

Brawford 1625/67

THE

PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

AND

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S VADE-MECUM

FOR THE YEAR

1897.

MEN WHO HAVE EARNED SUCCESS.



FATHER OF STAMP COLLECTING.

MR. PALMER
WISHES ONE AND ALL
A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

MEN WHO HAVE EARNED SUCCESS.

J. W. PALMER, THE FATHER OF STAMP-COLLECTING.

UNTIL the arrival of the cycling era it seemed as if the collection of postage stamps was to be the biggest of all "booms," and even now, according to Mr. J. W. Palmer, the oldest-established professor of philately in England, this hobby and its attendant trade have not suffered at all from the wheel craze, but is steadily and surely increasing. This admission is truly a remarkable one in these days, when every other industry is bewailing the devastating influence upon its fortunes of the ubiquitous cycle. But, it seems, there are still hundreds of thousands of Britons who remain true to their old philatelic love.

It may be as well to warn our readers that the figures hereafter given are somewhat appalling, but they are guaranteed, nevertheless.

Mr. J. W. Palmer is the father of stamp-collecting in this country. He was first of the dealers in the early days; now that many competitors have sprung up he easily maintains the lead. Born in 1853 in Mare Street, Hackney, Mr. Palmer to-day looks but little older than his portrait here presented, though the photograph from which it is produced was taken many years ago. Of medium height, the long curly hair retains its youthful blackness, and still thickly covers his head; and if the moustache and pointed beard are now iron-grey, the colour rather adds to than detracts from the force of the features, which remind one greatly of Shakespeare as shown in many prints. As a child he was always "playing at shops." While only seven years old he laid the foundation of his present philatelic greatness—a greatness that is cosmopolitan—by picking up a postage stamp and

putting it in his pocket. Even then he knew it was not exactly an ordinary postage stamp, and shortly afterwards sold it for sixpence.

That stamp was a "three-cornered Cape of Good Hope with error," and is to-day worth over fifty pounds.

THE FIRST STAMP

sold by Mr. Palmer was a blue triangular Cape of Good Hope, which has to this day remained in the hands of its original purchaser, with whom from then till now Mr. Palmer has continued his business relations. Like many another man who has earned success, the trifling incident just mentioned seems to have settled his career.

Instead of spending his sixpence in tops, marbles, or toffee, young Palmer invested it in postage stamps, which he immediately resold at a profit. Devoting himself with all his energy to his task, he soon gathered together quite a large collection. He discovered, too, that "small profits and quick returns" is the best of all business mottoes, and he obtained from his father the use of a pane of glass in his shop in Catherine Street, Strand; therein he fitted a sheet of cardboard, to which was affixed his wares and prices.

So successful was this experiment that young Palmer began to extend his operations. He procured several sheets of cardboard, and affixed sets of stamps on each. These he took round to various tradesmen in the district, arranged with them a system of "sale or return," and persuaded them to sell the stamps on commission. All this time the boy went regularly to night schools, and so neglected neither his business nor his education. Every day this lad of ten made the round of his "agents" to take stock and the proceeds, when there were any.

Gradually his business began to grow, and orders for rare varieties were received from customers. He had often to spend weeks in searching for some particularly

choice specimen. The demand now exceeded the supply, and it became necessary for young Palmer to establish some regular system of increasing his stock. So he made terms with the office boys and clerks in the Temple, by which they agreed

TO COLLECT FOR HIM.

His connection spread to the City, and the youth used to meet his collectors during the luncheon hour every day under the colonnade of the Royal Exchange.

From the very first young Palmer was the sworn foe of imitations and forgeries—that curse of collectors, and he has fought them inch by inch to this day. And so we find that in 1884 the new Post Office Protection Act contained three clauses—known as Palmer's clauses—for the protection of dealers and collectors, and the punishment of wrongdoers—for which he had consistently agitated for a long period. These clauses provide that—

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 materials for making any fictitious stamp.

The next step young Palmer took was to establish a central office under his own control. The little shop soon became so insufficient that larger premises were found to be absolutely necessary, and his present establishment in the Strand was opened. This has from time to time been extended, and to-day the whole building is devoted to his trade. "I am wedded to my business," Mr. Palmer used to say; but he has long been wedded in more orthodox fashion, nevertheless. But even on the day of his marriage business was "carried on as usual."

JANUARY.

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

THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

By the untimely death of the Earl of Kingston the science of Philately has lost one of its best admirers and President of the London Philatelic Society. To know him was to esteem him; he was courteous and genial to all who, like ourselves, were brought into contact with him in the pursuit of the science which he loved, and it will be difficult to find a fitting successor in the office he so excellently filled.

"And now, Mr. Palmer," I asked, "what is your annual turnover?"

"Buying and selling, many thousands of pounds. My stock, if sold, is worth £60,000."

"Please give me some figures."

"Thirty years ago, when I was the only stamp dealer in London, I sold about ten thousand stamps a year; last year, with many competitors, I sold over a hundred million."

"A HUNDRED MILLION?"

"Yes; most of them in large batches, of course. One customer alone bought 20,000,000 of the commoner varieties for America. He wanted them to paper the walls of houses and public buildings. The prices of average batches are sold for from ten to two thousand pounds. The walls of this room, you see, are papered with stamps. They are all counterfeits, and they number 70,000. If they were genuine they would be worth a million pounds. That sum has been paid for them by somebody or other; so that this room alone represents swindles to the extent of a million sterling."

"How do you count these vast quantities?"

"By weight, in sacks of a thousand."

"What are the most expensive stamps?"

"Some of the American local varieties fetch from £250 to £500. A pair of Post Office Mauritius are worth £600; a set of the five British Guiana, first issue, 1850, will fetch £1,000. Of course, stamps must be in 'mint' perfect condition to realise these prices."

"The most valuable English stamp is the ninepenny straw-coloured queen's head with hair-line of 1862; that is worth £30."

Mr. Palmer then gave me a long list of highly-priced varieties, from £100 downwards, that lack of space prevents me publishing.

FEBRUARY.

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

"HOME THEY BORE HER WARRIOR DEAD."

THIS beautiful line comes most appropriately to our mind at this sad time, when the heart of the nation has gone out to the two mourners waiting at Osborne for their dead, and bearing their bitter trial with fortitude and resignation. The memory of Prince Henry of Battenberg will ever be cherished by the British nation, of which he had made himself one, being beloved by all with whom he was brought in contact. It will be remembered that he died as a volunteer, having left all that were nearest and dearest to him to serve with the army of the country of his adoption. May he rest in peace.

“Can you tell me, Mr. Palmer, which are supposed to be the

FINEST COLLECTIONS

in the world?”

“Mr. Ferrari’s, in Paris, is the finest of all. It is worth £250,000, and contains about 250,000 specimens. Mr. Ferrari pays a secretary £500 a year to keep the collection up to date. The Duke of York’s is valued at between £30,000 and £40,000, Mr. Rothschild’s about £100,000, the late Czar’s £150,000. I believe the last is now the property of the new Czar. And that reminds me that collectors are clamouring for a new Russian stamp. A whole-hearted philatelist revels in assassinations and deaths of monarchs and presidents—they mean new issues.”

“How many dealers are there in London now, Mr. Palmer?”

“About fifty first-rate recognised houses; but there are thousands of dealers—and you would be surprised to know what a large number there are of ‘gentlemen dealers’—lords, Q.C.’s, officers, doctors, solicitors. And that is why so much care is needed in purchasing. Swindling is practised to a terrible extent. I am always ready to give my gratuitous opinion on every stamp in a collection—large or small; please impress that on your readers, and tell them that there is absolutely nothing to pay, nor are they expected to spend money in any way. I detest forgeries, and want to crush them out; it has been the work of my life. There are forged stamps, reprint stamps, false stamps that have never existed, doctored stamps of all kinds.”

I wish that I had the space to enumerate some of the commoner class of

FORGERIES,

&c. The ingenuity shown is remarkable, and only the trained eye of the expert can tell the true from the false.

MARCH.

1	M	
2	Tu	Pope Leo born, 1810
3	W	Sir J. F. Stephen born, 1839
4	Th	
5	F	Thames Tunnel opened, 1843
6	S	Artemus Ward died, 1867
7	S	First Prayer Book issued, 1549
8	M	Postage Stamps introduced into Germany, 1850
9	Tu	German Emperor William I. died, 1888
10	W	Prince of Wales married, 1863
11	Th	Benjamin West died, 1820
12	F	Bank issued £1 notes, 1797. £5 Bank of Eng. notes first
13	S	Grand Duke of Hesse died, 1892 [issued, 1793]
14	S	King Humbert born, 1844
15	M	Viscount Melbourne born, 1779
16	Tu	Queen created Empress of India, 1876
17	W	St. Patrick's Day
18	Th	Communist insurrection, Paris, 1871
19	F	Lucknow taken, 1858
20	S	Sinking Fund established, 1786
21	S	Warning issued by J. W. Palmer, '88, to colls. concern-
22	M	Albert Way died, 1874 [ing Laureated Head, N.S.W.]
23	Tu	National Gallery opened, 1824
24	W	H. W. Longfellow died, 1882
25	Th	
26	F	Duke of Cambridge born, 1819
27	S	Postage Stamps first issued Ionian Isles, 1857
28	S	Duke of Albany died, 1884
29	M	Albert Hall opened, 1871
30	T	Don Carlos born, 1848
31	W	Slave Trade abolished in England, 1806

FROM "FUN."

We regret to have to record the passing away of Mr. William Whitfield (which we also deeply regret, for we had known him personally for many years). The deceased gentleman most assiduously assisted in securing the prominent and world-wide notoriety of this periodical. He collaborated for a period of twenty-five years. This simple fact is the brightest of all that can be said of a colleague in the way of eulogy, now that he has gone to his long rest.

Nil tam difficile est, quin querendo investigari possit. Vale.

Mr. Palmer pointed out stamps of non-existent countries, and issues that have never been made, which have been bought by dealers themselves and even incorporated into their catalogues. You may remember the case in Paris a little while ago where somebody gave himself out to be king of an island off the coast of Japan. He had an issue of stamps all to himself—which goes to prove how profitable the game must be. So, when in doubt, or even if you are not in doubt, should the price you think of giving be a high one, go to Mr. Palmer.

"Yes," he continued, "the trade is growing every year. You see a stamp collection is now a proper thing to have in a gentleman's country house, and so on. The libraries and museums, too, are buying. Mr. Tapling, you may remember, left the British Museum his collection, worth £70,000."

"Have you any special tests for stamps?"

"Only the test of the eye, with the aid of strong glasses. You cannot subject stamps to any process; they are too delicate. It is a matter of experience; you cannot teach any one to detect forgeries. We tell them by the paper, or the ink, gum, design. Counterfeits have been brought to perfection, thanks to the people who publish books to tell buyers how to detect them. In these books faults are pointed out and corrected.

"Murder, swindling, burglary—all are brought into play in connection with the rage for stamp-collecting. The Paris case of murder will be fresh in your mind. Only last Friday a gentlemen had a

£200 COLLECTION STOLEN

by means of a forged letter to his mother, who delivered them up to a stranger; and last month a firm of auctioneers had its premises rifled by thieves, who wanted to find a fine collection, which, however, was fortunately locked up in a safe,

APRIL.

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

PRIMROSE DAY. *April 19, 1861.*

"PEACE WITH HONOUR."

B ritannia mourns to-day her patriot son;
 E ach year grows ever grief the more,
 A nd heavier the loss his heirs deplore;
 C heated of that Honour which he won,
 O f Peace with Honour which he brought to us of yore.
 N ow all is changed: the sacred Peace is fled,
 S ince laggards to the councils came—
 Fierce war the nation's portion, theirs the shame;
 I n Peace with Honour sleeps th' illustrious dead.
 E ngland to the glory of his cherished name
 L ovingly, as the early flowers of spring appear,
 D edicates the Primrose, because he held it dear.—J. W. P.

“You may wonder why the Government are so severe upon imitations of foreign stamps—even when done in perfect honesty, as in the case of the *Million*, the weekly paper which, you may remember, was seized some time ago by the police for publishing facsimiles of stamps. The reason is that the facsimiles teach the swindlers, and it is illegal for any one to have dies of colourable imitations in their possession. How can we tell into whose hands the dies may fall, and to what use they will be put?”

And so we chatted on, talking of many things. Mr. Palmer told me several quaint stories of his customers: how one gentleman wrote offering marriage to any lady who had two “Post Office Mauritius” in her collection; how another lady had a dog with a hankering after philately, which, in her absence, chewed up her valuable collection. I learned that the South American Republic constantly issue new stamps, not for post office service, but as a source of revenue from the collectors. Germany is the headquarters of stamp forgery, with America and England a good second and third. America spends the most money collecting stamps, then England, then Germany.

The rarest stamp in the world, it appears, is the Brattleboro’ stamp, which was sold by Mr. Palmer for £250, of which there are not now more than ten specimens extant.

Mr. Palmer told me also that his father before him collected stamps, the old newspaper stamps which denoted the Government duty; that there is absolutely no truth in the stories circulated as to the wonderful things that may be done by collectors of a million or so stamps of any sort.

“How many stamps do you examine every day, Mr. Palmer?”

“Never less than five thousand, very often ten.”—*Evening News.*

MAY.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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 10s. to £10 per million, according to variety and condition; but he wishes it to be generally understood that he cannot undertake to purchase the common varieties of English stamps in any lesser quantities than 50,000, and all such parcels must be sent carriage paid.

VERY SERIOUS ILLNESS OF J. W. PALMER.

It is with extreme regret that we crave the indulgence of our many friends in regard to the marking of forgeries and reprints in the many collections sent to us for that purpose.

Mr. Palmer, who for so many years worked hard in his own behalf, *and in behalf of all collectors*, in order to pass the seventh clause of the Post Office Protection Act, making it punishable to sell forgeries in England, is at present, we are compelled to say, unable to do justice to the above with that despatch which usually characterises his business undertakings.

We are gratified, in passing, to see that many other countries, including America, have seen fit to adopt a similar measure, and regard it as only a matter of time to see it a universal statute.

Mr. Palmer, who for over thirty years has so assiduously applied himself to business—allowing no distraction to interfere with the *steady grind of from fourteen to sixteen hours a day*, has at last been compelled to recognise that such a wearing existence must not continue.

Following upon a long series of domestic afflictions, and at the finish of a more than usually trying day, it was made painfully manifest to Mr. Palmer and his friends on the 17th February last that the last straw might be laid on the camel's back; and that in order to avert such an untimely disaster he must submit to the inevitable, and place himself under the supervision of the doctors.

Up to the present we are pleased to be able to report satisfactory progress; but the doctors are inexorable in their demand that *no serious business* must be undertaken for a time. Meanwhile business will be carried on as best we can under the circumstances, and we hope our

JUNE.

1	Tu	Charles Lever died, 1872
2	W	Garibaldi died, 1882
3	Th	Duke of York born, 1865
4	F	Lord Wolseley born, 1833
5	S	St. Boniface
6	S	Cyprus Stamp issued
7	M	Postage Stamps first issued, Roman States, 1852
8	Tu	Sir John Millais born, 1829
9	W	Charles Dickens died, 1870
10	Th	P. O. robbery of Telegraph Stamps discovered, 1890
11	F	Money Market panic, 1866
12	S	Rev. Charles Kingsley born, 1819
13	S	Kensington Museum opened, 1857
14	M	Battle of Marengo, 1800
15	Tu	Napoleon I. died, 1821
16	W	Battle of Quatre Bras, 1815
17	Th	Postage Stamps first issued, Tasmania, 1853
18	F	Battle of Waterloo, 1815
19	S	French postal system founded by Louis XI., 1464
20	S	J. A. Palmer died, 1893
21	M	Longest day
22	Tu	Great fire in Tooley Street, 1861
23	W	Clive's victory at Plassey, 1757
24	Th	Midsummer Day
25	F	Right Hon. H. Childers born, 1827
26	S	George IV. died, 1830
27	S	First meeting of the Postal Union Congress held in [Paris, 1863]
28	M	Coronation Day
29	Tu	Lord Raglan died, 1855
30	W	Opening of the Tower Bridge, 1894

£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. No discount allowed on sheets kept over fourteen days.

friends will excuse undue delays or slight errors that may arise.

We are now, *as we ever were, fortunately*, deeply indebted to our neighbours for their timely assistance in the hour of need, and we can never forget the special kindness shown us by Mr. and Mrs. North, of the Norfolk Private Hotel, 282, Strand, W.C., who, on the night of February 17th, supplied us, at a moment's notice, with all necessaries for our stay in the Strand, when it was impossible for us to reach Norwood. On account of Mr. Palmer's illness we have combined the matter of two months in one number of BEIC-A-BRAC, and have taken the liberty of giving a portrait of Mr. Palmer many years ago, before he took up the question of forgeries and reprints—the immense work and worry attached to which his friends now recognise as being a chief cause in bringing about his present and regretful condition.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

THE STORY OF THE MILLION STAMPS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes as follows:—

“Sir,—Thousands of Englishwomen continue to collect cancelled postage stamps in aid of some ‘charity’ or other, the name of which, for years past, I have vainly endeavoured to trace. The stamps are squared, neatly tied up in bundles of one hundred, and when there is a sufficient accumulation it is passed to some one who knows some one else, who has a friend who knows somebody; but the somebody directly responsible has never yet been run to earth.

“What ‘charity’ is benefited?”

JULY.

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

SOME of our correspondents having asked the derivation of the word Philately we beg to inform them that it is composed of two Greek words—Philos-Ateles, the meaning being any communication that is franked or paid for.

"How is it benefited?"

"Into whose hands do these tons and tons of cancelled stamps eventually fall?"

"What becomes of them?"

In the Philatelist's Almanack for 1894 (Palmer, 281, Strand) the following particulars are given:—

"A collection of a million penny 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 only *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 these kind, misguided folks 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 or 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, these self-denying ladies advertised for gifts of stamps to enable them to obtain the promised donation. The result of the advertising caused vast quantities of the

AUGUST.

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

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.

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.

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,
 "To be remembered, is not to die."

SEPTEMBER.

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

PLATE NUMBERS AND SURCHARGES.

The list of plate numbers of penny stamps comprehends Nos. 71 to 74; 76; 78 to 125; 127; 129 to 225.

With regard to surcharges, collectors should exercise some caution in making their purchases. We particularly warn collectors against surcharges Ceylon, upside down, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Fiji Islands, and likewise against forged postmarks Mauritius.

* Collectors who wish to have forgeries and reprints examined are informed that although forgeries will be marked "while you wait," or if from the country, will be sent back by following post in the case of reprints, being more difficult to detect, an opinion cannot be offered immediately.

VICTORIA THE GREAT.

SIXTY years have rolled away,
 Sixty years have passed away,
 Sixty years beneath thy sway,

Victoria.



From distant corners of the earth,
 From sunny south and icy north,
 The tongues of all proclaim thy worth,

Victoria.

All Englishmen join hand;
 Their voices swell the roar
 Which sounds from shore to shore.
 From India's burning strand

OCTOBER.

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

CAUTION TO COLLECTORS.—Don't buy the 8½ green Nova Scotia, which formerly fetched 30s. As there are some hundreds now in the market, and can be sold, we are told, for 2s. 6d., unused, we advise, as we always have, to collect used stamps which have been through the post and done duty, for we don't know the next rare stamps the Government will turn out the remainders of.

To England across the sea
 All bend the knee,
 Their voices raise,
 And sing thy praise,

Victoria.

To rich and poor this happy day
 An equal joy imparts,
 Queen whom many realms obey,
 Queen of all our hearts—
 Sovereign of the spotless fame,
 Queen victorious in name,

Victoria.

Through the range of sixty years,
 Ringing down the grooves of time,
 An epoch glorious appears
 This reign of thine—

The longest

On history's page
 A glorious age,
 A period brightened by the grace
 Of Majesty supreme,
 Of virtue in the highest place,
 A wise example to her race,

Illustrious Queen.

Since the glorious reign began,
 What good has been vouchsafed to man !
 What progress seen !
 The store is great which once was small ;
 For art which brightens,
 And science which enlightens,
 The world is better now ; but best of all
 For thee, our Queen,

Victoria.

NOVEMBER.

1	M	Stamped Pos. Letter-paper (<i>carta postale bollata</i>) issued
2	Tu	India proclaimed an Empire, '58 [by Sardinian Sts., '18
3	W	Mikado of Japan born, 1852
4	Th	George Peabody died, 1869
5	F	Battle of Inkerman, 1854
6	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Gambia, 1869
7	S	Henry Fawcett, Postmaster-General, died, 1884
8	M	John Milton died, 1674
9	Tu	Prince of Wales born, 1841
10	W	Royal Academy founded, 1768
11	Th	Martinmas
12	F	J. S. O. D. Palmer born, 1887
13	S	Lord Rayleigh born, 1852
14	S	First appointment of Postmaster-General for England,
15	M	William Pitt born, 1708
16	Tu	John Bright born, 1811
17	W	Suez Canal opened, 1869
18	Th	Charles Heath died, 1848
19	F	Man in the iron mask died, 1703
20	S	Lesseps born, 1805
21	S	Empress Frederick of Germany born, 1840
22	M	M. S. E. C. Palmer born, 1889
23	Tu	Post-Office prosecution, 1889
24	W	M. S. E. C. Palmer died, 1893
25	Th	Postage Stamps first issued in Sarawak, 1866
26	F	Marshal Soult died, 1851
27	S	Earl of Selborne born, 1812
28	S	The <i>Times</i> first printed by steam, 1814
29	M	First School Board Election, 1870
30	Tu	Cardinal Wolsey died, 1530

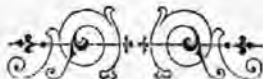
THE edition of "Palmer's Stamp Collector's Catalogue" being sold out, a new edition is now in preparation. This work is issued in conformity with the regulations of the Act of Parliament, and is the most comprehensive and perfect work of its kind extant. The new edition, which will be brought up to date at the time of going to press, will be issued as soon as the work is completed.

NOTICE.—This work is now postponed in consequence of the late illness of Mr. J. W. Palmer

Among the blessings valued most,
 The blessings of the General Post
 Mark the reign.
 Now circling the wide world's girth,
 It puts a girdle round the earth,
 O'er land and main.
 The Post is all men's friend,
 So may its benefits extend,
 And farthing stamps obtain,
 And Ocean Post
 Bring those near our hearts
 In foreign parts
 Nearer to our coast.
 And in this year of 'ninety-six
 Other changes may we see—
 Changes for which PALMER long has agitated.
 May reprints be suppress'd,
 And the stamp collector's pest
 Be utterly exterminated.
 Then philatelists will raise
 Their voices loud in praise,
 For life for them will be serene
 Then their shouts will ring
 Above all those that sing

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

J. W. PALMER.



DECEMBER.

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

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.

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 slit 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 desired 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.

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No. 3— 60 varieties, all different, of used Foreign Stamps ..	Price 0 0 6
No. 4— 20 varieties, all different, of British Colonial Stamps ..	Price 0 0 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. 10— 1000 Foreign Stamps (if sent by post, 10d.)	Price 0 0 8
No. 11— 6) varieties, all different (including a three-cornered Cape of Good Hope)	Price 0 1 6
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
No. 14— 125 varieties, all different, no Europeans.—A good parcel for advanced collectors	Price 0 5 0
No. 15— 250 varieties, all different.—The Schoolboy's Friend ..	Price 0 5 0
No. 16— 500 varieties, all different.—A capital assortment ..	Price 0 10 6
No. 17— 500 varieties, all different.—Gives splendid value ..	Price 1 1 6
No. 18— 350 varieties, all different.—Very useful for medium collections	Price 0 10 0
No. 19— 425 varieties, all different.—A fair proportion of good stamps	Price 0 7 6
No. 20— 500 varieties, all different.—The cheapest parcel in the trade	Price 0 6 0
No. 21— 500 varieties, all different.—A perfect wonder	Price 0 7 6
No. 22— 600 varieties, all different.—Contains many good and scarce stamps	Price 0 18 0
No. 23— 400 varieties, all different.—A fine present for a beginner ..	Price 0 10 0
No. 24— 300 varieties, all different.—Another very cheap parcel ..	Price 0 4 0
No. 25— 1000 English Stamps	Price 0 0 4
No. 26— 1000 English Stamps	Price 0 1 0
No. 27— 50,000 English Stamps	Price 0 17 6
No. 28— 100,000 English Stamps	Price 2 0 0

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No. 5—	100 varieties, all different, of used Foreign Stamps ..	Price	0	1
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No. 7—	200 varieties, all different, of used and unused Foreign Stamps ..	Price	0	2
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No. 9—	500 Stamps, Foreign, &c. (some rare) ..	Price	0	3
No. 10—	1000 Foreign Stamps (if sent by post, 10d.) ..	Price	0	0
No. 11—	50 varieties, all different (including a three-cornered Cape of Good Hope) ..	Price	0	1
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
No. 13—	100 varieties, all different, no Europeans.—Amongst them many rare stamps ..	Price	0	5
No. 14—	125 varieties, all different, no Europeans.—A good parcel for advanced collectors ..	Price	0	5
No. 15—	250 varieties, all different.—The Schoolboy's Friend ..	Price	0	5
No. 16—	500 varieties, all different.—A capital assortment ..	Price	0	10
No. 17—	500 varieties, all different.—Gives splendid value ..	Price	1	1
No. 18—	350 varieties, all different.—Very useful for medium collections ..	Price	0	10
No. 19—	425 varieties, all different.—A fair proportion of good stamps ..	Price	0	7
No. 20—	500 varieties, all different.—The cheapest parcel in the trade ..	Price	0	6
No. 21—	500 varieties, all different.—A perfect wonder ..	Price	0	7
No. 22—	600 varieties, all different.—Contains many good and scarce stamps ..	Price	0	18
No. 23—	400 varieties, all different.—A fine present for a beginner ..	Price	0	10
No. 24—	300 varieties, all different.—Another very cheap parcel ..	Price	0	4
No. 25—	1000 English Stamps ..	Price	0	0
No. 26—	1000 English Stamps ..	Price	0	1
No. 27—	10,000 English Stamps ..	Price	0	17
No. 28—	100,000 English Stamps ..	Price	2	0

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