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THE
PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK
AND
STAMP-COLLECTOR'S VADE-MECUM
FOR THE YEAR
1893.

MAY THEY WHO FOUND THE OLD YEAR FREE,
AND SUCH AS FOUND ITS GIFTS BUT FEW,
HAVE ALL ALIKE IN NINETY-THREE
A BETTER FRIEND THAN NINETY-TWO.



"KING OF STAMPS."

A SIGHT FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE STAMP ROOM.

A MUSEUM OF PHILATELY.

A CHAMBER OF PHILATELICAL HORRORS.

THE opening of the Stamp Room at 281, Strand, is an event which may become the talk of the town—and the country too. This Wonder of the Philatetical World will serve, we hope, not only as a diverting spectacle, to be remembered among the sights that everybody should see, but it has a useful purpose as an object lesson for collectors and dealers. A room which we think may aptly be described as a Philatetical Chamber of Horrors, has been fitted up at Palmer's, and to this exhibition the public are admitted, free of charge. A room has been papered entirely with forged stamps and reprints, taken from collections purchased from time to time by Mr. J. W. Palmer, who has been over thirty years engaged in sorting the rubbish of this sort from collections purchased by him. That these things should have been offered to him in the belief that they were genuine by those who sold them, shows how much imposition there is in the business of stamp dealing.

Mr. Palmer has always been able to detect a forgery or reprint (there is nothing to choose between them, in our opinion), and instead of putting them into circulation, Mr. Palmer has always consigned them to a Black Book. From the Black Book they have gone (as the dealers in such things should also go) to the wall.

The visitor will be astounded at the number of forged stamps and reprints here brought together. But more astounding is it to think of the tremendous amount of money that has been expended upon them by collectors who bought them for genuine specimens, and were wholly ignorant that they had been cheated until they brought them for sale to Mr. Palmer, only to find that what they thought were rare stamps turned out, when submitted to the eye of the expert, to be rubbish, for which they could not obtain a penny. For Mr. Palmer does not sell, neither does he buy forgeries or reprints. When they come into his possession, however, it has always been his aim, throughout thirty years, to prevent them from falling into other hands. *Si sic omnes*. If other dealers had followed his example, we should not have heard so much of the trade in spurious stamps.

A visit to the Stamp Room will give some idea of the extent to which the trade in forged stamps has

been carried. Here will be found the best and the worst specimens of their kind ; specimens so clumsily imitated that they would not deceive anybody but the least experienced, and others so closely imitated that the practised collector—or dealer—might, as in the case of the forged Spanish two reals stamp, be easily duped. Even the famous Brattleboro', which Mr. Palmer sold for £250, is here in *fac simile*. "There is some soul of goodness," says the poet, "in things evil." We think we have found some use, after all, for these things. They have served to decorate a room in a way that is quite unique, and the interest of the sight apart, it has special value to collectors, who may read a warning message on the walls of the Stamp Room in characters as plain as ever appeared at Belshazzar's feast.

JANUARY.

1	S	Issue of New English Stamps, 1880
2	M	Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801
3	Tu	Gretna Green Marriages abolished
4	W	Est. of P.O. by Act to settle the Postage of Eng., Scot.,
5	Th	Edward the Confessor died, 1066 [and Ireland, '56
6	F	T. A. Neale died, 1892
7	S	Lord Kimberley born, 1826
8	S	Victor Emmanuel died, 1878
9	M	Fire Insurance expires
10	Tu	Introduction of the Penny Post, 1840
11	W	<i>Hilary Law Sittings begin</i>
12	Th	Earl Iddesleigh died, 1887
13	F	George Fox died, 1690
14	S	<i>Oxford Lent Term begins</i>
15	S	<i>Bric-à-Brac</i> first issued, 1878
16	M	Battle of Corunna, 1809
17	Tu	Edward Gibbon died, 1794
18	W	German Empire proclaimed, 1871
19	Th	Isaac Disraeli died, 1848
20	F	Mersey Tunnel opened, 1886
21	S	Louis XVI. guillotined, 1793
22	S	Defence of Rorke's Drift, 1879
23	M	William Pitt died, 1806
24	Tu	C. J. Fox born, 1749
25	W	Dr. John Doran died, 1878
26	Th	Death of General Gordon, 1886
27	F	German Emperor William II. born 1859
28	S	Battle of Aliwal, 1846
29	S	George III. died, 1820
30	M	Charles I. executed, 1649
31	Tu	Est. of a Metro. Penny Post by William Dockwra, 1680

In Memoriam.

THOMAS ALFRED NEALE.

Died January 6th, 1892.

Cut down like grass in summer time,
 A traveller fallen by the way,
 A young man perished in his prime.
 Gone to a restful, heavenly clime,
 The grief is ours who stay.

THE WOFUL BALLAD OF THE SPANISH STAMPS.

It was a foreign pilgrim,
And he walked along the Strand,
With a twinkle in his eye
And a packet in his hand.

It was but a little packet
He held within his grip,
And he paused awhile at 281
With a finger on his lip.

And he softly entered in,
No saint was ever calmer,
And lifting up his voice,
He asked for Mr. Palmer.

“Rare Spanish stamps have I,
Which you may like to see,”
Then he produced some specimens,
Two reals—’fifty-three.

His story sounded truth,
Although it turned out fable—
An honest smile was on his face,
His stamps were on the table.

FEBRUARY.

1	W	First German Stamps issued (Bavaria), 1849
2	Th	<i>Candlemas Day</i>
3	F	Marquis of Salisbury born, 1830
4	S	Sir W. Palliser died, 1882
5	S	Postage Stamps first issued in the United States, 1847
6	M	Patrick Chalmers, Originator of the Adhesive Stamp,
7	Tu	Jules Verne born, 1828 [born 1782]
8	W	Half-Quarter Day
9	Th	Lord Mayo assassinated, 1872
10	F	Queen Victoria married, 1840
11	S	Thomas A. Edison born, 1847
12	S	Custom House burnt, 1814
13	M	Lord R. Churchill born, 1849
14	Tu	<i>St. Valentine</i>
15	W	J. Bentham born, 1747
16	Th	Battle of St. Vincent, 1797
17	F	Duchess of Albany born, 1861
18	S	Capture of Trinidad, 1797
19	S	King of Holland born, 1817
20	M	Princess Louise of Wales born, 1867
21	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued in Russia, 1848 (Envelopes)
22	W	George Washington born, 1732
23	Th	(24th) John Keats died, 1821
24	F	Great Earthquake at Mentone, 1887
25	S	Sir C. Wren died, 1723
26	S	Prince Ferdinand born, 1861
27	M	Elizabeth Ruth Palmer died, 1886
28	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued Denmark, 1851

In Memoriam.

ELIZABETH RUTH PALMER.

Died February 27th, 1886.

And from thy grave, O mother dear,
 Thou speakest yet what I may hear,
 Who wear thee in my heart.
 We are but shadows, one and all,
 Who come like shadows on the wall,
 And so depart.

J. W. P.

The post-marks on the envelopes
 Closely did I scan,
 And every stamp seemed genuine,
 And genuine the man.

A bargain then was made
 Between that man and me,
 And those rare stamps were soon locked up—
 So should that rascal be !

Doubt presently commenced
 To prick me like a pin.
 The stamps were taken out—
 Was Palmer taken in ?

Were they but forgeries,
 Little cause to doubt them,
 And the news it spread abroad—
 Some folks knew all about them.

And here's the mystery :
 Does anybody know
 Where that impostor came from ?
 And whither did he go ?

Meanwhile, the hope I cherish,
 May it not prove in vain,
 That Pilgrim and this Palmer
 May some day meet again.

MARCH.

1	W	<i>St. David</i>
2	Th	Leo IX. died.
3	F	Sir J. F. Stephen born, 1839
4	S	(5th) Thames Tunnel opened, 1843
5	S	<i>Ember Day</i>
6	M	
7	Tu	First Prayer Book issued, 1549
8	W	Postage Stamps introduced into Germany, 1850
9	Th	German Emperor William I. died, 1888
10	F	Prince of Wales married, 1863
11	S	Benjamin West died, 1820
12	S	Bank issued £1 notes, 1797. £5 Bank of Eng. notes first
13	M	[issued, 1793]
14	Tu	King Humbert born, 1844
15	W	Viscount Melbourne born, 1779
16	Th	Queen created Empress of India, 1876
17	F	<i>St. Patrick</i>
18	S	Communist insurrection, Paris, 1871
19	S	Lucknow taken, 1858
20	M	
21	Tu	Warning issued by J. W. Palmer, '88, to colls. concern-
22	W	Albert Way died, 1874 [ing Laureated Head, N.S.W.]
23	Th	National Gallery opened, 1824
24	F	H. W. Longfellow died, 1882
25	S	<i>Annunciation. Lady Day</i>
26	S	Duke of Cambridge born, 1819
27	M	Postage Stamps first issued Ionian Isles, 1857
28	Tu	<i>Cambridge Lent Term ends</i>
29	W	Albert Hall opened, 1871
30	Th	Don Carlos born, 1848
31	F	Italian Kingdom recognised, 1861

RAREST OF THE RARE.

ONE of the events of our times in the history of the philatelic world was the sale of a single specimen of the Brattleborg' stamp for £250. Other specimens of this stamp—rarest of the rare—have been heard of, but they have not been seen.

*Whose premises are these, which stand
And flourish in the busy Strand,
Whose name is writ on either hand?*

J. W. PALMER.

*The true friend of the stamp collector,
Whom knaves avoid, and rascals hector,
The lynx-eyed forgery detector!*

J. W. PALMER.

*Who fought the stamp collectors' cause,
And gave the seventh—Palmer's—clause
To Post Office Protection laws?*

J. W. PALMER.

*Who is the true Philatelist,
Ready always to assist
Those who his services enlist?*

J. W. PALMER.

*Who scorns the forgers' die and block?
Whose firm is firm as any rock?
Who keeps the largest, cheapest stock?*

J. W. PALMER.

*When in the Strand you chance to drop,
At 2, 8, 1, collectors, stop!
The man you want is in that shop—*

J. W. PALMER.

APRIL.

1	S	Prince Bismarck born, 1815
2	S	Cobden died, 1865
3	M	
4	Tu	F. M. Palmer born, 1860
5	W	Postage Stamps first issued Paraguay, 1870
6	Th	<i>Old Lady-Day.</i>
7	F	Denis F. MacCarthy died, 1882
8	S	Lord Chatham died, 1778
9	S	Fire Insurance Expires. <i>Oxford Lent Term ends</i>
10	M	[of Stamps to the British Museum
11	Tu	T. K. Tapling, M.P., d., 1891, bequeathed his Collection
12	W	William Brown's daughter born
13	Th	<i>Hilary Law Sittings end</i>
14	F	Princess Beatrice born, 1857
15	S	
16	S	Battle of Culloden, 1746
17	M	
18	Tu	
19	W	Primrose Day. Lord Beaconsfield died, 1881
20	Th	Postage Stamps first issued Costa Rica, 1862
21	F	Baroness Burdett-Coutts born, 1814
22	S	Petition against Forged Stamps prep. by Palmer, 1884
23	S	Shakespeare died, 1616
24	M	
25	Tu	First English Prince of Wales born, 1284
26	W	
27	Th	Duke of Devonshire born, 1808
28	F	Mutiny of the "Bounty," 1789
29	S	Postage Stamps first issued Lagos (Gold Coast), 1874
30	S	Sir John Lubbock born, 1834

HOW TO STICK STAMPS IN ALBUMS.—Don't use gum. It discolours the stamps to begin with, and works sad havoc with the best of them. Paste is cleaner and safer, and will prove much the better preparation to all intents and purposes. Stick to paste—gum will stick to you closer than you may like. So, don't use gum.

Reprinted from the ST. STEPHEN'S REVIEW.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GREATEST STAMP MERCHANT IN THE WORLD.

THIS is essentially an age of crazes. Some of them are evidences of misdirected energy. Some of them produce remarkable results, but not the most hypercritical faultfinder has a single word to say against that very popular mania, stamp collecting. It has been a standing recreation for the past forty years, and it seems that it has grown and grown until it very nearly assumes the dignity of a fine art. To be a prince among stamp collectors requires very far-reaching knowledge indeed, and even then the forgeries which are every day becoming more common, place it beyond the power of all save one or two to pronounce with certainty on the genuineness of a stamp. There are numbers of dealers in foreign and English stamps, but not one can approach in experience the subject of our sketch, who has devoted the whole of his life from his early boyhood to their collection and examination. He is an enthusiast of the first water, and we can imagine nothing of greater interest to the philatelist than a stroll down the Strand, and a pause for a long chat at 281, or Holywell House as it has of late years come to be named.

MAY.

1	M	Issue of the Mulready envelope, 1840
2	Tu	Thames Embankment opened, 1868
3	W	Jamaica discovered, 1494
4	Th	Local Letter Post established in Vienna, 1772
5	F	Ex-Empress Eugenie born, 1826
6	S	Postage Stamps first issued, 1840
7	S	Robert Browning born, 1812
8	M	
9	Tu	Mr. Wallace, M.P., moved for Sel. Com. to inquire into
10	W	Crystal Pal. op., '54 [the merits of Rld. Hill's scheme, '37
11	Th	Petition against forged stamps prep. by J.W. Palmer, '84
12	F	Sir Charles Barry died, 1860
13	S	Suicide of King of Bavaria, 1886
14	S	Battle of Marengo, 1860
15	M	German Emperor Frederick died, 1888
16	Tu	Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration at Guildhall, '90;
17	W	Revised New Testament issued, 1881 [issue of Jubilee
18	Th	New Eddystone Lighthouse opened, 1882 [post-card
19	F	Magna Charta signed, 1215
20	S	Postage Stamps adopted by the Sandwich Islands, 1851
21	S	Sir Lyon Playfair born, 1819
22	M	
23	Tu	Henry Fawcett born at Salisbury, 1833
24	W	Queen Victoria born, 1819
25	Th	Princess Helena born, 1846
26	F	
27	S	Repeal of Corn Laws, 1856
28	S	General Grant died, 1885
29	M	
30	Tu	Alexander Pope died, 1744 [Archer, 1852
31	W	Machine for perforating stamps invented by Henry

A VERY RARE STAMP.

AN advertisement appeared lately as follows: "For sale, a very rare postage stamp, time of Henry VIII." A correspondent, on calling the advertiser's attention to the fact that there were no postage stamps of that time, received for an answer, "That is the reason the stamp is so rare."

Here behind a long business-like counter may from early morn till dewy eve be found the man who has elevated the dealing in stamps to a profession, giving audience to Members of the Senate, barristers



THE CHAMPION OF PHILATELY.

from the Temple, grave doctors, bronze-featured foreigners, schoolboys in Eton jackets, ay, and young ladies with their governesses, as well as "blue stockings" rarely seen outside the British Museum.

JUNE

1	Th	Charles Lever died, 1872
2	F	Garibaldi died, 1882
3	S	
4	S	
5	M	
6	Tu	Margaret Neale m. 1892
7	W	Postage Stamps first issued, Roman States, 1852
8	Th	Sir John Millais born, 1829
9	F	Charles Dickens died, 1870
10	S	P. O. robbery of Telegraph Stamps discovered, 1800
11	S	Money Market panic, 1866
12	M	
13	Tu	Kensington Museum opened, 1857
14	W	
15	Th	Napoleon I. died, 1821
16	F	
17	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Tasmania, 1853
18	S	Battle of Waterloo, 1815
19	M	French postal system founded by Louis XI, 1464
20	Tu	Accession of Queen Victoria, 1837
21	W	Longest day
22	Th	Great fire in Tooley Street, 1861
23	F	Clive's victory at Plassey, 1757
24	S	St. John Baptist
25	S	
26	M	George IV. died, 1830
27	Tu	First meeting of the Postal Union Congress held in
28	W	Coronation Day [Paris, 1863]
29	Th	Lord Raglan died, 1856
30	F	The Pillory abolished, 1837

WHEN Marshal MacMahon was President of France, his wife was very anxious to see his image set in stamps, and some such designs were prepared, but the Postal Commission rejected them and adopted the present design. There are collectors who believe that some of these MacMahon stamps got into circulation; hence they are supposed to be without price, as valuable, in fact, as one or two "Victoria and Albert" penny stamps, which some people also confidently believe were not destroyed, although never officially issued.

All these find here a happy hunting ground, and it is astonishing with what tact Mr. Palmer treats his varied *clientèle*.

Wondering whether any special Jubilee stamp would be issued on or about the 20th of June, we dropped in on this philatelic genius to make the inquiry, and were so interested in his surroundings that we ventured on a little extraneous conversation.

“Surely that grey-haired military-looking gentleman, who was in here discussing stamps with you, is not a collector himself?”

“You mean General ———,” smilingly replied Mr. Palmer; “and why not, pray?”

We said we thought the schoolboy craze had died out.

“Died out!” exclaimed Mr. Palmer, looking at us with a glance, in which scorn and pity were equally mingled. “Why, it was never so flourishing as at the present moment; while as to it being a schoolboy craze, I became a stamp collector when a little lad of seven; but I am far more ardent in the pursuit of philately now than ever I was in my life. The fact is, the more one sees of it the more one learns to love it.”

“That may be,” we dubiously suggested; “but you are possibly one in a million.” The next instant we trembled at our temerity.

JULY.

1	S	20 cent. French Stamp suppressed, 1850
2	S	Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration at S. Kensington, '90
3	M	
4	Tu	Declaration of American Independence, 1776
5	W	Lord Gifford born, 1849
6	Th	Samuel Lever died, 1868
7	F	John Huss burnt, 1415
8	S	Shelley drowned, 1822
9	S	Fire Insurance expires
10	M	Abolition of Members of Parliament's privilege of
11	Tu	Alexandria bombarded, 1882 [franking letters, 1840
12	W	Crimea evacuated, 1856
13	Th	Voting by Ballot instituted, 1872
14	F	Bastille stormed, 1789
15	S	<i>St. Swithin</i>
16	S	Béranger died, 1857
17	M	Issue of American Five Dollar Stamp, 1862
18	Tu	Dean Stanley died, 1881
19	W	Bishop Wilberforce died, 1873
20	Th	Lord Westbury died, 1873
21	F	Robert Burns died, 1796
22	S	Issue of 15 cent. French Stamp (green), 1850
23	S	Marquis of Hartington born, 1833
24	M	
25	Tu	Mrs. E. T. Parker, of a daughter
26	W	Metropolitan Penny Post established, 1683
27	Th	Bank of England founded, 1694
28	F	Armada dispersed, 1588
29	S	Seaham Harbour opened, 1835
30	S	General Post Office opened in St. Martin's-le-Grand, '29
31	M	

A NATIONAL COLLECTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE unique collection of postage stamps which formed the subject of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling's bequest to the British Museum has now been received at that institution, where it has, for the present, passed into the custody of the authorities of the Department of Printed Books. Having got the nucleus of a great collection, it is to be hoped that the authorities will improve the collection by making fresh purchases from time to time.

"I perceive," said Mr. Palmer, "that you require a little enlightenment, and I shall be happy to give it to you. Well, as a matter of fact, what was once a pursuit to which boys only were devoted, has now become the study and recreation of all classes. Especially in this case among men and women of culture. Our orders by post, received from all parts of the world, would surprise you. Why," continued Mr. Palmer, warming to the subject as he went on, "the numbers of people who call to consult me as to whether any stamps in their collections are genuine or forged take up at least half of my working day."

"Are there so many forgeries, then?"

"My dear sir, they are increasing every hour, and they are getting to be such perfect imitations, that I honestly believe I am the only man in the stamp profession able to detect them all. I make the detection of forgeries a special feature of my business, and so anxious am I to put it down, that I *never charge anything for my opinion.*"

"That is to say, to your own *clientèle*," we put in.

"I charge nobody, sir, and I am in constant communication with the post-office authorities on the subject; but, although I receive letters of thanks, it ends there; for, in spite of my actually supplying them with the names of the offenders, they do not attempt to enforce the law by a wholesome prosecu-

AUGUST.

1	Tu	Issue of Austrian Postal Union Card (5 kr.), 1880
2	W	Battle of Sedan, 1870
3	Th	Mr. Speaker Peel born, 1829
4	F	Adhesive Postage Stamp first invd. by James Chalmers,
5	S	Queen of Saxony born, 1833 [of Dundee, '34
6	S	Duke of Edinburgh born, 1844
7	M	
8	Tu	George Canning died, 1827
9	W	Postage Stamps first issued, Roumania, 1862
10	Th	George J. Goschen born, 1831
11	F	<i>Half-quarter Day</i>
12	S	M. A. M. Palmer born, 1885
13	S	<i>Old Lammas Day</i>
14	M	
15	Tu	Sir Walter Scott born, 1771
16	W	Gas introduced in London, 1807
17	Th	Rowld. Hill scheme adopted by House of Commons by a
18	F	Emperor of Austria born, 1830 [majority of 100, '39
19	S	Balzac died, 1850
20	S	Abergele Railway accident, 1868
21	M	
22	Tu	King Richard III. killed, 1485
23	W	Sir Astley Cooper born, 1768
24	Th	Massacre of Huguenots, 1572
25	F	Postage Stamps first issued, Egypt, 1865
26	S	Battle of Cressy, 1346
27	S	Rowland Hill died, 1879
28	M	
29	Tu	Foundering of the "Royal George," 1782
30	W	Battle of Plevna, 1877
31	Th	Postal Treaty of Berne came into operation, 1874

FATHER AND SON.

A NAME that will be honoured by all philatelists, that of Patrick Chalmers, was one of the last to be added to the death-roll of the year 1891. Patrick Chalmers was the son of the Dundee bookseller who was the originator of the adhesive stamp. Time and money the son spent without stint in the endeavour to obtain for his father, James Chalmers, the honour to which he was entitled. Patrick Chalmers lived long enough to see his father's name hailed as that of the originator of the adhesive stamp.

tion. But I mean to have the question agitated again in the House of Commons, if the authorities do not wake up to the importance of the question."

"Most of these forgeries are executed abroad, are they not?"

"Yes," said Mr. Palmer, and so skilful have the Germans become that, for all we know to the contrary, myriads of English stamps are made over there, and sold in England to the loss of the British Exchequer. Look here," he continued, bringing out a sheet of stamps from a German house with the words *fac simile* printed across them, "without that word could you tell that they were imitations?"

"Certainly not."

"How easy it would be to leave out that word. And do you suppose it is not done? I assure you that the people who come complaining to me of the way in which they have been duped by unscrupulous dealers makes my heart bleed. You see that a goodly proportion of collectors follow up the pursuit or gain—that is to say, as stamps get older they become rarer, and increase in value accordingly, then the collector sells his book, and often reaps a handsome profit of hundreds of pounds."

"But suppose they are forgeries?"

"If they are, and the buyer, before paying the purchase money, brings the book to me, the unhappy

SEPTEMBER.

1	F	Palmer's Clause, Post Office Protection Act, came into
2	S	Board of Trade constituted, 1786 [operation, 1884
3	S	Oliver Cromwell died, 1658
4	M	J. Palmer, of Bath, submits to the Govt. his scheme for a
5	Tu	Op. of Severn Tunnel, '85 [system of mail coaches, 1784
6	W	Sir Henry March born, 1840
7	Th	W. H. T. Palmer born, 1883
8	F	A. Phillips born
9	S	Thomas Watts died, 1869
10	S	Guizot died, 1874
11	M	
12	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued, Iceland, 1873
13	W	Quebec taken, 1759
14	Th	Duke of Wellington died, 1852
15	F	Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened, 1830
16	S	Ben Jonson died, 1637
17	S	Brighton Railway opened, 1838
18	M	
19	Tu	Dean Swift died, 1745
20	W	Battle of the Alma, 1854
21	Th	Sir W. Scott died, 1832
22	F	Lord Chief Justice Denman died, 1854
23	S	Marshal Bazaine died, 1888
24	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Heligoland, 1867
25	M	
26	Tu	Von Moltke born, 1800
27	W	G. Cruikshank born, 1792
28	Th	Eugene Clemenceau born, 1841
29	F	J. W. Palmer married, 1880, Covent Garden Church
30	S	Fiji Islands ceded, 1830

THE FIRST CASE.

THE Seventh—Palmer's—Clause of the New Post Office Protection Act came into force September, 1884. In October there was a Post Office prosecution for "feloniously forging and counterfeiting a die and plate and stamp." The prisoner was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. Mr. Osborne, the solicitor to the Post Office department, stated that this was the first case of the kind "that has ever occurred." He should have said that it was the first case that has ever been brought to book by the authorities. We dare hope it will not be the last.

collector has it thrown back on his hands, as a matter of course."

"What do you consider a valuable collection, Mr. Palmer?"

"Well," said he, looking round at his well-filled shelves, "I call mine a valuable one; it would fetch £40,000 in the open stamp market."

"Among the dealers?"

"I never sell to them; I have given up that business long since, and am therefore not responsible for anything they may do, although," added Mr. Palmer, "they no doubt purchase of me in a roundabout way without my knowledge. You are looking at that little journal of mine—*Bric-à-Brac*. You see in my way I am a member of the Fourth Estate, too."

We remarked that it seemed very interesting reading.

"Yes, it is full of curious facts about stamps. Stay, I will show you possibly the rarest thing in existence in the stamp world." Here Mr. Palmer, with pardonable pride, produced a block of twenty-four V. R.'s (a black English penny stamp of great rarity). "There is not another block like that in existence," said he, rubbing his hands. "There are, of course, plenty of other rarities, such as, for instance, the pair of Mulready wrappers, on India paper issued in 1840, which will fetch £80. I believe

OCTOBER.

1	S	Introduction of 6d. Telegrams, 1885
2	M	
3	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued, Japan, 1871 [Memel, 1646
4	W	German Government Post started between Cleves and
5	Th	(4th) Prince Henry of Battenberg born, 1858
6	F	Right Hon. W. H. Smith died, 1891
7	S	Edgar Allan Poe died, 1847
8	S	Great fire of Chicago, 1871
9	M	
10	Tu	<i>Oxford Michaelmas Term begins</i>
11	W	<i>Old Michaelmas Day</i>
12	Th	Lord Tennyson died, 1892
13	F	Palmer's system of mail coaches adopted, 1797
14	S	Fire Insurance expires
15	S	Prince Alfred of Edinburgh born, 1874
16	M	
17	Tu	L. Pocock died, 1882
18	W	Lord Palmerston died, 1865
19	Th	Henry Kirke White died, 1806
20	F	Lord Palmerston born, 1784
21	S	Battle of Trafalgar, 1805
22	S	Edict of Nantes revoked, 1685
23	M	Postage Stamps first issued, Servia, 1866
24	Tu	Joseph William Palmer born, 1853
25	W	Battle of Agincourt, 1415
26	Th	Post Office Prosecution, 1891
27	F	Sir G. Kneller died, 1723
28	S	New Royal Exchange opened, 1844
29	S	John Leech died, 1864
30	M	
31	Tu	All Hallows Eve

"LIKE OLD BOOTS."

It is often said that rare stamps sell "like old boots." Why, old boots? Old boots, we should say, are hardly worth giving away, and much the same opinion with regard to stamps seems to have existed in the mind of a small boy who entered Palmer's one day. To him a postage stamp was nothing more than "a primrose by the river's brim" was to Peter Bell. There were only two kinds of stamps for him—old stamps and new. With all the simplicity in the world, the youngster asked whether Mr. Palmer had "any old stamps to give away."

there are only six of these postal gems extant. I hold two, and I fancy South Kensington has another; mine are, however, the only used specimens. The New Brunswick 5 cents stamp, with the head of O'Connell, is worth £30 used. The two Reunion



THREE medals have been struck by Mr. J. W. Palmer, severally and separately, commemorating the Jubilee of the Queen's reign (1887), the Silver Wedding of T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales (1888), and the Jubilee of the Penny Postage (1890). Specimens of these medals may still be had of J. W. Palmer, 281, Strand, W.C.

stamps, the 15 and 30 cents, are worth £100. The set of four Sandwich Islands of 1852 is worth £300; a set of the four British Guiana of 1850 fetches £75, and the set of four of 1856, £100. The Mauritius stamp of 1847, a wood block, is a very rare stamp, and is seldom met with. It has the words on one side,

NOVEMBER.

1	W	Stamped Pos. Letter-paper (<i>carta postale bollata</i>) issued
2	Th	India proclaimed an Empire, '58 [by Sardinian Sts., '18
3	F	Mikado of Japan born, 1852
4	S	George Peabody died, 1869
5	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Gambia, 1869
6	M	
7	Tu	Henry Fawcett, Postmaster-General, died, 1884
8	W	John Milton died, 1674
9	Th	Prince of Wales born, 1841
10	F	Royal Academy founded, 1768
11	S	<i>Martinmas</i>
12	S	J. S. O. D. Palmer born, 1887
13	M	
14	Tu	First appointment of Postmaster-General for England,
15	W	William Pitt born, 1708 [1533
16	Th	John Bright born, 1811
17	F	Suez Canal opened, 1869
18	S	Charles Heath died, 1848
19	S	Man in the iron mask died, 1703
20	M	
21	Tu	Empress Frederick of Germany born, 1840
22	W	M. S. E. C. Palmer born, 1889
23	Th	Post-Office prosecution, 1889
24	F	Postage Stamps first issued, Sarawak, 1866
25	S	Sir F. Chantrey died, 1841
26	S	Marshal Soult died, 1851
27	M	
28	Tu	The <i>Times</i> first printed by steam, 1814
29	W	First School Board Election, 1870
30	Th	Cardinal Wolsey died, 1530

WON'T WASH.

It is a common practice of washing stamps for the purpose of giving them a clean appearance, but we need not remind our readers that the affectation of making stamps look "nice" is one which carries no weight with the true collector, who wants his stamps in what may be called their natural state. Of course, rare stamps are to be had in varying states of preservation, but a worn specimen is of more value than a stamp that has been washed and mended, for the arts of preparation have been carried to the extent of making old stamps, and tattered, into new. All stamps sold by Mr. Palmer are sold for what they are. They are genuine and untouched, and if some of our stamps do not look so new as many old stamps that we have seen, it is because we do not tamper with them in any way.

'Post Office,' instead of 'post paid.' There are two of these rarities, the 1d. and the 2d., and they are worth £100 apiece."

"What do you think of the new English stamps?"

Mr. Palmer shrugged his shoulders.

"They should have been made worthy of the Jubilee year. It was impossible that they could have been uglier designs than the old ones, but an idea that combined art with simplicity might easily have been adopted. Look at the Canadian stamp. How perfect in finish, how glorious in effect; why should a colony produce such a work of art, and the mother country have to fall back on a mere Brummagem imitation of a poor model?"

"You should have suggested the adoption of the Canadian stamp, or something like it, Mr. Palmer?"

"I did, but was told that the matter had been long since settled. What they should do," said the stamp genius, in conclusion, "to mark the Jubilee year would be to inaugurate penny ocean postage and farthing suburban stamps for the large towns. This would increase the revenue to an astounding extent. I venture to predict that in a big town like London the Post Office business would be more than quadrupled."

"It is a capital idea, Mr. Palmer, and we will put it into print and awaken public opinion on it."

DECEMBER.

1	F	Princess of Wales born, 1844
2	S	Queen Adelaide died, 1849
3	S	Rowland Hill born, at Kidderminster, 1795
4	M	
5	Tu	Postal Service organised at Nuremberg, 1570
6	W	Postage Stamps first issued in Zurich, 1840
7	Th	General Sir Redvers Buller born, 1839
8	F	F. M. R. Palmer born, 1881
9	S	Earl of Clarendon died, 1674
10	S	Post-Office prosecution, 1890
11	M	
12	Tu	Colley Cibber died, 1757
13	W	Dr. Johnson died, 1784
14	Th	Postage Stamps first issued in Belgium, 1849
15	F	Imperial Stamp of New Germany issued, 1871
16	S	A. de Fourcroy died, 1843
17	S	<i>Oxford Michaelmas Term ends</i>
18	M	
19	Tu	<i>Cambridge Michaelmas Term ends</i>
20	W	John Wilson Croker born, 1780
21	Th	<i>St. Thomas. Michaelmas Law Sittings end</i>
22	F	"George Eliot" died, 1880
23	S	Samuel Parkes died, 1825
24	S	The "Tipton Slasher" died, 1880
25	M	<i>Christmas Day</i>
26	Tu	Bank and general holiday
27	W	Postage Stamps first issued in Brazil, 1843
28	Th	Lord Macaulay died, 1859
29	F	W. E. Gladstone born, 1809
30	S	Postage Stamps first issued in Naples, 1858
31	S	Gambetta died, 1882

THE LATE LAMENTED.

CUSTOMERS whose accounts have been so long standing that Mr. Palmer is almost in despair about them, are entreated to write, otherwise Mr. Palmer will regretfully have to chronicle their loss, and will commemorate his "late" customers by printing their names and addresses on a kind of memorial card in this style:

AS A TOKEN OF REGRET,
IN MEMORY OF

(Name)
(Address)

WHO DEPARTED
WITH SEVERAL SHEETS OF STAMPS
Not Post, but Gone Before
PAYING HIS ACCOUNT.

And so, bidding this worthy philatelist good morning, for already the crowd of stamp collectors waiting his fiat on forgeries was assuming formidable proportions, we emerged into the Strand, having added to our stock of information and spent a very agreeable half-hour, enriched by the addition to our boy's stamp album of a photograph of the great stamp man which we were courteously presented with on leaving.

ORIGIN OF THE RECEIPT STAMP.

THE issue of receipt stamps took place under peculiar circumstances. The Dutch Exchequer having fallen very low, and the people being already overloaded with taxes, a reward was offered to any one who should suggest a new source of revenue which would replenish the exchequer without pressing the people. This ordinance was dated 13th August, 1624, and the receipt stamp was the outcome. The name of the suggestor has not come down to us, but the law *De Impost van Bezegelde Brieven* still holds its place in the statute book of Holland. This source of revenue was introduced into this country in 1693 (5 William and Mary, ch. 21), and the adhesive postage has now taken the place of the original impressed one.



JAMES CHALMERS.

THE INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

JAMES CHALMERS has in this generation been recognised as the inventor of the adhesive stamp and his name will go down to posterity as the benefactor of his kind. The position which was so long usurped by Rowland Hill was wrested from that postal reformer by Patrick Chalmers, who restored to his father's name the honour to which it is entitled. James Chalmers was born at Arbroath, Scotland, in 1782, and died at Dundee, Scotland, in 1853. It was in the year 1834 that he invented and produced, on 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. Eighteen months before the Penny Postage Bill was introduced into Parliament, James Chalmers sent his plan to the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the proposed Bill, also to the Mercantile Committee of the City of London charged with the support of the Bill. The plan of the impressed

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OFFICE HOURS 10 A.M. TILL 7 P.M.

stamp as proposed by Mr. Rowland Hill not finding favour, that of the adhesive stamp was brought forward in Parliament by its advocates, and became ultimately adopted by Treasury Minute of date December 26th, 1839.

James Chalmers, of Dundee, died in August, 1853, aged 71 years, leaving a lasting memorial behind him. *Si monumentum quæris circumspice.* Every letter that passes through the post proclaims his service to his kind.

SOUVENIR OF THE PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE.

A PRETTY souvenir of the Penny Postage Jubilee has been issued by Mr. J. W. Palmer, in the shape of a photograph of the Post Offices of the year 1790 and as they will be in 1990, as they were represented at the conversazione at South Kensington Museum on July 2nd, 1890. The photograph measures 6 inches by 4½, and is mounted on a thick cardboard. It makes an interesting picture that is well worth framing, though it looks well enough without a frame. Collectors and Post-Office officials will no doubt value such a souvenir of the Centenary of the Post Office and the Jubilee of the Penny Postage

Stamp. The picture marks the differences between the old system and the new, and is the only "document" extant which shows at once the Post Office as it was a hundred years ago, as it is at the present day, and as it may probably be a hundred years hence. The little office which has gradually developed into the Post Office as we know it now, is a curious memorial of the old times, and the effect of the contrast is emphasised by presenting it in association with the new order. The scene is reproduced exactly as it was on the memorable night of the conversazione. A portrait of Mr. Palmer is given in the picture, which is published at the price of one shilling, and will be sent, carefully packed, to any address in the United Kingdom post free for one shilling and threepence, and to other countries according to the postal rates.

ONE FOR PALMER.

WITH the advance of education and culture (says the *Whitehall Review*), the value of reliable experts to assist amateurs in making art collections of *bric-à-brac*, stamps, &c., becomes more and more apparent. Intelligence must be directed into a proper channel or the disappointed collector grows weary, and

desists from his search after curios. In such circumstances it is an important factor to be conversant with an expert whose reputation for absolute reliability is as high as that for his incorruptibility, and such a man we fortunately find in Mr. J. W. Palmer, of 281, Strand. His knowledge is simply stupendous, and woe be to the sharp who tries to rush him with a forged stamp or vamped curio. *Verb. sap.*

"PALMER'S CLAUSE" IN GERMANY.

COLLECTORS of postage stamps will be glad to learn that orders have been issued throughout Germany for the prosecution of all who are found manufacturing false stamps. Hitherto it has been difficult to punish such men unless they uttered stamps that were new, and therefore possessed an intrinsic value in money; but a stamp defaced by a sham post-mark had no intrinsic value at all, and could only be called a picture. At the late International Postal Congress in Vienna, however, it was voted that the forging of postage stamps in any way ought to be made an indictable offence, and the Prussian Government has been the first to adopt this view with practical effects. This is carrying out Palmer's Clause to the letter, and Germany having shown the way, it is to be hoped that England and the other nations will follow.

NEVER SAY "DIES."

LETTER FROM SIR WILLIAM MELVILL.

It is only by pegging away, as old Abe Lincoln used to say, that anything is to be accomplished against opposition; and "pegging away" is the policy of *Bric-à-Brac*, the philatelist's paper, edited by J. W. Palmer. It was stated in a stamp case that Sir William Melvill, Solicitor to the Inland Revenue Department, had authorised the use of dies—"all others except English." The statement was repeated over and over again in a variety of journals. There was only one man who could speak positively on the subject, that one man was Sir William Melvill. To Sir William Melvill Mr. Palmer addressed himself directly. Sir William Melvill replied in these terms:

[COPY.]

"The Editor of 'Bric-à-Brac' is informed in reply to his letter of the 21st instant, that the witness was in error in stating that Sir W. Melvill expressed any wish or gave any authority as to the use of dies for impression in a Stamp Dealer's Catalogue, and Sir W. Melvill is informed that the witness corrected the error in his evidence given at the Police Court on a subsequent day.

"SOMERSET HOUSE,

"24th May, 1892."

It is very difficult when once an incorrect statement has got the start for the truth to overtake it, and the most we can do is to give the facts, as they are stated by Sir William Melvill, and to appeal to those who have given the other version of the affair to do the same, if only out of the spirit of common fairness to the gentleman who has been so misrepresented, to say nothing of their professed desire to put down forgeries.

THE following list of "suspicious" stamps, collectors are advised to read, mark, and learn by heart:—

Alsace-Lorraine, American Locals, American Newspaper, Stamps, American Periodicals, American Pony Express, Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Brazil, Bremen, British Guiana, Buenos Ayres, Cape of Good Hope (woodcuts), Ceylon, Columbia, Confederate States (Locals), Danube (Roumania), Fiji Islands, Germany. Hamburg (Locals), Hanover, Heligoland, Laureated Head (New South Wales), Lubeck, Mauritius (old), Medina, Mexico, Monte Oviedo, Natal (first issue), Nevis, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Papal States, Parma, Persia, Peru, Philippine Islands, Reunion, Romagne, Samoa Express, Sandwich Islands, Saxony (first issue), Sedang, Schleswig-Holstein (first issue), Scilly, Shanghai, Siberia, Spain, Steam Navigation Company, Swiss Locals, Suez Canal, Sydney Views—New South Wales, Venezuela, Wurtemberg.

Before purchasing rare specimens, collectors are advised to submit them, for an opinion (which will be given gratuitously), to Mr. J. W. Palmer.

OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE.

OUR pet scheme of the Ocean Penny Postage is coming within measurable distance. Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., in addressing a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the question of postal reform, said the idea of Ocean Penny Postage was one which the country generally, and our fellow-subjects in the colonies almost unani- mously, fell in with. Among other things in its favour was the fact that no increase of expenditure would be involved in its adoption ; nor would there be any loss whatever to the postal authorities in carrying letters from England to any part of the colonies for one penny. Some people contended that twopence-halfpenny was little enough ; but why should they pay that sum per letter when it could be done with no loss to any one for one penny? He had lately visited every Postmaster-General in the colonies, and all of them received his proposal eagerly, and, indeed, enthusiastically. The cost to the Post Office of sending a letter to any quarter of the globe was one farthing ; and, therefore, if the penny rate was adopted, a profit of three farthings on each letter would be left. Now what has the Post- master General to say to that ?

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