

# COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

VOL. I.

PAWNEE CITY, NEB., MARCH, 1887.

NO 2.

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Lock box 768, Pawnee City, Neb.

## Officers of the Collectors' Union No. 1, of Pawnee City.

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Vice President—

WILLIAM WEBER.

Secretary—

\* ROY D. HASSLER.

Corresponding Secretary—

JAMES G McBRIDE.

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The largest library in the world is the Bibliotheque National, in Paris, which contains 2,000,000 volumes, and is wonderfully rich in manuscripts. The next largest is that of the British Museum, with 1,500,000 volumes, and the third is the Imperial, in St. Petersburg, with 1,100,000 volumes. Other great libraries are: Royal, Berlin, 700,000; Royal, Dresden, and Royal, Copenhagen, 500,000 each; Royal, Munich, 450,000; Im-

perial, Vienna, 400,000; Congressional, Washington, 380,000, and University, Leipsie, 360,000. The Boston public library is the next largest in America, after the Congressional, having, including the branches, 355,000 volumes. The Yale library has 160,000; the Astor, New York, 180,000; the Mercantile, in Philadelphia, 135,000; the Philadelphia library, 105,000; and the National, of Mexico, 100,000. The famous Bodleian Library, Oxford University, England, has 330,000 volumes.—Ex.

The oldest collection of pressed plants now extant, or partially so, are those of Aldrovandi, begun about 1553, and containing at least five thousand specimens; of Girault, of Lyons, dated 1558, and of Cesalpin, dated 1563. The collections are now in Bologna, Paris and Florence.

The largest check according to the Washington Post ever passed in this country was that of \$2,500,000 with which W. K. Vanderbilt paid for the Nickel Plate Railroad.

The officials of the mint in Philadelphia, on the 15th of last month, secured a counterfeit \$2.50 gold piece for which they have been hunting for many years.

The altitude of Denver is higher than any of the other state capitals, being 5175 above the level of the sea.

The Orloff diamond (194 3-4 carats in weight) is the largest diamond in the world.

The new state department at Washington has 150 rooms and cost \$5,000,000.

### Exchange Column.

☞ All our subscribers are entitled to notices in this column free of charge.

Coins to exchange for same. Jno. L. Marshall, Jr., Pawnee City, Neb.

Tags and curiosities to exchange for same. James G. McBride. Pawnee City, Neb.

Wood and curiosities to exchange for same. William Weber, Pawnee City, Neb.

Want to buy minerals and curiosities. Roy Nisbet. Pawnee City, Neb.

Curiosities to exchange for stamps. Companion Pub. Co., Pawnee City, Neb.

Used U. S. stamps to exchange for coins. Harmon Marble, Pawnee City, Neb.

A pair of Chinese chopsticks to exchange four U. S. or foreign stamps. Roy D. Hassler, Pawnee City, Neb.

Gold-beaters, by hammering, can reduce gold leaves so thin that 282,000 must be laid upon each other to produce the thickness of an inch, yet each leaf is so perfect and free from holes that one of them, laid on any surface, as in gilding, gives the appearance of solid gold. They are so thin that if formed into a book, twelve hundred would only occupy the space of a single leaf of common paper; and an octavo volume of an inch thick would have as many pages as the books of a well-stocked library of fifteen hundred volumes, with four hundred pages in each. Still thinner than this is the coating of gold upon the silver ware of what is called gold lace.—Golden Days.

One of the forest curiosities of the Isthmus of Darien and lower Central America is the tree-killer (matapalo). This starts in life as a climber upon the trunks of large forest

trees, and, owing to its marvelously rapid growth, soon reaches the lower branches. It then begins to throw out many shoots, which entwine themselves all around the trunk and branches, and also aerial tendrils, which, as soon as they reach the ground, take root. In a few years this gigantic parasite will completely envelop the trunk of the tree which has upheld it, and kill it. The whole of the inner dead tree will then rot away, leaving the hollow matapalo standing alone and flourishing.—Ex.

### The People's Popular Paper.

And it is at the people's price. The Pawnee Press one of the most successful and newsworthy sheets every spread over a mother's pantry shelves. They want it, everybody reads it, and after you have gleaned

#### ALL THE NEWS

from it, your cakes and pies keep longer by having a copy of The Press beneath them. Go and see The Press. It is necessary to have in every house. It only costs you one hundred and fifty cents.

Mica constitutes a group of very interesting minerals belonging to the unisilicates, and containing silicic acid, with varying proportions of the alkalies, magnesia, lime, and protoxides of iron. It occurs generally in thin, shining scales. There are very few localities where marketable mica is found.

The largest and most valuable collection of postage stamps in the world is owned by the son of the Duchess de Galliera. It cost him \$350,000, and the special library consists of nearly 300 volumes.

☞ Agents wanted for THE COMPANION. Good commission.

### Stamp Collecting.

In 1857 a school teacher in Belgium, in order to give his pupils an object lesson in geography, offered a prize to the scholar who would first make a collection of one or more postage stamps from each stamp issuing country of Europe. The collections were placed on exhibition and the idea was eagerly seized upon by the public generally. In 1859, J. W. Scott, of Brooklyn, began his famous collection, being in all probability the first of Americans, although at that time there were at least several hundred collectors in Europe.

At the present time there are probably not less than 600,000 collectors in the whole world, of whom 375,000 are in the United States, 200,000 in Europe, and 25,000 scattered through the rest of the world.

There are in the United States 24 firms, with capitals ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000 engaged solely in selling stamps to collectors, which issue monthly catalogues of prices. England has 8 firms, and on the continent of Europe there are over 30 firms of the same grade. In addition to these there are at least 1,000 dealers having from \$1,000 to \$5,000 invested in the business. So profitable is it that about \$1,000,000 has been invested by swindlers in the counterfeiting of cancelled stamps, one firm in Germany engaged solely in counterfeiting cancelled American stamps having a capital of \$300,000, and another in Boston having \$150,000 invested in counterfeiting foreign stamps.

The periodicals devoted exclusively to this pursuit number about 700, one collector in New York having made a collection last year of 537 published in the United States alone. There is a National Philatelic So-

ciety in the United States; each State has a State society, and there are over three hundred minor organizations for the exchange of duplicates and protection against fraud.

There must be something pleasant and useful in this taste for collecting postage stamps, independent of any fashion, which has made it grow to such large proportions. It is not a mania. It has lasted for thirty years, has grown yearly, and will continue to grow.

There are, or has been, 349 stamp-issuing countries, colonies and towns in the world. The first object of every collector is to get one specimen from each government. Some of these, like Naples, Rome and Sicily, are no longer in existence, some like Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and certain German States, no longer issue them. These stamps are rare, and usually hard to get, but the collector learns all about them, and when he meets one he knows its value and why it is valuable.

His next object is to arrange his stamps as he gets them according to the year of issue.

He must know the money of the country, the ruler, the coat-of-arms, population, the flag, and many other things concerning it, and this information he gets from his album and catalogue.

A boy of twelve who begins collecting will in a year tell by a glance at a stamp, the country, date of issue, name of the ruler, when he was crowned, and whether it is common or rare. He has acquired it unconsciously and without effort. Spanish stamps are an object lesson in the history of Spain, and though he may not know who became president after Lincoln, he knows when Isabella was kicked out, how long the head of Amadeus remained on the stamps, the year of the Republic, and of the Carlist insurrection, when Alphonso was crowned, when he died, and when the regency stamps were issued. As with Spain so with other countries.

T. E. WALLSON.

### Minerals.

**MAGNESIA** was first discovered in the sulphate by Valentine in 1707, but it was for some time supposed to be a modification of lime. It is of almost universal occurrence—in rocks, soils, minerals waters, the ocean, and is an essential constituent of almost all plants and animals.

\*\*\*

**POTASSIUM** is a metallic element which forms the basis of the bodies known as potash compounds. It is a very soft metal, cutting like wax, having a rather dark lead-blue color, with brilliant lustre; becoming brittle and crystalline at zero, (Centigrade.) It is so soft at the mean temperature of 60 degrees (Fahr.) that two pieces pressed and kneaded together will coalesce like pieces of soft wax.

\*\*\*

**SILICON**, next to oxygen, is the most abundant element in the solid part of the earth's crust. It was first obtained by Berzelius in 1823 from the silicofluoride of potassium.

\*\*\*

**NICKEL** is a metal allied to cobalt and iron, but of much less abundance than the latter, and is of annually increasing importance in the arts. It is worked in England, Germany, Austria, Russia, Sweden and the United States especially at Lancaster, Pa.

\*\*\*

**LEAD**, after iron, is the most abundant and widely distributed of the metals. It is bluish-gray in color and very soft. In China lead mines have been worked from remote ages, the metal being used in sheets to line the chests in which tea is stored and transported. Among the lead-producing nations of the globe, England is the first. The product of her mines in 1872 was 60,450 tons.

The second in the list is Spain, which produced at one time over 40,000 tons per annum. The third is the United States, in which the annual product is from 12,000 to 15,000 tons.

\*\*\*

**PLATINUM** is a whitesh, steel-gray metal malleable and is unalterable by ordinary agencies as gold. This metal was first discovered in Choco, S. A., and was taken from there to Spain in 1735 by the traveller Ulloa. The chief supply of this metal is from Russia, where it was discovered in 1832.

\*\*\*

**IRIDIUM** is one of the rare metals of the platinum group, and was recognized as a distinct element by Tennant in 1804. An alloy of iridium and platinum is almost indestructible. One vent of this alloy was fired 3000 rounds from a Whitworth cannon without appreciable wear,

\*\*\*

**ANTIMONY** is a brittle metal of a silver-white color. It occurs in nature combined with other metals as silver, nickel, etc., with oxygen and sulphur. The most abundant supply of this ore is found in Borneo. It also occurs in Hungary, Cornwall, New Brunswick, California and Nevada.

\*\*\*

**COPPER** is distinguished from all other metals by its peculiar reddish color. It is hard, elastic and tough. Next to silver it is the best known conductor of electricity. It is found in Great Britain, Australia, South America and Cuba. It also exists in great quantities on the shores of Lake Superior, where a mass of native copper was found weighing nearly 500 tons.

[CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.]

On Friday evening, Feb. 18th, a number of the collectors' of this city met for the purpose of organizing a Union.

The meeting was called to order by Harmon P. Marble.

On motion John L. Marshall was elected chairman.

Proceeded to the election of officers with the following result:

President—John L. Marshall, Jr.

Vice-President—William Weber.

Recording Secretary—Roy, D. Hassler.

Corresponding Secretary—James G. McBride.

Treasurer—Harmon P. Marble.

Committee appointed to draft a constitution, which was read and adopted.

Adjourned to meet Saturday, Feb. 19th 1887.

—————  
Saturday, Feb. 19.

Meeting called to order by the president.

Motion made by John L. Marshall Jr., to elect Wm. Weber Treasurer pro tem.

Motion carried.

Motion made by Jas. McBride to amend Article III of the constitution.

Motion carried.

Adjourned to meet Thursday, Feb. 24th 1887.

—————  
Thursday, Feb. 24.

Meeting called to order by the president.

Bid of COLLECTORS' COMPANION for printing was accepted.

All members present signed the constitution.

Adjourned to meet Thursday, March 3rd 1887.

—————  
Pennies of 1809 are worth \$1 if in good condition.

Fossils are the remains of animals or plants, which have been buried in the earth by natural causes. Generally, the soft parts of the organism have disappeared, leaving only harder portions.

When the remains of an animal or plant are exposed to the air, or buried in dry earth, they generally decompose and pass off almost entirely as gases; but when buried under water, or in damp earth, their preservation is more probable. Therefore, the species most likely to become fossilized, are either those living in water or marshes.

—————  
The deepest mine in the world is situated at Wieliczka, a small town of Austrian Galicia. This mine produces about 62,000 tons of salt a year.

—————  
The mints of the United States are located at Philadelphia, San Francisco and Carson; and assay-offices at New York, Denver, Col., Boise City, Idaho; and Charlotte, N. C.

—————  
In 1846 the "slugs" (fifty dollar gold pieces) were first issued by the U. S. assayers in San Francisco. They are worth from \$55 to \$90.

—————  
Mexican dollars are worth about 88 cents in American money. As curiosities they have no premium value.

—————  
The number of superintendents and clerks employed at the general post office in New York City, number 648.

—————  
The 1804 silver dollars are very rare, as there are only ten specimens in existence.

—————  
Paper was first made from rags in the fourteenth century.

—————  
Chicago consumes 100,000,000 gallons of water daily.

The Egyptian obelisk now standing in Central Park, New York city, is 68 feet 11 inches high, and weighs 219½ tons. It is covered with hieroglyphic inscriptions relating to the history of the time at which it was erected, more than three thousand years ago. It was presented to the city on February 22, 1881.

The new bridge of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company across the Susquehanna River at Havre-de-Grace, Md., is to be the longest bridge in the United States, and, with one exception, the longest in the world. It is 6315 feet in length, and river spans alone cover 3920 feet.

The principal places in the world from which tin ore is obtained are Cromwell, in England; Banca, in the Dutch East Indies; Malacca and Australia. It is also found in Peru, Mexico and several places in this country, especially in Missouri and California.

One of the highest falls in Europe is the Staubbach or dust brook in the valley of the Lauterbrinnen, in Switzerland. The water falls a distance of 959 feet, and is lost in a sheet of mist before it reaches the ground.

Some coin dealers and collectors offer the following prices for three-cent silver pieces: 1855, and '63 to '72, inclusive, 10 cents to 25 cents each; 1873, 50 cents.

Uncirculated coins of various denominations, unless of very rare issues, can be obtained at the United States Mint in Philadelphia without extra charge.

Notice our exchange column. All our subscribers are entitled to notices in this column free of charge.

English spade-guineas are worth from \$5 to \$6 each.

Subscribe for THE COMPANION. Only 20 cents a year.

Three-dollar gold pieces are quoted at \$3 50 each by dealers.

Join the Collectors' Union at once. Address, Jas. G. McBride, Cor. Sec'y, Pawnee City, Nebraska.

Gold quarters were issued by mining companies in California in 1849, but not by the authorities of the United States Treasury. They are worth 30 or 40 cents each as curiosities.

○ J. L. MARSHALL, Jr. ○

—) COLLECTOR OF (—

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Dealer in  
and  
Collector of

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Coins, stamps, minerals, curiosities, Chinese, Japanese and Indian relics, paper money, shells and rocks.

**PAWNEE CITY, NEBRASKA.**

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 Bedidlik.  
 Batzen.  
 Crown.  
 Centime.  
 Condor.  
 Centavo.  
 Copecks.  
 Cobong.  
 Coroa.  
 Caralin.  
 Caroba.  
 Centessini.  
 Corolini.  
 Candarimer.  
 Dollar.  
 Doubloon.  
 Drachma.  
 Ducat.  
 Drachm.  
 Double Eagle.  
 Escudo.  
 Eagle.  
 Farthing.  
 Florin.  
 Four-penny.  
 Franc.  
 Five-cent.  
 Fredericdor.  
 Guinea.  
 Guilder.  
 Groshen.  
 Ghersh.  
 Grotos.  
 Half-penny.  
 " guinea.  
 " crown.  
 " eagle.  
 " dollar.  
 Kreuzzers.  
 Lira.  
 Lire.  
 Lione.  
 Millimes.  
 Mark.

Milreis.  
 Mohur.  
 Milree.  
 Markbanes.  
 Mavedis.  
 Mace.  
 Mills.  
 One cent.  
 Ounce.  
 Old doubloon.  
 Pound.  
 Penny.  
 Planter.  
 Patacon.  
 Peso.  
 Pesofuerte.  
 Para.  
 Padoga.  
 Pistareen.  
 Pistole.  
 Paper nickle.  
 " dime.  
 " quarter.  
 " half-dollar.  
 " dollar.  
 Quarter eagle.  
 Quarter dollar.  
 Rouble.  
 Reals.  
 Rupee.  
 Reis.  
 Ragsbank dollar.  
 Ruspone.  
 Shilling.  
 Six-penny.  
 Soldi.  
 Sovereign.  
 Soler.  
 Six-dollar.  
 Stives.  
 Sequin.  
 Scudo.  
 Skilling.  
 Son.  
 Three-penny.  
 Trade dollar.  
 Thaler.  
 Tale.  
 Tomana.  
 Three-dollar.  
 Two-dollar.  
 Vellon.  
 Yen.  
 Yirmilek.  
 Total number in list, 113.

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Pawnee City - - - - - Nebr.



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VOL. I.

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Cor. Secretary—

JAMES G. McBRIDE.

Treasurer—

CHAS. H. EDEE.

Librarian—

HARMON P. MARBLE.

Joseph E. Stimpson, purchasing agent for the Collector's Union No. 1, of Pawnee City, Neb, left April 2nd for Wisconsin in the interest of the society.

According to the late superintendent of the mint, while the silver production of the world holds its own, the gold production is steadily declining. In 1883 the whole world produced \$94,027,901 against \$98,591,588 in 1882, while the total for 1881 was \$103,023,078. The silver production for 1885 was \$114,217,733. Our own country is greatest silver and gold producer in the world. Our out put of silver last year was \$46,200,000; and of gold \$30,000,000.

A large group of mineral springs has been discovered in the Trans-Baikal region of Russia. Their temperature ranges from 35 degrees to more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Some are ferruginous, some alkaline and other sulphurous in composition, and all have gained a high repute for their curative effects on men and animals.

The electric well or pit, discovered in Taliaferro county, Georgia, is exciting much interest among scientists. The well is located on the side of a small mountain, four miles from the Sharon station, on the Georgia railroad. It was discovered recently in the search for gold; is six or eight feet square, and about fourteen feet deep. Persons descending to the bottom experience nothing like a shock, only a tingling sensation like that caused by a very weak current from a galvanic battery. The sensation is felt whether one touches the walls or not. Some wonderful cures of cases of chronic rheumatism are reported by persons frequenting this well.

### Minerals.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH.]

**SLATE** is a hard tough rock which splits into thin plates. It is now the most highly esteemed material in use for roofing, and is very largely employed for that purpose. It is found in all countries where there are metamorphic rocks, the great source of supply has, however, been North Wales, where there are immense quarries located on or near the coast, and from which slate is sent to nearly all parts of the world. Excellent roofing slate is also found in many parts of the United States, such as Brownville, Me., Poultney, and Castleton in Vermont, Grangeville and others in New York; Newton in Delaware, Slatington, Penn.; Peachbottom, Md. Slate of good quality is also known to exist in both North and South Carolina, and in the Huron Mountains north of Marquette, Mich.

**ASPHALTUM** is a dry and solid variety of bitumen, usually very brittle. It is opaque, smooth, slightly translucent at the edges, of black and brownish color, and has little odor unless rubbed or heated.

Asphaltum is found floating in the Dead Sea, and in veins with calcareous spar and brown iron ore at Karlsdor in Saxony. In Trinidad there is a remarkable lake about three miles in circuit, covered almost entirely with a stratum of asphaltum, traversed by fissures and crevices filled with water.

**TANTALUM**, one of the rarer elements, is a metal discovered in 1802 by the Swedish chemist, Ekeberg, in two Swedish minerals, one of which was tantalite, composed mainly of tantalic oxide and ferrous oxide. Ekeberg named the metal and

mineral after the mythological being Tantalus, in jocular allusion to the tantalizing difficulties he encountered in analyzing the mineral.

**STEATITE** or **SOAPSTONE** is a kind of stone which receives both its names from its unctuous quality. It is easily cut into figures, which may be then hardened by fire, and colored to imitate more costly stones. It is abundant in many parts of the United States and other countries.

**ZIRCON** occurs in crystals, generally in four sided prisms terminated by four sided pyramids, and also in grains of white, red, brown, yellow and green color, and is found in the sands of the rivers of Ceylon, Norway, Scotland and Ireland.

**BISMUTH** is a brittle metal of a yellowish-white color, and occurs native in Germany, France, Cornwall, California, Texas and Sweden. As a medicine, it acts as a tonic.

An extraordinary salt deposit of salt was discovered in 1861 in sinking a well on the farm of Judge Daniel Avary on the sea coast of Louisiana. The mine was a large mass of rock salt, its crest about 30 feet underground. A shaft was sunk 50 feet into the salt and thence a 10 foot tunnel was run to the westward 100 yards, and another some distance in the opposite direction and yet no indication appeared of coming to the margin of the deposit. An amount of about 2000 tons was mined and carried to the surface by an elevator.

The earliest coins struck for the United States were those known as the "Sommer Islands" pieces. They were current about the year 1616.

**Exchange Column.**

Lead ore to exchange for foreign stamps. Chas. H. Edee, Pawnee City, Neb.

United States stamps for coins. Harmon Marble, Pawnee City, Neb.

Curiosities for stamps. William Weber, Pawnee City, Neb.

Want stamps, coins and curiosities Com. Pub. Co., Pawnee City, Neb.

A deposit of precious stones of the rare kind known as "golden beryl" has recently been found in the Berkshire Hills. Specimens of this gem are occasionally met with in the hands of collectors, but it has never before been found in sufficient quantity to become an article of trade. When cut, the stones are of a beautiful golden color exceedingly hard and of great brilliancy.

Mr. Lum Smith, of the Philadelphia Herald, has changed the policy of his paper in its distinctive warfare on frauds, quacks and schemers, and will hereafter publish a distinctive literary journal.

We call your attention to the advertisement of the WESTERN STAMP COMPANY. elsewhere in this paper. We heartily recommend this company to the stamp public.

Denver smelters are now buying ore from miners in Chili, South America, and shipping and selling to that country blue stone, or sulphate of copper.

Nevada is the richest mining district in the United States. The total production of precious metals for the year 1875 was \$40,478,369.

Please mention this paper when writing to advertisers.

Any one wishing a sample copy of this paper, can have one by sending their name and address on a postal card.

Many of the trade dollars presented for redemption have been split and filed so skillfully as to almost defy detection.

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10	"	U. S.	large cts, including 1801.....	75
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10	"	U. S.	three cent p'cs.	75
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### Postage Stamps—How They are Made and Distributed.

Every United States postage stamp in use is made in New York city. The contract was held by the American Bank Note Company from July 1, 1861, until the same day in 1873. The Continental Bank Note Company at that time offering to do it for one-half the amount required by the other company, the contract was awarded to them.

In printing, steel plates are used, on which two hundred stamps are engraved. Two men are kept hard at work covering them with the color links and passing them to a man and a girl, who are equally busy at printing them with large rolling hand presses. Three of these little squads are employed all the time. After the small sheet of paper upon which the two hundred stamps are engraved have dried sufficiently they are sent into another room and gummed.

After having been again dried, this time on little racks, which are fanned by steam-power for about an hour, they are put between paste-board and pressed in hydraulic presses, capable of applying a weight of 200 tons. The next thing is to cut the sheets in half; each sheet, of course, when cut, contains a hundred stamps. This is done by a girl [with a large pair of shears, cutting by hand being preferred to that of machinery, which method would destroy too many stamps. They are then passed to two other squads, who, in as many operations, perforate the sheets between the stamps. Next they are pressed once more, and then pocket and labeled, and stowed away in another room, preparatory to being in mail bags for dispatching to fulfill orders. If a single stamp

is torn, or in any other way mutilated, the whole sheet of 100 is burned. About 500,000 are burned every week from this cause.

There are 36,000 post offices throughout the country, and they use in the course of one year 700,000,000 postage stamps. The New York postoffice alone uses 120,000,000 a year, somewhat over one-sixth of the whole number used.

### The Trade Dollar.

The redemption of trade dollars began at the Sub-Treasuries on March 7th. Notices of \$3,500,000 to be presented for redemption had been received, but the amount to be accepted the first day was limited to \$100,000. It is expected that mutilated coins as have wandered back from China, Japan and other countries will have to be rejected for marks and stamps upon them.

See the ad. of F. N. Massoth, Jr., in another column.

### Firstlings.

Envelopes first issued in 1839.

The first pen was made in 1830.

The first lucifer match was made in 1798.

The first horse railroad was built in 1826.

The first iron steam-ship was built in 1820.

The first balloon ascent was made in 1798.

The first steamboat plied the Hudson in 1807.

The first telescope was used in England in 1608.

The first matches made in Nuenburg in 1477.

The first newspaper advertisement appeared in 1652.

The first copper cent was coined in New Haven in 1687.

The first glass factory was built in the U. S. in 1780.

# COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

## Our Currency.

Massachusetts, in 1652, started a mint at Boston, to make what is known as "Pine Tree" coinage. The metal was chiefly procured through traffic with the buccaneers of the West Indies, who at that early date carried on a profitable trade with the colonies. This coin was below the standard of European money, the issue illegal, and though continued in operation thirty years the coins were all dated 1652.

A mint was established in Maryland in 1661, but nothing is known of its history. In Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts Bay, however, it is recorded that this colony, in 1690, issued "paper notes" to defray the expenses of an expedition against Canada. The issue at first was moderate, and promptly redeemed upon maturity; but in 1704 the redemption was postponed two years, then indefinitely.

This was the first experiment with a paper substitute for coin, and though this proved disastrous the country still smarting under the depression, steps were immediately taken to repeat the hazard.

Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York, and New Jersey issued paper money in 1709; Pennsylvania in 1723; Maryland in 1734, while Virginia used tobacco warehouse receipts for currency till 1755. North and South Carolina also issued paper notes early in their history.

The question of coinage was taken up in 1781, and August 8, 1786, a general mint law was passed, yet silver was not coined till 1794, and gold in 1795.

Coin however, was more difficult to obtain than paper money. Coin could only be manufactured as the metal was obtained, but paper notes

could be printed in sums too meet the wants of all.—Republic.

Among the most attractive stamps that have been issued for some time are the last issue of Great Britain. The following have come under our special notice: 1 shilling, green, Postage and Revenue above and One Shilling below;  $\frac{1}{2}$  pence, rose, head in circle, inscription in upper part of circle and value (One-half Pence) in lower; 4 pence, green and purple, this resembles the Persian stamps, with margin and circle in corners, with value printed in purple; 6 pence brown on rose surface paper, head in circle at top enclosed in square, with scroll, with inscription and value below. They are very creditable and beautiful stamps, and make quite a contrast with those which they take the place of.—Keystone State Philatelist.

During the war between Chili and Peru in 1883, the Chilian forces took charge of the postoffice at Lima, and gained possession of all the Peruvian stamps which they surcharged with the arms in Chili. In addition to her postage stamps the old mother country, the only original Egypt, has over 200 varieties of official stamps. They are round and look like pill box labels, and are used for official business by town dignitaries. Russian locals are ugly and very rare, and some of them resemble tomb-stones.—Carlisle (Pa.) Monthly Journal.

The Texas Philatelist has changed hands and is much improved in appearance.

We received a copy of the Mohawk Standard published at Delta, N. Y., by C. D. Smith. It is published in the interest of collectors.

# Just Received!

A large stock of United States and Foreign

# STAMPS!

Including, Great Britian, Cape of Good Hope,  
Saxony, Spain, Mexican, Sweeden,  
New Brunswick, Norway,  
Russia and United  
States.

## APPROVAL SHEETS

Of rare stamps sent to responsible parties  
Agents wanted. Good commis-  
sion allowed. Send for  
price list. Address

**Roy D. Hassler,**

**PAWNEE CITY,**

**Nebr.**

**Our Contemporaries.**

A copy of the Philatelic Herald, Portland, Maine, is before us. It is one of the best and newsiest Philatelic papers we have seen.

We have just received the Texas Philatelist, an eight page monthly, published in the interest of stamp collecting.

The Keystone State Philatelist is a new paper published at Philadelphia. We wish it success.

Barnacles are familiar examples of cirripeds, but quite a number of species are now known, all marine, and all in their mature state attached to objects of various kinds, as rocks, sea-weeds, shells, etc. They are distributed over the world; the species, however, are not very numerous. They are quite a curiosity.

Not long ago a collector of stamps paid the sum of \$100 for a single three-cent stamp. The stamp was one of the few issued by the postmaster at Brattleboro, Vermont, in the year 1846, while he was awaiting supplies from the department at Washington.

The first muskets manufactured in America came from the workshop of a celebrated machinist named Hugh Orr, at Bridgewater, Mass. The date of their appearance was 1748.

Coins were not dated previous to the fifteenth century. The age of a coin previous to that period must be told by the legend inscribed upon it.

The cost of the Brooklyn bridge was \$15,000,000.

Several new subscribers this month. Keep the ball a rolling.

The silver dollar of 1794 is worth from \$15 to \$20.

Postal cards were first issued in the United States, in May, 1873.

The three-cent stamp bearing the figure of a locomotive was issued in 1869.

The Waterloo (English) half-penny is worth 10 cents if in good condition.

The first paper money issued in the English colonies was in December, 1690.

The first mint on this continent was established in 1585 at the city of Mexico.

The first carpet manufactory in America was established at Philadelphia in 1791.

The assessed value of the land within the city limits of San Francisco is \$126,000,000.

The most expensive collection of pearls on record is that owned by the Countess of Dudley.

**ADVERTISE AT ONCE.** See our advertising rates. **DISCOUNT** on standing advertisements.

We notice several of our exchanges are busily engaged in throwing mud balls, but hope no one will be injured

We would like to exchange with all stamp and coin papers, and other papers devoted to the interest of collecting.

Join the American Philatelic Association. For particulars, address the Secretary, S. B. Bradt, Grand Crossing, Ill.

Subscribe for **THE COMPANION**. 20 cents a year. All our subscribers are entitled to notices in our exchange column.





# COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

VOL. I.

PAWNEE CITY, NEB., MAY, 1887.

NO. 4.

## GREETING.

Having purchased the COLLECTORS' COMPANION from its former owners, we shall continue to issue it on the first of each month as usual. It will be devoted to the interest of collectors in general; with our best wishes for success we remain yours truly,

JAS. G. McBRIDE.

Particular attention is called to the advertisements in this issue.

Send in your subscriptions to COLLECTORS COMPANION. 25 cents per year.

The 1804, silver dollars are very rare as there are only ten specimens in existence.

It will pay you to collect as many "V" nickles without the word cents on as you can, as they are getting more valuable every year.

### Relic Hunters at Washington.

At Gen. Grant's first inauguration, the president had scarcely retired from the stand when a crowd of persons clambered up the sides from the ground below, in a few seconds the chair which the chief magistrate had occupied was split into a score of fragments, each man carrying off his prize for a relic.

Advertisers will find our rates low.

The first American gold dollar was coined in 1849.

Subscribe for the COMPANION, only 25 cents per year. Next issue will be improved.

The United States will soon have a new issue of stamped envelopes, 68 in number.

Fire has no left the hearth of a of a German farmer since it was kindled with flint and steel in 1842.

If you want to exchange coins or curiosities of any kind, advertise in the COMPANION. Don't be a clam.

In another part of this paper will be found "Instructions for Stamp Collecting." Next issue will contain "Contribution on Coins."

Let every person chancing to read this paper who is not already a collector, go to work collecting something. Depend upon it you will never regret it.

A man in Mass. who bought a lot of old books for a trifle was surprised to find among them several volumes worth their weight in dimes and dollars.

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

A gentleman of this city, found a dollar in circulation the other day bearing the date 1798.

We have received a copy of the *Mohawk Standard*, Delta, N. Y. *Southern Collector*, Hickory Miss. and *The Stamp*, Denver Col.

In the next issue we intend opening a —Correspondence Column— any subscriber may ask any question pertaining to collecting and it will be answered if the next number if the answer can be found.

We intend opening a "Collectors Directory" in our next issue, in which any subscriber of this paper may have his name and address, inserted once for 5 cents, non-subscribers 10 cents. Publishers and Dealers will then send them sample copies of their papers and lists for inspection.

The simplest post-office in the world is in Magellan Straits, and has been established there for some years past. It consists of a small cask, which is chained fast to the dock of the extreme cape in the straits, opposite Terra del Fuego. Each passing ship sends a boat to open the cask, and to take letters out and place others into it.

The post-office is self acting, therefore it is under the protection of all nations, and up to the present there is not one case to report in which any abuse of the privileges it affords has taken place

### GRAND MAY OFFER.

To every tenth subscriber received during the month of May, we will give a package of ink powder worth twenty five cents. Send in your subscription at once.

The wife of Senator Stanford, of California, wore \$500,000 worth of diamond jewelry at the President's reception. On the same day a half-breed Chippewa Indian at the carnival grounds wore a coon-skin cap and buckskin leggins. We bet the Indian had the most fun.

A quiet, sedate young woman, who wears glasses, always carries a couple of books and looks as if she was an admirer of Browning is one of the characters who haunt the New York hotels. She is a shrewd young Jewess, in spite of her Bostonian appearance, and makes a good living by buying the foreign coins, which is picked up at the hotels from travelers who exchange glittering foreign gold for the cartwheel American dollars. The hotels get the coin at a discount, she buys it at a slight advance and disposes of it in Wall street. Her friends say there is not a coin struck but she can tell its value at a glance. She picks up valuable pieces once in a while that go to numismatists at a handsome premium.—Kansas City Times.

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

### PHILATELY.

The word Philately is derived from two Greek roots, *philos* and *aleia*, free from tax, and is the term applied to a person who collects postage stamps for pleasure and profit.

Stamps were first issued by Great Britain in 1840, and there are at present about 4,000 varieties, and every year the number is increasing, so there is scarcely a chance of collecting specimens of all the stamps that exist. Yet it is better to have even one hundred stamps and to know all about them, than to have a thousand boastfully counted in an album, and not to know what they mean.

Few amusements are more instructive and useful than stamp collecting. It is a teacher of geography, history, design, and leads its pupils to be observing.

In Italy, for instance, the displacement of the Papal stamps by those of the Italian Kingdom, tells of the progress of national unity and freedom.

In France we note the changes in the government, republic to 1863, empire to 1870, and then republic again.

The disappearance of the Confederate stamps from circulation in America is the memorial of the doom of slavery.

We also have a portrait gallery of the rulers of the world. Many of the designs are truly beautiful.

On the stamps of Liberia, Nicaragua, Salvadore and Costa Rica, we have the excellent landscape views. On the stamps of China we see the dragon, on those of Egypt the pyramids and sphinx.

The stamps of Guatemala are adorned by the typical panot, those of Peru by the llama. Newfoundland displays her fishing interests by a swimming fish. West Australia show her swan, and the head of a tiger ornaments those of Agantstan.

During the siege of Vicksburg, the people living in that city were reduced to great extremity. Still, the editor of one of the papers managed to issue his journal regularly. The number for July 2 1863, the eve of the surrender, was printed on wall-paper. A copy of

his remarkable journal is now in the possession of a St. Louis gentleman. It is styled the Daily Citizen. Each sheet consisted of a twelve-inch section of eighteen-inch wall-paper, of cheap dull, leaden-hued pattern, with fancy flowers along the edges. The letters were blurred in many places, and altogether, the paper must have been a sorry sight to its half-famished readers.

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

### Collectors' Companion,

Published Monthly.

JAMES G. McBRIDE, Editor.

Pawnee City ————— Nebraska.

Subscription	25 cents.
Six months	15 "
Three months	10 "

Advertising rates, one insertion:

½ inch 20c. 1 inch 30c. ¼ column 80c.  
1 column \$1.25. 1 page \$2.25.

Vol. I            MAY, 1887.            No. 4.

#### THE FIRST U. S. MINT.

The foundation stone for the first U. S. mint, was laid by David Ritterhouse on the 31st of July 1792, at No 29 North Seventh St. Philadelphia, Pa. The building was finished on the 7th of September, 1792. On the next Tuesday the 11th September six pounds of old copper were purchased for the mint for 7s. 6d. this was the first purchase of old copper for coinage. In October 1792 three presses were put into operation and were first used for striking half dimes. From 1792 to 1832 there were coined in this building 132,592 eagles; 1,925,867 half eagles; 180,392 quarter eagles; making a total of gold coinage 2,238,854 pieces—also 1,440,517 silver dollars, 59,584,783 half dollars; 2,506,029 quarter dollars, 8,619,600 dimes; 4,942,647 half-dimes; total 77,093,576 silver pieces; of the copper coins 62,925,602 cents and 6,627,710 half-cents; making a total of 69,553,312 copper pieces or a whole total of gold, silver, and copper of 184,885,742 coins. The present U. S. mint in Philadelphia was completed in 1833.

The Hon. Alphonso Taft of Cincinnati, former Minister to Austria and Russia, was interviewed recently concerning the stories of the Czar shooting his aide-de-camp. Judge Taft said: "During my stay in Russia I frequently came into personal communication with the Czar, and I never saw anything to lead me to believe that he was other than an exceptionally amiable man. If he has shot or stabbed his aide-de-camp, I am satisfied that he did it under the apprehension that he was doing it in self-defence. About two years ago, the Sultan of Turkey shot and killed a man who came into his presence fumbling in his breast pocket, as though in search of a weapon. The Sultan shot, as he supposed, a would-be assassin. If Alexander III. has killed a man he has probably done it much as the Sultan did. I know that he is in constant dread of an assassin. His movements among his people are never previously announced. If he appears at a ball his guards are always at hand, armed, though not in uniform. His wife, an estimable lady, is generally at his side, and she, too, answers the purpose of protection, since many a bomb-thrower would hesitate about destroying the life of a woman. The dread of an assassin is constantly with the Czar. It is inevitable, therefore, that he become over suspicious."

"Is the present Czar as great a man as his father?"

"No, neither mentally nor physically. Though he is about six feet tall and weighs not less than 250 pounds, still he is not so tall as was his father, and he certainly has not developed his mental strength. As a ruler, however, he is yet young in experience. There is no knowing but he may prove as great as did his father, who, you will remember, liberated all the serfs. He is about 40 years of age, and in physical strength a Hercules."

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

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**OLD BRICKS.**—At the meeting of the Oriental Congress in Vienna, Rev. W. Heekler, chaplain of the English Embassy, produced some sun-dried bricks, with Babylonian inscriptions, that dated back between 3,000 and 4,000 years, to the time when Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees for the land of Canaan.

**ALUMINUM.**—Aluminum, which has been a costly metal and the entire production of which has been only 3,400 ounces for a year, is now manufactured by electricity in Cleveland, O., at a great reduction in price and in a great quantity in a day as all other methods produced in a year. Alloyed with copper its strength tests 131,000 pounds to the square inch. It will be in great demand for building boats, bridges, cannon, and other articles requiring great strength.

**A LONG CIRCUIT.**—The longest telegraphic circuit ever worked was for the sending of a message to London from New Westminster at the opening of the station on the Pacific of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. It required only four minutes for its transmission, the circuit being 7,000 miles. New Orleans was then put in satisfactory communication with New Westminster, the circuit being 5,380 miles in length.

In Japan paper is made of a substance known as "marine algae." It is so strong and so transparent that it can be used in place of glass.

James Taylor, while digging a well on his farm near Excelsior, Wis., found in a bed of gravel twenty feet below the surface, a lot of beautiful amethysts and one very large and valuable ruby.

The entire population of Forman in Sargent county, D. T., turned out one morning last week to enjoy the most beautiful mirages ever visible there. All the towns within twenty miles could be distinguished quite distinctly, and some at a greater distance could be recognized.

It is predicted that the "Star of Bethlehem" will appear this year for the sixth time since the birth of Christ. This star is said to be directly north of the North star, and to be visible in its dazzling light, at noonday. It is a solar orb, many times the magnitude of our sun, the orbit is yet uncalculated by any astronomer.

A process for making writing-paper from seaweed has been brought out in England. The weed is boiled with carbonate of soda, and the filtered solution is treated with sulphuric acid. This yields a paste more viscous than gum arabic, and it is supposed that it can be properly utilized. After this paste is removed the fibrous matter left is made into paper.

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

### EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Open to yearly subscribers.

Minerals for sale or to exchange for stamps. Write first.

R. Nisbet, Pawnee City, Neb.

Relics and curiosities to exchange for same. Write giving description of what you have. First Jas. Mc Bride, Pawnee City, Neb.

Foreign and domestic coins for same. —J.L. Marshall Jr. Pawnee City, Nebraska.

Stamps for philatelic papers not in my collection. —Chas. H. Edee, Pawnee.

Philatelic papers to exchange for same. Also have stamps coins and curiosities to exchange. —Roy D. Hassler, Pawnee City.

With this number of the Companion we send out a great many sample copies. Let every person reading this consider it as a personal invitation to subscribe.

#### SPECIAL OFFER.

A V nickle without the word "cents" on it will be given to any person sending us 3 new subscriptions and 55 cents, or any person sending us 2 new subscriptions and 50 cents will receive the paper one year free. This offer will hold good till June 10

Remember that our advertising rates are very low.

See the exchange column.

Postoffices were first established in 1464.

The Pacific Ocean contains 80,000,000 square miles.

Old Dominion is a popular name for the state of Virginia.

The military music at West Point costs the country \$10,000 a year.

The present national colors of this country were not adopted by congress until 1777.

Baltimore is to have a crematory. Two years ago there was but one in the country; now there are twelve.

A St. Louis newspaper claims to have printed a history of the last man who was killed in the war of the Rebellion.

More people, in proportion to the population, can read and write in Kansas and Nebraska than in any other part of the world.

The largest inland sea is the Caspian, lying between Europe and Asia. Its greatest length is 769 miles, and its area 180,000 square miles.

A Boston newspaper prints a list of the residents of San Francisco who are worth \$1,000,000 and over. There are 105 of these fortunate persons.

## COLLECTORS' COMPANION.

Wanted—To sell or exchange a newspaper over 100 years old.

Wanted—All kinds of curiosities. Send description and prices to Jas. G. McBride, Pawnee City, Neb.

Send address of 5 persons with 3 2ct. stamps and get **STORY PAPER FREE** for one month "Fireside" P. O. Box 946 Minneapolis Minn.

### FREE!

A copy of the WITCH CITY COLLECTOR, devoted to all branches of collecting. 25c per year.

Fred C T Davis, Publisher,  
Box 21. Salem, Mass.

**100** FOREIGN STAMPS, many varieties for 4c stamp. Agents wanted to sell Approval sheets. Collections bought.

A. E. ASHFIELD,  
Box 233, Rye, N. Y.

Philatelic payers, insert this advertisement and notice for two months and send bill.

### WANTED!

U. S. and Foreign Coins. Address

**JOHN L. MARSHALL, JR.**

Pawnee City, Nebr.

### THE MYSTIC WORLD,

A monthly paper devoted to the interests of all. Contains Exchange, Numismatic and Philatelic Depts. Also a serial story and short stories on all subjects. 25 cents a year. Sample copy for stamp.

D. J. Hickey, 426 W 46th St, N. Y. city.  
Eds please insert 1 in. for same space in M.W.

### RUBBER STAMPS!

Best Made. Lowest Prices.

Name Stamp (or one line), only	\$0.15
Name and address (two lines),	.25
Three line Stamp, only	.32
Four line stamp,	.40

Ink, pad, box, etc., for 8c extra.

Nickel plated self-inking pencil or pocket stamp, one to three lines, with ink, only 40 cents.

Nickel-plated Tom Thumb self-inker with ink, one to four lines, only 65c. Illustrated specimen book and agents terms for 3c. Circulars free. Agents wanted at 70 and 80 per cent commission. Special reduced prices to publishers offering my stamps as premiums. Several fine printing presses and outfits for sale at a bargain.

T S SPARROW, Verona, N. Y.

N B \$1.40 worth of rubber pad stamps at catalogue prices to publishers inserting the above and this in good shape.

### GEO. E. FOWNES,

134 Park Row, - - - - - New York.

### OH! HERE! OOLOGISTS!!

"Natural History," a 75 to 100 page book will be out July 31st. Contains: 1st Oologists' & Directory; 2nd able written articles on Oology; 3rd Exchanges; 4th advertisements. Circulation 1500 guaranteed.

Rate of advertising—quarter page 25c; half page 40c; 1 page 75c. Name in directory, with book 1.50; exchange of 30 words 1.50.

Refer to all Geneva. Agents wanted to solicit ads &c. Good commission. Send for circular, terms, &c to ANTON V. DWORAK, Geneva, Nebr.

### FOREIGN STAMPS.

I have a large stock on hand, which I will sell at bottom prices. Will send a nice approval sheet to any collector sending 2 stamps for postage and promising to return the same within ten days. I. W. RISDON, Cambridgeport, Mass.

N B—Stamp papers copy once in 1 in. space with this notice and send copy for prompt pay.

# PHILATELIC FORTNIGHTLY,

The Philatelic Fortnightly issued twice a month. Subscription 15c per quarter. Send for sample copy. Address Philatelic Fortnightly Benson, Minn

**STAMPS, U. S. and Foreign**

Take my advice

And grasp this opportunity.

My approval sheets are

Put up in good shape

Send for one on 33 1/2 per cent commission

WESTERN STAMP CO.,

Pawnee City, Neb.

N. B.—I want to buy stamps in quantities of 100 to 1,000. Send prices.

## R. T. JAMES,

VERNON HILL, Halifax Co., Va.

Collector and dealer in

Natural History Specimens

—and—

**General Curiosities.**

MINERALS, COINS, RARE

FOREIGN AND U. S.

STAMPS, ETC.

Proprietor of the most wonderful discovery of the 19th century James' famous genuine "Madstones"—a never failing permanent cure for all Bites, etc. Always ready. No cabinet or collection complete without one of these rare minerals.

Stones are sold in seven sizes, one in. square to three fourths in. Send 2c stamp for circular or send \$1.00, \$3.00, \$5, or 10 for sample Stone with "Handbook" and written guarantee. Publishers inserting this and above, 2, 4, or 6 months, paid in cash or madstones, (on receipt of first marked copy), at wholesale rates.

**MARBLE & HASSLER**

## STAMP AND COIN

DEALERS.

All kinds of American and Foreign Stamps and Coins kept in stock.

## APPROVAL

Sheets at 35 per cent commission. A rare stamp sent to any collector sending his name and address on a postal card. Address

PAWNEE CITY, NEB.

## DUPLICATE

Tobacco Tags for exchange. Address

COMPANION PUB. CO.,

PAWNEE CITY, NEB.

## DON'T FORGET

to subscribe for the COLLECTORS' COMPANION, devoted to Coins, Stamps, Tags, Relics, etc.

Only 25c per year.

COMPANION PUB. CO.,

Pawnee City, Neb.