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FOR THE YEAR
1896.

Grandford 1625(5)

THE
PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

AND
STAMP-COLLECTOR'S VADE-MECUM

FOR THE YEAR

1896.



"KING OF STAMPS."

MR. PALMER

WISHES ALL HIS READERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

MOST HEARTILY HEALTH

AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR.

THE TOWER BRIDGE.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL STRUCK BY J. W. PALMER.

To celebrate the opening of the Tower Bridge by the Prince of Wales on June 30th, 1894, Mr. J. W. Palmer added to the series of commemorative medals. The medal will be given away until such



time as our stock holds out, to all purchasers to the amount of five shillings or upwards. In the event of the medal being sent by post, threepence will be charged. This applies only to the United Kingdom, outside of which the registration fee will increase the postage rate to sevenpence. It is impossible for

us to quote at length the notices the medal has received in newspapers all over the country. We can but acknowledge the courtesy of the several newspapers, for to give only their names would occupy more space than we can afford. The *City Press*, which has a particular right to be heard of on such an occasion, we must thank by name for its complimentary reference to the "handsome medal struck by Mr. J. W. Palmer." In other papers it is variously described as "a very pretty medal," bearing on its obverse excellent profiles of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and lettering recording the occasion of its issue, as "an elegant medal," with "good portraits (head) of the Prince and Princess of Wales," as "an excellent bit of artistic work," and as "an interesting souvenir." Another says that, "it is quite suitable that a structure, which will carry traffic from all parts of the world, should be celebrated by a philatelist." From the *Scottish Highlander* we quote the following description:—

"The medal, which forms one of the commemorative series issued by Mr. Palmer, bears on the obverse the side-by-side busts of the Prince and Princess of Wales to left, with the legend: 'In Commemoration of the Opening of the Tower Bridge by the Prince and Princess of Wales, 30th June, 1894.' The reverse has, in six lines within a beaded circle, the inscription: 'Presented | by | J. W. Palmer | Foreign Stamp Merchant | 281, Strand | London.' The medal forms a chaste little souvenir of the historical occasion referred to."

THE MYSTERY OF THE MILLION STAMPS.

A COLLECTION of a million penny postage stamps (used) is supposed to work wonders. There are still some good benighted folks who are collecting these stamps with charitable intent, but the story that the million stamps will open the portals of this or that charitable institute is mere hocus-pocus. Mr. Palmer has a million of these stamps at the disposal of any good-natured person who will show him that he is mistaken. The best thing such kind, misguided folk can do with the accumulated stock of English stamps is to turn them to account by making screens of them. These screens are very pretty. A still more picturesque effect is given to the work by using cheap foreign stamps as well—such as will be found in Palmer's packet No. 10, a thousand stamps for 5d. Besides the screens, old stamps may serve to paper rooms; for designs on tables—a varnished stamp-table looks prettier than the familiar chess-table. A very amusing toy, too, may be made of these stamps in the shape of a serpent. Neatly made, these stamp serpents turn and twist in very realistic fashion, and provoke a good deal of fun and laughter.

What has probably given rise to the story is that an impetus was given in the early days to stamp-collecting by the nuns connected with a Roman Catholic charity in Ireland. These ladies had been promised a large sum of money on the curious condition that they collected one million postage stamps within a specified time. The more readily to collect this seemingly impossible number of stamps, the self-denying ladies advertised for gifts of stamps to

JANUARY.

1	W	Issue of New English Stamps, 1880
2	Th	Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801
3	F	Gretna Green Marriages abolished
4	S	Est. of P.O. by Act to settle the Postage of Eng., Scot.,
5	S	Edward the Confessor died, 1066 [and Ireland, '56
6	M	T. A. Neale died, 1892
7	Tu	Lord Kimberley born, 1826
8	W	Victor Emmanuel died, 1878
9	Th	Fire Insurance expires
10	F	Introduction of the Penny Post, 1840
11	S	
12	S	Earl Iddesleigh died, 1887
13	M	George Fox died, 1690
14	Tu	J. S. O. D. Palmer died, 1894
15	W	<i>Bric-à-Brac</i> first issued, 1878
16	Th	Battle of Corunna, 1809
17	F	Battle of Abu Klea, 1885
18	S	German Empire proclaimed, 1871
19	S	Isaac Disraeli died, 1848
20	M	Mersey Tunnel opened, 1886
21	Tu	Louis XVI. guillotined, 1793
22	W	Defence of Rorke's Drift, 1879
23	Th	William Pitt died, 1806
24	F	C. J. Fox born, 1749
25	S	Dr. John Doran died, 1878
26	S	Death of General Gordon, 1886
27	M	German Emperor William II. born, 1859
28	Tu	Battle of Aliwal, 1846
29	W	George III. died, 1820
30	Th	Charles I. executed, 1649
31	F	Est. of a Metro. Penny Post by William Dockwra, 1680

ROYAL COLLECTORS.

THE Duke of York is an ardent philatelist, the Duchess of Fife is an enthusiastic amateur photographer, and Princess Maud of Wales has a passion for ivory.

enable them to obtain the promised donation. The result of the advertising caused vast quantities of the used stamps to be sent to these nuns, who were successful in their efforts, and they duly received the promised donation. The million stamps were sold to a speculator, and ultimately exported to China, and used to decorate the walls of one of the "tea factories" in Canton.

It may be of interest to people who are engaged in collecting a million stamps to know that Mr. J. W. Palmer is prepared to purchase them at the rate of from £2 to £10 per million.

THE LANGUAGE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

WHAT is the language of postage stamps? We have heard of the language of flowers, we know the language of the eye, and we have felt the language—if it is possible to feel a language—of the fist, but what is the language of the postage stamp? It is possible to talk sweet nothings by means of stamps or to carry on a conversation by the medium of a few impressions of the Queen's head? It would seem so, for we read that a language of postage stamps, instead of flowers, has been invented by a practical person. Thus, when a postage stamp is placed upside down in the left corner of the letter, it means "I love you;" on the same crosswise, "My heart is another's;" straight up and down, "Good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye;" upside down in the right-hand corner, "Write no more;" in the centre at the top, "Yes;" opposite

FEBRUARY.

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

THE old story of a million stamps being useful to get a patient into a hospital having cropped up again, Mr. Palmer, in his chatty little monthly, *Bric-à-Brac*, disposes of the idea, and states how it arose. He says that in the early days of stamp collecting the nuns of a large Roman Catholic charity in Ireland were promised a large sum of money on the condition that they collected 1,000,000 stamps within a given time. The more readily to do this the ladies advertised for gifts of stamps, and as a result, secured such vast quantities that their efforts were successful, and they duly received the promised donation. The million stamps were sold to a speculator, and ultimately exported to China, and used to decorate the walls of one of the "tea factories" in Canton.

at the bottom, "No;" on the right-hand corner at a right angle, "Do you love me?" in the left-hand corner, "I hate you;" top corner on the right, "I wish your friendship;" bottom corner on the left, "I seek your acquaintance;" on a line with the surname, "Accept my love;" the same upside down, "I am engaged;" at a right angle in the same place. "I long to see you;" in the middle of the right-hand edge, "Write immediately." This is all very pretty, but who could carry it all in his head? Of course the rules might be printed, and then they would be all right and comfortably easy to interpret. But the matter is capable of much greater extension. The aforesaid code only applies to penny stamps. A fresh set of rules and sentences might be gained on the same positions by using stamps of different value. Thus a halfpenny stamp stuck on the top right-hand corner would stand for "Look out, the old man is coming." Placed in the left bottom corner it would signify "My big brother Will saw you kiss me last night, and he is waiting in the lane with a big stick and a bull-dog." A three-halfpenny stamp in the first position might be read, "Oh, my beautiful damsel, come at once. The old folks are going to the theatre." In the second place it might signify, "Don't come near me any more. Ma is so angry, but never mind; look at me quietly when you see me at church, and I will try and fall behind." It will thus be seen that quite a little romance might be arranged with stamps of different value.



MARCH.

1	S	
2	M	Pope Leo born, 1810
3	Tu	Sir J. F. Stephen born, 1839
4	W	
5	Th	Thames Tunnel opened, 1845
6	F	Artemus Ward died, 1867
7	S	First Prayer Book issued, 1549
8	S	Postage Stamps introduced into Germany, 1850
9	M	German Emperor William I. died, 1888
10	Tu	Prince of Wales married, 1863
11	W	Benjamin West died, 1820
12	Th	Bank issued £1 notes, 1797. £5 Bank of Eng. notes first
13	F	Grand Duke of Hesse died, 1892 [issued, 1793
14	S	King Humbert born, 1844
15	S	Viscount Melbourne born, 1779
16	M	Queen created Empress of India, 1876
17	Tu	St. Patrick's Day
18	W	Communist insurrection, Paris, 1871
19	Th	Lucknow taken, 1858
20	F	Sinking Fund established, 1786
21	S	Warning issued by J. W. Palmer, '88, to colls. concern-
22	S	Albert Way died, 1874 [ing Laureated Head, N.S.W.
23	M	National Gallery opened, 1824
24	Tu	H. W. Longfellow died, 1882
25	W	
26	Th	Duke of Cambridge born, 1819
27	F	Postage Stamps first issued Ionian Isles, 1857
28	S	Duke of Albany died, 1884
29	S	Albert Hall opened, 1871
30	M	Don Carlos born, 1848
31	T	Slave Trade abolished in England, 1806

THE RAREST STAMP IN THE WORLD.

THE Brattleboro' stamp—*rarissimus inter raros*—which was sold by J. W. Palmer for £250, is the rarest stamp in the world. It is certainly worth a good deal more than the Mauritius. The pair of Mauritius—the penny and twopenny, bearing the words "post office" instead of the words "post paid"—are worth a little less than the single specimen of the Brattleboro'. The specimens of the Brattleboro' still extant may be counted on the fingers of one hand, but the Mauritius can be numbered by the score.

VARIETY IS—ALARMING.

To give some idea of the extent to which the forgery of rare stamps is carried, we print the names of various countries represented in the Chamber of Horrors. Of course, this does not exhaust the list, which is, however, sufficient to put collectors on their guard against purchasing cheap unused sets of any of the following countries:—

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

Genuine specimens of these stamps are worth as much, in some instances, as £250 a-piece.

1	W	Prince Bismarck born, 1815
2	Th	Cobden died, 1865
3	F	
4	S	F. M. Palmer born, 1860
5	S	Postage Stamps first issued Paraguay, 1870
6	M	
7	Tu	Denis F. MacCarthy died, 1882
8	W	Lord Chatham died, 1778
9	Th	
10	F	Gen. Booth b., 1829 [of Stamps to the British Museum
11	S	T. K. Tapling, M.P., d., 1891, bequeathed his Collection
12	S	Lord Rodney's victory, 1782
13	M	
14	Tu	Princess Beatrice born, 1857
15	W	
16	Th	Battle of Culloden, 1746
17	F	Magalhaens killed, 1521
18	S	
19	S	Primrose Day. Lord Beaconsfield died, 1881
20	M	Postage Stamps first issued Costa Rica, 1862
21	Tu	Baroness Burdett-Coutts born, 1814
22	W	Petition against Forged Stamps prep. by Palmer, 1884
23	Th	Shakespeare died, 1616
24	F	Daniel Defoe died, 1731
25	S	First English Prince of Wales born, 1284
26	S	Jeremy Collier died, 1726
27	M	Duke of Devonshire born, 1808
28	Tu	Mutiny of the "Bounty," 1789
29	W	Postage Stamps first issued Lagos (Gold Coast), 1874
30	Th	Sir John Lubbock born, 1834

PRIMROSE DAY. *April 19, 1881.*

"PEACE WITH HONOUR."

Britannia mourns to-day her patriot son;
Each year grows ever grief the more,
And heavier the loss his heirs deplore;
Chated of that Honour which he won
Of Peace with Honour which he brought to us of yore.
Now all is changed: the sacred Peace is fled,
Since laggards to the councils came—
Pierce war the nation's portion, theirs the shame;
In Peace with Honour sleeps th' illustrious dead.
England to the glory of his cherished name
Lovingly, as the early flowers of spring appear,
Dedicates the Primrose, because he held it dear.—J. W. P.

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS.

SOME HIGH PRICES THAT WERE REALISED AT A SALE LAST YEAR.

A PAIR of Great Britain V.R. 1d. black unused, £22; do., £1 green, postally used, £5 15s.; Oldenburg, 3 gros, unused, strip of five, £9 9s.; Switzerland, Zurich, 4 rappen, £6 6s.; Spain, 12 cuartos, blue and rose, inverted centre, £11 15s.; Cape of Good Hope, 1d. brick red, a pair, £12 5s.; Mauritius, 1d. on white, £6; Natal, 6d. green and 9d. blue, on same envelope, £13; British Columbia, 5c. rose, £10; New Brunswick, 1s. mauve, £10 15s.; Newfoundland, 1s., £6; British Guiana, 1856, 4c. crimson, £21; Nevis, 1s. green, a sheet of 12, unused, £26 10s.; ditto, 6d. green, unused, £9; St. Vincent, 5s. rose, unused, £14 14s.; another copy, but torn, £11 5s.; ditto, 4d., in black on 1s., £11 10s.; Trinidad, 1d. dull blue, £6 17s. 6d.; New South Wales, 2d. grey blue, Plate III., a pair, £8 16s. 6d.; ditto 3d. green, a fine pair, £6 5s.; New Zealand, 2d. blue, rouletted, £6 5s.; Victoria, 1854, lithographed 2d. mauve, an unused block of nine, £22 10s. The 400 lots realised an average of nearly £2 10s. per lot.

£10 WORTH OF STAMPS FOR £5.

WE are now offering exceptional terms to purchasers. On our net sheets we are allowing a discount, for cash, of 25 per cent in the £, that is to say we are giving £1 in stamps for 15s. Upon purchases of £10 and upwards the amount of discount is doubled, and we allow 10s. discount in the £. Upon such terms Mr. J. W. Palmer ventures to say that he offers terms that are not only exceptional, but out-distance competition altogether.

MAY.

1	F	Issue of the Mulready envelope, 1840
2	S	Thames Embankment opened, 1868
3	S	Jamaica discovered, 1494
4	M	Local Letter Post established in Vienna, 1772
5	Tu	Ex-Empress Eugenie born, 1826
6	W	Postage Stamps first issued, 1840
7	Th	Robert Browning born, 1812
8	F	Monarchy restored, 1660
9	S	Mr. Wallace, M.P., moved for Sel. Com. to inquire into
10	S	Crystal Pal. op., '54 [the merits of Rld. Hill's scheme, '37
11	M	Petition against forged stamps prep. by J.W. Palmer, '84
12	Tu	Sir Charles Barry died, 1860
13	W	Suicide of King of Bavaria, 1886
14	Th	
15	F	German Emperor Frederick died, 1888
16	S	Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration at Guildhall, '90;
17	S	Revised New Testament issued, 1881 [issue of Jubilee
18	M	New Eddystone Lighthouse opened, 1882 [post-card
19	Tu	Magna Charta signed, 1215
20	W	Postage Stamps adopted by the Sandwich Islands, 1851
21	Th	Sir Lyon Playfair born, 1819
22	F	Grisi born, 1812
23	S	Henry Fawcett born at Salisbury, 1833
24	S	Queen Victoria born, 1819
25	M	Princess Helena born, 1846
26	Tu	Tuileries destroyed, 1871
27	W	Repeal of Corn Laws, 1856
28	Th	Genefal Grant died, 1885
29	F	Empress Josephine died, 1814
30	S	Alexander Pope died, 1744
31	S	Machine for perforating stamps invented by Henry [Archer, 1852

POST OFFICES OF THE WORLD.

THERE are in Europe 65,500 receiving offices, 41,500 telegraph offices, and 225,000 letter boxes. The total number of persons employed by the various post offices was 356,000; and according to the latest published annual returns there were transmitted 3,683,000,000 letters, 546,000,000 post-cards, 1,046,000,000 books and parcels, 1,672,000,000 newspapers, and 117,000,000 telegrams, the gross weight of the matter sent through the post being estimated at about 800,000 tons. Less than half a century ago the number of packages of all kinds that passed through the post offices of the world was well under 100,000,000.

THE MUSEUM OF PHILATELY.

A CHAMBER OF PHILATELICAL HORRORS.

DURING the year 1895 the exhibition at Palmer's has been doing good work, we hope, as a warning to stamp collectors, &c. The room, which may be aptly described as a Philatetical Chamber of Horrors, the public are admitted to, free of charge. This 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 kind 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), and instead of putting them into circulation, he 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 by the number of

1	M	Charles Lever died, 1872
2	Tu	Garibaldi died, 1882
3	W	Duke of York born, 1865
4	Th	Lord Wolseley born, 1833
5	F	St. Boniface
6	S	Cyprus Stamp issued
7	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Roman States, 1852
8	M	Sir John Millais born, 1829
9	Tu	Charles Dickens died, 1870
10	W	P. O. robbery of Telegraph Stamps discovered, 1890
11	Th	Money Market panic, 1866
12	F	Rev. Charles Kingsley born, 1819
13	S	Kensington Museum opened, 1857
14	S	Battle of Marengo, 1800
15	M	Napoleon I. died, 1921
16	Tu	Battle of Quatre Bras, 1815
17	W	Postage Stamps first issued, Tasmania, 1853
18	Th	Battle of Waterloo, 1815
19	F	French postal system founded by Louis XI., 1464
20	S	J. A. Palmer died, 1893
21	S	Longest day
22	M	Great fire in Tooley Street, 1861
23	Tu	Clive's victory at Plassey, 1757
24	W	Midsummer Day
25	Th	Right Hon. H. Childers born, 1827
26	F	George IV. died, 1830
27	S	First meeting of the Postal Union Congress held in
28	S	Coronation Day [Paris, 1863]
29	M	Lord Raglan died, 1855
30	Tu	Opening of the Tower Bridge, 1894

HOME FOR INCURABLES AT STREATHAM.

It was a great day for Streatham when the Princess of Wales opened the local Home for Incurables, and a great day for the institution. In honour of the event, Mr. J. W. Palmer's place at Norwood was decorated with flags and bunting and flowers. During the three days of the fair, Fairlawn wore its festive appearance, and each night the front was illuminated with a device, "God Bless our Prince and Princess."

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 to prevent them from falling into other hands. 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 Exhibition 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*.

1	W	20 cent. French Stamp suppressed, 1850
2	Th	Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration at S. Kensington, '90
3	F	Battle of Sadowa, 1866
4	S	Declaration of American Independence, 1776
5	S	Lord Gifford born, 1849
6	M	Samuel Lever died, 1868
7	Tu	John Huss burnt, 1415
8	W	Shelley drowned, 1822
9	Th	Fire Insurance expires
10	F	Abolition of Members of Parliament's privilege of
11	S	Alexandria bombarded, 1882 [franking letters, 1840
12	S	Crimea evacuated, 1856
13	M	Voting by Ballot instituted, 1872
14	Tu	Bastille stormed, 1789
15	W	<i>St. Swithin</i>
16	Th	Bóranger died, 1857
17	F	Issue of American Five Dollar Stamp, 1862
18	S	Dean Stanley died, 1881
19	S	Bishop Wilberforce died, 1873
20	M	Lord Westbury died, 1873
21	Tu	Robert Burns died, 1796
22	W	Issue of 15 cent. French Stamp (green), 1850
23	Th	Duke of Devonshire born, 1833
24	F	Window Tax abolished, 1851
25	S	Great Fire at Baltimore, 1873
26	S	Metropolitan Penny Post established, 1683
27	M	Bank of England founded, 1694
28	Tu	Armada dispersed, 1588
29	W	Seaham Harbour opened, 1835
30	Th	General Post Office opened in St. Martin's-le-Grand, '29
31	F	Catherine of Sedgwick died

THE FREE HOME FOR THE DYING.

When friends exchange greetings, do they realise how much it means? What can a Happy New Year be to poor sufferers dying without friends or even a home? Yet the patients in the Free Home for the Dying will have a Happy New Year, tenderly nursed, and with every little want anticipated by the kind sisters who devote their lives to the work, as real Sisters of the Poor. The need for such a Home is shown by the constant demand for beds, and all that is wanted to extend the good work is money. Can any one begin the New Year with a better deed than sending a small contribution to the Honorary Secretary, W. Portlock-Dadson, 281, Strand, W.C., who will most thankfully acknowledge the same?

THE CAUSE AND THE CLAUSE.

THE famous seventh (Palmer's) clause of the Post Office Protection Act was passed into law in September, 1884, at the instance of Mr. J. W. Palmer, who spared neither trouble nor expense in order to obtain the insertion in the act of this clause, intended especially for the protection of philatelists. We give the precise terms of the clause:—

(Section 7.) A person shall not—

- (a.) make, knowingly utter, deal in, or sell any fictitious stamp, or knowingly use for any postal purpose any fictitious stamp; or
- (b.) have in his possession, unless he shows a lawful excuse, any fictitious stamp; or
- (c.) make, or, unless he shows a lawful excuse, have in his possession, any die, plate, instrument, or material for making any fictitious stamp.

Any person who acts in contravention of this Section shall be liable on summary conviction on a prosecution by order of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to a fine not exceeding £20, subject to the like right of appeal as in the case of a penalty under the Acts relating to the Excise.

AUGUST.

1	S	Issue of Austrian Postal Union Card (5 kr.), 1880
2	S	Battle of Sedan, 1870
3	M	Mr. Speaker Peel born, 1829
4	Tu	Adhesive Postage Stamp first invd. by James Chalmers,
5	W	Queen of Saxony born, 1833 [of Dundee, '34
6	Th	Duke of Edinburgh born, 1844
7	F	New French Issues
8	S	George Canning died, 1827
9	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Roumania, 1862
10	M	George J. Goschen born, 1831
11	Tu	Dog Days end
12	W	M. A. M. Palmer born, 1885
13	Th	<i>Old Lammas Day</i>
14	F	Local Government Act passed, 1871
15	S	Sir Walter Scott born, 1771
16	S	Gas introduced in London, 1807
17	M	Rowld. Hill scheme adopted by House of Commons by a
18	Tu	Emperor of Austria born, 1830 [majority of 100, '39
19	W	Balzac died, 1850
20	Th	Abergele Railway accident, 1868
21	F	Battle of Vimiera, 1808
22	S	King Richard III. killed, 1485
23	S	Sir Astley Cooper born, 1768
24	M	Massacre of Huguenots, 1572
25	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued, Egypt, 1865
26	W	Battle of Cressy, 1346
27	Th	Rowland Hill died, 1879
28	F	St. Augustin
29	S	Foundering of the "Royal George," 1782
30	S	Battle of Plevna, 1877
31	M	Postal Treaty of Berne came into operation, 1874

PALMER'S MUSEUM.

THIS is the month when our "country cousins" come to town. Among the sights to be seen is Palmer's Museum. In connection with the Philatelic Exhibition opened by Mr. J. Palmer at 281, Strand—a collection of butterflies, birds' eggs, a mummy, and other natural curiosities now on view. The exhibition, which includes a room papered entirely with forged stamps, which would be of the value of £1,000,000 if the stamps were genuine specimens, is open free to the public. A photograph of the Forged Stamp Room is sold at the exhibition for one penny, the net proceeds of the sales being given to the fund for assuring a fortnight's holiday for the poor children of Olare Market and Drury Lane.

THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS.

A QUESTION of forged postage stamps, which will interest collectors all the world over, has come for trial before the Paris magistrates. A Paris correspondent writes: "A dealer in stamps is charged with having sold forged foreign stamps, which are protected by French law just like foreign coins. The Public Prosecutor said the whole question was whether in foreign countries stamps were withdrawn, or whether they were always good as in France, where anybody might prepay a letter with an 1818 stamp. The Judge: 'I know somebody who is in a position to inform me, and therefore defer judgment for a week.' I think I could give the learned judge the information. For a good many years past governments have become alive to the fact that a new issue of stamps cost them nothing, the expenses of design, engraving, &c., being more than covered by collectors' demands, and particularly by speculative purchases of dealers. Several penurious Spanish American Republics have entered into contract with American banknote engraving companies, who supply them with an issue of stamps, not only free of cost, but with a handsome bonus, on condition of receiving the stamps unsold at the end of the year. The stamps are then withdrawn, and, unlike the early English and French black stamps, are no good for franking letters."

GLAD NEWS.—It affords us peculiar gratification to acknowledge the following paragraph from the *Connoisseur*: "Mr. Olney, the United States Attorney General, has decided that the printing of fac-similes of foreign postage stamps is a violation of the Act prohibiting the counterfeiting of foreign obligations or securities. This will be glad news to the genial and indefatigable enemy of forgeries, Mr. Palmer, of the Strand, as well as to the general body of philatelists." Other countries please copy.

SEPTEMBER.

1	Tu	Palmer's Clause, P.O. Protection Act, 1884. Post-card
2	W	Board of Trade constituted, 1786 [reform introd., 1894
3	Th	Oliver Cromwell died, 1658
4	F	J. Palmer, of Bath, submits to the Govt. his scheme for a
5	S	Op. of Severn Tunnel, '85 [system of mail coaches, 1784
6	S	Sir Henry March born, 1840
7	M	W. H. T. Palmer born, 1883
8	Tu	Sebastopol taken, 1855
9	W	Thomas Watts died, 1869
10	Th	Guizot died, 1874
11	F	Battle of Malplaquet, 1709
12	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Iceland, 1873
13	S	Quebec taken, 1759
14	M	Duke of Wellington died, 1852
15	Tu	Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened, 1830
16	W	Ben Jonson died, 1637
17	Th	Brighton Railway opened, 1838
18	F	Dr. Johnson born, 1709
19	S	Dean Swift died, 1745
20	S	Battle of the Alma, 1854
21	M	Sir W. Scott died, 1832
22	Tu	Lord Chief Justice Denman died, 1854
23	W	Marshal Bazaine died, 1888
24	Th	Postage Stamps first issued, Heligoland, 1867
25	F	Porson died, 1808
26	S	Von Moltke born, 1800
27	S	G. Cruikshank born, 1792
28	M	Eugene Clemenceau born, 1841
29	Tu	J. W. Palmer married, 1880, Covent Garden Church
30	W	Fiji Islands ceded, 1830

From the *Times* :—

“PALMER —On the 7th Sept., at 281, Strand, the wife of J. W. PALMER, of a son, stillborn.”

Mr. J. W. Palmer desires, on behalf of himself and wife, to acknowledge with thanks the numerous kindly and sympathetic messages by letters and telegrams. Mr. Palmer hopes that if any such inquiry has been overlooked this may be accepted in the place of an answer by post. After a long and trying period of illness, Mrs. Palmer is now progressing towards recovery.

EARLY STAMPS.

SOMEBODY has gone and discovered America again. It is announced, with all the air of a new discovery, that postal envelopes were used in Sardinia from 1819 to 1836. Two series were in circulation in that period, the first from 1819 to 1820, which bore a blue impressed stamp low down in the centre of the part folded to receive the address. Of these there were three values—fifteen centesimi, circular; twenty-five centesimi, oval; and fifty centesimi, octagon. The second series was on paper water-marked with the arms of Savoy in the centre, and having watermarked inscriptions disposed round them, the border of the paper also showing a Greek pattern, and bearing an inscription which signified "Correspondence by private carriers, by foot passengers, and other means." The values and designs were the same as those of the preceding series, but instead of being coloured they were in white relief. A purchaser of any of these envelopes might, under certain conditions, send the letters written on or enclosed in them by any private conveyance, instead of through the slow and clumsy Post-Office. Used originals of these stamped envelopes are very rare, but reprints—that is, impressions from the original dies—are obtainable. We must put our readers on their guard against reprints of these stamps, which are far more plentiful than the originals.

More than 60,000 stamps are said to be found loose every year in the letter boxes of the United Kingdom.

OCTOBER.

1	Th	Introduction of 6d. Telegrams, 1885
2	F	Sir Stevenson Arthur Blackwood died, 1893
3	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Japan, 1871 [Memel, 1646
4	S	German Government Post started between Cleves and
5	M	Prince Henry of Battenberg born, 1858
6	Tu	Right Hon. W. H. Smith died, 1891
7	W	Edgar Allan Poe died, 1847
8	Th	Great Fire of Chicago, 1871
9	F	St. Denys
10	S	Oxford Mich. Term begins
11	S	19th Sunday after Trinity
12	M	Pekin taken, 1860
13	Tu	Palmer's system of mail coaches adopted, 1797
14	W	Fire Insurance expires
15	Th	Prince Alfred of Edinburgh born, 1874
16	F	Houses of Parliament burnt, 1834
17	S	L. Pocock died, 1882
18	S	Lord Palmerston died, 1865
19	M	Henry Kirke White died, 1806
20	Tu	Lord Palmerston born, 1784
21	W	Battle of Trafalgar, 1805
22	Th	Edict of Nantes revoked, 1685
23	F	Postage Stamps first issued, Servia, 1866
24	S	Joseph William Palmer born, 1853
25	S	Battle of Agincourt, 1415
26	M	Post Office Prosecution, 1891
27	Tu	Sir G. Kneller died, 1723
28	W	New Royal Exchange opened, 1844
29	Th	John Leech died, 1864
30	F	Gambetta born, 1838
31	S	All Hallows Eve

UNDER THE CLAUSE.

THE Seventh—Palmer's—Clause of the 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." Just ten years later the authorities effected a seizure of a popular newspaper that had published, in good faith, an illustration of an English penny stamp.

STAMP-TAPE AND BOX.

IN philatelic circles one of the memorable successes of the year has been stamp-tape. Hitherto stamp-tape has been sold in reels, and in reels only, but Mr. Palmer is now able to offer it to his customers in a yet handier form. An elegant little box, which may be conveniently carried in the pocket, is now made to contain a length of stamp-tape, and from the stamp-tape box the tape may be drawn as required through a slip in the side of the box, as with the ordinary yard measure. The stamp-tape box should come in handy for many purposes, and where it is designed to fix things neatly together it will be found more useful than gum or pins or clips, whilst it will, with regard to the special requirements of the stamp collector, effect a considerable saving of time and trouble. No prohibitive price has been put upon the stamp-tape box, for it has been Mr. Palmer's intention to bring it within the reach of all collectors. The box, with a length of twenty-two yards of stamp-tape, is offered for sale at the price of 1s., or by post 1s. 2d., the charge for postage being increased, according to official rates, for orders from abroad. Tapes for refilling the boxes may be had of Mr. Palmer, according to the width required, at 6d. and 9d. a length of twenty-two yards. The box may be had separately, price 3d.

NOVEMBER.

1	S	Stamped Pos. Letter-paper (<i>carta postale bollata</i>) issued
2	M	India proclaimed an Empire, '58 (by Sardinian Sts., '18
3	Tu	Mikado of Japan born, 1852
4	W	George Peabody died, 1869
5	Th	Battle of Inkerman, 1854
6	F	Postage Stamps first issued, Gambia, 1869
7	S	Henry Fawcett, Postmaster-General, died, 1884
8	S	John Milton died, 1674
9	M	Prince of Wales born, 1841
10	Tu	Royal Academy founded, 1768
11	W	Martinmas
12	Th	J. S. O. D. Palmer born, 1887
13	F	Lord Rayleigh born, 1852
14	S	First appointment of Postmaster-General for England,
15	S	William Pitt born, 1708
16	M	John Bright born, 1811
17	Tu	Suez Canal opened, 1869
18	W	Charles Heath died, 1848
19	Th	Man in the iron mask died, 1705
20	F	Lesseps born, 1805
21	S	Empress Frederick of Germany born, 1840
22	S	M. S. E. C. Palmer born, 1889
23	M	Post-Office prosecution, 1889
24	Tu	M. S. E. C. Palmer died, 1893
25	W	Postage Stamps first issued in Sarawak, 1866
26	Th	Marshal Soult died, 1851
27	F	Earl of Selborne born, 1812
28	S	The <i>Times</i> first printed by steam, 1814
29	S	First School Board Election, 1870
30	M	Cardinal Wolsey died, 1530

MR. J. W. PALMER'S arrangements for the SALE OF COLLECTIONS ON COMMISSION are now made, and he is prepared to undertake to sell or buy right out for clients, and whatever the amount of purchase money may be. NO CHARGE WHATSOEVER IS MADE UNLESS A SALE IS EFFECTED. CASH IS SENT OFF ON THE DAY THE SALE IS EFFECTED. In the course of the past year he has not returned one collection sent to him to dispose of. He is prepared to undertake the sale of collections from £10 to £20,000.

A CLEVER CLERGYMAN.

AN amusing yarn is going round the Stock Exchange in connection with the last settlement, and if it is not true it ought to be. A country parson, it is reported, wrote to Mr. Barnato in terms something like the following: "Respected sir,—As the vicar of —, my aim has always been investment and not speculation. When your Bank came out I regarded the shares as an investment, and I purchased 400 at £4, sinking my little all in them—and a good deal more. They have now fallen to £2, and I am undone. My parish I cannot face as a bankrupt, and what am I to do? I throw myself on your mercy." Mr. Barnato, so the story goes, was deeply moved by this touching appeal, and wrote back that in the painful circumstances of the case he would buy back from the clergyman the 400 shares at £4—the price he had paid for them. Immediately on receipt of this generous reply the guileless country parson at once wired to his brokers: "Buy 400 Barnato Banks at 2, and send round to Barnato Brothers, who will give you 4 for them." Here endeth the first lesson.

In Memoriam.

In loving memory of Queenie, who died on November 24th, 1893, and of Jack, who died January 14th, 1894, infant son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Palmer, "When remembered, you are not dead."

DECEMBER.

1	Tu	Princess of Wales born, 1844
2	W	Queen Adelaide died, 1849
3	Th	Rowland Hill born, at Kidderminster, 1795
4	F	Richelieu died, 1642
5	S	Postal Service organised at Nuremberg, 1570
6	S	Postage Stamps first issued in Zurich, 1840
7	M	General Sir Redvers Buller born, 1839
8	Tu	F. M. R. Palmer born, 1881
9	W	Earl of Clarendon died, 1674
10	Th	Post-Office prosecution, 1890
11	F	Archbishop Denison born, 1805
12	S	Robert Browning died, 1889
13	S	Dr. Johnson died, 1784
14	M	Postage Stamps first issued in Belgium, 1849
15	Tu	Imperial Stamp of New Germany issued, 1871
16	W	A. de Fourcroy died, 1843
17	Th	Oxford Mich. Term ends
18	F	U.S. Slavery abolished, 1862
19	S	
20	S	John Wilson Croker born, 1780
21	M	<i>St. Thomas.</i>
22	Tu	"George Eliot" died, 1880
23	W	Samuel Parkes died, 1825
24	Th	Thackeray died, 1863
25	F	<i>Christmas Day</i>
26	S	Bank and general holiday
27	S	Postage Stamps first issued in Brazil, 1843
28	M	Lord Macaulay died, 1859
29	Tu	W. E. Gladstone born, 1809
30	W	Postage Stamps first issued in Naples, 1858
31	Th	Gambetta died, 1882

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

THE philatelist may find a choice of seasonable gifts at 281, Strand. Albums to suit all purses, from the most moderate price upwards, and packets of postage-stamps, in which every specimen is guaranteed genuine. There is no extra charge for that. Mr. Palmer's prices are lower than any other dealer's. A box of stamp-tape is a gift that is always in season.

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NEWS OF THE POLLS.

The Derby winner has lost his race,*
 There's an end to the Irish row,
 Lord Rosebery had a party,
 Where is that party now?

* Sir William Harcourt's majority, 1,961, at Derby, at the last election, has been turned into a Conservative majority of 1,127.

WHAT NEXT?

A WOMAN EXECUTIONER.—Among professions hitherto avoided by women that of public executioner may be numbered. This hideous calling might surely have been left exclusively to that bold, bad creature—man. Such, however, is not the opinion of a damsel at Vienna, who has sent in an application for a lately-vacated post in that capacity. One can scarcely wish this girl success in her endeavour to gain an honest, though morbidly horrible, livelihood. She must be either a curiosity or the perpetrator of a detestable kind of joke. In either case her sanity is questionable.—*Reynold's*.

THE attainments of Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., the new County Court judge for the Salisbury district, are by no means confined to the world of law. In Masonic circles he is a man of high degree. He has been an active member of the Board of General Purposes, a Grand Deacon, a Grand Registrar, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Grand Chancellor of Order of Temple and Malta, and a member of the Supreme Council. His fame is great among collectors of stamps. He is a Past President of the Philatelic Society of London, and joint author of the standard work on the stamps of Great Britain.

NEW SHEETS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF STOCK.

NET PRICES.

MR. J. W. PALMER has called in his old sheets, with a view to a systematic re-arrangement of his entire stock at net prices. All sheets sent out from this date will be marked at the lowest net prices, and no discount will be allowed. Customers will find that our prices in many cases are less than a quarter of those of other firms. It is unnecessary to state that every stamp sold by J. W. Palmer is absolutely guaranteed a genuine specimen. As it is known by this time throughout the kingdom and all the world over that Palmer does not sell reprints or forgeries, collectors and dealers who hold dubious specimens may have them examined free of charge at 281, Strand, where Mr. Palmer, as hitherto, is pleased to give his advice gratuitously upon all questions affecting philately. All correspondence through the post must be paid by remittance to cost of reply post. Our friends at home and abroad will please accept this intimation.

TO ALL WHO WISH TO SELL—OR BUY.

WE must ask for the occasional indulgence of our customers in completing rare sets, as we do not make stamps on the premises when we have not got them in hand, and we do not, under any circumstances, sell reprints. We put our readers on their guard against purchasing reprints, which are, like forgeries, not really worth the paper they are printed on. Collectors may be advised to give careful consideration to perforations and roulettes, unperforated stamps turned into perforated, or rouletted by devices which we have already exposed, and raised in price—though not in value—from a penny to a pound, in some cases. To an expert the imposition is one which may be easily detected; but the unwary may be so easily taken in, thinking they have a bargain, that too much attention cannot be directed to this matter. As Mr. Palmer only sells genuine stamps, his sales allow him to offer the highest prices ever paid to those who wish to dispose of rare stamps, and to sell at the lowest.

“MR. J. W. PALMER makes public the fact that every stamp issued since 1840 can still be affixed to a letter and passed through the post. Therefore the old red stamps, which were recently fac-similed by the *Milton*, a prosecution being the consequence, are not the obsolete things they were supposed to be. Even the Mulready envelope is still legal tender. Mr. Palmer recently sent a Mulready envelope through the post. At first the authorities refused to recognise it, and charged double postage, but on appeal to the chief office the twopence was returned, and the letter officially stamped, ‘Charged in error, the stamped envelope being genuine.’ Considering the value of a Mulready envelope, the test must also be regarded as one of the honesty of the Post-Office officials through whose hands it passed.”

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And FAIRLAWN, NORWOOD ROAD, WEST NORWOOD, S.E.

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			0	0	8
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No. 4—	20 varieties, all different, of British Colonial Stamps	Price	0	6	6
No. 5—	100 varieties, all different, of used Foreign Stamps	Price	0	1	0
No. 6—	150 varieties, all different, of used and unused Foreign Stamps ...	Price	0	1	6
No. 7—	200 varieties, all different, of used and unused Foreign Stamps ...	Price	0	2	0
No. 8—	500 varieties, all different, of used and unused Foreign Stamps ...	Price	1	10	0
No. 9—	500 Stamps, Foreign, &c. (some rare)	Price	0	8	6
No. 11—	50 varieties, all different (including a three-cornered Cape of Good Hope)	Price	0	1	0
No. 12—	50 varieties, all different, no Europeans.—A good parcel for foreign collectors, with many scarce and good stamps in it	Price	0	5	0
No. 13—	100 varieties, all different, no Europeans.—Amongst them many rare stamps	Price	0	5	0
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SIXTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

THE

PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

And Stamp-Collector's Vade-Mecum,

FOR THE YEAR

1897.



J. W. PALMER,

281, STRAND, W.C.,

And Patriawn, Norwood Road, West Norwood, S.E.

THE LANGUAGE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

WHAT is the language of postage stamps? We have heard of the language of flowers—we know the language of the eye, and we have felt the language—if it is possible to feel a language—of the fist; but what is the language of the postage stamp? Is it possible to talk sweet nothings by means of stamps, or to carry on a conversation by the medium of a few impressions of the Queen's head? It would seem so, for we read that a language of postage stamps, instead of flowers, has been invented by a practical person. Thus, when a postage stamp is placed upside down in the left corner of the letter, it means, "I love you;" on the same, crosswise, "My heart is another's;" straight up and down, "Good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye;" upside down in the right-hand corner, "Write no more;" in the centre at the top, "Yes;" opposite at the bottom, "No;" on the right-hand corner at a right angle, "Do you love me?" in the left-hand corner, "I hate you;" top corner on the right, "I wish your friendship;" bottom corner on the left, "I love your acquaintance;" on a line with the top corner, "Accept my love;" the same with the left, "I am obliged to you;" at a right angle in the same place, "I long to see you;" in the middle of the right-hand edge, "Write immediately." This is all very pretty, but who could carry it all in his head? Of course the rules might be printed, and then they would be all right and comfortably easy to interpret; but the matter is capable of much greater extension. The aforesaid code only applies to penny stamps. A fresh set of rules and sentences might be gained on the same positions by using stamps of different value. Thus a halfpenny stamp stuck on the top right-hand corner would stand for "Look out, the old man is coming." Placed in the left bottom corner it would signify, "My big brother Will saw you kiss me last night, and he is waiting in the lane with a big stick and a bull-dog." A three-halfpenny stamp in the first position might be read, "Oh, my beautiful damsel, come at once. The old folks are going to the theatre." In the second place it might signify, "Don't come near me any more. Ma is so angry, but never mind; look at me quietly when you see me at church, and I will try and fall behind." It will thus be seen that quite a little romance might be arranged with stamps of different value.

Grawford 11258

THE

PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

AND

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S VADE-MECUM

FOR THE YEAR

1897.