, with anything like the same regularity as when I was still in the service, I keep up my collection in a lame sort of fashion, by "swopping" (generally through Stanley Gibbon or other dealers) any rare stamps or essays I

may perhaps, for other stamps I am wanting, or for the money wherewith to purchase them - and it was in consequence of your asking to have the refusal that I sent them to you direct rather than to any one else.

I have been too lazy, for the last six years to write to ask you what you desired to do - putting off so doing from day to day, until my write of 22nd ult. - but as regards those essays sent in 1882 (except the 24 prof.) if you will kindly accept them, I shall gladly give them to you "with both hands" - leaving you to make such offer as you may think fair for those sent last April (except the Chalmers essays) and for the proof sheet of penny stamps now forwarded - or to return them if you do not care to retain them.

Yrs very faithfully
Pearson Hill

17

6 Pembridge Square
30 Sep: 89 W.

Dear Dr Philbrick

Do you think it would be possible – say by the end of October – to arrive at a decision as to what you would wish to do as regards the various proofs, essays, &c &c.

which I forwarded you so long ago?

I find several other Stamp collectors are anxious to have a try for them, but I long ago promised you the first chance

I don't know whether it would at all assist you in your determination if I told you what I myself suppose them to be worth - though possibly I may shock you by the figure named

Looking to the fact that they are all absolutely genuine essays & to their rarity, and number - (the proof sheet of 1 stamps alone containing 240 stamps) - I think

as "Cabby" would say that £250 "would not be far out of the way"

Of course I do not include the Chalmers's essays, as these we must keep intact for some little time longer -

Yours very faithfully

Pearson Hill

18

Cambridge Square
10 March 1890

Dear Mr Philbrick

I want to have a talk with you about the coming exhibition of the Philatelic Society. Is there any time on Tuesday before 3.0 P.M. or on Wednesday (any hour) when I could find you disengaged -

Have

Have you seen Pat's latest lie? (if it be his latest). That the London Philatelic Society, which Mr Pearson Hill is a member now admit that Sir Rowland Hill was not the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp!

Yrs very sincerely

Clarence Hill

19

Cambridge Square
23 March 90

Dear Mr Philbrick

I called once or twice at your chambers in hopes of having some little talk with you about the coming Exhibition of the London Philatelic Society

I had at first intended to have arranged and exhibited

my complete set of English Postage Stamps from the commencement to the Jubilee issue - but I found (between ourselves) that the Commrs of Inland Revenue would much prefer that none of those sets - which they in a weak moment allowed to get out - should be exhibited

I don't think my old collection is worth exhibiting for though it contains some good things, it is now many years in arrear, and makes no show beside the really good collections of the present time

Possibly I might pick out a few gems - such as the original sketch of the Postage stamp - the first impression from the 1st head engraved - the "rainbow" series of the penny labels &c &c -

I might send a framed portrait of Sir Rowland Hill, and amongst

the Philatelic literature should
much like to exhibit my "Origin of
Postage Stamps" for Pats especial
behoof. and indeed am willing to
present say 100 copies to be sold
at the exhibition should such a
course be desired - Also I want to
subscribe & stand as a guarantor to the
Could you name an hour when I
could call & see you on these and
other questions? Yr. yours truly
Pearson Hill

P.S. Have you yet made up yr. mind about the
Essays &c? for if you do not care to take them I
would certainly propose to make a splendid "exhibit"
of them -

6. Pembridge Square W
15 April 1890

Dear Mr Philbrick

Many thanks for your valuable co operation re. Pat Chalmers! your suggestion that the real finding of the London Philatelic Society should be engrossed & exhibited over Pat's contribution is magnificent - and if that be done I at once waive all objection -

I have had the paragraph in "The Star" sent me - I don't know whether

you would object to do so, but I should greatly value a contradiction from you as President of the National Philatelic Society – as it would be accepted by the public I am sure as a thousand fold more conclusive than anything I might say – seeing that of course I am an interested party – I have written such a letter such as it seems to me you could easily write – indeed if you approve of it, it needs only your signature to be complete.

Should Pat reply, as he probably will, I will gladly step in, after your covering shot, and take up the cudgels –

Should I find the stamps not ready when I call this afternoon I will again call tomorrow at 3.30. for them –

L

I propose to stay in town till Thursday afternoon but will remain longer if there be any need for my so doing

Yrs. very faithfully
Pearson Hill

My Brighton address is
132. Marine Parade
Kent Town

21

14, Springfield Road,
Wimbledon.

July 23: 1891

Sir,

A few days ago I sent you copy of a fresh pamphlet just published by me in vindication of my late father's title as the man to whom we owe the adhesive postage stamp, of which I beg the favour of your perusal at convenience. I specially invite your attention to pages 17 to 30.

Yours respectfully

Pat. Chalmers

L. A. Philbrick, Esq
L. C.

Dear Mr Philbrick

The death of Pal the Quer
mendacious (which as it is
recorded in the Register of Deaths
at Wimbledon I presume we
~~make~~ may take as a fact not a fiction)
removes the objection I had
to publishing in full the papers
in my hands respecting the

apology for having inserted Barrett's "Stamp Mans" (Theodore Bull) wherein it is stated that he was poached into using strong language by those who purported to meet him with abuse instead of argument!! It was his task to abuse, because he could not reply to the argument! and facts stated by me.

yrs very sincerely
C. Vincent Crew
Yrs truly
Jas Hain Friswell

Think of the fellows lying slanders to the last! by absolutely denying having quotated the letters which he wrote to me!

Dec 7 91

suggestions made by Thomas Chalmers – but there are one or two points connected with the manner of doing which I should be glad to talk over with you, if you would fix a time for me to call upon you

The idea that is running through my mind is that but little good would come from my simply including them in another pamphlet, which Chalmers' supporters would probably regard as a mere ex-parte statement – and that the better course would be for me to address the London Philatelic Society, to say that I am now prepared to submit to them all documents – then for that purpose

to appoint a small committee of investigation in which any believer in Chalmers should be included – That prior to any investigation P.C's representatives as well as myself should be invited to send in all documents

bearing on the case - and that the

Committee should report to the

Society This last stipulation being to prevent the publication of any fictitious letters purporting to be by any of his successors in the business, after they have seen the genuine documents & know what to avoid

I think some authoritative

statement, such as their report would be

is necessary to disabuse the public

mind - (the Editor of the Brit. Encyclopaedia

mentioned) of the false impression Mr

Chalmers has created by his 10 years steadi

ing - of which evidence is shewn by the foolish

The Chalmers Correspondence

6. Pembridge Square London. W
12 December 1891.

Dear Mr Philbrick.

1. You will remember that more than 10 years ago, soon after the commencement of a series of virulent and persistent attacks by Mr. Patrick Chalmers upon the memory of my father the late Sir Rowland Hill, I laid before the London Philatelic Society, at one of its meetings, the correspondence — then recently discovered by me — which had passed between Sir Rowland Hill and Mr James Chalmers in 1838–40, on the subject of the adoption of adhesive stamps (as distinguished from other kinds of stamps) for postal purposes; and that in my paper read before that meeting and subsequently published in the Philatelic Record of November 1881, I gave copious extracts from those letters, proving that the claim advanced, some forty years after date, on behalf of Mr. James Chalmers to have been the first to suggest the use of such stamps was altogether unfounded — a conclusion which the London Philatelic Society, after a very thorough and patient investigation of the facts of the case, at another meeting in October 1882, unanimously confirmed*.

2. The attacks upon Sir Rowland Hill's memory by

* See Philatelic Record. November 1882.

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2. The attacks upon Sir Rowland Hill's memory by

* See Philatelic Record. November 1882.

by Mr. Patrick Chalmers — who upon this question seems to have been a monomaniac — were in no way stopped by the exposure of their utter untruthfulness, and as you will remember, though I thought it well some years ago to place in your custody the original letters &c referred to above — so that you, as President of the London Philatelic Society, might see that I was keeping back nothing that would benefit Mr. James Chalmers' credit — I have always steadily refused to pay any attention to Mr. Patrick Chalmers' constant complaints that I would not trust him with copies of the documents in extenso, though I have always promised that ultimately they should be communicated unreservedly to the public.

3 My reasons for that refusal, and indeed for my refusal to have any further correspondence or communication with Mr. Patrick Chalmers, have all along been well known to you, and also to every one who has read my pamphlet on "The Origin of Postage Stamps" and other occasional publications, viz: that Mr Patrick Chalmers, to whom in the first instance I had willingly given all information in my power, thought fit when he found the facts were against him, to turn round, and while falsely accusing Sir Rowland Hill's friends of "legerdemain", "artful insinuation", "gross misrepresentation" &c, to proceed himself to commit the very faults he professed to condemn, ~~by~~ and to publishing in his first pamphlet a false and garbled version

of

of the letters that had passed between us, capping the whole by coolly denying and continuing to deny the fraud even when a comparison of the letters with his pamphlet had conclusively proved the case against him.

4. From these and the even graver "irregularities", to use the mildest term, which he has perpetrated throughout the last eleven years – and to which from time to time public attention has been called*. it became evident to me that his object in seeking to know everything his father's letters contained was not a desire to ascertain the truth, but to find out how far he might proceed in his course of misrepresenting facts and fabricating fictitious documents without being again exposed, as he was in November 1881, by evidence under his father's own hand. His ignorance of the rocks that lay in his course being the only check upon his recklessness.

5. The death of Mr Patrick Chalmers, however, now removes the possibility of his making any improper use of the correspondence, and in the accompanying Memo., which I propose to publish, will be found unabridged copies of the several documents in question. These will I think prove, to any one interested in the matter, that so far from James Chalmers having been

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* See for instance
The Philatelic Record for Nov: 1881, Nov: 1882, Feb: 1883 & May 1888.
The Dundee Advertiser 16th & 30th April 1883, 25 May 1888, 2nd June 1888.
"The Origin of Postage Stamps" March 1888 } published by Morris [illegible] allett
The [illegible] to Do March 1889 } 68 Leadenhall Street London
The Stamp advertiser & Auction Record – 14 April, 14 May, 14 June 1890
My letter to The Treasury 14 Jan: 1891 – published in Stanley Gibbon's Monthly Journal 28 Feb: 91
Mr Philbricks letter in The Standard, 7th May 1890
Major Evans' article on the Chalmers' Claim in Stamp Advertiser of 14 April 1890

been treated with scant courtesy and questionable justice, he received from Sir Rowland Hill the fullest and kindest consideration – a fact which he himself in his letter of 18th May 1840 fully recognizes –

6. The time for publication having arrived a very important question arises, viz: as to the best method of so doing. It is desirable that every explanation should be given that may be necessary to remove all reasonable doubts on the part of those who appear to have been misled by Mr. Patrick Chalmers' persistent assertions; at the same time it is much to be wished that a wearisome dispute, which has already dragged itself over a period of more than eleven years, should be brought to a close. These objects will I think be best accomplished by my submitting the correspondence, and all papers connected therewith, before publication, to the London Philatelic Society, so that if there be any points upon which they desire fuller information, their queries and my rejoinders shall be published with the correspondence, and so form a portion of the permanent record.

7. Possibly the London Philatelic Society might deem it useful to appoint a Committee to investigate the matter, and upon that Committee it would be very desirable that some members – if there be any – who still believe in the Chalmers' Claim should be appointed, so that no question should arise as to the fairness of its decision.

S I

8. I need scarcely say it is with much reluctance that I find myself again obliged – though I hope for the last time – to refer to the extraordinary proceedings of Mr Patrick Chalmers. After having sufficiently exposed their character I took but little notice, during his life time, of his attacks, and in his grave he may well be left to lie in peace. The motto "De mortuis nil nisi bonum" though utterly disregarded by him throughout the last 11 years, is one that all would wish to see observed; but the promise I made long ago, and have constantly repeated to friends at home and abroad, that the correspondence between Sir Rowland Hill and James Chalmers should one day be published, must of course, be fulfilled; and unless reference be made to what has gone before, my reasons for hitherto withholding these documents would probably be by some persons misunderstood, while the bearing of the correspondence upon the question at issue would also be but imperfectly comprehended.

9. At all events I make no new charges against Mr. Patrick Chalmers. Those to which I am again obliged to refer I made years ago, when he had ample opportunity to bring their truth to the severest test. I need not remind you that for the slanderous attacks made by him upon the memory of the late Sir Rowland Hill, I was unable, as he well knew, to bring him to account, as unfortunately our law of libel affords no

protection

protection to the memory of the dead but ~~there~~ no such difficulty stood in Mr. P. Chalmers' way as regards the very grave charges I repeatedly brought against him. Over and over again, as you will remember, I dared him to bring an action for libel if these charges were in the least degree untrue, but the ordeal of having to make his assertions upon oath, and of being subjected to cross examination was one which he never ventured to face; even though, had he only been speaking the truth, he must have obtained the heaviest pecuniary damages and have secured the fairest possible opportunity of proving his fathers' claims.

10. As regards the old Postal Reformer, James Chalmers of Dundee, I have always cordially concurred in the high estimation in which he was justly held by his fellow-townsmen and by all who knew him; and it is therefore a true satisfaction to me able to believe that his son's extraordinary conduct may have proceeded from mental rather than moral derangement. That Mr. Patrick Chalmers upon the question of the origin of postage stamps ~~Mr. Patrick Chalmers~~ was a monomaniac can I think hardly be doubted by any one who knows the real facts of the case. How else can any one account for ~~the~~ his many useless misrepresentations, so certain to meet with exposure? such for instance as the alleged "Subscription" of the Rowland Hill

Memorial

Memorial Committee, — the assertions that the Treasury had decided in favour of the Chalmers' Claim — that the Postal authorities had written to him "repudiating the opinions" of his opponents, — that the London Philatelic Society had admitted that Sir Rowland Hill was not the originator of the adhesive postage stamp — that I had been ordered by the Treasury to return the documents removed by Sir Rowland Hill and had refused to do so and many other similar statements, all of which you know to be absolutely untrue? Above all how else account for the extraordinary fact that a man who for upwards of 10 years had spent his time in heaping endless slanders upon a dead man, should claim to be a hater of hard words, and cry out that he himself was treated with "wild abuse" and "vituperation", when, in terms far milder than the occasion would have warranted, attention was called to his malpractices —

11. With every apology for troubling you with so long a letter, which, but for the interest I know you take in this question, I should have hesitated to inflict upon you

Believe me
Yours very faithfully
Pearson Hill

6, PEMBRIDGE SQUARE. W.

17 Decr. 91

Dear Mr Philbrick

I send you in advance my letter, through the Secretary containing the James Chalmers letters &c is not yet quite ready – my object being that if you think well you could mention the receipt of a letter from me, at the meeting

tomorrow evening of the London Philatelic Society & start the question of a committee of Inquiry

I don't mind telling you that I am hoping that the Committee will also express its opinion on the constant gross misstatements made by Pat about myself - such as my meeting his claims with "wild abuse" and "vulgar vituperation" as one reason of my so seldom attending meetings of the Society is that while such charges remained unrefuted

I had a little hesitation in coming amongst gentlemen some of whom might believe these statements to be true for had I really been guilty of such proceedings I should justly have been regarded as a man with whom few gentlemen would care to have any communication

Could you fix a time either on Saturday morning or next week when we could talk over the case

Yrs very sincerely
Pearson Hill

6 Pembridge Square
12th Mar: 94 W

My dear Dr Philbrick:

I owe you any number of apologies for so long delaying my answer to your letter of 8th ultimo but I have been laid up with a very sharp attack of Influenza complicated by Peritonitis, which kept me a prisoner for more than seven weeks & has

taken nearly all the energy out of me -

I hope on ~~Friday~~ Thursday next (24 Mar) to find myself on board the Thames (P & O) for a voyage to the Mediterranean & expect to be away for about 6 weeks - so that Pat & all his past misdeeds may slumber till my return at all events. What further steps it may be useful to take can then be considered

I return Mr Bacon's letter -

I am very sorry to gather from it that you have recently lost your father and beg to assure you - though you would not require the assurance - of our earnest sympathy -

Yrs very faithfully

Carnarvon

26

Brooklyn, Comrie N.B.
20 July 1894.

Dear Sir. Your note of 19th inst has been forwarded here, where I am rusticating with my family.

The sketch of James Chalmers to which you refer forms one of a series which I have for some time been and still am writing, my intention being, when the series is completed, to publish the whole in book form. As I am actively engaged in business and the writing of these sketches is only done in my leisure hours, in the winter evenings, you may guess that their progress is somewhat slow.

In 1887 I published a book under the title of "Abroad Past & Present" in which I made reference to James Chalmers as a native of the Town. This work having come into the hands of Mr Patrick Chalmers he opened up a correspondence with me which was only closed by his death. In course of my researches I was able to assist him very materially in his endeavours to establish the claims he had set forth on behalf of his father. When I

26

Brooklyn, Comrie N.B.
20 July 1894

Dear Sir, Your note of 14th inst has been forwarded here, where I am rusticating with my family.

The sketch of James Chalmers to which you refer forms one of a series which I have for some time been and still am writing, my intention being, when the series is completed, to publish the whole in book form. As I am actively engaged in business and the writing of these sketches is only done in my leisure hours, in the winter evenings, you may guess that their progress is somewhat slow.

In 1887 I published a book under the title of "Alnwick Past & Present" in which I made reference to James Chalmers as a native of the Town. This work having come into the hands of Mr Patrick Chalmers he opened up a correspondence with me which was only closed by his death. In course of my researches I was able to assist him very materially in his endeavours to establish the claims he had put forth on behalf of his father. When I

wrote my sketch of James Hallows, he begged of me to allow him to make use of it — the pamphlet wh. you mention, was accordingly printed by him at his own expense for private circulation. In allowing him to do so I of course stipulated that he should make it thoroughly understood that the paper was written by me for quite a different purpose and that all my rights were reserved. This he did.

I mention all this so that you may see that under the circumstances it is still needful that my material should not be used in any way or for any purpose wh. would be detrimental to my interests when I come to publish my book.—

I think I have a spare copy of the pamphlet at home and I shall be pleased to send it to you as

my return to Alwoalt in the early days of August; but in the interval you might drop me a note to my address here, mentioning the number for which you want the pamphlet.

Yours truly

M. McLaren

Ted. A. Philbrick Esq
88 Onslow Gardens

British Linen Bank House,
Arbroath.

2nd Augt 1894.

Dear Sir

I have now the pleasure of sending you a copy of the "Chalmers" pamphlet.

To my mind all the evidence – and I have studied the question carefully – points conclusively to the fact that James Chalmers was the inventor of the postage stamp. Not only was he the first to conceive the scheme, but he was also the first to demonstrate its practicability.

Yours faithfully,
[illegible]

Rd. H. Philbrick Esq
[illegible]