OCTOBER, 1891.

The Stamp Collectors Companion

EDITED BY
M. YARNALL

ISSUED BY
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The Stamp Collectors' Companion Publishing Co.

1328 WASHINGTON AVE.,

ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

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The Stamps of the Confederate States of America.

GENERAL ISSUE

Next to the stamps of the United States, those of the Confederate States are of most importance to American Collectors. We illustrate on this page, in original colors, the 5 cent green, 5 cent blue and 10 cent blue

values. The former was used in 1861, and appears in green and dark green, as does also the 5 cent blue appear in blue and dark blue, but was issued one year later, 1862. Neither of the two stamps have advanced in prices in the last years, as quantities of them are found daily, and 35 cents, their present catalogue value, is in our opinion more than what the stamps are worth.

A stamp much more desirable is the 10 cent blue, as illustrated here, issued in 1861, and its catalogue value of 50 cents is about what the stamp is worth to collectors.

The 1 cent orange as shown here is a rather common stamp in an unused condition; however, used specimens are not commonly met with.

RARE STAMPS OF MEXICO.

The illustrations below, represent the 50 cent yellow and 100 cent orange of Mexico, 1882 issue, in their original colors. Both of these rank among the rarer stamps of Mexico, although this fact is not generally known; no doubt due to the fact, that a prominent Amercan Cataloguer prices the 50 cent yellow at 90 cents, and the 100 cent orange at $2.50 each; although, it is extremely doubtful that any dealer can supply both values at these prices. The most prominent German Catalogue values the 50 cent yellow at 24 marks, and the 100 cent orange at 30 marks, and we have reason to believe that this is about their correct value to a collector. We advise all collectors to secure these stamps while they may be had at a low price.

The Stamp Collector's Companion.

VOL. 1. OCTOBER 1, 1891. No. 1.

INTRODUCTION.

There are many reasons that might be presented for the publication of this journal. We will not say it is "to fill a long felt want," but we will assure our readers that we are prompted by an ardent desire to disseminate as widely as we can, all the information obtainable on the subject in which we are deeply interested, and which we love. We have no hesitation in asserting, that the collecting of stamps is the most popular of all hobbies, and is increasing so rapidly, that there will be a time, in the not remote future, that every youth in the land will at some period of his life make a collection.

Philately is in its infancy; it is a beautiful study, and its ever increasing popularity is the strongest evidence of its elevating influence. Professors advise students to collect, and it will perhaps surprise some who are not familiar with the subject, to know, that collectors are found from adolescence to extreme old age; from those who struggle daily with iron fortune, to the great capitalist; from the peasant to the king; and in almost every part of the globe. Wherever enthusiasts are found, whether they are in the lowly walks of life or occupy the most exalted position, there is a bond of union in this one pursuit. The collector is always intelligent, and is ever ready to converse on his favorite subject. He is usually educated; in truth the study of Philately educates to a greater or less degree all who engage in it.

One motive that prompts the collector is the inherent love for the rare and the beautiful; it is the same motive that impels the collector of bric-a-brac.

If for no other reason than those mentioned, we would publish this journal, we wish also through its pages to assist in elevating a science, we desire and expect in order to accomplish this end, to make our Magazine unique among its class, especially in its illustrations and thereby assist in popularizing the subject.

A limited number of advertisements will be selected, and while we cannot be responsible for them, we will make it a duty to take only those we deem worthy of credit, and when we have reason to think otherwise, they shall be removed; hence our subscribers may depend on reliability.

It is our intention each month to add fresh news and new features, that will make an ever increasing interest. Communications will receive careful consideration, and will be published if accepted.

OUR SALUTATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT J. K. TIFFANY

BEFORE THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK CITY, AUGUST, 1891.

There is no ocean so tranquil as not to know the fury of the storm. The fleecy clouds that hover on its morning horizon may seem the white-winged messengers of a continuing peace, the fathomless depths of its cerulean skies, radiant with the brilliancy of its noonday sun, may give promise of a lasting calm, rosy Hope herself, foretelling a golden future, may appear to float upon the haze, gilded and empurpled by the evening glow, balmy breezes that, beneath the resplendent moon, caress and woo the untroubled waters, and toy alike with curling smoke and spreading sail, as noble vessels, swift and beautiful and strong, speed on their way to destined ports o'er sparkling wavelets softly murmuring about the hulls, or musically rippling on sandy beach and vine clad shore, even the twinkling stars that lend their light when sun and moon have sunk to rest, all, as if united in enduring friendship, may augur prosperous commerce and successful voyage; but anon cerulean skies will turn to inky blackness, resonant with thunders, and fleecy cloud and golden haze be hurled together in wild rolling masses, lightning riven and balmy breezes swell to tempestuous gales that madly pile and lash the freightened waters into surging billows, dashing in frantic fury both on gallant hulls and rocky shore, rending and tearing sail and spar, tossing the proudest vessels like baubles in the raging chaos of contending elements battling to destroy, strewing the wreckage on the beach.

Or through all nature still retains its calm, while skies are still crystal and waves heave gently and breezes softly blow, the smiling sun or fondling moon or peeping star is startled by the cry of terror as the invading flood pours through the treacherous leak, threatening to submerge, or the devouring flame leaps up in frenzy from the hold and sears the laboring hull, scorches the bubbling deck, laps with fiery tongue the towering mast and wreathes around the outstretched yards, till men with frantic fear desert the ship, death and destruction begin their wild triumphant revel at the annihilation of so much beauty, strength and wealth.

But while the storm rages no trusty steersman leaves his wheel, no worthy mariner deserts his post, no loyal officer shrinks from his task. Not while the gale shrieks, not while dangers threaten, not while the voyage lasts may those in command lose courage or give up the ship. However heartrending the despairing cries of frightened passengers, however threatening the growls, the grumblings, the menaces of disaffected seamen, however futile every effort to ward off disaster, however dire the peril to their charge, however great the risk to person or to reputation, deaf to all suggestion not in accord with their own judgment, indifferent in appearance to danger and despair, to approval or disapproval alike, ssuming all responsibility, reliant on themselves alone in their several spheres, exacting strict compliance oft-times with rules not of their own making or approved by their own judgment, relaxing discipline when expedient, stimulating the courageous, encouraging the faint hearted, rebuking here, persuading there, doing each his

part to the best of his ability that the ship may, with the aid of all the staunch, the faithful and the true, ride out the gale, if she may, overcome flood or fire, if she can, come at last into port, if so fate shall decree, and be delivered so far as rescued, to her owners. The hour of peril is not often the hour for deliberation. Rules and charter parties are seldom considerate of the feelings of the over sensitive. But once the voyage ended the vessel moored, each is free to choose to sail that sea no more, to lay aside the arduous task or seek a new vocation.

But not for all the hazards of the sea do men abandon their attempts to master it. Storm-tossed mariners ship again, oft-wrecked officers renew their engagements, much disappointed owners essay new ventures. The vessels they have proudly launched may never reach their destination, may come back shattered and dismantled by the tempest, scarred and blackened by the flame, snatched but in part from the very jaws of ruin; cargoes that were counted fortunes may never be delivered, be damaged, lost, destroyed; every object of voyage after voyage may be unachieved, the outcome of years of thought and toil, of the expenditure of time and money, of hardship and persistent search, be little more than the disheartening record of sad experience, yet not so long as there remains an object to be gained, a prize to be won, a sea to be explored, a pole to be reached, do men of courage cease from the endeavor to attain. Shattered vessels are refitted and repaired, lost ships replaced, new cargoes gathered, new and better charts provided, new crews recruited, new officers if need be chosen, and again and again the venture is renewed.

In such predicament does this convention stand to-day. Another voyage is over. The vessel has come home. Her officers must now make their report, the members judge what profit she has gained, what loss sustained, and must decide upon her future. In the view of many she has encountered storms which have nearly wrecked her, gales that have dismantled, floods that have strained her timbers, flames that have seared and blackened her fair exterior. Preconceived opinions as to the outcome and the causes that produced it may at first clash rather roughly and mutual courtesy alone can then prevent a storm. For those are gathered here to-day who widely scattered since the voyage began have scarce had opportunity for conference, to whom as to the members of many another company, the press has brought, as news, each rumor of disaster, has heralded each charge of wrong, proclaimed the grievances of every over zealous complainer, holding the dark side of the cloud in constant view, forgetful that it had a silver lining.

For who of all this brotherhood has deemed it worth his while in the whole year to print a line in praise of this Association, to make note or comment of a single benefit that it has brought its members, to give it credit for the good it has accomplished when evil for which it may not be responsible is measured out before him. How many opinions are there here to-day that are unfiltered through such distorting mediums, uncrystalized on such erroneous system, unclouded by possible prejudice, unsullied by over-heated passion, not prematurely formed without full knowledge or due consideration? Therefore, if any once warm friend has grown indifferent to the success of this Association, if any once enthusiastic partner is disappointed at the apparent smallness of the gain, disheartene

at the seeming loss, if any once jovial messmate is tempted to stand sullenly aloof and sign no more with the old crew, if any well-tried comrade is inclined to shake his head as doubtful whether the objects of the cruise can be attained at all, if any cherished crony is prone to croak of further losses if the ship is not newly rigged to suit his theories, let him now say whether he is willing to see the good old ship dismantled, wrecked and broken up.

Is there any here to-day would wish to

——"tear her tattered ensign down?
Long has it waved on high,
And many an eye has danced to see
The banner in the sky."

Or is there any here to-day whose philatelic life would feel no loss if the Association were taken from it? If never again he might look forward to its coming convention, the hearty greetings of the friends there to be gathered? If never again he were to write its symbols with his name and feel that he was strong because so many were united in the same pursuit? Or is there any here to-day who will not concede that when five years ago, in answer to a call of volunteers, a crowd of strangers met upon the nearest shore and launched a little barque upon an unknown sea, they had a twofold object to attain and fitted out and freighted for a voyage both of discovery and reciprocity? The charter party briefly said those objects were "to assist our members in acquiring knowledge in regard to philately and to cultivate a feeling of friendship among philatelists." No word is said about the acquisition of great treasure, fostering commercial enterprise or personal ambition, and though the acquisition of philatelic knowledge may necessarily involve the gathering together of the objects to be studied, and concerning which the information is to be sought, and though he who attains such knowledge or such treasure may thereby become pre-eminent among his fellow members, these are but the incidents and not the objects sought to be attained by this Association. The vessel that it launched was never built for merchantman or battle ship, and all attempts to employ her for such uses must result in failure. The constitution of this organization was not framed with the view of conducting business enterprises, nor would any business man hope for success in financial matter from such rules, and if a mistake was made in the preamble and the essential things that members wish, and the real object of this Association is, to assist its members in acquiring stamps, and to cultivate a feeling of rivalry among stamp gatherers, and to enable them by swapping duplicates, buying at auction, or at first hands, to compete with dealers in similar commodities, and if conventions are to be held to furnish battle grounds for ambitious rivals, better be honest and change the preamble to state the fact, better alter the provisions of constitution and by-laws, that such affairs may be conducted on business principles. Fly no false flag. Ship no crew under false pretenses, less mutiny and dissatisfaction defeat the enterprise. But if the preamble is correct and states the real objects sought to be attained, would it not be wiser for the crew to make some effort to accomplish these, and to fret less about the failure to obtain prize money. It is both useless and unwise to trifle with stern facts. It is far better to face the truth. And if the history of this Association be candidly reviewed, how small a part of all the sessions of each convention has been devoted to discussing means for acquiring knowledge of the pursuit, or

of fostering friendship among its followers, and how much time has been consumed in tinkering with the regulations that relate to those departments, commercial in their nature, that were intended only as auxiliary? How much of all the time, thought, labor, effort, interest supposed to be devoted to the Society throughout each year, has really been expended on these departments in the vain attempt of seeming to pursue high aims, and really seeking self-emolument? Had every member been as keen in his pursuit of knowledge of philately as in looking out for bargains on exchange sheets, and publishing complaints of that department, as ardent to communicate some fact within his kin to other members, in the pages of the *American Philatelist*, as he has been persevering in hanging back to see what its editors might fish up from the great sea, and then complaining because the catch has been no greater, as zealous to sound the praises of the old society of which he was a member, as some have been to blame all that it did in order to promote some new one in which he could hold office, as eager to build up the departments he thought important, as some have been persistent in refusing to accept the benefits these departments offered, because the officer in charge was not the one they wanted, as generous of kindly courtesy in crediting all with honesty of purpose, such as friend gives to friend in judging of each others actions, as some have been prodigal of jealous enmity in ascribing double dealing or selfish motive to all who did not think as they did, would not the wind have wafted far from the course, almost every disappointment, cause of complaint, imputed failure, harsh accusation and bitter feeling that has settled down like the fog about vessel, prevented the acquisition of knowledge, and treasure also, and checked the growth of friendship both among the philatelists and of the Association. These are not pleasant themes to dwell upon, and though it is the captain's duty to keep an honest log-book, that all may be informed of what the ship has done, and none centured unjustly, details are not necessary now, suggestion must suffice. Do prudent men with the welfare of any enterprise at heart, expecting to attract others to its support, desiring to have it prosper, proclaim to the world each error they may have discovered in its management, and hasten out to prophesy its downfall? Do honorable men impute sinister motives to every act of their associates in any undertaking that does not tally with their own opinions, and trumpet it abroad that their affairs are in the hands of thieves and pirates? The white winged gulls that circle around the ship and light upon its rigging, are very beautiful to see, and seem pure as angels in their flight so long as fortune favors them. The pictures were incomplete without them. But they were birds of prey, and disappointed, fill the air with their impatient clamor and greedily hasten to rend and tear their victim. Thus on the adjournment of the last convention, as the voyage began, and ever and anon during its progress, has the air been filled with rancorous cries of disappointed members, self appointed reformers, hastening to proclaim the disruption of the Association, and destroy the reputation of all who differed with them. Had these gentlemen considered that perchance the ignorance of law and precedent was on their side? Had these gentlemen taken into consideration that others had as good a right as they to an opinion? Had these gentlemen contemplated the possibility that perchance as good a reason, as

pure a motive, as great a love for the Association, as sincere a desire to do the right thing, actuated at least some of the defamed as that which moved some of the defamers? Had these gentlemen forgotten how little the clamor of rage, the petulancy and invective, the virulence of calumny contribute to the purposes for which this Assciation was organized? Had these gentlemen reflected that the right thing must be done with due decorum, as well as the proper motive, lest the brilliancy of the success to be claimed afterwards be largely obscured by questionable methods employed in its attainments? There is little ground for self-congratulation in any victory whose every blow has wounded a brother or a friend.

> "Who steals my purse steals trash, * * *
> But he that filches from me my good name,
> Robs me of that which not enriches him
> And makes me poor indeed."

Words spoken in the excitement of debate, or in the heat of conflict, however great the damage they have wrought may be allowed for. But Charity herself could never pardon the offense of one who, when the conflict was over, the heat of feeling cooled, permitted himself to blunder and to seek to blacken with brand of slander the fair name and fame of all who had participated in the last convention, and all the officers of the Association he professed to care for, until at least after having seen the consequences of his error, with the candor of an honest man he should retract his statement.

It is an old tradition that in the wake of every ship that holds a weakling, there follows an expectant shark, impatient until the body is surrendered to him. This, too, may be a necessary part of every nautical adventure. But would it be quite wise, for fear the hungry bird or ravenous fish might not be satisfied, to run the ship upon a rock, wreck the whole voyage, or even to sacrifice an erring messmate to their cravings. Yet on the log-book of this voyage are entered the demands of many an impatient member that has clamored for the expulsion of another who planned not wisely, who did not well, the oft renewed demand of those who claimed the forfeit of the bond and cried aloud for justice, with the threat "if you deny me, fie upon your law," forgetful all of that great rock of debt to be assumed by all which towered so high before the ship if she had held that course, forgetful, too, that in the scale of justice the heaviest weight is ever the common weal. "The welfare of the community is the supreme law," is the foundation on which all laws are built, and is the end for which all law should be administered. Of such a nature are unhappy incidents that are recorded in the log-book of this voyage, and of such character are all the perils that have threatened with disaster, turned the good ship far from her course, delayed her progress and diminished her success. Not from the sea about her, but from the men within comes all that injures her. Consider of these things with amity and candor, "in sorrow rather than in anger," not that they may be punished or avenged, but shunned and turned away from in the future. Let such consideration recall the inconsiderate to cultivate that friendship which should have covered a multitude of sins, inspire the indolent to seek that knowledge which should have attracted them from pondering on other faults, arouse the indifferent to work with a will for the advancement of the Association, not alone in knowledge and in friendship, but in numbers and enthusiasm, convince even the self-seekers that with the true progress of such societies will come the surest gain in individuals, then let them be buried.

not to be forgotten, but that remembrance of them may forever stimulate the growth of those fair flowers of frienship that shall conceal their tomb.

While this fog of folly and mistake has obscured the vision of the members of this Association, and robbed it of the part it should have had in the grand progress that has been made in the knowledge of philately, and in friendship among philatelists, since its ship was launched, beyond it and around it the sea to be explored is still as calm, as brightly shines the sun, as placid beams the moon, as softly twinkles each star, as balmy blows the breeze, as beautiful remains the shore, as great the wealth of knowledge to be attained, as fair the promise from the friendship to be gained, as hopeful the prospect of the future to be realized, as when she first set sail. Yet all else is changed. Then few signs of life were visible on this unknown sea, its peaceful waters were untraversed then, save by the lone canoe; unfathomed, save by the solitary fisherman; each pursued his search unaided and alone; imagination only pictured the benefits that might accrue from union. To-day the scene is full of life, the sea is covered by the various craft of many nationalities, all seeking the very objects professed to be the aim of the Association. At every point along the shore busy societies have been formed, penetrating by their enterprise each gulf and bay, sounding each depth, determining the character of every port, mapping out each detail on the chart that can illustrate and further the pursuit, working rich mines of knowledge, accumulating the returns in those vast store houses, arranged and made accessible to every follower of philately, the monographs, the catalogues, the volumes of the philatelic press. The pursuit has gained its place among the things that serious men pursue intelligently. However small the part that may be due to the existence and efforts of the Association, can any say with truth that knowledge of philately has made no progress in these five years? Can any doubt that if these aims looked worthy then, the prospect of the return is tenfold brighter now?

But some must say, "What is all this to me? What is it worth? Why should I give my time, my thought, my money for its attainment? I am content to reap the benefit, let others do the work! All this, commercial enterprise would have accomplished without the aid of collectors!" Is this quite true? Did the enterprise of the commercial element, while it has done well its part, develop the pursuit in these directions, until incited to meet the demands created by the patient researches of collectors? How much more work, how much more knowledge, how much more attentive investigation, the business enterprise to-day expends than then was necessary to win success, the publication of the times will testify.

There was a time within the memory of some in this assembly when every fish was but a fish, whatever its condition, and little heed was paid to the distinction of its species. To-day is noted the absence of a single scale, and every species has its own estimation. And what is all this worth? Why should the collector or the dealer give time and thought and money to these associations? If knowledge to be sought for knowledge' sake prove unattractive, if pleasure gained in learning or knowing is no return, if the research itself is not its reward, consider how in philately, as in other things, with the growth and spread of knowledge, with the greater estimation

in which that pursuit is held that bands so many votaries together and holds up its head before the public, the things it seeks and studies, treasures and gathers grow too in commercial value! How many hundreds of stamps now readily command a price that not many years ago would have been considered ample for the greatest rarities? Select a page or two in any ancient album that represent the issues of a great country whose philatelic history had then not been studied, but is known to-day, and fill the spaces there provided with the cheapest specimens that answer its descriptions, entirely disregarding all the details known to-day, then place in every space the rarest variety that answers the same description but is recognized as scarce to-day, compare the totals and say whether he who now makes his collection without that knowledge which is now accessible, would likely be the loser or the gainer in the end, and whether all the pittance which years of dues in this Association may have cost him and all the time and thought expended on it are to be weighed against the gain that has been made since such associations had their origin! Are any here would wish to stand aloof and reap a harvest which they have not sown, avail themselves of others' work in which they took no share, have the good cause progress without their aid? If such there are, theirs is the miser spirit that broods alone upon its treasures, triumphs in secret in its accumulations. But for there is a greater pleasure in council with a friend, in working with a friend for mutual advantage, in rejoicing with a friend over each other's gains. For most there is enjoyment in the anticipation of these meetings, gratification in the participation of them. Will any say that there has been no progress, no growth of friendship among philatelists since this Association organized? How many collectors who once concealed themselves, now are widely known through this and similar associations? How many more are now collecting because of the existence of such societies? Has not each some philatelic friend that he has found because the mystic symbols A. P. A. first brought them together? Have none met here to-day a hearty welcome, felt the invigorating impulse of hearts and hands joined in the same pursuit? Has none this moment greater interest in these proceedings because he knows behind him stand in every part of this great country eager comrades anxious to learn the outcome of this convention? Is there one among the multitude, present or absent, that does not recognize how great the gain in friendship, in mutual aid, in mutual endeavor? Will any say upon reflection that those same objects which inspired the founders of this Association are not still more alluring now than then, for time has proved them?

There are then objects yet to gain, prizes to win, a sea to be explored, a pole to be reached, to-day, as when the ship was launched. The prospect of success is still as bright, if only the right course be now pursued. The storms which some have thought so dangerous exist but in the imagination, the dangers to the enterprise spring but from mistaken conduct, the delay from following wrong charts.

Let then the ship be refitted and start on a new voyage. Provide new charts, or correct the old ones as experience may seem to warrant. Provide new rules for discipline, if such may seem necessary. But do not change the nature of her errand nor alter the character of this organization.

Much that collectors wish can best be done by local societies, but none of these can fill the place that should be occupied by a national association. Each wants a philatelic home, but all should have a philatelic country.

LIFE IN THE OFFICE OF A MODERN STAMP FIRM.

Many of our readers have probably never seen the busy life in the office of a large dealer in postage stamps.

St. Louis can boast of four of the most enterprising and successful dealers in the United States, doing by far the largest approval sheet business in the world and with a number of smaller dealers following their course will soon place the city foremost as a stamp center.

Three monthly, one weekly and another monthly paper in October represent the ever increasing stamp interests of this City.

To enter one of above stamp offices for the first time, one feels astonished at the systematic manner in which this apparently insignificant business is carried on.

At first glance several large magnificent fire-proof safes greet the eye of the visitor, wherein is stored the most valuable of the firm's stock, an examination of such an accumulation of stamps would more than surprise the stamp collector.

Promptly at 8 o'clock A. M. all hands begin their day's labor, the first mail has arrived, consisting of letters, postal cards, etc., from all parts of the United States and Canada, and if a foreign mail has arrived it never forgets the stamp dealer. The members of the firm, the book-keeper, about six young ladies and office boy all take their respective places in the office. Two young ladies attending to the ordinary wants of the collector and agent, sending out approval sheets, price lists, albums, etc., the others dividing their work between assorting newly arrived parcels of stamps, and fastening stamps with hinges on approval sheets, the stenographer takes her place near the typewriter ready to take down and answer the letters dictated to her by one of the firm's members, and within ten minutes after starting this office may be taken for the one of a large commercial firm instead of one supplying the wants of stamp collectors.

OUR SCIENCE.

Our science I consider best
'Mongst all of those I know.
And hope that her good influence,
Still steadily will grow;
She always keeps me busy,
As busy as can be,
For she is always my delight,
My dear Philately.

I think of her when I'm awake,
I dream of her when sleeping,
And in the mirror of my brain,
Her face I'm ever keeping;
The portals of my heart are locked,
She only has the key,
My dear old chum and comrade,
My friend—Philately.

Your image haunts me when at work,
And also when at leisure,
You're much to me of hope and joy,
Of happiness and pleasure;
I think of you continuously,
And trust that you may be
A constant joy to every one,
My blest Philately.

And now to close the subject
(But not that it's a bore,
For I'm never tired of praising
The science I adore,)
I'll say to you with all my heart,
In the words of "Nancy Lee."
The best of all the friends I know,
Is kind Philately.

—*C. E. S.*

THE POSTAGE STAMP MANIA

HOW IT FLOURISHES IN PARIS IN THESE DAYS.—SOME OF THE NOTED COLLECTORS.

The Enormous Prices at which Certain Rare Stamps are Held—A Collection which Cost over $300,000—The Rothschild Collection—The Postage Stamp "Exchange"—A Wily Afghan who Counterfeited Stamps, but was Discovered—Data Concerning Stamps and Values.

(A Noted Paris Philatelists Description of Stamp Collecting.)

THERE exists in Paris a regular market or exchange for old stamps. It is held every Sunday afternoon in the Avenue Gabriel, Champs-Elysees, and is attended by some fifty or sixty persons of all ages and social standings. Among the number can be seen such famous collectors as M. Philippe de Ferrari, son of the Duchess of Galliera, the Baron Arthur de Rothschild, Dr. Legrand, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Castle, and M. Marco del Pont.

It is astonishing what a number of stamp collectors there are in the world. It is a passion which did not come into vogue until 1861, but since that year it has spread everywhere. Twenty-five years ago the divers stamps to be obtained did not exceed five hundred. Nowadays some albums contain at least twenty thousand.

The American school boy that prides himself on having the biggest collection of postage stamps, in his native village, town or county, will hear with envy that the French Navy Department in Paris has amassed not merely a huge album, but a gigantic library of such precious trifles. It is the largest collection in the world. This, of course, is public property.

The most valuable of all private collections belongs to M. Philippe de Ferrari, of the Galliera family, who regularly attends the Paris mart to enrich his album. This family souvenir has already cost more than $300,000, or 1,500,000 francs. The acquisition of stamps seems to be the only object for which M. Ferrari considered his mother's millions good enough to be spent for; he has been known to pay from $300 to $500 for a collection from which he wanted only a single stamp.

Meanwhile, the Rothschilds, as a mainstay or safeguard of their fortunes, have a collection of postage stamps valued at 250,000 francs, an asset which might be used as collateral security if the great firm should ever have to borrow cash from Jay Gould or the young Vanderbilts.

If these figures seem incredible you have only to attend the mart. Not the least curious sight in Paris is the weekly gathering, in the broad alley of the Champs-Elysees, of these postage stamp collectors, trading and selling their precious bits of paper. This passion has monopolized the life of more than one man and eaten up more than one fortune. Yet nothing to an outsider reveals the momentous matter at issue. There is no fuss, no noise, no bidding or bawling as at the Paris Bourse or Stock Exchange.

Every bargain is transacted quietly. Signs often take the place of words. A would-be buyer approaches; the seller open his stamp book, and silently turns over its well-stocked leaves. Occasionally the price of a stamp is requested. If a bargain is struck, the stamp is detached and handed the buyer, who pays and turns to another book, or goes his way. People here, both young and old, mean business, and there is just enough community of thought between the parties to render

their commercial relations of an ideal order.

Let it be remembered that every square inch of a postage stamp album costs money. And sometimes a five-dollar gold piece will not be enough to purchase some old stamp which, when new, was worth but a single cent or a single sou. Indeed $5 would be "dirt cheap" for some special favorite or coveted stamp which is hard to be got. There are, for instance, Brazilian stamps, now out of print that would bring $5 and $10 apiece if offered for sale in Paris, Chicago or San Francisco. A certain English stamp, issued in 1840, bearing the letters of V. R. (Victoria Regina,) is now so rare that they will bring in London, Quebec, Montreal or the United States as much as $40. What is known as the blue stamp of Naples, 1850, is now worth between $50 and $60.

In order to make these prices seem cheap and inviting to the general reader, I will add that there is a "lost pleiad," so to speak, in the shape of a postage stamp, issued by the Government of British Guiana in 1856, which now commands at public auction about $250. A stamp as rare as that salamandrine reptile called a sourd, which French boys spend so much time eagerly hunting for in broken ground or heaped stones, although known to be quite invisible and unattainable, is the McMahon stamp. When the Marshal was President of France, his wife was very anxious to see his image set in stamps, and some such designs were prepared, but the Postal Commission rejected them and adopted another design. There are collectors who believe that some of these McMahon stamps got into circulation; hence, they are supposed to be without price, as valuable, in fact, as one or two "Victoria and Albert" penny stamps, which some people also confidently believe were not destroyed, although never officially issued It may be seen from these instances that a well-to-do American who has money to spare, may more wisely set up a "coach and four" than waste his substance in competing with the Rothschilds, M. de Ferrari or the French Navy Office in making a collection of postage stamps.

Transactions were brisk on Sunday, and the market opened with ready offers for cash. A five-cent violet stamp, of Bolivia, 1867, canceled, brought $8; a ten-cent brown Bolivia, 1867, sold for $9; while a blue Bolivia fifty-cent stamp of 1867, went for $6.50. A Brazil stamp for 180 reis, 1845, found a willing purchaser at $4. A set of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island stamps, ten varieties, sold for $5; while a one-cent stamp, carmine, of British Guiana, 1851, was bought up at $6; a four-cent stamp of British Guiana, blue, of 1851, was purchased at $10. Some Buenos Ayrean stamps of 1858 were sold for $7. Cape of Good Hope and Ceylon stamps exchanged hands at $5.75 and $5.85; English tenpenny stamps of the first issue sold for $4.25. A set of Norway stamps, thirty varieties, sold for $10.50. An unsevered pair of St. Louis stamps were disposed of for $20.50. A set of uncut War Department envelopes, thirty-four varieties, went for $38.25, and a set of uncut United States envelopes, including six six-cent, four ten-cent, etc., (in all twenty-two varieties) found a buyer at $24.20. About the best price obtained was for a set of entire Plympton envelopes of all varieties, die, color and size, ninety-six in all, which brought $52.80. Some match and medicine stamps, 150 varieties in all, found a purchaser at $9.75.

What the market has chiefly to guard

against is fraud. Counterfeit foreign stamps abound, and the sharpest eye is sometimes unable to detect the difference. A vertible crisis occurred a few years ago, and stamp collectors in all parts of Europe were considerably excited over the discovery that a couple of rouges had been swindling the "bulls" and "bears" on the Paris Stamp Exchange. It is known that Afghanistan stamps are dear to the hearts of all true collectors. The first stamp ever used in that country appeared in 1870-1871, (Mohammedan date, 1288,) during the reign of Shere Ali. It is a large circular stamp, with the head of a tiger in the center, and the value written in characters above this head. Other issues appeared in subsequent years, but all such stamps are extremely scarce, and therefore valuable.

The brilliant idea of personally profiting from these facts occurred to one Hafez Hamed, who came to Paris and proceeded to the old Stamp Exchange in the Avenue Gabriel, where he informed the buyers that the ex-Postmaster-General of Cabul had arrived in Marseilles, but that in one of his trunks, still retained at a port in the Persian Gulf, were stamps of the early issues, particularly those issued in 1293, and valued at from $25 to $200. Hafez said that he had written to the ex-Postmaster-General to telegraph to the port and have his trunks forwarded without delay, and that immediately on their arrival he would be in a position to furnish collectors with some rare stamps. Just nine days later a letter reached Hafez stating that the baggage had arrived, and very soon afterward the Afghan stamps were in the market.

Of course they were bogus, which fact was soon discovered, thanks to the shrewdness of an English gentleman in living Paris, who, knowing that it was imposible for a vessel to come from the Persian Gulf to Marseilles in nine days, made a close study of one of the stamps. He got Hafez to write for him the address of the Postmaster-General of Cabul; and this address was made in characters that neither Dgemel ed Din, the "learned Afghan," nor any Arab, Egyptian, or other Oriental in the French capitol could read. They all said that not a single postmaster in Afghanistan would be able to do so either.

Moreover, some of the stamps were obliterated in red ink, and the post mark was almost as visible on the back as it was on the front of the envelope. Now as a matter of fact, postage stamps in Afghanistan are not sold to the public as in Europe; it is the invariable rule for the natives to take their letters to the office and money with them to pay the postage; the stamp seller takes both letter and money, and, having first torn off a piece of the stamp, sticks it on the envelope, and the operation is ended. This method known to the Paris collectors was overlooked by Hafez Hamed and his accomplices; hence, the forgery was very soon discovered and Hafez had to take refuge in flight.

There are over one hundred and fifty postage stamp sellers in Paris, which shows what a rage Frenchmen have for a collection of this kind. While, of course, holding a good stock of almost every printed specimen of stamp under the sun, some of these stamp sellers make a specialty of having on hand the rarer sort of stamps belonging to certain countries. Thus, one dealer has the older sort of stamp from Australia and Mauritius; and another those belonging to the earlier issues in the Reunion, Hawaii, Australia, Buenos Ayres, Spain and the

British colonies. Still another is well supplied with varieties from England and her colonies.

Besides *Le Collectionneur* there are two other small prints published in Paris for the edification of French stamp collectors: *L'Ami des Timbres*, edited by Roussin, giving a full monthly list of all new postal, telegraphic or fiscal stamps which have come into existence since 1840, with a description and the current price of each stamp, and *La Carte Lettre Francaise*.

Postage stamps were permanently introduced into France in 1848, having been issued by the Republicans. The series ranging in value from ten centimes to one franc (two to twenty cents), has, as a central device, a beautifully impressed head of the Goddess of Liberty. They enjoyed but a limited circulation, and were soon replaced by the stamps of the Presidency, bearing a profile of Louis Napoleon, with the same inscription, which shows how astutely that consummate politician was preparing the public mind for his appearance in Imperial effulgence. Upon his accession to the Empire a new set were emitted, ranging in value from one centime to one franc; but although bearing the same device as the preceding issue, the inscription "Republique francaise" was changed to that of "Empire francais." In 1863 a new set were issued, corresponding in value and design to the preceding issue, but with the brow of His Imperial Majesty crowned with the laurel of the Cæsars. These remained current until the fall of the Empire in 1870, when the Republicans issued a new set similar to those issued in 1848. They range in value from one centime to eighty centimes, and were issued during the siege of Paris from the provisional capital of Bordeaux. The last issue was in 1882; they are those now in use.

The stamps of France are the most complicated and immitable of all stamps in use. They are usually prepared at the Hotel des Monnaies, or Paris Mint, and are under the control of the State, but yet form a special enterprise. All the stamps of France, both postal and fiscal, with those of her colonies, and Greece, emanate from the same source. The sheets on which the stamps are printed are subjected to four successive operations, the result being sure proof against forgery by the transferring process. After the stamps have been printed, gummed and perforated they are inspected by the officials, who destroy those showing any imperfections, the remainder being forwarded to the central Administration des Postes.

Within the last few years a perfect craze for the collection of postage stamps has sprung up in Germany. It is not by any means confined, as in England, to school-boys and hobby-riders, but extends, as in France, to grown-up people engaged in various walks of life, post office and other officials, clerks, young business men, etc. It infests, in fact, all ranks in society. A Postage Stamp Exchange and Mart was opened in Vienna in 1887. It holds its assizes in a large, seven-windowed room, has its regular organization officers, and even an organ. The Austrian post office sells annually 8,000 florins' worth of stamps out of use to collectors. No less than 60,000 florins' worth of eastern postage stamps are exported every year from Vienna. Cards of admission to the Postage Stamp Exchange are on no conditions delivered to collectors under eighteen years of age. The passion is regarded by some as a sort of madness; but others think if young

men become interested in foreign postage stamps, they will at the same time take interest in the countries from whence the stamps come. Stamp collecting is, therefore, the royal road to the learning of geography and a means of commercial education. Not long ago General Kaulbars sent to one of the Russian papers a letter conceived as follows:

"I desire to express my lively sense of gratitude to the foreigners who detest me, for the great number of anonymous letters they have sent me. These letters have furnished me some amusement, and at the same time they have augmented the postage stamp collection of my little daughter."

THE NEW QUEEN OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The succession to the crown of the Sanwich Islands took place without any political disturbance. King Kalakaua died in the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, and was brought with all military honors on the U. S. man-of-war "Charleston" to Honolula, where no one was aware of the King's death, owing to no cable connection between the Islands and the American Continent. The Queen, Liliuokalani, is without children, and her successor is Princess Viktoria Kawekiu Kaiulani Lunalilo Kalaninuahilapalapa, born October, 1875, commonly called Miss Cleghorn, brought up in England and highly educated.

STAMP COLLECTORS.

Send your subscription now for the STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, one of the best stamp journals published.

WHO INVENTED THE POSTAGE STAMP?

[BY RAY REES.]

A meeting was called in a notable land,
To ask who the postage stamp did command
Into being; and well worth seeing
Was the strife that was rife as to who.

Who invented the Postage Stamp?
"I," says Charles Knight,
"Hold to it tight;
'Twas I who invented the Postage Stamp."

Who invented the Postage Stamp?
"I, Rowland Hill,
Maintain it still,
'Twas I who invented the Postage Stamp;
I said that for dunces inveterate,
The stamp must be invented separate,
So I invented the Postage Stamp."

Who invented the Postage Stamp?
While all this fighting:
"I, Mr. Whiting,
I invented the Postage Stamp."

"What! all these invent the Postage Stamp?
I, Dr. Gray,
Firmly cry, nay,
'Twas I who invented the Postage Stamp;
I proposed twisting,
The newspaper system,
To make it to letters apply;
So you see, my dear friends, it was I;
'Twas I who invented the Postage Stamp."

Who invented the Postage Stamp?
"My father was he,
And lived in Dundee;
'Twas he who invented the Postage Stamp."
Thus Chalmers could prove
His father did move
The invention of Postage Stamp.

"Who invented the Postage Stamp?
Why these are all wrong,
We French had it long;
The Frenchman invented the Postage Stamp.
We had it, you see,
In sixteen, five, three (1653),
So we invented the Postage Stamp."

Now who invented the Postage Stamp?
It was not found out,
But we have no doubt,
As to how was invented the Postage Stamp;
For Darwin's idea will give solution;
The Stamp was invented by evolution.

LATE NEWS.

Edward T. Grossmann, president of the Omaha Philatelic Society, informs us of his early departure for Philadelphia, where he will enter the State University of Pennsylvania, to take up the study of medicine.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

"Philately" is the Greek name given to the art or science of stamp collecting.

Let us have a lower rate for first-class mail matter, one-cent where two-cent stamps are now used. Every "Philatelic Journal" should agitate this question in every issue. In unity of action there is strength.

The Shah of Persia is said to be an enthusiastic stamp collector.

Mr. J. K. Tiffany is the highest authority on the stamps of Peru.

It costs more to register a letter in the United States than in any other enlightened country. Let it be reduced one-half, that we philatelists may be proud of our country, and increase the size of our purses.

The new work on entire U. S. envelopes by Tiffany, Bogert, Rechert and others, will soon make its appearance. It is anxiously looked for.

We are gratified at the number of auction sales of stamps that have occurred recently, and also at the prices the different pieces brought. It is an evidence of the energy and activity of dealers.

All dealers proclaim a better condition of the stamp market at this time of the year than ever before. No doubt due to the general good outlook of the country.

Mr. J. K. Tiffany is enjoying a summer vacation in the State of Maine.

Mr. Ben F. Levy, formerly El Paso, Texas, afterwards Brooklyn, N. Y., and now of Chicago, was in the city last week.

St. Louis supports more stamp journals than any two cities in the United States. Four monthly and one weekly magazines.

The Chicago Philatelic Society is the largest of any city in the United States, but regarding stamp dealers that city is not up with the time, excepting one or two.

The Oliva Stamp Co. of this city, with Mr. Reymond as manager, is one of the youngest stamp firms in St. Louis, with much enterprise.

The new edition of Scott's celebrated "International Album" will appear about the middle of next November.

Counterfeit grills of the U. S. 1870 issue, are being worked off on innocent American dealers by English parties. Be on the look out!

Mr. O. C. Rondi, a german shoemaker of this city, owns one of the best general collections in St. Louis.

The collection of U. S. Card Match and Medicine stamps owned by Mr. Wm. H. Nienstedt of this city is the most beautiful arranged collection we have seen.

The Missouri Philatelist, published by The Conrath Stamp & Publishing Co., will soon make its appearance. We wish them success.

Mr. S. B. Bradt has a splendid location in the business center of Chicago, and with his winning ways will no doubt make a grand success.

It is not generally known that the 50c. yellow and 100c. orange Mexico 1882 issue are scarce, and catalogued entirely too low.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain is one of our most welcome visitors, and does great credit to Mr. Wm. Brown, the publisher.

If you are not a member of any philatelic society join the St. Louis Philatelic Society, and address the secretary, Mr. Wm. F. Muennighaus, No. 2618 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo.

HOW COLLECTORS BECOME DEALERS.

Philately exercises a very business like taste among its followers, so much so, that the majority of the youth of America are all business men, so to speak. It is peculiar and amusing to see how soon this power as it may be called, is imparted from Philately or magnet, to the youth or student.

I have often made it my business to watch a collector of fourteen years old, and see this power gradually passing, for it is not done in an electric style, but slowly and surely. Give the boy a book and a hundred stamps, and he will begin collecting as naturally as the chicken raised by means of the incubator will pick up grains of corn a few minutes after it has been hatched. There is nothing forced or unnatural about it, he takes to it at once without so much as waiting to be versed in the ins and outs. No duck takes to the water more naturally than does this school-boy attach himself to a stamp album, 100 stamps, a trading book and a pot of gum-arabic. Give him these and you will see a happy youth, perfectly content to let his arithmetic go, not troubling himself to read even those high literary productions known as "Dime Novels," giving the history of the brilliant "Dick—the Indian Killer or the Terror of the Western Plains."

He will go out to school and commence the business of trading. Presently he finds he has reached the high standard of being the owner of 100 stamps. To a young stamp collector, this moment in the life of his collection corresponds to the moment a boy reaches his majority. He gradually gets the common stamps held by his school-mates, and begins to feel a sense of power and importance stealing over him, that is delightful.

One day showing his duplicates, or swappers as they are called in Boston, he finds another would-be philatelist, craving a certain stamp, while he has none our potentate has already. Presently our lad is struck with a bright idea; he offers to sell it to him. This transaction having been accomplished, I may well say the turning point has come. He goes home with five or ten cents feeling that he has begun life in earnest—he is making his own money. On the morrow he takes more duplicates, and begins a petty trade, still unconscious of his future. He does not yet feel he is a dealer, but presently this brilliant idea strikes him, and buying a 5c. packet he sells them singly. With this he invests in a 25c. one, and repeats this performance a few times. Now, with this capital he buys a few dollars' worth of stamps wholesale, and gives orders to have paper printed. Ah! how beautiful it looks to see his name coupled with an imaginary "Co." He has at last reached the sublime point—he is a stamp dealer.

Now, I will ask how many boys are they who do this very thing? Thousands, and the consequence is we have thousands of dealers, each controlling a select trade, this is good for them and teaches them much. But I am sorry to say that it affects the real trade in the same manner, as if ten small stores, all doing the same business, should settle in one block, each would affect the others' business to a considerable degree. However, true as this may be, I, for one, advocate that the large dealers be generous, and sacrifice some little trade to the great cause of Philately, for there is probably nothing so good for the young boy as to get an inkling of business habits by means of Philately, and nothing that can lay claim to being a stronger point in the many advantages Philately gives, than this business taste young collectors acquire during the period of their infatuation with it.—*W. A. K.*

WHAT CAN WE DO TO GIVE STAMP COLLECTING MORE PUBLIC RESPECT AND INTEREST?

(FROM THE GERMAN.)

Never has a science made such progress in such a short time of existence than the collecting of postage stamps, but how much faster could it have grown, had it not, wherever it went, found so much opposition. Stamp collectors consider the counterfeiter as their greatest enemy, but a much more dangerous one is this public opinion of the "unuseful and damaging play" of stamp collecting. Against the former we can always guard ourselves through the exposure of the counterfeiter and the description of his make in the columns of our many journals, and in some cases through the law; but against the latter it is much more difficult to defend ourselves, as it has to go out from every single collector himself; but there is a remedy for this opponent.

Let us see why it is that the public oppose him so much? It is the collector himself the cause of it, and especially the thousands of small collectors. This can only be judged by persons who have the doings of beginners before them as a daily occurrence.

Now let us look at the album of a beginner; how does it look? Soiled all over, is in the most cases, very little said. The book consists of torn, dirty leaves, stamps stuck on it are only parts of such, disorderly and without any knowledge, one pasted next to another, no matter whether genuine or counterfeit. Such collections call on the counterfeiters to bring out larger and larger quantities of their stuff into the market and, on the other hand, they provoke the dislike of the public in a great measure.

Here can only the good model of advanced collectors be of valuable service, by giving those beginners a sight into their nicely arranged collection as often as practicable, with instructions, and they will wake a feeling for order and beauty in these minors.

STATE STAMP COLLECTORS.

LOVERS OF POSTAL ADHESIVES MEET—SOME VALUABLE EXHIBITS.

The State Philatelic Society, under the auspices of the Omaha Philatelic Society, met at the Young Men's Christian Association auditorium in Omaha. Edward Grossman, president of the Omaha Society, made the opening speech of welcome.

The object of the meeting was to further the public interest in stamp collecting and there was also a discussion of art in connection with stamps. Probably not the art of licking, but of the busts and other pictorial matter upon the outside. No extra freight was charged members for collections brought to the city; but eight piano movers of skill and experience were held in readiness to move the celebrated "Connell" stamp of New Brunswick, owned by Mr. S. G. Saunders of Council Bluffs, up the Young Men's Christian Association stairs. You could not expect a man to carry about in his pocket $5,000 worth of property.

The Hawaii stamp of the first issue, a choice rarity, for which an $800 check could not be easily exchanged, was exhibited. Mr. Dobriner of Kansas City is the owner.

Among the big stamp men, there were present:

President Edward Biggar, Fremont; Secretary Geo. A. Miller, Cambridge; W. H. Mackey, exchange superintendent, Pawnee City; Mr. Charles Dobriner of Kansas City and Mr. H. C. Beardsley of St. Joe.

CHICAGO WANDERINGS.

Did you ever, kind friends, get in a position in which you were expected to make a great deal out of almost nothing? If so, you can appreciate my present position, for Chicago news is almost unattainable this month, as this is a dull month compartively in the philatelic line, and about the only dealers I know of that are doing any business are our friends Stevens, of Stevens & Co.; he says this time of the year is only his harvest when he "gathers them in," and S. B. Bradt, of S. B. Bradt Co., claims to be doing well, and his last successful auction sale no doubt gives him much additional work. A very successful sale it was. The total amount realized for 1007 lots was $1,668.85, and Mr. Bradt deserves great credit upon the general get up of the catalogue, and the manner in which the sale was conducted.

* * *

I saw our friend Taylor of the defunct "Cream City Philatelist" upon the streets the other day, and found that he had not been in town for some time, and is now an advertising agent, handling theatre programmes. He claims to be pretty near out of the stamp line at present, but expects to start a new collection before many moons have passed, and to take the place of the one he sold in November. I understood him to say that his collection numbered 2,500 varieties, and he got about $130 for it; but that does sound like a Wisconsin fish story, don't it? He told me that the only thing he had been doing lately in stamps was in conjunction with our friend, Otto Scheible, buying U. S. stamps of all kinds from the boys in the large mailing firms and stores of this city, and reaching them by means of a circular, which they got out the first of every month, offering so much for each value in lots of ten, one hundred, etc. A very good scheme, I should say.

* * *

Hosmer, prime factor of the W. P. U., Chicago Branch, and our local secretary and treasurer, has been out of town for the last two weeks, enjoying his vacation; well, A. P. deserves it I am sure, for many are the nights he works for the insurance business in which he is interested.

* * *

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Alfred Dahlberg, who is an active philatelist, the other day, and he is busily engaged in assorting over some thousand odds old U. S. stamps, which he bought from a lady here about the first of the month, paying her $30 or thereabouts for the same.

* * *

I went to the meeting of our C. P. S., on Thursday night, the 20th ult., and found the following gentlemen present: Messrs. Ross, Severn, Dily, Jansen, Ford, Taylor, Wolsieffer and Massoth, but as I arrived too late I did not get a chance to buy any of the lots, which had been put up at auction by our friend Dily in the interest of our society, to pay some back dues owed by one of its two hundred members. They went cheap enough, I understand. The C. P. S. is booming, as is also the W. P. U.

* * *

Mr. Chas. Osborne has sold his collection of stamps to Stevens & Co., same numbered about 2,000 varieties, I should judge, and contained some good foreign stamps, though not many United States.

* * *

Mr. Bradt attended the sixth annual convention of the A. P. A., in New York, and returned home on the 27th of August.

The W. P. U. held their second meeting of the month, Thursday night, the 27th, in parlor third of the Auditorium Hotel. Meeting called to order at 8:45 with Mr. Jemius, Jr., in the chair. Ten members answered to the roll call to the following names: Hosmer, Severn, Jemius, Ferrins, Massoth, Dily, Wolsieffer, Larson, Ross, and A. S. Pierce. Mr. Taylor was present as a visitor, and to attend the auction sale. Minutes of the last meeting were omitted. Notice to collectors wanting to put up stamps in the third auction sale was given, that all stamps should be in the hands of the Society by the 25th of September. The meeting was then adjourned until after the auction sale. The sale itself was not very well attended, there only being the eleven present heretofore named; but at times the bidding was spirited, and some good prices were received. The total sum realized was about $60, and out of the 130 lots, forty were not sold, as the owners had reserved prices, and upon some of them the reserved price was almost full catalogue value. One of the most desirable lots was lot 109, 3p., dark blue, 57 issue, Nova Scotia, strip of three on original envelope; they were bid up to something over $3 but the reserved price was $4.50, consequently they went back to the owner. Lot 43, unused, unwatermarked envelope, 2c., brown on white brought $4.50, and was bought in by Mr. Wolsieffer. Taken all in all the sale was a fairly successful one.

* * *

The W. P. U.'s third sale will take place at their rooms at the auditorium, on the 24th of October, and B. S. Ross the genial auctioneer says that it will exceed any sale that has yet been held by that Society.

I understand that the S. B. Bradt Co. will hold their second auction sale on or about the 2d of October, and it is destined to contain a better assortment than the first sale did. It will surely excite great interest if such is the case.

* * *

I wonder what has come over the spirit of our city's collectors? They have all lately succumbed to the fascination of the seductive Mexican revenues, which are foisted upon the philatelic market by certain dealers. The latest addition to its ranks is Mr. Otto Scheible, who not long ago bought 10,000 of them, and has only about 1,000 left, and has again placed his order for 10,000 more. He has also ordered this month 3,000 Canadian revenues, and informs me that he can get rid of all the foreign revenues he can get hold of.

* * *

Mr. Scheible is about to spend a few days in Milwaukee, and in all probabilities Mr. Taylor, whose home is there, will go with him to act as chaperone.

* * *

I think, at the present time, I have written about as much as is new in our city, but will promise you a better letter for next month. TZET.

Chicago, August 28th, 1891.

THE STAMPS OF MONTENEGRO.

Montenegro is one of the least known of the stamp-issuing countries. Its domain is not very extensive, comprising but two thousand square miles, its inhabitants numbering about two millions. The proper name is Czernogora, (Black Mountain), Montenegro, being an Italian translation.

Up to the year 1878 there were no towns in Montenegro, the capital, Cettengi, consisting of a collection of about one hundred houses of a poor sort. After the Russo-Turkish war, the independence of Montenegro was recognized, and a slice of territory bordering on the Adriatic was added, giving them a solitary seaport.

In this newly acquired territory there are several towns, the largest containing 7,500 people. The people are very ignorant, hold education in contempt, and very few of them can read or write. There are but three or four schools in the whole country, and up to 1871 there was not a single newspaper published within its borders. There is very little commerce and the people are poor. They are a brave and a hardy race, however, and have many times waged war with their most powerful neighbors and not always to their disadvantage.

Montenegro is very mountainous, in fact, it is nearly all mountains, so that the land is, to a great extent, unfit for agriculture.

Postage stamps were introduced in 1874, consisting of seven values, viz.: 2 soldi (or novtch), yellow; 3, green; 5, red; 10, blue; 15, brown; 25, lilac. They bear the bust of Hosfodar, Nicholas 1st, within a wreath. The value is at the bottom and an inscription in the native language at the top and on each side. Used specimens are rarely met with, but when it is considered how poor and ignorant the people are, and that few, even among their priests, can write, it is not to be wondered at; probably a vast number of these never saw or heard of a postage stamp.

"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," is no doubt a popular saying with the Montenegrins.

ABOUT STAMP COLLECTING.

Judging from the numerous articles which have been written, concerning the advantages to be gained from stamp collecting, the subject would seem to be exhausted and that nothing remains to be said. If such were the case, there are good reasons for keeping the arguments, so often advanced, before the philatelic fraternity, to encourage the older members and enlighten the latest accession to our ranks. The votaries of philately are almost universally intelligent, well bred boys, for no others could have an inclination for such a pursuit or diversion. They have, too, those qualities so necessary for success in any enterprise, energy and persistence.

Given collectors of these qualifications, it is easy to see to what extent the pursuit of their hobby will increase their knowledge of the location, extent, kind of government, history and general characteristics of the countries of the world, information which will be of the greatest value to them in after life. There is no risk in saying that collectors of the kind referred to far excel, in accurate knowledge of the world, all boys who have had only the advantages of even the best schools. The latter have as a rule only vague notions of the existence of many of the most remote and least known parts of the globe and of their form of government, political relations, etc., while the former must from the nature of their favorite amusement, become familiar with all these things.

Is there no reason for inferring that the boys now engaged in collecting stamps, within a few years, be amongst our most energetic, intelligent, and consequently most successful business men?

CHRONICLE OF NEW ISSUES.

The French Government has lately issued an important order, which will be welcome news to many stamp collectors. This ruling prescribes that every French Colony shall have their own stamps, the same as the English Colonies enjoy. As everybody knows up to this time all French Colonial stamps were alike, and a stamp purchased in Madagascar or Guadeloupe could also be used in Cochinchina or Caledonia. The new stamps will nearly resemble the present French stamps. The design will represent a picture of commerce and navigation. At top are the words "Republique Francaise-Colonies;" this design shall be one and the same for all colonies, but at the bottom of the stamp will be a space in the form of a square containing the name of the respective colony. We shall illustrate the stamps as soon as they arrive.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The 8c. red, and 20 peso stamp have been issued as per accompanying cuts.

Adhesives.

8c. red.
20 peso, green.

AUSTRIA.

The following values have made their appearances with figure of values in black.

Adhesives.

20kr., green and black.
24kr., gray, blue and black.
30kr., brown and black.
50kr., lilac and black.

BRAZIL.

The new 80 reis, red brown letter card has appeared, also the 10 reis, newspaper stamps, blue on white paper, and the 100 reis, lilac rose on white paper.

Letter Card.

80 reis red, brown on green.

Newspaper Stamps.

10 reis, blue.
100 reis, lilac rose.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

The new surcharge has appeared in this Colony, the 4 annas, brown, has been surcharged 1 anna, in dark voilet.

Surcharge.

1 anna, dark violet, on 4 annas, brown.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Five new values have been issued in same type as the Seychelles stamps. In the 2, 3 and 6c. values the figure of value is of same color as the rest of the stamp, but in the 12 and 24c. the figures are in white, name of country and shield green in the 12, and blue in the 24c.

Adhesives.

2c. carmine.
3c. purple.
6c. blue.
12c. lilac and green.
24c. yellow and blue.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The 3 penny is now printed in red brown and surcharged 2½d. in black.

Surcharge.

2½d. blakc and 3p. red brown.

FINLAND.

Since the Russian Government prohibited the use of Finland stamps for foreign correspondence and only limited their use for the inland mail, this Grand Duchy has been supplied with a set of Russian stamps with small circles added. The following is a list:

Adhesives.

1k. orange.
2k. green.
3k. rose.
4k. rose.
7k. dark olive.
10k. blue.
14k. blue and carmine.
20k. " "
35k. lilac and green.
50k. " "
70k. orange and bistre.
1r. " " brown.
3½r. gray and black.
7r. " "
P. C. 3k. carmine on buff.
3x3k. carmine.
4k. "
4k. 4x "

Letter Cards.

7k. blue on blue.
10k. blue on gray.

Envelopes.

1k. blue on cream.
7k. " "
14k. " on bluish.
20k. " "

Wrappers.

1k. orange on manila.
2k. green "

LUXEMBURG.

Two new stamps, the 10 and 25 centimos have appeared, as per illustrations it shows the Grand Duke in full uniform, and the design is very well executed.

Adhesives.

10 centimos, red.
25 centimos, blue.

JOHOR.

The 24c. green Straits Settlement has been surcharged in black.
Johor,
Two
Cents.

Adhesives.

2c. on 24c. green.

NATAL.

The new surcharge, 2½p. on 4p., appeared a few months ago, and was in use but a short time, since then a 2½p. value has been issued, blue in color.

Adhesives.

2½d. black on 4p.
2½d. blue.

ROMANIA.

To celebrate the event of the 25th year of the reign of Charles the First, a new set of stamps were issued of same design as last issued.

Adhesives.

½b. red.
3b. violet.
5b. green.
10b. brick red.
15b. gray.
P. C. 5b. black on rose.

ST. LOUIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The regular annual meeting and election of officers of the St. Louis Philatelic Society was held on the 21st of July, by invitation of the president, Mr. J. K. Tiffany. The meeting was held in one of the many summer gardens for which St. Louis is noted. In consequence there was a large attendance, a number of new members were admitted, and several names proposed for membership. The annual report was read, and the treasury was found to be in a very good condition.

The following officers were unanimously elected: J. K. Tiffany, president; C. H. Mekeel, vice-president; N. W. Chandler, treasurer; W. F. Muennighaus, secretary.

Col. T. B. Rodgers and W. H. Nienstedt, members of the executive committee, after some unimportant business, and one of the most enjoyable meetings the society has known, the members retired at a late hour.

WM. F. MUENNIGHAUS, SEC'Y.

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1334 LA SALLE STREET, ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

NOVEMBER, 1891.

The Stamp Collectors Companion

EDITED BY
M. YARNALL

ISSUED BY
The Stamp Collectors
Publishing Company
ST LOUIS, MO

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

A HIGH-CLASS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

50 cents a Year in the United States, Canada and Mexico.
75 cents a Year to Europe and Postal Union Countries.
$1.00 a Year to all other Countries.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

VOL. I. NOVEMBER 1, 1891. NO. 2.

The Stamps of the Confederate States of America.

GENERAL ISSUE

CONTINUED.

Having illustrated four varieties of the stamps of the Confederate States in No. 1 of THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, we continue with this page showing the remaining types of these short-lived stamps in their respective original colors.

To the left side the reader will observe the 2c green, issued in 1862, a scarce stamp in a used condition, but lately rather common in an unused state; many unused copies have been found and disposed of to various dealers, and the next catalogue may reduce its present value still further.

A much more desirable stamp, *unused*, is the 10c rose, as illustrated to the right, also issued in 1862. Although this specimen used is not as scarce as the 2c green, it is worth the catalogue price of $2.00.

A stamp much more common unused than used, is the 2c rose, used copies being rather scarce.

A very common stamp is the 5c blue, as per accompanying cut, the last of the 1862 issue, hundreds of them being found annually and thrown into the market. There are, however, the following varieties of this type not as common: the pale blue, the lithographed, and above all, the perforated specimen, which is rare, catalogues do not price this stamp.

The most common of all is the 10c blue, as shown here, issued in 1863, which nearly every dealer can supply by the dozen or more. There are, however, several varieties of this type, particularly the one with blue outer line around the stamp, worth $2.00, and the perforated one worth 75 cents; besides there is a pale blue, which is common.

Very similar in design to the 10c blue just referred to, but quite scarce, is the "Ten Cents" blue, illustrated here, issued in same year; the most distinct difference between these two is in the inscription of value, which reads 10 cents in the former, and "Ten Cents" in the latter; the market value of this stamp is $2.50, either used or unused, and missing in many collections.

Last of all, as per cut, is the 20c green, head of Washington, issued in 1863, common unused, but a desirable stamp in a used condition.

THE STAMPS OF MEXICO.

The stamps of Mexico are among the most interesting in this wide field of philately. The country being the second largest Republic on the American continent, it is quite natural, that her stamps attract more attention from stamp collectors of the United States, than those of any other American Republic.

We will endeavor to illustrate some of the best executed, and by far most beautiful issues of these interesting stamps, and begin with the 1863–64 issue, commonly

called "Saltillos" consisting of the 1, 2, 4 real and 1 peso values, printed in read, blue, brown and black respectively, as per accompanying illustrations.

There has been a great deal of controversy regarding used specimens of this issue. Some assert that none have been used, while others proclaim that they have been used, and we are inclined to believe the latter, having seen a specimen ourselves used on the original envelope shown us by a local dealer, the genuineness of which no one can dispute. The unused sets of four varieties can be purchased for 15c.

Some months ago very dangerous counterfeits made their appearance, but can easily be told alongside of a genuine specimen.

Next we present before our readers the set of numerals, consisting of three values, 2, 3 and 6c in green, carmine and blue respectively as per illustrations. The com-

plete set of three varieties unused can be purchased for 15c or 20c from most American dealers.

TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT NUMBER.

FADS IN POSTAGE STAMPS.

THIS IS THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE CONVENIENT ARTICLE.

America was Seven years Behind England in Adopting the Prepaid Postage Label —American Philatelists will Hold a Convention This Year—Some Collectors and Their Stores—One Parisian Collection Worth $500,000.

From a leading New York daily (1890).

This is the jubilee year of the postage stamp. The fiftieth anniversary of its introduction into the world of business and romance was celebrated early in May last in England. The Duke of Edinburg presided over the ceremonies and festivities, and hundreds of stamp collectors were present. There was a good time, lots of information was disseminated, and all the delegates returned to their homes more than ever in love with the postage stamp and its sticking qualities in their albums.

America in reality has no right to enter prominently into the jubilee celebration, for we were seven years behind England in adopting the prepaid postage label. Brazil, that country in the southern continent that is generally regarded as only

THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMP.

half developed at best, was the country that followed England first in making use of a sign by which postal-carriers might know that their labors were paid for. The United States did not adopt a postage stamp until 1847. Philatelists, however, or, in plain English, stamp collectors, are cosmopolitan. They, therefore, rejoice

THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMP, PROPER.

at the anniversary of the act of Parliament which gave being to their fad. So it happens that the convention of American Philatelists, which will be opened Aug. 4 in the rooms of the Lincoln Club, at No. 56 Clinton Place, has an unusual significance. It will be, in a measure, a celebration of the invention of the postage stamp, as well as a gathering of men who are harmoniously engaged in off hours in the same pursuit.

It is generally understood, of course, that the collecting of stamps is a hobby, and yet it has its rational side. It is said that men who get interested in postage stamps drift naturally into the study of ancient history, and become pronounced antiquarians. Professional men, as a rule, make up the army of collectors. They pursue the study in off hours, finding in it a pleasant relief and an incentive to study the history of nations and their development. Inasmuch as the issue of postage stamps is itself only fifty years old, it might be supposed that collections should be readily completed up to date and that there the craze should end. It happens, however, that not only do all nations modify the design of their stamps from year to year, thus giving a constant incentive to collectors, but that in some countries there are issues of which only a limited number remain. The value of rare issues is astonishing. It is said that Philippe Le Renotere de Ferrary, of Paris, owns a stamp for which $10,000 has been offered and refused. But Ferrary would not sell it at any price, and so this particular specimen cannot be quoted at any value. There are many stamps, however, on sale in this city at such mod-

AN EARLY AMERICAN STAMP, WORTH $500.

est sums as $500 or $1,000 each. Oddly enough, the very first stamp ever issued is worth only three cents. That, of course, is because so many of them were used fifty years ago that genuine originals are easily obtainable. A picture of this stamp accompanies this article. It was really an envelope stamp, and the first pasted label came several years later. It happens that the label bearing the profile of the young Queen of England met with strenuous opposition, because the loyal Britons thought it a kind of sacrilege to blot out the face of their Queen by the action of an inked type-pad in the hands of a subordinate of the Government.

To return to Ferrary, it is said that his collection is worth somewhere between $300,000 and $500,000. This extraordinary collection represents twenty-five years of work, and even to-day Ferrary employs two secretaries whose duty it is to look after his accumulation and answer letters from dealers all over the world who wish to sell him specimens. There is nobody in America who can hope to vie with Ferrary in the extent and value of his collection; but Mr. Van Derlip, of Boston, has a collection that is said to be worth $40,000.

ANOTHER AMERICAN STAMP, WORTH $500.

Germans are said to be the most assiduous collectors. German boys collect stamps in their teens, and some of them continue the pursuit of philatelic knowledge and research when they are grown up. One of the Baron Rothschilds is a great collector, and without doubt there are more good, sensible, economical collections in Germany than in any other country. The best collection of stamps in Germany is in the post-office at Berlin.

LESS THAN HALF THE REGULAR SIZE.

The writer can remember his own collection of no matter how many years ago. It was patiently gathered up from old envelopes, and by dint of swapping marbles and tops and other valuables for canceled stamps from abroad. It numbered upward of 200 when he abandoned it to gather up quartz crystals and iron pyrites and feldspar, and it had cost a deal of time and marbles. Nowadays the amateur can begin a collection equally good, doubtless, by the expenditure of one-half of an ordinary dollar, for which he can obtain 200 stamps. For $15.00 he may obtain 1000 stamps. This would not be so significant if it were not for the fact that several commercial concerns exist solely upon the sale of canceled stamps and occasional auctions of rare issues and collections. These concerns cannot do business the year round, for as it happens, oddly enough, the summer is too hot for collectors. From June to October they let up, and the hot season is passed in philatelic contemplation of the winter's fruits and the consideration of the efficacy of different kinds of governmental mucilage. On Oct. 1 the selling season begins. At least, so says the manager for a stamp-house on Twenty-third street.

WORTH $1,000.


QUEER, BUT IT GOES.

"We have now 6,000,000 stamps on hand," and to prove it he opened a big bin, where apparently that number of stamps were lying, "and," he continued, "at least the whole of that number will be sold before the end of the first week in October. Meantime we shall collect many millions more.

When the cigarette dealers were offering stamps as prizes in every package we supplied them, and they took from us alone almost 20,000,000 canceled postage stamps. We aim to keep at least 6,000,000 stamps on hand all the time."

Stamp collecting was begun ten years after the first stamp was issued. Prices are regulated by the supply, the demand being always, up to the present, constant. For instance, until a recent period the stamps of the State of Scinde, India, were quoted at $300 each. Then an Englishman traveled through the country and increased the supply from three to fifteen, so that now they are worth only $50 each.

In one respect our country has excelled all others at least. We have sent letters under more stamps at one time than almost all other countries put together. Less than fifty varieties of stamps have been issued by Great Britain, while the United States has had nearly 150 varieties in use during a single year.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS.

How the Austrian Emperor's Government Entertained the Delegates.

Col. Fred Grant, United States Minister to Austria, commenting in a recent letter to the State Department upon the fact that the next meeting of the Universal Postal Union is to be held in Washington City, describes some of the details of the entertainment furnished by the Austrian Government and the people of Vienna at the recent Postal Congress held there, as follows:

"The Blumen Saale, a hall centrally located on the park ring, and devoted at certain seasons of the year to the display of flowers and of tropical plants, was selected as the place for holding the sessions of the congress. Such changes as were necessary to render this building suitable for the reception of the delegates were made on a generous not to say luxurious, scale. The commodious room set aside for the daily sessions of the congress was conveniently fitted up with desks and chairs arranged in semi-circular form fronting the platform of the President of the Congress, over which was suspended a handsome full length portrait of the Emperor. It presented an appearance not unlike the Senate Chamber of the United States. The walls were tastefully decorated with flags and the coats-of-arms of the different nations, and the floors were neatly carpeted. Each desk was liberally supplied with stationery and such other conveniences as might tend to contribute to necessities and comforts of the delegates. Appropriate retiring rooms for committee work and for council chambers, furnished on the same liberal plan, joined the main hall, and there was also provided an attractive looking buffet or room from which the light refreshments were served gratuitously as they might be called for. An efficient police and messenger service was constantly in attendance and the privilege of free postage to any part of the world, and of free communication by telegraph with any part of the Empire, was accorded to the delegates. Moreover, the Government was untiring in its efforts to promote the pleasure of the delegates, whom it seemed to regard, to a certain extent, as its guests during their sojourn at this capital. His Majesty, the Emperor, entertained at the palace the entire congress at dinner; opportunity was taken to enable them to enjoy, without expense, the Grand Opera and the Burg Theaters; excursions were organized in their interests to the famous Lemmering Pass, where a good idea may be obtained of the wild and picturesque scenery of the Austrian Tyrol; to Gastem, presenting a peaceful picture of Austrian watering place life and a favorite resort of royalty; to Luxemburg, of the Emperor's summer palaces; to the Kahlenburg, with its commanding view of Vienna and the surrounding country, etc.

In short, nothing could have exceeded the spirit of hospitality which animated the Government towards the congress, and it is perhaps superfluous to add that the impression made upon the delegates was both happy and permanent."

THE advertisement of the Mound City Stamp Co., announcing that they buy old U. S. stamps, can be read in the street cars of leading lines in St. Louis—expensive advertising. The same company has contracted for 500 lines in each of the leading juvenile papers, amounting to over $2,000—good evidence to what enormous proportion the stamp business can be carried.

IMAGINARY VALUES OF THE U. S. 1856 ISSUE.

From the Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung.

To the public in general, and the many friends of Philately, I desire to impart some interesting information. As is well known, the U. S. 24c, 30c and 90c stamps of the 1856 issue, *unperforated*, have heretofore been catalogued as "great rarities," and for several specimens as high as $37.00 has been paid. I have this assurance from a dealer, whose authenticity I doubt not in the least. As further proof of their rarity I have two American catalogues before me, substantiating this statement.

In Number 3 of the *Illustrirte Leipzig Briefmarken Zeitung* of January 31, 1891, in answer to a correspondent signed "J. A." of Indianapolis, there appeared this statement: "Only the values from 1c to 12c were issued *unperforated*, the next issue of 1860, contained the same stamps with the additional values of 24c, 30c and 90c, but all *perforated*." (Above journal was correct regarding these issues, but failed to include the two varieties of the 5c and one of the 3c stamps). They closed their answer as follows: "Of the last three values only closely cut specimens or such as escaped, by accident, from being perforated, appeared in the market, and were then sold at as high a price as 1856 issue, when they did not exist."

The above opinion of this magazine of popular and recognized authority, cannot be contradicted. We are all subject to mistakes, however, and I waited, thinking at the American philatelic papers would it up, especially that high class New monthly *American Journal of Phil-* d settle this most important ques- fact" as the *Leipzig Journal* re-

g for months no reply from als was forthcoming. I insinuations nor give g their silence; it may be that the article in question escaped the notice of our argus-eyed editors, or in face of their infallible catalogues they did not deem it worthy their attention. But enough of this; the following official letter explains itself:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE 3D ASS'T POSTMASTER-GEN.
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1891.

MR. GEO. BARTHOLOMAEUS, Warrenton, Warren Co., Mo: SIR—Your communication of the 18th instant, addressed to the Postmaster-General, has been referred to this office. In reply, I beg leave to inform you that the first issue of 90c postage stamps by the Post-office Department was made in 1860, the design being a bust of Washington, in Generals' uniform, after the portrait by Trumbull, placed in a solid panel with arched top. I have no knowledge of the stamp said by the *Leipzig Journal of Philately*, to be a counterfeit. Yours very respectfully, A. D. HAZEN,
3rd Ass't Postmaster-General

This corroborates the statement of the *Leipzig Journal*. I neglected, as will be seen from answer, to make inquiries regarding the 24c and 30c values, but as the claim of the *Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung* regarding the 90c stamp has been verified, it will, doubtless, apply also to the other values. It has now been proven that *genuine unperforated* specimens of these values *do not exist*, but are of a later issue, and their imaginary value, as being of '56 issue, amounts to nothing.

What position American philatelic papers will take regarding above official writing remains to be seen. These facts cannot be controverted, neither through further silence of interested stamp journals nor dealers, nor through failure of a thorough revision of American catalogues. That which does not exist, cannot be furnished through catalogues, and if the few owners of *unperforated* specimens, of the issue in question, really imagine they possess stamps of 1856, we may let them have this pleasure, but we assure them they paid for it dearly. Of course collectors will, in future, decline to buy such *rare* and *wrongly described stamps*.

To caution and benefit the collecting public I have indited the foregoing. Respectfully. G. B.

U. S. STAMPS WITH GRILL.

BY E. B. HANES.

From the Collector's Companion.

There are few countries whose stamps afford a wider scope for interesting study and research than do those of our own country. It is surprising how the field expands as we advance with the collection, and we wonder how such striking varieties could be passed by as unworthy of collection by most collectors. I remember the curiosity with which we examined the first issue of grilled stamps. Still it did not occur to us, at the time, that this peculiar experiment of the government was a very interesting thing, to be illustrated and commemorated in our albums. If it had, many a good specimen might have been saved from the oblivion which now surrounds it. I am prompted to write upon this subject from the fact that there is a general awakening among collectors in regard to these stamps, and from the excellent opportunity which exists to pick up good specimens among old letters which have not been examined for this peculiarity. This is especially true of the 1870 issue.

The grill or gridiron cut consists of a pattern of small squares which are embossed or pressed into the paper. In each small square, there is a diagonal crosscut which breaks the fibre of the paper, thus allowing the cancelling ink to saturate the stamp, rendering the paper easy to tear, and more difficult to clean. A close examination of a clear cut grill could be made a lesson in metric measure, as each small square composing the grill is almost exactly a millimeter square.

The first issue of grilled stamps occurred in May, 1867, when the entire surface of the 3c stamp was embossed; this stamp was in use but a few weeks and is now rare. It was succeeded by a rectangular grill 13x16 mm. upon the same stamp, which continued in use until January, 1868, when the size of the grilled space was still further reduced to 11x14 mm., and the 1c, 2c, 3c, 10c, 12c and 15c stamps were issued in this form. These also had a short life, as we find, later in the same year, the grill reduced to 9x14 mm., and an entire set, 1c to 90c can be made of these. They are all common but the 5c, 24c, 30c and 90c, which are decidedly uncommon. The beautiful stamps of 1869, being square in shape, were embossed with a grill 9½x9½ mm. The grill upon the 1869 issue is an infallible test to distinguish the original issue from the set as afterward reprinted, as no reprints were ever grilled. A few of the 1869 issue, however, seemed to have escaped the treatment. They can only be distinguished from the reprints when the original gum remains on the back. The originals have a heavy brown gum, while the reprints have a light brittle white gum. The use of the grill was continued in the issue of 1870, and specimens of these stamps form a very interesting feature of a United States collection. The size of the grill for this issue is 12x12½ mm. It was used but a short time. I have examined many letters mailed in the fall and winter of 1870, without finding a single grilled stamp of the low values. They seem to have died a natural death, as the impression grew lighter and fainter, many showing but slight traces of the operation, and it finally disappeared entirely. Diligent search will show all the values as issued in 1870, with plain grill, and the 5c blue and 2c vermilion have been chronicled as existing with grill 11x14. I have never seen them, and as these stamps were not issued until 1875, it would be an enigma if they do exist. I have no faith in them. It will be seen that the government continued the use of the grill in various forms for more than three years, covering the last days of the 1861 issue, all of the 1869 and the first of 1870, when it was discarded as being of small practical value.

THE

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The only Journal published illustrating stamps in original colors.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, having had an opportunity to enlarge its already broadening field, has embraced in it the purchase of the *Standard Philatelist*, of this city, with all its rights and privileges. Though this progress will necessitate the discontinuance of the *Standard Philatelist* as a separate publication, its subscribers and patrons generally will, we feel we are permitted to say, suffer naught by the change, but rather gain in that they will receive all the benefits and pleasures to be derived from both publications, but in a more condensed form of one issue.

To those who are already acquainted with the STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, we can only add to the introductory remarks in our last issue a promise to try to do even better than they expect of us. To our new friends, the subscribers to the *Standard Philatelist*, we extend anew our salutations, with the earnest hope that we shall be able to do more than we have promised, more than they expect, and thus gain the goal we have set before us—perfect satisfaction to all.

Of Philately, little can be said to either those who have or those who may become acquainted with us. Its fascinations are too well known to need extended reference in this, we hope, the chosen journal of philatelists.

Of the elevation of the study of stamps, nothing need be said, for the innate love of the beautiful, which leads to such inquiry, can lend to the improvement of Philately in all its branches.

In assuming the responsibility of taking the place of another journal, we have also undertaken to carry out all its business contracts. Advertisements placed in the *Standard Philatelist* will reach the same readers in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, and more, the COMPANION'S own readers. To these advertisers, as well as our own, we guarantee the completion of all contracts, and the protection offered by the careful selection of all such advertisements as may appear in our pages, and having deserved well in this, may we not hope for their renewal as well as of subscriptions which may expire?

A constant effort will be made to add new features of ever increasing interest, and thus we hope to continue to merit the friendship of all with whom we may come in contact with either in business or in the study of that most fascinating "hobby," if such it may be called, Philately.

Lest, in our earnestness, we should seem to "protest too much," we will say no more, but leave to the future the determination of the results of our efforts.

Respectfully,

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S PUB. CO.

TO OUR PATRONS.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 26, 1891.

Owing to our failure to procure second-class rates, we are compelled to discontinue publishing the *Standard Philatelist*. We have not done so without leaving our subscribers and advertisers in the hands of a reliable publishing company, but have sold our entire interest in the journal to the STAMP COLLECTOR'S PUBLISHING CO.,

of this city, and they will supply each of our subscribers with a copy of their publication, the STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, until the subscriptions expire.

Knowing that the change will more than compensate our subscribers as well as our advertisers, we remain, Yours truly,

STANDARD STAMP CO.
H. FLACHSKAMM, Manager.

PARENTS, guardians and teachers should encourage and assist the youths in their charge to collect and accumulate stamps. Girls, as well as boys, should become collectors, and though vastly the greater proportion of the latter are already in the field, there are also many enthusiastic collectors among the former.

This is always a fascinating pastime, especially when communities exchange views, talk over their successes, vie with each other in perfecting their collections and in mounting their stamps in handsome and artistic style.

It is related that every inhabitant in an English hamlet were seized with the "stamp collecting mania," music, cards and games of all kinds yielded to Philately. Old and young collected, studied and discussed "stamps," and wagered on their genuineness, when a doubt was expressed. It is stated that lovers and sweethearts almost quarreled with each other over doubtful questions arising in the discussion of this momentous subject.

It is an innocent and instructive diversion, and while we do not desire to make whole communities wild on stamps, we would recommend it as a highly instructive and valuable occupation for young people, at some period of their lives, to make a collection.

One might present a mercenary view of the subject, and say, what is undoubtedly true, that "rare stamps are continually increasing in value," so are many of the old varieties of all countries, especially those of the United States.

A collection made in early life, laid to one side or forgotten, and found in later life, will have increased greatly in value, in fact, at a more rapid ratio than money at interest, and if not sacrificed, will bring a handsome percentage on its original cost. But it is not from this standpoint that we recommend this pursuit; it is from the educational advantages that are necessarily connected with it. In searching for and securing certain stamps our curiosity is aroused, and we naturally inquire into and study their peculiar characteristics. They may tell us of wars, of the rise, decline and fall of Governments, of Presidents, Emperors, Kings and Princes, or great families, of political intrigues, assassinations and suicides. They are, in fact, an incentive to biographic, geographic and historic research. We have in these little stamps emblems of the "mutability of all human affairs." We have histories of great nations stamped on minute pieces of paper; we have works of art so small that we study them with microscopic eye-glasses; we have the conceptions of those high in power of the various countries represented—the face, the characteristics, the most striking scenery, is often depicted; the tastes, the mode of thought and the ideas of the times; the people, the country and the character of their Governments and rulers, and the different stages of civilization. By those means we learn their history and that of their contemporaries, which is often romantic, sad and exciting—the stamps themselves, in many respects, having an interesting history.

Let all youths then study Philately.

IF any of our readers will send us the names of collecting friends, such favors will be thankfully received. A sample copy of our journal will be sent to any such new addresses, and the good cause of Philately advanced.

THE next Universal Postal Union Congress will be held in Washington, D. C.

FEMININE PHILATELY.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

Handsome, dashing cousin Allie,
Just for spite the other day,
Laid a Grecian stamp before me,
Smiling, said: "Now tell me, pray,
You, who've always proudly vaunted
Such extremely lofty views;
You, who've boasted that your hobby
Would instruct and e'en amuse:
Tell me, cousin, I am anxious
(To my ignorance be kind),
What in all this vast creation
Grecian stamps recall to mind?"

Then, with sage-like look of wisdom,
I explained: "There comes to me,
By this winged head suggested,
Thoughts of old mythology;
For does not this profile show us
One who followed God's commands,
Stood by Venus, Jove, Minerva;
Took instructions from their hands?
And I think—" But she was going,
And was saying with a smile:
"Stop your horrid, horrid talking;
Let's hunt clover blooms awhile."

WHO INVENTED THE POSTAGE STAMP?

A mist of uncertainty envelopes the personality of almost every discoverer of anything that is truly great, and certainly, if the converse of this holds true, so that we may pronounce an invention great, because he who made it is hard to identify, the postage stamp has ample claims to be held a most important discovery.

In attempting to solve the question as to who is the real inventor of the philatelist's hobby, we meet few questions as to facts, but many as to the inferences to be drawn from them, so that the whole question resolves itself into this: what man connected with the postage stamp in one or other of its various stages of evolution, has best claim to be considered as substantially its inventor? We claim that, on a careful review of the facts in the case, Sir Rowland Hill, the traditional inventor, has an undoubted right to the laurels, by the same analogy, which leads the world in general to concede to Columbus the title of discoverer of the new world. There were postage stamps of a kind made long before Sir Rowland Hill was born, just as it is undoubtedly true that some Europeans trod this continent centuries before Columbus sailed, and so we believe that the great English postal reformer has a clear title to be called discoverer of the postage stamp, in the same way that the world in general has conceded to Columbus the proud designation of discoverer of a new world. Let us trace, as well as we may, the successive steps in the evolution of the modern stamp, and estimate the part Sir Rowland Hill played in its final introduction as a part of all postal systems.

The first stamp of any kind used as a symbol of payment of postage, of which we know, was that authorized in 1650 by King Louis XIV of France. It was issued in 1653 by the Count De Valfyer, to whom the right was granted, and was called a *formule de billet*, being an envelope bearing a kind of stamp, and containing a sheet of blank paper. At least one of these archaic stamps is known to be in existence in the collection of a French philatelist, and it is, of course, a curiosity of priceless value.

For more than 160 years there was a blank in philatelic development, until, in November, 1818, the Sardinian Government issued its well-known stamped letter paper, followed in 1820 by envelopes with the same stamps imprinted. These continued in use until 1836, and specimens of them, though rare, are still preserved. We speak of them as well known, because illustrations of their designs have made them familiar to all collectors. But as for the sets of these stamps offered by many dealers at 25c and 50c each, and unblushingly guaranteed "genuine," common sense tells what they are. In the same category with these are to be

placed the Sydney (New South Wales) envelope stamps, issued in 1838. And now we come to an entirely different branch of philatelic development, the English newspaper stamps. As early as 1830, Mr. Chas. Whiting, of London, prepared experimentally, stamped wrappers for newspapers, which he called "go-frees," and in 1834, in entire ignorance of what he had done, Mr. Chas. Knight, the publisher, addressed to Lord Althorp, Chancellor of the Exchecquer, the recommendation that a similar wrapper be adopted for use. It is only lately that these British newspaper stamps have received recognition as true members of the plilatelic fold, but there can be no doubt of their right to it, and they are now eagerly collected. The design of the stamp is the British coat of arms with the value above and below, the name of the newspaper on which it is used, being printed on each side, the whole is imprinted in red ink on each sheet of the periodical which it franks, so that for an ordinary single sheet newspaper, there would be but one; on a magazine probably several of these early stamps. They did not go out of issue until 1859 or 1860. And now comes the era of the final introduction and general adoption of the adhesive stamp.

Whatever be the disagreement as to the award of credit to different ones, there there can be none as to the facts in the case. We have seen that the use of envelope stamps, gradually developed from an almost ancient invention, the author of which it is impossible to identify; similar is the development of the adhesive; the latter is an obvious adaptation of the former, so that, had we found but one person taking it up, we could scarcely allow him the title of discoverer, since then there are two, at least, who worked out the adhesive almost simultaneously.

The principal credit must certainly be given to him who brought it into use and notice; this man was beyond doubt Sir Rowland Hill.

In 1834 Mr. Jas. Chalmers prepared, at his printing office in Dundee, Scotland, what was probably the first adhesive stamp ever made; it was printed from type, and had upon the back a wash of gum; he showed this stamp to neighbors, but did not at the time make any effort to bring it to the notice of the authorities with a view to securing its adoption for postal use. On the 13th of February, 1837, Sir Rowland Hill brought to the attention of the commission for post-office inquiry his scheme for the use of an adhesive postage stamp. Mr. Chalmers did not publicly mention his stamp, first produced in 1834, until November, 1837. As a result of this recommendation, and in pursuance of his general scheme of postal reform, Sir Rowland Hill's stamps were, as is well known, finally produced in 1840, and on the 1st of May in that year were issued along with envelopes the first adhesive stamps ever produced for actual use.

It is a matter of history, how the latter in a few days practically supplanted the former, and the demand for adhesives severely tested the ability of the government to supply them, and how in the years since, every civilized country has adopted this useful device, which has been a main instrument in the improvement of the world's postal facilities. Who then deserves the title of the inventor of the postage stamp? It is either the first man who ever conceived the idea of a stamp in any form, or the one who finally made this discovery effective by producing its highest development, the adhesive, and securing its adoption for actual use. No one of the long line of adapters between the former and latter can have any claim to be a real discoverer; all were at best but tyros who left no real results behind them. Had Chalmers produced a thousand types of his

stamp, he would be, after all, but one of a long line of developers. Hill alone, if we except the claim of the unknown originator of the primeval stamp, brought the developed idea to fruition, thus deserving well the substantial credit of inventing the postage stamp.

WHAT IS PHILATELY?

The question is repeatedly asked, "what is Philately?" The answer in brief is: "The science of stamp collecting." This answer is a puzzle to the reader who does not at least partly understand the meaning of the above two phrases. Whether it is a hobby or science I do not now intend to dwell upon, but leave the reader to call it after his own fancy.

Stamp collecting, as understood by philatelists, is not the getting possession of as many 1c and 2c stamps of the United States or any other country that he can amass, but to obtain, if possible, a specimen of every stamp issued by any government to the present date. The United States, according to a prominent catalogue, has issued about 270 different kinds, including the stamps of the different departments. You will now understand, dear reader, that this undertaking is no easy task. If you intend to succeed you should be a person of strong character, ambitious and clear-headed, and possess good judgment. All these traits will assist you. You will find as you advance with your collection, that there are many difficulties to overcome, which may appear mountain high. When you stand before an obstruction without seeing your way clear, your judgment, ambition and strong mind will get into play and remove the barrier that came very near putting an end to your young philatelic life. Then you have had your first struggle, and will look back with beaming eyes and smiling face upon your first achievement, with pride and self-satisfaction, fully determined never to give way to that weakness. With this determination you again order stamps from your dealer, and find, after receiving your packet or sheets, a stamp peculiar in design or with words printed in a language unintelligent to you. You take the little bit of paper, hold it close to your eyes and try in vain to understand its meaning. You have no book of reference to consult; with your head leaning on your shoulder, your elbows resting on your desk, you are in deep study to discover what country the stamp can be from; in reading the words aloud, the sound seems to be Italian. Can it be? At this moment you hear someone outside cry out, Bona! Bona! A rush for the door, with five cents in hand, and the purchase of that loveable fruit is made, and a request for information regarding the stamp made of the vendor. He can tell you all about it. Then you begin to think how ingenious and full of resource you were in obtaining information, and to experience a satisfaction very difficult to express in words, and which has baffled many able writers to describe. You hinge the stamp in your album—that small bit of paper, attractive, artistic, beautiful in itself, a study of the resource and facilities of the human being, has become your best friend, and no matter how often you turn the pages of your album, your eyes will rest with loving regard on the stamp so acquired. In it you not only see a bit of paper, but before you appears the progress made by the human family; your thoughts are led on until they reach the highest plane possible for the mind to comprehend.

Is it then a surprise that we talk of the fascination of Philately? Can anyone grasp the depth of this wonderful infatuation? Food for the mind of the judge, the physician, the mechanic or the boy at school, imbuing all with a strange delight, and leading the mind to the loftiest sphere.—*Pilot.*

THE REAL INVENTOR OF THE POSTAGE STAMP.

EDITOR STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

Seeing a few verses in your October issue on "Who invented the postage stamp," I take the liberty of presenting the claims of another inventor:

Should you ask me whence this story,
Whence this philatelic legend,
Giving a most truthful statement
Of the postage stamp's beginning,
I should answer, I should tell you,
"From the sons of Hiawatha;
From traditions of the redskins."
Full of truthful testimony,
Testimony which was offered
By the heirs of Hiawatha,
Proving *him* to be the founder,
Beyond doubt the first inventor
Of a stamp to put on letters,
Paying for *their* safe delivery.
For, the facts were all collected
By a man who searched the records:
Longfellow, the Indian poet,
He of character unquestioned,
He incapable of falsehood,
Who collected stacks of papers,
Documents, and birch-bark pamphlets,
Among which one day he noticed
This inscription on a letter:
"Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
In the land of the Dakotahs."
On the right hand upper corner
Was an oblong piece of birch-bark,
Pasted on with "resin stickum,"
Resin taken from the pine tree.
On this oblong piece of birch-bark
Was the head of Mudjekeewis,
Painted in a bright vermilion;
While above, in large green letters,
Were the words "Dakotah Postage,"
And beneath in smaller letters:
"Charges prepaid; one large bear skin."
Thus the proofs were found by Longfellow,
Of the use of stamps for postage,
Long before the time of Chalmers,
Rowland Hill, Charles Knight and Whiting.
There on Hiawatha's letter,
Hiawatha's first love letter,
To his sweetheart, Laughing Water,
And as has before been stated,
Longfellow's words cannot be doubted,
For he made an affidavit,
Signed and sealed by Andrew Jackson,
Notary public in good standing.

H. W.

WANAMAKER'S PET SCHEMES.

They Are Postal Telegraph Service and Savings Banks.—His Annual Report Will Again Recommend Their Adoption.

Postmaster-General Wanamaker's annual report will show that his Postal Telegraph scheme is not dead, all reports to the contrary, notwithstanding. A Republican Congress sat down on it. Mr. Wanamaker now purposes asking a Democratic House to look into and investigate the arguments and figures he is now preparing in its support. Much the same arguments will be used in the present Congress as those which proved ineffectual with the last.

The same way it is said of the Postal Savings Bank. Mr. Wanamaker is thoroughly convinced that one of the most beneficial additions to the present postal service would be the establishment of savings banks at the post-offices. His experience and the reports from the country generally during the last year convince him thoroughly of its practicability.

The demand for such institutions in farming districts and small villages, where there are no regular banks has been growing steadily. His recommendations in this line will be similar to those of last year, when he urged the establishment of postal savings banks in States having no laws regulating savings banks, and in any other States upon petition of a considerable number of residents in any one locality.

He will recommend that there be no more than one bank for every 10 miles of area, and that the interest paid on deposits be one-half of one per cent. lower than that paid by private bankers. With regard to penny postage the Postmaster-General is not so enthusiastic as he was.

While in his recommendations he will not recede from the position taken in his former recommendation he is not very sanguine of persuading Congress to appropriate $15,000,000 or $20,000,000 for the deficit that would occur in the Department in case the reduction was made.

The argument that a reduction of the postage one-half would increase the letter business is met at the Department by the estimate that a largely increased force would be necessary to do the business, and consequently, the expenses of the office would be correspondingly increased.

The Postmaster-General is anxious to see the

penny postage adopted, but Congress will have to make the change possible by increased appropriations.

The two principal points that will be dwelt on in Mr. Wanamaker's recommendations to the next Congress are the extension of the free delivery system, and the improvement of the inspection service.—From the St. Louis Evening *Chronicle*.

In relation to the foregoing, much could be said for and against the Postal Telegraph and Post-office Banks; we would certainly advocate both, were it possible they could be so organized, as not to be made use of to strengthen the political machinery of the party happening to be in power. The convenience of these measures to the people is beyond question.

The reduction of postage on first-class matter we deem the most important consideration, and regret deeply, that it should be relegated to a minor position. What does it matter to a great nation like this, if it should have to appropriate $15,000,000 or $20,000,000 additional for a year or two, in order to improve one of the most important, popular and useful departments of the government? It would faciliate intercommunication, diffuse knowledge, bring our people in the various sections nearer to each other by developing fraternal feelings, it would save our business houses many millions, elevate the educational standard generally, and mark us the most enlightened and progressive people in the world.

Perhaps our representatives in Congress fear that their franking privileges might be curtailed; this we do not advocate. Let them have ample means to communicate with their constituents. Decrease some of the less important expenses of the government, and give it to the Post-office Department. Congressmen in postponing this important and inevitable reduction only pander to the uneducated and unprogressive element. No more popular law could be enacted, it would meet with almost universal favor, it only requires a little more economy in other directions.

We trust every stamp journal will advocate this measure, and add such influence as each happens to possess in favor of penny postage.

The extension of the free delivery system, and the improvement of the inspection service, commend themselves to all

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A WARNING TO DISHONEST PARTIES.

Meriden, Conn., Oct. 11th, 1891.

STANDARD STAMP CO., St. Louis, Mo.

GENTLEMEN—At the time of the arrest of George A. Skinner, alias Robert Langlands, of No. 69 Centre Street, Roxbury, Mass., who has just plead guilty to an indictment charging him with a misuse of the mails, and who has been sentenced therefor, the enclosed stamps were found in his possession, and admitted by him to have been obtained from you under false pretenses. Since that time they have been held as evidence, but the case being now settled, they are restored to you.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. BARIO, P. O. Inspector.

THE success of the initial number of our journal has been so great as to encourage us to promise that each number shall exceed in interest the one preceding it. It fills a field not reached by any other magazine of its class; it will endeavor to instruct and entertain young and old collectors, many of whom have never read a philatelic paper. The stamp journals thus far have circulated almost exclusively among dealers; ours is for the collector, and we promise that not less than 10,000, and sooner or later 15,000 to 20,000 collectors shall read our magazine.

All collectors receiving this copy should embrace the opportunity, and send their subscription at once, thus securing a copy of our "grand holiday number" of this journal. Don't miss it.

CHRONICLE OF NEW ISSUES, ETC.

CONDUCTED BY WILLIAM C. STONE,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

TO WHOM ALL INFORMATION RESPECTING NEW ISSUES, ETC., SHOULD BE SENT.

The figures in parenthesis, after the names of the countries, refer to the volume and page of this paper containing the last previous notice.

All envelopes, unless otherwise stated, are on white wove paper.

All post cards, unless otherwise stated, are on buff cardboard.

Colors in italics represent the colors of the surcharges.

ADHESIVES.

AFGHANISTAN.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles three varieties of the current type which have not been known before. The 1 abassi is of the earlier variety.

1 abassi, blue-green on thin pale rose wove paper.

2 abassis, black on white laid batonne.

1 rupee, purple on pale green wove batonne.

ARGENTINE (21).—The 50 pesos is of a similar design to the other high values, and contains the portrait of Dean Funes in an oval, with the usual inscriptions. It is said that the entire edition of 100,000 was destroyed in consequence of the authorities deciding that this value was not needed. M. Moens has seen a proof in ultramarine.

AUSTRIA.—It is reported that there is a specimen of the 2 kreuzer, 1850, in red, in the philatelic museum of Herr Friedl, at Vienna. It is attached to a copy of the 3 kreuzer, in its usual color.

AUSTRIAN ITALY.—In the same museum is also a specimen of the 30 centes, 1850, printed on both sides.

BAMRA.—The stamp with the barbed wire border now appears as an adhesive.

½ anna, black on green.

Some of our contemporaries report full sets of the adhesives of the envelope type. While it is quite possible that this may be a mistake for some of the recent issues of the old type, we are not surprised at anything in the stamp line from India and the French colonies. We therefore give the full list.

¼ anna, black on red.

½ anna, black on green.

1 anna, black on yellow.

2 annas, black on red.

4 annas, black on red.

8 annas, black on rose-lilac.

1 rupee, black on rose-lilac.

BOLIVAR.—The annual issues are again coming to the front. A set of six values of the old design has appeared, dated 1891.

1 centavo, black.

5 centavos, orange.

10 centavos, blue.

20 centavos, red.

30 centavos, green.

1 peso, violet.

BOLIVIA.—The *Philatelic Record* reports canceled specimens of the 50 centavos of the first issue (blue and red), which the editor believes to be reprints with forged cancel marks.

BHOPAL.—The ½ anna of the type with letters in corners has been re-engraved; the error "NWAB" occurs on each of the thirty-two varieties, and there are numerous minor varieties.

½ anna, red; imperf.
½ anna, red; perf. 7.

BRAZIL, U. S. OF. (21)—The 10 reis of the latest type of "Jornaes" stamps is now printed on white paper instead of buff.

10 reis, blue.

The 100 reis of the 1890 "Jornaes" stamps is said to be lilac-rose instead of carmine, according to the *Monthly Journal*, while the *Stamp News* announces the issue of a similar value, pale violet on rose, "of the latest type." Are these the same stamps, and to which 1890 issue do they belong?

Since the above was written the *American Journal of Philately* has come to hand and gives us the key. The stamp is of the first 1890 type and is perforate 13½.

100 reis, violet.

In addition to this there is also chronicled a 20 reis of the second (Southern Cross) type of the newspaper stamps. Perforate 13½x11.

20 reis, light green.

BRAZIL, EMPIRE OF.—The *Monthly Journal* has seen the 10 reis, orange, JORNAES stamp of the 1889 issue, imperforate horizontally.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—The stamps of the British South African Company have been surcharged "B. C. A." in black, for the use of the countries north of the Zambesi under the administration of the British Consul-General of Nyassaland.

1 penny, black.
2 pence, green and yellow.
4 pence, brown and black.
6 pence, pale blue.
8 pence, rose and black.
1 shilling, brown.
2 shillings, scarlet.
2 shillings 6 pence, lilac.
5 shillings, yellow.
10 shillings, green.
1 pound, blue.
2 pounds, rose.
5 pounds, olive-green.
10 pounds, brown.

The territory referred to extends from the Zambesi river on the south to the lower end of Lake Tanganyika on the north, and from Lake Nyassa on the east to the twenty-fifth meridian on the west.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY.—Two pen and ink surcharges are reported by M. Moens. They were canceled and may be all right, but we chronicle them under reserve.

½ anna on 3a., black on vermilion.
1 anna on 4a., bistre.

The rate of postage to Great Britain having been changed, a new denomination has been issued to meet it.

2½ annas, black on yellow.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.—There is a new provisional reported by the *Monthly Journal*.

6 cents on 10 cents, blue; *black*.

CHAMBA.—The following values have been seen with the error "STATE," the ½ anna being already known.

1 anna, brown.
2 annas, blue.
3 annas, orange.
4 annas, olive.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (22).—We learn from W. H. Bruce that a permanent 2½ penny will soon take the place of the surcharged stamp recently issued.

CUBA.—The new 5 and 10 cent stamps were issued in accordance with a decree dated August 7, and the stamps of the old colors were declared of no value after September 1. By another decree, dated September 20, is authorized the use of the 10c stamps, cut in halves diagonally, as 5c stamps, the supply having run out. They are not good for foreign postage.

5 cents, claret (½ of 10c).

As announced some time since, the colors of some of the values have been changed.

5 cent de peso, emerald.

10 cent de peso, claret.

Our information is derived from the *American Journal of Philately*.

CHILI.—The provisional use of the revenue and telegraph stamps has probably ceased with the triumph of the Congressional party. We have only seen the 2 and 10 cent revenues and 10 and 20 cent telegraph, but think it probable that others have been used. If our readers have any on the original covers, will they kindly notify us, or send them for examination.

CURACAO.—We have received from J. W. Scott a copy of the 30 cent stamp surcharged "25 CENT" in two lines of heavy block type.

25 cent on 30 cent, gray; *black*.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—It seems that there are several new values of the current type. Perforate 12.

3 centavos, slate.

5 centavos, orange.

50 centavos, dark violet.

1 peso, carmine.

2 pesos, red brown.

FRENCH COLONIES.—According to a correspondent of *Le Timbre Poste* the following is a list of the colonies that are to have individual issues of stamps in the near future: Congo, Diego Suarez, Guadeloupe, Guiana, India, Indo-China, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Obock, Oceania, Reunion, Saint Pierre-Miquelon and Senegal.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—Two new values of the current type, watermark and perforation, are announced.

½ penny, green.

2½ pence, blue.

FIJI.—One of our exchanges says that the surcharged fourpence on one penny has been replaced by a permanent stamp of that value. Perforate 10 (?)

4 pence, violet.

The surcharged 2½ penny has been replaced by a permanent stamp of that value. The design is that of the other values, except that the value is in figures in each of the lower corners, with "Postage" between. Perforate 10.

2½ pence, chocolate-brown.

GWALIOR.—Two new values have been added to those already surcharged for the use of the population of this state.

9 pies, carmine; *black*.

12 annas, brown on red; *black*.

GAMBIA.—The color of the one penny has been altered; the perforation and watermark remaining unchanged.

1 penny, carmine.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The present pound value has undergone a change of color, and is now issued in green.

1 pound, green.

HAWAII.—The *Monthly Journal* states that there will be a new 2 cent stamp issued soon, with the portrait of Queen Liliuokalani as depicted on the current 1

cent post card, with the frame of the present 2 cent stamp. The color is to be changed to purple.

HONDURAS.—A new set has been issued by this Republic. The adhesives have the head of the President facing the right on the lower values, while the three higher values are larger in size and have the head looking to the left. There is in addition the usual supply of stationery.

1 cent, blue.
2 cents, orange.
5 cents, green.
10 cents, red.
20 cents, lake.
25 cents, claret.
30 cents, purple.
40 cents, green.
50 cents, brown lilac.
75 cents, violet.
1 peso, brown.
2 pesos, brown, black centre.
5 pesos, violet, black centre.
10 pesos, green, black centre.

HUNGARY.—We have neglected to state that the 5 kreuzer now has the numeral in black, like the other stamps recently issued, and with rose lined background.

5 kreuzers, black and rose.

ITALY.—It is reported that the 10 centesimi has been surcharged "Cmi 20" but we prefer to await confirmation from reliable sources before listing it.

JAMAICA.—The surcharge on the ½ penny official stamp, is now of the same type as that on the other values.

½ penny, green; *black*.

JHIND.—A few errors have been discovered in these stamps. The name of the state in the variety with horizontal surcharge is spelled "JEIND," and it is found on both the regular and official series.

½ anna, green; *red*.
1 anna, brown; *black*.
2 annas, blue; *red*.
8 annas, purple; *black*.
1 rupee, slate; *red*.

Service. ½ anna, green; *red*.
1 anna, brown; *black*.
2 annas, blue; *red*.

Also the 1 anna of the current Service set, with the first letter of "Service" missing.

Service. 1 anna, brown; *black*.

JEYPORE.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a new type of surcharge for this state. It is now "'Raj'—Service" in small block capitals.

½ anna, green; *green*.
1 anna, brown; *green*.
2 annas, blue; *green*.
4 annas, olive; *green*.

JOHOR.—(I. 22.) The word "Two" on the 2 on 24 cent stamps is found in upright letters as well as in italics. It is reported that there were 15,000 of these provisionals printed and that one error (Cent.) occurred in the second lot printed, but none of these were sold to the public, being all distributed among the local collectors.

LABUAN.—The postmaster at this place states that no 1 cent stamp has been issued and therefore the recently noted provisional must be a fraud.

Whitfield King & Co. inform the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* that Labuan is now administered by the British North Borneo Company, and that as soon as the present supply of stamps is used up those of that company will be substituted.

LABUAN.—*Le Timbre Poste* says that "The stamps of 10 and 25 centimes with

the portrait of the new Grand Duke have been surcharged S. P.; but contrary to the other stamps these are reserved exclusively for the house of Adolph." An executive department series evidently.

MADAGASCAR.—Having once started, the post-office folks in this colony seem determined to keep at the head so far as the number of surcharges is concerned. Here are two more surcharged with a large numeral of value. Only 5,000 of each were issued.

5 on 10 centimes, black on lilac; *black*.

5 on 25 centimes, black on rose; *black*.

There are also three type-set provisionals, "Postes—Francaises—5 (10 or 25)—Madagascar," in four lines with double dotted lines above and below the numerals and a border of small stars in circles.

5 centimes, black on green.

10 centimes, black on pale blue.

There are six of the type-set provisionals instead of three as announced at first. The colors of the two higher values are not yet learned. The number of each printed is given in parenthesis.

5 centimes, black on green (18,000).

10 centimes, black on pale blue (12,000).

15 centimes, ultramarine on blue (12,000).

25 centimes, brown on buff (3,000).

1 franc (2,000).

5 franc (1,000).

MARTINIQUE.—There is a new type of surcharge. It now consists of the value as of old with "Timbre-Poste" above and Martinique below.

01c. on 2 centimes; brown on bistre; *black*.

MAURITIUS.—The 38 cents has been been surcharged "Two Cents" in capital letters across the lower part of the stamp.

2 cents on 38 cents, violet; *black*.

How many of our readers realize that the cent used in this island is only about half the value of our own? Such is the case, however, and not only in Mauritius but also in Ceylon and the Seychelles, the cent is the hundredth part of the rupee, which has a nominal value of about half a dollar but is much less actually on account of the fall in silver values. It will be well to hold this fact in mind when purchasing unused current stamps from these places. Don't pay too big a premium over what *seems* to be their face.

MEXICO.—Mr. C. H. Mekeel has received a sheet of the current 10 centavos with the watermark CORREOSEUM ten times repeated in the sheet. The letters E U M stand for Estados Unidos Mexicana. The other values will soon follow, we suppose.

10 centavos, vermilion.

We have already described three varieties of the unpaid stamps and now we hear of a fourth which is used at Celaya (or Zelaya) a city of some 10,000 inhabitants in the State of Guanajuato. There is a large letter T in the center on a groundwork of horizontal lines; at the top is "Falta de Porte" and at the bottom ✲20 CTS.✲ The sides are filled in with ornaments which look like elongated aces of clubs. Perforate 11.

20 centavos, red on blue.

NEGRI SEMBILAN.—This confederacy in the interior of the Malay peninsular has been supplied with the usual surcharge.

2 cents, carmine; *black*.

Although the name states that it is a union of nine States, the confederacy now numbers only eight, Sungei Ujong having passed under British control some little time ago.

Stamps are said to have been issued for

this Malay State. One paper says that the 1 anna India has been surcharged and another that it is the 2 cent Straits Settlements. We await definite information.

NETHERLANDS.—We learn from T. F. Kohler that the new 5 cent stamp is the only one which will be issued at present and that the design will be quite similar to the current issue, except of the head of Queen Wilhelmine which will be represented with flowing hair and facing to the right. It will probably be in use by the time this paper reaches its subscribers.

5 cents, blue.

Just in time for this number we are informed by T. Francois Kohler that the new stamps with portrait of Queen Wilhelmine are to be issued in a few days. Who will be the first to send us one of them?

NEW SOUTH WALES.—It is reported that 150 sheets (18,000 stamps) of the 3 penny have been printed on paper watermarked "10."

3 pence, green.

The current 8 penny (lyre bird) has been surcharged "O. S."

Official. 8 pence, lake, *black.*

The 3 pence of the laureated set has been seen on finely ribbed paper, and the 1 shilling of the 1860 issue in an unsevered pair perforate 13 around the outside and imperforate between the two.

The "O. S." series now includes the three new surcharged stamps:

½ penny black and gray; *black.*
7½ penny black and bistre; *black.*
12½ penny black and vermilion; *black.*

NOSSI BE.—This time the postage due stamps have run out and the regular issues have been drawn upon to manufacture some provisionals. The surcharge consists of the numerals of value in the center with "Nossi-Be chiffre-taxe," in two lines above and "a percevoir" below it. There are two types of the "Nossi-Be" surcharge, that on the 20, 30 and 50 cent stamps being 17x2mm., while the other values measure 14x3mm. The number issued of each is given in parenthesis. They were issued Aug. 10.

0.20 cent on 1 cent, black on blue; *black* (300).
0.30 cent on 2 cent, brown on bistre; *black* (300).
0.35 cent on 4 cent, violet on blue; *black* (250).
0.35 cent on 20 cent, red on green; *black* (250).
0.50 cent on 30 cent, brown on bistre; *black* (1,200).
1 franc on 35 cent, black on yellow; *black* (700).

The thought has just occurred to us that perhaps each of the fourteen or fifteen colonies will have full sets of unpaids as well as envelopes, post cards, letter cards, etc.

PAHANG.—The *Monthly Journal* gives the following varieties: "Two" 2 on 24c of which 3,100 were printed in all:

a. "Two" in heavy type, "Cents" in small heavy capitals.
b. "Two" in heavy type, "Cents" in small caps; 9 mm.
c. "Two" in italics, "Cents" as in variety *a.*
d. "Two" in italics, "Cents" in small caps; 10 mm.

Der Philatelist announces the 8 cent Straits Settlements with a surcharge for this place. Is this a new variety or is it the old one that was issued "by mistake" at the time the 2 cent was first issued?

PUTTIALLA. — The *Monthly Journal* gives the following with the error "Ruttilla."

½ anna, green; *red.*
1 anna, brown; *black.*
2 annas, blue; *red.*
4 annas, green; *red.*
1 rupee, slate; *red.*

Also with "Auttialla" in black instead of red.

½ anna, green; *black.*

Le Timbre Poste says that the ½ anna

official stamp is now surcharged entirely in black.

Service. ½ anna, green; *black.*

PUERTO RICO.—Mr. Corwin sends us the 5 cent in a new color; it was postmarked 12 Oct., '91, which is probably about the date of issue.

5 cent de peso, green.

PERAK.—The same journal is also authority for the following list of varieties:

PERAK in block capitals.

a. One CENT on 6 cents.
Two CENTS on 24 cents.

b. *One* CENT on 6 cents.
Two CENTS on 24 cents.
The value on these four is in heavy type.
PERAK in sloping block capitals.

c. *One CENT* on 2 cents. Heavy italics.
One CENT on 6 cents. Heavy italics.

d. *Two* CENTS on 24 cents
PERAK in narrow capitals.

e. One CENT on 2 cents.
One CENT on 6 cents.
Two CENTS on 24 cents.

f. *One* CENT on 6 cents.
Two CENTS on 24 cents.
The values here are as in *a* and *b*.
PERAK in small capitals.

g. One in heavy type, CENT in small capitals on 2 cents.
One in heavy type, CENT in small capitals on 6 cents.
Two in heavy type, CENTS in small capitals on 24 cents.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The colors of the 5 and 10c. have been changed.

5 cent de peso, dark brown.
10 cent de peso, red brown.

REUNION.—Pending the issue of the new series the current stamps have been surcharged diagonally with the word "reunion." For some unknown reason, the 40 cent and 1 franc values are of the 1879 type.

1 centime, black on blue.
2 centimes, red brown.
4 centimes, violet brown.
5 centimes, green.
10 centimes, black on violet.
15 centimes, blue.
20 centimes, red on green.
25 centimes, black on rose.
30 centimes, brown.
35 centimes, black on yellow.
40 centimes, red (1879 type imperf).
75 centimes, carmine.
1 franc, olive (1879 type imperf).

It is announced that all the colonies are to have similar surcharges while awaiting the new sets. We have seen the decree concerning the above stamps and the other colonies will probably be heard from before long.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER.—It is said that the 2½d has been surcharged "one penny," but as the Leeward Island stamps replaced those of this island about a year ago, we await more definite information.

REUNION.—The following additions to the surcharged set are given in *Le Timbre Poste:*

2 centimes, brown; Reun on.
5 centimes, green; Reun on.
5 centimes, green; double surcharge.
40 centimes, vermilion.
1 franc, olive.

The 30 centimes of the current colonial type has not yet been issued.

On stamps of the 1879 issue of French colonies.

30 centimes, brown.
75 centimes, carmine.

On stamps of the 1872–73 issue, with head of liberty.

40 centimes, orange.
80 centimes, carmine.

SALVADOR.—The P. J. of A. has following: Mr. Samuel C. Dawson, of San Salvador, Salvador, C. A., in writing to

us about the surcharge on the 2 centavo stamps says, that as the quantity of 1 centavo stamps printed in New York was exhausted, they had to surcharge the 2 centavos to the amount of $500 or $1,000, to meet the demand while the Bank Note Company could prepare a larger quantity; these did not hold out, and others were surcharged with a rubber hand-stamp; that is the reason there are two different surcharges. Those with the printed surcharge are well printed "UN CENTAVO" while the hand-stamp surcharge is poor, being "1 Centavo."

1 centavo on 2c., olive-green.

We have received from J. W. Scott a 3 centavos stamp with the diagonal surcharge "5 Centavos" in type similar to that used on the provisional 1 cent, issued a short time since.

5 centavos on 3c., lilac; *black*.

SORUTH—The *Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung* has the following: A value of this Indian State not catalogued so far by anyone has been discovered. Same is probably of an old issue, the denomination could not be ascertained, not being familiar with the language.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.—The 35 centime value, brown-black on yellow, has been surcharged 15c S. P. M.

15 centimes on 35 centimes, brown-black on yellow.

ST. LUCIA.—There are three new values of the lilac series with values in various colors

6 pence, lilac and blue.
5 shillings, lilac and reddish yellow.
10 shillings, lilac and black.

SARAWAK.—The recently issued provisional has had but a short life. We learn of the issue of two new values of the current type.

5 cents, lilac and green.
10 cents, green and mauve.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 4 and 6 penny stamps have received the new type of "O. S." surcharge.

Official. 4 pence, violet; *black*.
6 pence, blue; *black*.

The following oddities are noted by our English exchanges:

2 pence, red (1859), rouletted; printed on both sides.
9 pence, gray (1859), double roulette on three sides.
10 pence, black and yellow (1868-9), rouletted; printed on both sides but with value surcharged on one side only.
2 pence, orange red (current issue), with double "O. S."

The surcharge on the official stamps is now in tall narrow letters 4½ mm. high and measuring about the same across the two letters.

O. S. ½ penny, brown; *black*.
1 penny, green; *black*.
2 pence, orange; *black*.
4 pence, violet; *black*.
6 pence, blue; *black*.

The perforation on the ½ penny is 12½, the others 10.

SUNGEI UJONG.—The 24 cent Straits Settlements was surcharged as a 2 cent stamp for this State as well as those already listed. Only about 2,000 were printed.

2 cents on 24c., green; *black*.

SPAIN.—The *Stamp News* has received the 15 cent in orange, the shade being almost identical with that of the 10c.

15 centimos, orange.

SURINAM.—The *Philatelic Record* announces that it has received the 10 cent of the new unpaid series "similar to that mentioned on page 132 of the *Record*."

There is no mention on that page of the magazine to any unpaid set but merely the announcement of the issue of the 1 cent of the numeral type. Possibly there is to be a new set of due stamps of a similar design.

10 cents, grey, lilac and black.

SWEDEN:—The new 2 ore official has been received.

TASMANIA.—The provisional 2½ pence stamp was at first issued in a much darker shade of blue than at present but specimens are quite scarce now.

2½ pence on 9 pence, dark blue; *black*.

The current 3, 9, and 10 pence have been seen imperforate in unsevered pairs.

The following list of local printings is taken from the *Federal Australian Philatelist*:

½ penny, brownish-yellow; watermarked TAS.; type I. perforate 11½.

½ penny, orange; watermarked TAS.; type I. perforate 12.

½ penny, orange; watermarked TAS.; type II., perforate 12.

1 penny, rose; watermarked TAS.; type I., perforate 11½.

1 penny, rose; watermarked TAS.; type I., perforate 12.

1 penny, vermilion; watermarked TAS.; type II., perforate 11½.

1 penny, rose; watermarked TAS.; type II., perforate 11½.

1 penny, rose; watermarked TAS.; type II., perforate 12.

TRANSVAAL.—The *Philatelic Record* has seen the 6 pence stamp with enough margin to satisfy the editor of its being imperforate.

TURKEY.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the following stamps of the current issue on very thin, greasy looking paper and in new shades.

1 piaster, grey blue; grey groundwork.

2 piasters, olive green; greenish groundwork.

5 piasters, orange buff; grey groundwork.

A new design will come into use in March it is said. It comprises the Turkish arms in a circle in the center on white ground, with inscriptions in that language above and below in the ovals; the numerals of value are found in each angle, those in the upper part being in Turkish and those in the lower in English. There is a lattice like groundwork, and the value in French appears in the frame at the bottom of the stamp. The values are to be 10 and 20 paras and 1, 2 and 5 piasters.

The reason for the "Imprime" surcharge is due to the fact that publishers are allowed a discount of 15 per cent.

URUGUAY.—The 5 cent violet has again been surcharged for use temporarily. It consists of "Provisorio 1891" in two lines in carmine. It was issued April 19.

5 centesimos, violet; *carmine*.

The following errors have been noted thus far:

ovisorio	isorio	orio	orio
91	1		1891

TURKEY.—The remaining values of the "Imprime" set are now in use.

2 piasters, yellow; black.

5 piasters, orange; black.

Some wise official has discovered that the surcharged word is in the singular number and is consequently bad grammar. Of course a new surcharge will follow.

VICTORIA.—From G. C. F. Helm, we have received a copy of the current 1 penny stamp printed on pink paper.

1 penny, red brown on pink.

ZULULAND.—The postal use of the Natal 1 penny revenue stamp with "Zululand" surcharged, has been approved by the Governor-General in a proclamation dated at Pietermaritzburg, June 27, 1891.

ENVELOPES.

BARBADOS.—The *Stamp News* announces a new size of the registration envelope.

2 pence, ultramarine; 226x104 millimeters.

GWALIOR.—The following additions to the stock in trade of this state are reported.

½ anna, green; 120x95 millimeters.
1 anna, brown; 120x95 millimeters.
Reg. 2 anna, blue; 132x84 millimeters.
2 anna, blue; 252x107 millimeters.

HONDURAS.—The new issue of envelopes has appeared, as follows:

Env. 5 cents, green on white; 158 x90 millimeters.

10 cents, red on white; 158x90 millimeters.

20 cents, blue on white; 230x100 millimeters.

25 cents, olive on white; 230x100 millimeters.

HUNGARY.—One of our German contemporaries describes an envelope used for sending money by mail. It bears for a stamp, a crown and post horn with "Ara 1 kr." above and "Postai penzes tevelboritek" below. Size 170x132 millimeters.

1 kreuzer, black on grayish.

We are under the impression that this is not a very recent issue, but as we do not seem to have noted it before we describe it in hopes of learning more about it.

MONACO.—Just before the new design went into use some 1500 envelopes were issued on green paper.

15 centimes, rose on green; 153 x 113 millimeters.

The new type has also been issued on the same color.

15 centimes, rose on green; 153x113 millimeters.

VICTORIA.—The reduction in postal rates has rendered the issue of a new value of registration envelope necessary. The stamp on the flap is of a triangular shield shape and contains a head of the Queen in a circle with "Victoria" above and "Threepence" below.

3 pence, carmine; 139x79 millimeters.

3 pence, carmine; 148x90 millimeters.

POST CARDS.

BOLIVIA.—Mr. Watson has shown us the new reply card. It is similar to the single card of the 1887 issue but has the stamp with nine stars.

2 x 2 centavos, blue.

BRAZIL, U. S. OF.—The 40 reis is now 126 x 87 mm. and the groundwork is in dull blue instead of ultramarine.

40 reis, orange and blue on white.

CUBA.—There is a 3 centavos card with the "baby" stamp.

3 cent de peso, rose.

GERMANY.—Still there's more to follow. The latest varieties are as follows:

5 pfennig, green.
491 b g.
x 591 a g.
691 a c d f i.
791 a g k.
5x5 pfennig, green.
491 Y.

591 f.
691 f.
10 pfennig, carmine.
491 l.
M. O. 20 pfennig blue.
491.
591.
691.

HONDURAS.—Following is a list of the new cards issued here:

P. C. 2 centavos, orange on white.
2 +2 centavos.
3 centavos, lake on pale green.
3 + 3 centavos, lake on pale green.

NEW ZEALAND.—The *Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung* describes a new card similar to the 1 penny with the new 5 pence stamp.

5 pence, black on white.

UNITED STATES.—The *New York Herald* states that 7,000,000 of the large cards and 5,000,000 of the small size have been shipped to the St. Louis agency, but that they will not be put on sale until the Chicago office has been supplied and there is a stock on hand at the factory. We see that friend Watson however, has sent one of his photos on a small sized card to the Staten Island society and infer that some have been put on sale. Don't forget us Watson.

LETTER CARDS.

SWEDEN.—The cards now have directions printed on the top and side edges.

5 ore, green on blue.
10 ore, carmine on blue.

UNITED STATES. We have the letter sheet with cross perforations at left. Series 6.

MEXICO.—A new brick-red 4 centavo letter card issued here follows the one of

1886, and differs mainly from the latter in having the words "Servicio Interior" instead of "Servicio Urbano" at the sides. Below, beginning with the last address line, is the following inscription "Debe Abrirse Por Los Punctos" meaning "must be opened where the dots are."

TELEGRAPHS.

UNITED STATES.—*Pacific Mutual Tel. Co. The American Journal of Philately* lists four stamps for this company and gives 1883 as the date of issue. United States shield in center with "Pacific Mutual" in white letters; "Telegraph Company" in curved scroll below, numeral at top. "Commutation" below. Perforated?

1 cent, slate.
5 cents, black on yellow.
10 cents, black on green.
25 cents, black on vermilion.

WRAPPERS.

HONDURAS. The following wrappers appeared, same design as envelope:

1 centavo, brown on blue, 208x267 mm.
2 centavos, blue on blue, 208x267 mm.
5 centavos, green on blue, 208x267 mm.
10 centavos, red on blue, 208x267 mm.

CONTINENTAL stamps seem to be in demand again, same as last year. Many local dealers cannot supply the demand.

CHICAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The one hundred and twenty-first regular meeting was held September 17 at the Grand Pacific. Called to order by President Wolsieffer, in attendance being Messrs. Adams, Dilg, Hosmer, Cottlow, Janssen, Niemz, J. A. Pierce, Ranney, Ross, Scheible, Severn, Vidal and Wolsieffer.

Minutes of meeting of September 3 accepted as rendered.

It was remarked that a committee appointed some time since having never reported, the secretary was instructed to write the chairman. On motion of Mr. Dilg, a committee to be known as "committee on publication" was appointed. Such committee to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Chicago branch W. P. U., to discuss the feasibility of publishing a joint philatelic paper, which would be equally controlled by the two societies as the official organ of each. The committee appointed being Messrs. Dilg, Janssen and A. S. Pierce.

An auction sale of part of Mr. Janssen's donation to the World's Fair Philatelic Fund was held, and after passing upon the name of Max E. Jesse, San Antonio, Tex., proposed by Charles H. Huberich, the adjournment prevailed at 10:30 p. m.

C. E. SEVERN, Secretary.

* * *

The one hundred and twenty-second regular meeting was held October 1, and was called to order by President Wolsieffer, the attendance being Messrs. Holman, Janssen, Kurzweg, Leland, Massoth, A. S. Pierce, J. A. Pierce, Ross, Severn, Vidal and Wolsieffer.

Minutes of previous meeting accepted as read.

Communications received by Messrs. Tiffany and Holman, and also bill from secretary.

The governing committee's report was in effect as follows: The approval of bill from secretary; the instruction to secretary to return application of E. L. French while A. S. Niemz was appointed as auctioneer of the society, and out of a commission of 10 per cent allowed him, 5 per cent is to be devoted to the C. P. S. library.

Phil H. Dilg was appointed exchange manager of the exchange department under the same conditions. Out of 10 per cent allowed on sales effected, 5 per cent is to be handed to the librarian.

After routine transactions recess was declared, and the auction sale of the remainder of Mr. Janssen's donation to the World's Fair Philatelic Fund, in the shape of his foreign collection, was held, Mr Leland ably officiating as auctioneer.

Adjournment at 10:15 p. m.

C. E. SEVERN, Secretary.

A Postage Stamp Museum.

At Vienna a postage stamp museum has been opened to the public at Plankengasse No. 1, in the very heart of the city. The museum will be opened to visitors daily and gratuitously. In one room are shown chronologically all stamps of which specimens exist from 1840 to 1891. Among the postal curiosities shown are balloon letters, pigeon post and submarine post letters, as they were sent during the siege of Paris in 1870. A collection of forged stamps is also very interesting to the collector. Among the curious objects shown are letters of the Anthropophagi in the Dutch Indies, pieces of wood covered with hieroglyphics, and post cards which have made the tour of the world. For one of these with a penny stamp, which took 119 days to return to its starting point, an offer of 1,000 florins has been made. There is also a case with a collection of all the coins struck during the Emperor Francis Joseph's reign. The finest object in the collection is believed to be a Dundee stamp, worth £500 sterling, and a Cape of Good Hope stamp, valued at £100. The exhibition comprises 3,000,000 stamps and other objects connected with the post.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

MR. I. A. MEKEEL has recovered from his long illness, and resumed his position.

MR. HENRY FISCHER of Omaha, Neb., has a complete collection of U. S. department stamps.

MR. J. K. TIFFANY has returned home from his summer vacation and is now over-worked with business.

THE World's Fair Fund, started by the Chicago Philatelic Society, is another evidence of the energy of its many members.

MR. M. A. STEFFAN, the popular dealer in U. S. stamps, was in the city with his wife a few days during fair week, and reports good business.

MR. A. E. FRITZ, the noted Chicago collector, paid us a visit while here a few days ago. He makes the stamps of Mexico his specialty.

UNITED STATES stamps are rapidly increasing in value, and the next catalogue will show an advance of at least 25 per cent.

RUMOR has it that an elaborate set of U. S. stamps will be issued during the year of the World's Fair, same to resemble the 1869 issue.

THE Philatelic Society of Canada is rapidly overtaking the Canadian Philatelic Society in point of members, and its success is assured.

STAMP papers are plentiful, as usual, this time of the year. May all of them continue and prosper, there is always room for one more.

DEALERS not advertising with us, should read the complimentary letters received, and then send in their advertisements.

THE Czar, Alexander III, has preserved and increased his rich collections of birds' eggs and postage stamps, begun when a boy.

THE King of Roumania's ambition consists in bringing together the largest number of autographs of all well known personages throughout the world.

MR. CHAS. DORNER of St. Joseph, Mo., possesses a specimen of the first issue of Hawaiian stamps, valued at $800 each, one of the rarest stamps known. His collection is said to be worth over $5000.

MR. M. A. POLOCK exhibited an unused one penny Great Britain stamp at the recent convention of the Nebraska Philatelic League, the first postage stamp issued.

THROUGH these columns we thank our correspondent "Pilot," who so kindly sent us the article entitled "What is Philately," and should like a continuance of his support.

THE "St. Louis Philatelic Society" will hold their first fall meeting shortly, many names of new members will be proposed, and a general boom of the society is assured.

THE Prince Regent of Bavaria has a large collection of beetles—the most complete in Germany—and is also a great observer of the habits of ants, bees, flies, moths, etc.

FOLLOWING the suicide of ex-President Balmaceda of Chili, we may soon look for a new issue of stamps there, which will put an end to the various provisionals used lately.

DO NOT fail to read the chronicle of new issues in this number, conducted by Mr. Wm. C. Stone, of Springfield, Mass., who always has the latest information, and it is the only way for collectors to keep posted.

THE advantage which the reduction of postage from 2c to 1c an ounce would give the stamp dealer, can hardly be comprehended, and through persistent agitation of this question we may gain our point.

MR. A. R. ROGERS was in the city last week. He had with him something like $5,000 worth of rare stamps.

The Missouri Philatelist of this city came to hand shortly after our journal appeared, and is an interesting magazine, for which the publishers, Messrs. Conrath Stamp & Publishing Co. deserve great credit.

DR. ROSSBERG, head chemist of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, of this city, is an ardent collector, and of whom the philatelic fraternity can be proud, being one of their most enthusiastic members.

HAVING warned our readers in our October number of counterfeit U. S. grills, which are sent over here by certain English dealers, the article on "U. S. stamps with Grill," by Mr. E. B. Hanes will be of special interest, and a safeguard against counterfeits.

MR. GEO. BARTHOLOMAEUS, the editor of a leading German daily and a collector of prominence, was in the city last week, and it is due to his efforts that the history of the unperforated high values of the United States 1856 issue are shown up in their true colors. Read the translation.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS.—One cent per word for each insertion. *No advertisement received for less than 25c.* All advertisements must be paid for in advance. All will be set in solid brevier type, no display allowed.

50,900 rare stamps given away free. Send name. An album free to anyone asking to be an agent at 33⅓ per cent. commission. A. BULLARD & CO., 97 Pembroke St., Boston Mass.

I make a specialty of approval sheets of stamps for beginners. Send 2 cent stamp, and promise to return in 10 days, and I will send a selection by return mail. 30 per cent. discount on all stamps sold. HENRY MCCONNELL, Clarion, Mich.

I desire to exchange stamps with collectors in all parts of the world. My specialty is stamps from the following countries: United States, Confederate States, Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Hanover, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Saxony, Prince Edward Island, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Tuscany, Two Sicilies, Vancouver Island, Virgin Islands, Wurtemburg and British Colonies. I want the above in exchange for stamps from my sheets. Scott's prices. Send sheets and receive mine. Stamps wanted in quantities. Send list with price wanted. WM. M. MARTIN, P. O. BOX 629, St. Louis, Mo.

Parties having United States stamps to sell or exchange should correspond with us. We allow the highest prices. MOUND CITY STAMP CO., 1322 Washington Ave. St. Louis.

WANTED—Vol. 1, No. 2, "*Metropolitan Philatelist.*" Philatelic literature exchanged for same. Sample copies; correspondence. JOHN M. HOLT, 3 Bainbridge St., Brooklyn, N. Y., U. S. A.

FOR THE ADVERTISING DEALER.

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1,500 Stamps to retail at from 1c to $1.75 each	15 00	33 00
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100 various sets of stamps, not more than 10 of any kind	10 00	15 00
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MOBILE, Aug. 7, 1891.

H. GREMMEL, Esq., New York City.

DEAR SIR:—Your packet No. 29 has exceeded my expectations in a marked degree, being far superior to the lots which I have bought from other dealers.

Very respectfully yours,
R. L. HEUSTIS.

Dozens of other letters I could publish but this space does not permit it.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Every fifth purchaser is presented with a $5 album or postage stamps to the value of $5, if preferred, of their own choice from my fine approval sheets.

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HENRY GREMMEL,

80 Nassau Street, NEW YORK.

DECEMBER, 1891.

The Stamp Collectors Companion

EDITED BY
F. H. LITTLEFIELD

ISSUED BY
The Stamp Collectors Publishing Company
ST LOUIS, MO

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

A HIGH-CLASS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

50 cents a Year in the United States, Canada and Mexico.
75 cents a Year to Europe and Postal Union Countries.
$1.00 a Year to all other Countries.

PUBLISHED BY THE

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1322 WASHINGTON AVE.

ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

VOL. I. DECEMBER 1, 1891. NO. 3.

THE STAMPS OF MEXICO.

ISSUE OF 1879.

CONTINUED.

In our November number we illustrated the Mexican stamp issue of 1863-64, and, in continuance of our purpose to present the best executed of the stamps of that country, we herewith exhibit a portion of the issue of 1879, in the colors of the originals.

This set bears the head of President Juarez. It is by far the most beautiful of any of the Mexican issues, one design being used for all the values, the color and price mark alone being changed. It is an ornament, too, to any collection, and, desirable as it is, can be obtained at a most reasonable price, all eight varieties, unused, five of which are illustrated here, being held by leading dealers at $1.00 to $1.25 per set. Thus they are in the reach of all collectors, and should form a part of every collection. The issue is printed on both thick wove and laid paper, the workmanship being of a high order.

The five stamps illustrated here are the 1c brown, 2c violet, 5c orange, 10c blue and 25c carmine. As will be seen, the stamps are most attractive and deserving of a place in every collector's album.

One peculiarity of many Mexican stamps, which, perhaps, puzzles some collectors, is the presence of clearly-printed numerals on the face, as, for instance, on the one before us, which bears the cabalistic legend, "3779." The significance of the figures is this: 79 represents the year of issue, and 37 the post-office on whose account it was issued. In every case the last two figures stand for the year, while those remaining to the left represent the post-office.

In our next issue we will illustrate in colors the three remaining values of the 1879 issue, and also a portion of the issue of 1882, two of which latter, the 50c yellow and 100c orange, both very rare, were exhibited in our October number. All the 1882 stamps of Mexico are much scarcer than those of any other issue and for that reason exceptional interest attaches to them.

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MR. MARTIN STEFFAN.

One of the largest miscellaneous collections of stamps ever made was that gathered through the efforts of some young ladies of the Upper Iowa University, who sought by that means to secure a home for Mrs. M. A. Herrington, of Fayette, Io., an old lady of 86 years, whose friends and relatives had cruelly deserted her. The papers of Iowa were interested in the matter and took up the work. The Cedar Rapids *Gazette* made application to the Home for Aged Women at that place and received assurances that Mrs. Herrington would be cared for the remainder of her days for $300. Then the stamp collecting gained a new impetus, and the enormous aggregate of 1,115,000 canceled stamps was collected in about four months. Of these, 34,000 were collected by the Keokuk *Constitution-Democrat*, 40,000 by the Earlville *Phœnix*, 60,000 by the Des Moines *News*, 111-000 by the Walker *News*, 560,000 by the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*, and 310,000 by the young ladies of the Upper Iowa University, who started the movement.

The collection having been made, the next movement was to dispose of it. Bids were asked for and received. The successful man was Mr. Martin Steffan, of Memphis, Mo., whose portrait is herewith presented. When his consignment of stamps reached him he learned that the number had grown, by reason of receipts after the close of the collection, from 1,115,000 to 1,300,-000. Thus was a new stamp dealer presented to the world of Philately.

Mr. Steffan had been more or less interested previously, but now he was in the business irrevocably. The shipment, as made to him, required two sugar barrels, which were packed full, and even after five months spent in putting the stamps in marketable shape, *i. e.*, in neatly-tied packages of 100, properly assorted, there was still, practically, a barrel full.

Among the rareties found in this immense collection were a 3c 1867, grilled all over, corner stamp, of a sheet 26x27 mm, now in the collection of Mr. M. C. Berleschp, of New York; a beautiful 5c yellow, 1861 issue, now owned in Pittsburgh; a 10c green envelope, 1853 issue, narrow label, sold to a Kansas philatelist, and a 15c orange, 1870 issue, with a beautiful grill, purchased by a Minneapolis collector.

During the work of sorting this mass of stamps Mr. Steffan gained much philatelic information, and, putting it to good use, together with attentive and honorable dealing, he has built up a well-paying mail trade. Mr. Steffan was born at Quincy, Ill., September 16, 1862. He was married in 1884. To use his own words, he is "a natural-born collector," and has in his possession many interesting curios aside from his stamps.

THE FUTURE OF PHILATELY

ARE SPECIALTIES TO CONTROL THE MINDS OF COLLECTORS?

The Tidal Wave of New Issues and its Ebb —The Tendency of the Present Indicates that Centralization will soon Deprive us of Many Issues—Impossibility of Securing Complete Sets of the World an Argument in Favor of General Collections.

The future of Philately is a subject frequently discussed in stamp journals, and in most of the articles printed there is a general agreement of sentiment to the effect, that, owing to the rapid increase of varieties, the only collector of the future will be the specialist, one who devotes himself to a comparatively narrow adoption of the ever-widening field of stamps. To the writer this conclusion does not seem to be warranted, even though one admits the premises on which it is founded—namely, that stamps are now increasing, and will continue to increase in numbers at a very rapid rate. There are good reasons for thinking that, at the present time, the tidal wave of new issues is upon us, and that the ebb will soon begin. Almost all the countries that will ever issue stamps have now done so. On the other hand many separate political divisions which now send forth their own stamps, most certainly will, within a few years, cease the emission as a result of losing their political independence.

The present age tends toward centralization rather than decentralization. The constant tendency is toward the union rather than the disintegration of States. This is well illustrated in the case of the German States. A score or more, which, twenty years ago sent forth numerous stamps, are now represented only by the issues of the German Empire. The only two German States which preserve postal independence are Bavaria and Wurtemberg. So, too, with Italy. The former issuing States are represented in the stamps of the present kingdom. Another familiar example of this nearer home is the Dominion of Canada, which issues stamps for one-half a continent, which, a generation ago, was divided into a half dozen postal administrations. Still more recently, the numerous British Colonies of the West Indies, assuming closer political relations than before, have so merged their postal administrations in two new bodies, that the stamps of the Leeward and Windward Islands are all that are left to represent one of the most fecund sources of stamps in the old days.

Many other instances of this tendency in the past might be given, yet all are as nothing to the almost certain operations of the same law, which we can confidently predict for the not distant future. Already preliminary steps have been taken for the union of the Australasian States, a measure, which, when completed, will result in but one set of stamps in place of the many issues of the Australasian Colonies. Again, there are intimations of similar action by the British South African Colonies, while more remotely still, it is almost certain that the great dream of a universal federation of the now separate parts of the British Empire will ultimately be realized, resulting in a single postal administration issuing one set of stamps for the many colonies, which now produce a great proportion of those that yearly swell our catalogues.

The Central American Republics are to-day probably the worst offenders against philatelic simplicity, but let us not despair of them nor fear that the Seebeck issues are to continue forever, for it is one of the inevitable things of the next few years, that these petty States must unite—a consummation towards which agitation is continually carried on in all of them—or else be absorbed by some powerful neighbor.

Look the whole world over and it will be seen that the constant tendency is toward union of States, it being more than a probability that in a generation's time there will be not nearly as many separate governments to issue stamps as at present.

I have merely given some facts familiar to all and illustrating the general tendency; but there is another possibility, it might even be called a probability, which threatens a still greater decrease in new stamps. Threatens I say for this, if it transpires, will be more destructive to Philately than all the dangers which now encompass it, and will either make it a archæological pursuit or naturally change the current of its investigations by making Telegraph or Revenue Stamps the sole objects of its inquiry. I refer to the adoption of the plan, already proposed, for an international postage stamp. Who can doubt that if this were tried and found to work satisfactorily—as it probably would do—the result would be the final consolidation of the postal affairs of the world under one bureau of administration, the disuse of merely local stamps by the several governments, and an ultimate and exclusive use of the universal issue? If this international stamp is ever adopted it will be the entering wedge that will inevitably lead to the result intimated and that it will be adopted within greater or less time we cannot doubt. True, the proposal was rejected by the last postal congress, but so have almost all other useful ideas met with doubtful welcome at first. This proposal is making progress in much the same way that the postage stamp itself did in the beginning. It is, like the latter, passing through a period of discussion and development, which will, as surely as in that case, lead to adoption, use, and the wonder why so useful an improvement was so long overlooked.

But suppose that all these speculations are groundless, and that, during the ages to come, the stream of new issues shall be ceaseless, where then does it follow of necessity, that the wise collector must become a specialist, and make no attempt to take in the whole field of Philately? As before said, I think no such necessity will exist, and that because I judge it a very one-sided view of Philately, which finds satisfaction only in the possession of "complete sets." Even now complete sets of all the world's issues are practically impossible to secure. A generation hence they will be absolutely so, but need that fact dampen our ardor or discourage our taking the whole world of stamps as our field? Certainly not. How ridiculous would it be should the collector of minerals desert his hobby because he becomes convinced that to obtain a complete set of all minerals that ever existed is impossible; or the numismatist lose heart because a perfect collection of coins is unattainable. It is equally unreasonable for the philatelist then to despair, because some spaces in his album must ever be blank.

The science of numismatics resembles Philately more closely than any other related pursuit, and being much the older of the two, may serve as a guide in doubtful places. Here it may teach us a lesson. The numismatist is usually a general collector, rarely a specialist. His field is practically boundless, far more so than that of Philately. Coins have been issued for thousands of years by nearly all nations, and so far from a complete set of them being attainable, probably not half of them have been even discovered and catalogued. But the coin collector, undiscouraged by this fact, goes calmly on claiming a specimen here and there as he can get it, and thinking himself fortunate, if only he can display in his cabinet a fine representation of the world's issues so far as known. And so should it be with the stamp collector. Let him too find the accomplishment of his ideal

in securing a fine selection of the world's stamps, not in acquiring a complete exhibit of the errors and oddities of some one country or division. A well-selected collection from the whole world is far better than a book stuffed full of imprints, strange papers, and off colors exhausting the possibilities of any one government. It is pretty generally agreed that the most accomplished man is not he who knows all about something and nothing about anything else, or he who knows a little about everything and is proficient in nothing; but rather he, who excels in at least one thing, and is accomplished in all. This is a fair model for the collector to follow. He may, perhaps, with profit make a specialty of some one branch, but he should by no means allow the pursuit of perfection in this to make him desert others.

The future of Philately then is to be the coming into close analogy with other similar pursuits, and the placing as its ideal, not a foolish minuteness about the stamps of any one country but a general collection and understanding of the stamps of the world.

J. DEQ. D.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES.

BY G. M. A.

If all philatelists took enough interest in their branch of collecting to keep a note book, jotting down amusing and other experiences, each would undoubtedly, have a very interesting account to give of trials with foreign correspondents and their lack of foresight in the way of obtaining, when they were cheap, the now high-priced treasures which grace good collections. Who has not had his foreign exchangers and has not smiled at their wants. All seem to have an idea that collectors in the United States are deluged with high-priced stamps of all the American States. As an instance, I quote the following from a Venetian collector:

MAY 17, 1886.

"I have by S—— Hand Book your name in remenber as a philotelic and will change to you stamp unpaid of Italien for Ameriquen. I can need U. S. stamp. 3c, New York, 1843 and U.S. 10c 1847. I sent equal number Italien unpaid with you sent same number above. Kindly liking you and sent above."

PERLE TANAGRE.

The idea of an Italian unpaid being worth the same amount as the scarce New York.

My next correspondent was in Moscow, he said:

"Your name to me given. You to sen me 1sh Nova Scotia and 1869 U. S. 90c ambosse for my exchange to get complete set now issue Russien been use. I use scarce stamp only. sent you along with you and I sent mine you next day I get from you."

T—— CH——

I might go on with more of these letters, but these are enough to serve my purpose. They also teach us not to think ourselves too smart when we write German, French, Spanish or other foreign languages.

Another little anecdote which I wish to relate, is one which will probably make some of my brother philatelists' mouths water. In 1881, I, being then a dealer, received a letter from a gentleman connected with one of the departments at Washington, offering me department stamps in sets, at the following prices for ten sets: War, $1.50; Treasury, $1.25; Justice, $2.00; Agriculture, $2.00; Navy, $2,25; Executive, $4.20; Justice, $3.00.

Think of it! A set of Executive Department stamps at 42 cents, or Justice stamps at 30 cents each. I gave an order for some, but took only five sets of Executive which I disposed of at 60 cents a set. How I wish I had purchased a hundred sets of them and had them now. But, of course my foresight was not equal to my hindsight and I am now kicking myself for it.

About the same time I had a chance to buy a collection of nine hundred varie-

ties for $20.00, but considered the price too high. But,oh! how I have wished I had bought, for in the collection was a complete set of Hawaiians, including all the early issues which are catalogued with four and five figures each. The stamps were a present from the late King of Hawaii to a former Minneapolitan, and with the collection the letter from the King was to go, thus guaranteeing their genuineness.

But I have already gone beyond the space I had intended, so wishing you and your Journal all the success you hope for, I will close.

REGISTERED STAMPS OF CANADA.

BY W. E. S.

In Canada, I know not why, postal officials keep a separate account of every registered letter transmitted. In order to make the task of keeping this account easier, the Parliament of Canada, in the year 1875, passed an act providing special stamps for registered letters. This stamp could not be used on any other postal matter, and no other stamp was to be used on registered letters.

In November, 1875, the government issued these stamps. They were oblong and of three varieties: 2c orange, 5c green and 8c blue. The 2c orange was used on every registered letter having its destination in any part of Canada, ruled by the Confederation, from that time until May, 1889, when it was superceded by the 5c green. The 5c green is now used on every package whose destination is in Canada, the United States and Europe, and also on every registered letter going to Europe, the United States, etc. The 8c blue was issued for use on all letters and packages going to China, Japan, India, Australia, etc. In 1875, when Canada entered the Postal Union, the tax of five cents on all registered letters for foreign countries became uniform; thus making the 8c stamp useless. The postmasters made their returns and in 1880 all the 8c stamps remaining were destroyed. In May, 1889, the government decided to have but one register stamp, and the 5c green became the only register stamp used on letters and packages for Canada, as well as other countries. As there are negligent persons everywhere, it is possible that some postmasters did not make their returns, and if they could be found, the stamps held by them would prove of great value to the fortunate finder.

MEXICO'S LOSS IS OUR GAIN.

The Mexicans on the border of this country have an ingenious plan for cheating their government out of postage, to the advantage of the northern republic. In Mexico postal rates are high and it costs ten cents to send a letter from any of the river towns to the City of Mexico, or provinces south of there, and five cents to nearer points. Instead of paying the high rates of their own government, they simply paddle across the Rio Grande, buy a two-cent U. S. stamp and mail their letters to any point in Mexico they please. They take a dollar's worth of trouble to save a few cents, but then the government is cheated, and there is some satisfaction in that. The officials try to stop the business, but they can't do it. —*Exchange.*

A WEAK ARGUMENT OVERCOME.

One of the arguments most frequently used against the collection of stamps is that it is not only a foolish waste of time, but of money as well. In the eyes of many an American the "almighty dollar" reigns supreme, and to such people the prices paid for certain rare stamps are a never-ceasing source of wonder. To all such, a stamp is a mere piece of paper; to a collector, what is it not?

I came across just such a man about a month ago. He at once commenced on the same old argument. I waited until he had finished, and then showed him the prices of some stamps three years ago, and now. The result of this was that one more devotee is worshipping at the shrine of Philately. He says he is a collector because it is a good investment. A comparison of catalogues published within the last three years shows some astonishing advances in the value of stamps.—*Exchan*

PHILATELIC JOURNALISM OF TO-DAY.

BY L. G. Q.

Apart from the newspapers and the splendid literary magazines of the present day, there are still other publications devoted especially to the interests of some certain classes of people. Every branch of mercantile life, every profession, every science, every age, sex, and color, has a journalism of its own. The merchant has his trade journal, the student of science his scientific monthly, the devotee of base ball and the turf his sporting paper, the lawyer, his law journal, and the doctor his medical gazette.

In like manner the lover of stamp-collecting finds certain magazines published solely for the purpose of giving him pleasure and instruction. The most striking feature of this branch of journalism is the extraordinarily large number of publications devoted to it. Truly, "their name is legion," and new papers are coming daily into existence, although this influx is partially balanced by the discontinuance of older journals which have become weary of the struggle.

However, when we exclude the journal which has about ten pages of advertising to one of reading matter, which uses most of its space to advertise the business of the dealer who publishes it, and the amateur paper of four, six or eight pages, which exists precariously two or three months, and then goes down, leaving hardly a ripple on the surface, and then consider only those magazines which are really interesting and instructive to the collector, we do not find any great surplus of such periodicals. We should bear in mind, however, that philatelic journalism has not, as yet, passed the experimental period. Philately is comparatively a new study, and the postage stamp itself is an invention of the nineteenth century.

Philatelic journalism has made great strides in the last decade. When we think of the small, inferior stamp journals of twenty or twenty-five years ago, and then consider the progress made as we look at some of the excellent magazines of to-day, we feel inclined to forgive any shortcomings that we notice, and to decide that, taking our philatelic magazines as a class, they are something of which Philately and her votaries may well be proud.

It is not exactly clear what man had the honor of publishing the first philatelic magazine; but whatever his name, it ought to be known and respected by every philatelist, as is the name of the first explorer in an unknown land, who, although unsuccessful himself, opens the way for further and more successful attempts; honored by those who complete his work.

It must have been indeed a hazardous venture to publish a magazine for the edification of collectors when they were so few and little known to each other; when dealers were but a handful, and when stamp-collecting was regarded by many as "mere child's play." It is needless to say the venture was unsuccessful; it lost money and was forced to suspend publication. But was it wholly a failure? No! It was but the forerunner of other journals which were to come, and which were to assist in placing Philately on a more stable basis. Magazines came and went. Some were excellent, but all shared the same fate. Enterprising men, however, nothing daunted by the failures of those before them, and realizing that philatelic literature was still in its infancy, started new magazines, and profiting by the experiences of their predecessors, accomplished better results. Thus, philatelic journalism has ever been on the advance, and, at the present time, we have a multitude of stamp journals of all kinds, good, bad and indifferent.

One fact to be noted is the extreme youth of most of our magazines. Very

few have passed their fifth birthday. The philatelic journals of the present are distinctively a growth of the last few years, and let us hope that those which deserve it may attain a "green old age."

A rather singular feature of philatelic journalism is the great number of small papers launched every year, which, it is hardly necessary to say, disappear in a short time, leaving no trace of their former existence. There is room even for small papers replete with interesting articles and news, but of the majority of these little six-page experiments, the less said the better. Since some really excellent papers are asking but fifty cents or less for a year's subscription, these smaller ones can scarcely be given away.

In this connection, I notice there has been considerable discussion lately, by various publishers as to the feasibility of raising the prices of their periodicals, since under the present low rates many are not able to keep the balance on the right side of the ledger. Such a movement would, undoubtedly, be for the benefit of all concerned. The publisher, receiving a better price for his magazine, would be enabled to give his subscribers a better magazine for their money, and one which would be more representative of the growing science of Philately.

There is no doubt that the present prices are very low, in most cases, and that the publishers would be justified in raising them. In my opinion there is no need of combination for this purpose. If an editor makes his paper worth fifty cents and then charges that amount, I think he will receive just as liberal patronage as his competitor who ventures to charge only twenty-five cents, and gives a small packet of rare (?) stamps to boot.

The great majority of our philatelic magazines are published by stamp dealers, and there is quite a tendency among them to use considerable space in their columns to advertise their own business to the exclusion of reading matter. However, we cannot find fault with them for doing this, since, in many cases, the publication would result in a dead loss were it not for the benefits to be derived from their own advertisements.

Another defect in some magazines, and not so excusable, is found in the small number of pages devoted to reading matter, compared with those filled with advertisements. A magazine should contain at least as many pages of reading matter as there are of advertisements. The latter, no doubt, are an essential element of a philatelic paper, and collectors read them with interest, but they ought not be given too much prominence. A paper containing two or three pages of short articles and notes, and about three times as many pages of advertisements is not one that collectors feel greatly inclined to patronize. They want a journal which is published for them, and not for the use of the dealer. A publisher may offer great inducements in order to secure subscribers, such as the free use of an exchange column, stamps to the value of the subscription price, etc., but an inducement better than either of these is an interesting magazine. An editor who fills his pages with good reading matter will not need to offer premiums in order to enlarge his subscription list.

The great number of failures resulting from vain efforts to establish substantial philatelic literature have been very discouraging, but it is believed that many of our present magazines have been placed on a safe financial basis, and give promise of still greater improvement in the philatelic journalism of the future. The failures which have occurred are to be accounted for not only by the fact that Philately had not yet made advancement enough to warrant the publication of many such journals, but also by a lack of capital, experience and perseverance.

It has always been very difficult for a

new paper to obtain a foothold. No one need attempt to publish a philatelic journal unless possessed of money, brains and time. If he has not these three requisites he may depend upon it his paper will soon drop out of sight, just as so many luckless sheets have done before.

The day of *experiments*, in philatelic journalism, is fast passing away, and we see, even now, many influential stamp magazines, backed by an abundant capital and enterprise, catering to the wants of the collector and the dealer. The philatelic press has been, and is, of the greatest benefit to stamp-collecting. It has been the means of keeping alive our interest in the pursuit, has increased our philatelic knowledge, has opened the eyes of the world to the fact that stamp-collecting is not "mere boy's play," the diversion of an hour, but a most instructive and fascinating pastime. It has nobly done its part, and we hail its elevating influence with pride.

Let us then render to each journal its meed of praise. Let us be lenient as to faults and remember only the vast influence of such publications in placing Philately where it is to-day. Let us hope that the future will witness still further improvements in the journals of the present time, and let all philatelists remember how much they have already done for Philately. Let us give them our best wishes, and in the language of Rip Van Winkle: "May they live long and prosper."

HOW TO START A COLLECTION.

BY "PILOT."

This article is not written for the advanced collector, but intended to aid those not familiar with the best methods of starting a collection of stamps. The writer is well aware that this is not a new field to enter, nor does he expect that the veteran philatelist will find much in it to add to his knowledge, but to the young collector for whom this is intended, I hope to give information which will aid and assist him, point out the way to start economically. In other words, it is my intention to so write that the young collector may profit by the experience of others who made mistakes which could have been avoided if reliable information had been placed before them. I do not wish to be understood as saying that honest philatelic literature has never been placed before the aspiring collector, but, during my time of accumulating stamps, I have not been fortunate enough to find any that would start one in the proper direction.

When the philatelic fledgling begins, he selects a journal to read, and, to his horror, finds the words, "counterfeits," "reprints," "dishonest actions of dealers," staring him in the face from all sides, and, unless he possesses most remarkable qualities, his young philatelic life will be like a ship on the ocean without a commander, tossed to and fro by every wind and wave, and, at the mercy of the billows, is driven against the rocky beach, there to become a wreck.

Assuming that this will not be the case with the reader of this article, and that he starts with a set determination to succeed, at all hazards, in stamp collecting, I come back to the subject in hand. The young collector should first determine what he intends to collect, whether adhesive stamps and envelopes cut square only, whether the various kinds of trash mentioned in catalogues, for the purpose probably to create a sale for something that has no philatelic value, or only such stamps, etc., as are of interest and value, officially issued by different governments to prepay postage, etc. Collecting entire envelopes and post cards should be considered a branch entirely different from that of collecting adhesives, but I would advise every young collector

to save all oddities in this line, which he may obtain at little or no expense.

You have now decided what you intend to collect. Next write to a reliable dealer, or, if you are fortunate enough to have one residing in your city, see him in person and buy an album, as free as possible from spaces not intended for stamps used postally. Strictly speaking, avoid telegraph stamps or anything that will make your album bulky, without adding value to your collection. After your album is selected, order of your dealer a packet of 1,000 genuine stamps; if you cannot afford to purchase so large a quantity at one time, buy at least 500, and, in addition, several sheets of hinges; also, if possible, a catalogue, which describes the unperforated as well as the perforated specimens, the number of perforations in each kind of stamp and watermark. You should also possess a perforation gauge, generally made of celluloid.

Now, when you have all of the abovementioned articles, you are ready to start, but to obtain them will keep you busy until this journal, your friend, arrives the next time.

THE GAUCHO STAMPS.

It is seldom that any stamp, or set of stamps, acquires a *sobriquet* by which it is so universally known, as the mysterious Gaucho stamps of Buenos Ayres," says "Topaz" in the *Collector's Companion*. "The first stamps of La Guaria are often called the 'Robert Todd Series,' and one of the envelopes of Deccan is usually known as 'The Koorshedjah,' but the labels which are the subject of this sketch are never known by any title other than 'The Gaucho Stamps.' They are of much interest to the philatelist, as their origin is shrouded in mystery. Whether they were ever actually in use, by whose authority they were prepared and when, must always remain matters of conjecture. The set of Gaucho stamps consists of four values: 4 reales, yellow, 6r, green; 8r, purple; 10r, blue. The description of them is as follows: A mounted gaucho (South American cowboy), is the central figure of a landscape in an oval, which is included within an oblong frame, with plain, solid spandels. Above is the word 'Correos,' and at the bottom Bs.As. and value. A border of ornamental scroll work occupies the other two sides. The shape of the stamps is that of the later issues, they are unperforated, and the impression measures 24mm. long by 19mm. wide. It is supposed by some that the series was in use a few days in August or September, 1859, just before the emission of the ugly ship issue.

When, in 1868, the President of the New York Philatelic Society visited the Argentine Republic, he wrote back to the society that the Gauchos were issued in 1857, but no more information could be obtained. Most philatelists, however, came to adopt the theory that they were merely essays, prepared in good faith, but rejected by the postal authorities of Buenos Ayres. On this ground they were dropped from the catalogues, and time strengthened the impression so that, at the present day, no one is to be found to claim for the Gauchos that they were actual postage stamps. Years ago they were very rare, and specimens of the 10 reales had become unobtainable. A complete set of them was considered the gem of a large New York collection.

The gentle Argentines were not slow to perceive that specimens of these rarities might be valuable, and nearly twenty years ago used to make imitations of them, which were sent for sale to the British stamp dealers. These native counterfeits were on thicker paper than the genuine, and the colors were not so bright. There is a white patch, presumably foam, on the flank of the Gaucho's

horse, which is missing in the native swindles. There is also a difference in the landscape. The Argentines also sold bogus 4 reales, printed in a reddish hue, which may perhaps be called magenta; likewise bogus 6 reales, struck in purple like the 8. All mentioned were unused, and the gum was very fresh in appearance. Their maker would sell them at the rate of 100 sets for $50.

"There is also a full set of European counterfeits lithographed on very shiny thin paper. They are common on the other side of the water, but are never seen here. I should not omit to mention that an electrotype of the 6 reales, used to illustrate an English magazine, has got into the hands of the manufacturers of cheap stamps, and copies have been printed from it in blue and black, as well as in the primitive color. These and the preceding are usually found canceled with a number of bars. As it is now generally admitted that the originals never passed the post, these will be easily recognized as worthless. I am informed that these counterfeit Gaucho stamps are one of the standard productions of the transatlantic dealers in imitation stamps, and may be found in all their cheap packets. The reader will remember that the later issues (ship and head of liberty) are put to the same use in the United States. Almost every packet of counterfeits includes Buenos Ayres, Antioquia, Pacific Steam Navigation Company and triangular Cape of Good Hope.

POSTAGE STAMP ANNIVERSARY.

The postage stamp will celebrate its fifty-second anniversary on May 6th of next year. England, fifty-two years ago, introduced the new system of preparing letter postage, and, according to a decree of December 21, 1839, issued the first stamps, which were to be put before the public on May 6th of the following year, as noted above. A year later they were introduced in the United States and Switzerland; and within three years had become common in Bavaria, Belgium and France. One of the most important and valuable collections of postage stamps and other postal devices in the world is in the German Imperial Post-office Museum at Berlin.

DID NOT USE A STAMP.

Conductor J. A. Scovern, of the St. L., K. & N. W. R'y, has in his possession a relic which is extremely valuable as well from a financial standpoint as from one of sentiment. It is an autograph letter of Abraham Lincoln, written at the time he was a member of Congress from Illinois to John W. Henderson, then in Washington, D. C. It is old and shows somewhat the effects of time. It was folded in the fashion in vogue before the introduction of envelopes and was franked by the future president. It read as follows:

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Nov. 17, 1849.

JOHN W. HENDERSON, ESQ. *Dear Sir:*—I understand you desire a clerkship in some of the Departments at Washington, and I write this to say, to whom it may concern, that I most willingly stand as one of your endorsers for such a post. Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Upon the outside appears the direction:

"JOHN W. HENDERSON,
Washington,
D. C.

Free A. Lincoln, M. C." and the Springfield postmark Nov. 19.

COLONIAL POSTAL METHODS.

During early colonial days, the methods of forwarding mail matter; were very primitive; letters being usually placed in a box in the village inn or coffee house, and taken by those to whom they were addressed, or delivered to them by some obliging neighbor. What may be considered the first established post-office in the colonies was located, in 1639, in the house of Richard Fairbanks, in Boston. In Virginia, a law was passed in 1657 requiring all planters to provide a messenger to carry all letters and dispatches from one plantation to another. If this law was not obeyed, the delinquent was fined one hogshead of tobacco. In this way a postal service was gradually established between the several colonies, and in 1672 a postal route was instituted between New York and Boston.

Collectors, send in your subscription now and receive the January number, containing an almanac of notable philatelic events by our best American authority, Mr. John K. Tiffany, President of the American Philatelic Association.

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EXCELSIOR.

The cordial greeting which our journal has received and the remarkable increase in the circulation of THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION are very flattering omens of its future, and we would be ungrateful were we, by silence, to manifest indifference to the support extended us. Such kindness and consideration stimulates us, strengthens our resolve, animates us with a sincere desire to further cement the friendship of our brother philatelists and determines us to more diligent exertion in advocating the study of Philately, and in unearthing its otherwise hidden treasures.

We cherish a most ardent hope in this respect, and while we concede the force of the argument advanced by some of our very worthy correspondents, that "THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION should contain more literary matter" we must, also, recall the fact that this journal was established in the immediate interest of Philately. The advancement of this study is our aim, but it has been and still is our desire to make no promises which might, hereafter, reproach us.

The pages of the COMPANION are open for the reception of such matter as may contribute to the edification, instruction and amusement of that class of youthful readers which constitutes the majority of our patrons; and while we are not unmindful that "a magazine is a journal of miscellaneous topics," conducted and supported by men of a high order of intellect, devoted to the discussion of abstruce questions entirely beyond the grasp of adolescence, it has not been, nor is it our purpose to wing our flight to such lofty realms as to cause our younger readers to lose interest in our publication. We hope, however, from time to time, to furnish our friends with such literary pabulum as will excite curiosity, arouse mental activity and prompt the heart of youth to sentiments of obedience, love and reverence.

Quickened with this resolve, we invite contributions from our readers and subscribers which we promise will be cheerfully received and leniently judged—reserving to ourselves, however, the time-honored privilege of exercising, with slow and reluctant hand, the prerogative of rejection. We shall be ever happy to have even a transient glimpse of the budding genius of our American youth, and if, in our review, we find those "pearls of price"—talent and originality—they shall be duly recorded on our pages; thus securing to their possessors "a niche in the Temple of Fame;" to which, we trust, all philatelists ambitiously aspire, and which, we hope, they may attain.

SPECULATIVE raids on the pockets of the stamp collecting fraternity seem to be never-ending. In addition to the Central American States, Portugal now threatens to enter the field, with an even more deliberate purpose. Poverty is bad enough for individuals, but when nations are pushed to doubtful expedients to "raise the wind," the suffering becomes both objective and subjective. As an almost expiring effort, it is now reported, the statesmen in the capital on the Tagus have determined to issue complete sets of stamps, not alone for the mother country but for each of the colonies. Must the philatelist bear this in patience? We think not. There is no way to prevent such issues as those referred to, but collectors can determine to confine their interest to stamps issued for legitimate purposes and thus narrow the market for the bogus label, whose color, design, perforation, etc., are varied as often as the philatelic appetite will permit. United action of this kind will soon put an end to piratical preying upon individual love of the beautiful. The feeling against speculatives is growing rapidly, and summary measures against them will, sooner or later, be adopted.

OUR contemporary, *The Philatelic Journal*, of Great Britain, objects to our feature article on stamps with colored illustrations. We regret that we cannot see what the *Journal* would doubtless call "the error of our way," nor can we acknowledge the correctness of its assumption, that possibly the cuts might be used to swindle innocent collectors with. Our idea is to give a clearer conception of the stamps illustrated than could be done with black ink, and we trust our esteemed friend has not so little confidence in its own judgment as to fear being hoaxed with our prints.

OWING to the large distribution of Nos. 1 and 2 of Volume 1 of THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, it has become necessary to withdraw the remaining copies of those issues from general circulation. From this date these numbers will be sold only to those who need them to complete files. The price of No. 1 will be twenty-five cents, and of No. 2 twenty cents. The right is reserved to advance these prices at the end of thirty days.

NATAL is now indulging in a series of surcharges which are getting to be almost as objectional as speculatives. The issuance of a proclamation has made these surcharged stamps legal in every way.

THE COMPANION, this month, goes to six thousand philatelists, and will undoubtedly be read by fully fifteen thousand persons. Advertisers, is this not the medium you are seeking?

WE ARE getting ourselves into shape, so to speak. Watch for each succeeding number of THE COMPANION and see if you are not getting full value for your subscription money.

IT IS a sad commentary upon the honesty of a people when, as in India, the writer of a letter must go to the post-office and cancel his own stamp.

ADVERTISEMENTS are beginning to come in voluntarily. Is not that good evidence of the esteem of our friends.

ALREADY the official organ of two societies—we hope to make our paper invaluable to many others.

WE SHALL always be pleased to hear from our friends, and to see them when they are in St. Louis.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all, philatelists especially.

FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT.

How many people of the present day who have become so accustomed to making use of the facilities for communication offered by the Government Postal Department, with its nominal rates, ever think of its origin and growth or recall the difficulties which beset the first introduction of the system and the tortuous path in which it was compelled to move not so very many years ago. The present perfection has been attained within the easy recollection of persons now living.

It is an interesting fact that the first regular system of government postal communication in England arose out of the financial necessities of the house of Stewart. A cursory review of the English system from its origin and development until recent years will give a pretty correct idea of the difficulties which beset the postal service from its birth until it had obtained something of its present efficiency. During the early history of the English postal system the people of Warwick requested that London letters for that town might be sent direct instead of through Coventry, thus saving considerable time. This request was denied, and the following reasons given for the refusal: "From London to Warwick, through Coventry, is more than eight miles, so that we can charge six pence a letter going that way, whereas we could only charge three pence if they went direct."

A postal reformer of the time of William Pitt requested the department to attend to the solicitations of merchants and business men and take their advice when postal arrangements were to be made. The postal officials, however, were indignant at this presumption, and declared that the service was as good as could be made. The suggestion as to increased speed they declared absurd, saying that it was impossible to expect the post to travel as fast as coaches or persons traveling on business. Finally, in 1784, a change was made and mail coaches began to run at the speed of six miles an hour, and afterwards at eight miles an hour. The officials, however, protested strongly against the "terrific speed," saying that people were made ill by it, while some had actually died from the rapidity of the motion. The rate of speed was, however, attended with a corresponding increase in revenue, and was sustained.

Rates of postage were then charged according to weight and distance, and the distance was always according to whatever route the post-office might choose to send mail, and not according to the exact distance between points. It was at length proposed to charge according to exact distance, but the Lords of the Treasury refused point blank to grant this. This continued to be the condition of affairs until after 1815. In that year the revenue of the country amounted to about £1,500,000, and so continued until 1836. In 1837 Rowland Hill published his famous pamphlet on post-office reform, in which he advocated the then novel doctrine that the postal service should have for its object the accommodation of business and commercial interests, and also that a reduction of postage to a uniform rate should be made according to weight and without reference to distance. The Post-office Department declared that this was "of all wild and visionary schemes ever heard of the most extravagant." However, the commercial classes looked on the proposition with great satisfaction, and in a short time letter postage was reduced to a uniform rate of four pence, and in the year 1840 it was further reduced to a penny rate, which has ever since been maintained.

Along with the postal service grew up the franking privilege, the abuses of which eventually attained to enormous proportions. All letters indorsed on the cover with the signature of a member of either House were passed free, whether they related to official business or not. Members signed large packages of envelopes and distributed them to their friends and constituents. Sometimes they were sold or given to servants in lieu of wages. The records of many curious examples of the extent to which these abuses reached are extant.

"Fifteen couples of hounds going to the King of the Romans, with a free pass."

"Dr. Crichton, carrying with him a cow and divers other necessaries."

"Two bales of stockings for the use of Ambassadors to the Crown of Portugal."

"Two maid servants, going as laundresses to my Lord Ambassador Methuen."

An instance of the difficulties with which the Dead-letter Office met during early years may be judged from the following, which was eventually safely delivered:

"To my sister Bridget, or else to my brother Tim Burke, in care of the praste of Balcumbury in Cork, or if not, to some dacent neighbor in Ireland."

Another letter was addressed to a woman who lived in a town of 25,000 inhabitants, as follows: "Mary H., a tall woman with two children."

Among other things which have been found passing through the English mails are: Two canary birds, a pork pie, a pair piebald mice, half a pound of soft soap wrapped in thin paper, and a sucking pig carelessly wrapped in brown paper with both ends open.

Only last year a lady of Greenock requested the telegraph operator at the Post-office to write out a dispatch to her home to the effect that she would not return until morning, and at the same time handing the operator the door key to be sent with the message. This was too much for the department, however, and the request had to be denied.

In this country, as also in England, these abuses of the franking privilege are being gradually removed, and each succeeding year witnesses still further restrictions of this privilege. The franking privilege has been given by special grant to Sarah Polk, widow of ex-President James K. Polk, Mrs. Julia D. Grant and Mrs. Lucretia R. Garfield. The superintendent, supervisors, enumerators and clerks of the census also are privileged to use the franking privilege in official business. A fine of $300 is attached to the violation of the rules governing the privilege. Agricultural colleges in their annual reports to the Secretary of the Interior and agricultural experimental stations using the privilege for the diffusion of useful and practical information may send their bulletins at least once in three months to the newspapers in such States and Territories wherein such agricultural colleges are located, and also to such persons as are actually engaged in farming in those States who request the bulletins.

There is a tradition in the postal service of this country that at one time members of Congress were in the habit of using the franking privilege to send their washing to and fro, but such is no longer the case.

It is estimated that the weight of books, pamphlets, seeds from the Department of Agriculture and other such matter sent under frank reached during the past year about 4,000,000 pounds. The weight of penalty envelope matter about 7,000,000 pounds, government supplies to different departments, sent under the penalty label, at least 27,000,000, making an aggregate of 70,000,000 pounds a year of matter which is sent free of charge.—*St. Louis Republic.*

WHY PHILATELY IS A SCIENCE.

More or less space is given in many journals to a discussion of the question involved in the title of this article. In view of the interest attaching to the matter, an article written by Wm. Allan Klapp and published in the *Empire State Philatelist* may prove valuable to our readers.

"In almost every edition of the philatelic papers," says Mr. Klapp, "one can see something relating to the 'Science of Philately,' 'Our Science,' or something to that effect. Some few journals, indeed, dispute the claim that Philately is a science. These few say 'Our Hobby,' 'Our Amusement;' they steer clear, as it were, of all terms in which the word 'science' is mentioned, but that their argument is forced can be seen at once; there is a doubt in their minds whether they are taking the right course or not; they show it by occasional vicious attacks on the 'Scientifics,' and yet they do not feel able to say plainly 'we have a doubt in our minds; possibly you are right.' You find they will admit that mineralogy is a science, but shake their heads at Philately. Now let us weigh both sides and see which is in the right.

"Let us for a beginning see what a science is, see what it comprises, and what the real distinction is between an amusement or mania, and a science.

"We accordingly turn to a dictionary and find the following definition for science: 'Knowledge—A branch of knowledge, a collection or system of general principles or leading truths relating to any subject.' Mark the two words 'any' and 'subject.' Is Philately a subject of thought?—certainly. Now at once we stumble over the fact that Philately is eligible to the rank of science. We must now consider whether it can pass its examination, so to speak. It can if we can but prove that there are leading truths and a collection of general principles relating to it. This I am going to try to do.

"A man who collects plants, vegetables, etc., and subjects them to a study, that is, determines their class and value,

studies their manner and place of growth, is called a scientific man. A man who collects stones and metals, puts them to an analysis, or in other words, studies their parts and properties, is a scientific man. A man who collects insects, animals, etc., studies their organs, their blood, etc., is he not also a scientific man? Yes—certainly, you say at once; they are all scientific men; all their respective studies are sciences.

"Now imagine that you never heard of a stamp, and follow me in a description in the same form as above. A man who collects small engravings, called stamps, studies the quality of engraving, puts them to the test of a microscope or magnifying glass, studies the different quality of paper, examines the watermarks and classifies them. Is he not a scientist? Is not his study a science? You exclaim at once 'That's well enough to say, but look at those little boys collecting stamps; I suppose these are scientists;' and you laugh at your own wit, and the absurdity of the whole affair. Stop a moment. Who among my brother philatelists has not seen a boy, not out of school, studiously collecting plants; who has not seen a youth, incited by the little physiology he learns at school, examining the blood corpuscles in a frog's leg by a poor microscope; who has not, I say, seen these types, and yet who among you would bring these cases up, to prove that mineralogy and physiology are not sciences. Thus we have paralleled cases to the young stamp collector. Mark me, I do not say a young philatelist, I make a distinction that is wide, a distinction that goes a considerable way to help me prove my point, for in my mind a stamp collector is one who collects stamps merely as an amusement; a philatelist is one who studies stamps, and one who could lay claim to being a scientist, should he advance his study far enough.

"I may be mistaken, but as far as I can see, Philately in the highest form answers the definition at the beginning of this article. It *is* a knowledge, and it *is* a collection of general principles or leading truths relating to a subject. In my mind it has passed the examination and is a science, but we philatelists can never hope to see the day when it will be admitted by the public at large, for how old is botany, mineralogy or physiology; not until it has reached about their age can Philately be classed by the public as a science.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

To Members of the Chicago Philatelic Society:

The STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION is the authorized official organ of the Chicago Philatelic Society; arrangements to that effect having been completed by the society and the publishers, and all members of the society will receive hereafter a copy of that paper monthly.

In the paper, as the society's organ, will appear the minutes, various official reports, etc., and also a catalogue of auction sales held by the C. P. S.

C. E. SEVERN, Sec'y.

CHRONICLE OF NEW ISSUES, ETC.

CONDUCTED BY WILLIAM C. STONE,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

TO WHOM ALL INFORMATION RESPECTING NEW ISSUES, ETC., SHOULD BE SENT.

The figures in parenthesis, after the names of the countries, refer to the volume and page of this paper containing the last previous notice.

All envelopes, unless otherwise stated, are on white wove paper.

All post cards, unless otherwise stated, are on buff cardboard.

Colors in italics represent the colors of the surcharges.

ADHESIVES.

ANTIGUA.—*The Philatelic Record* has been informed by Lieut. Napier, R. N., that he has the unwatermarked 3 penny perforated 11½ all around. In the London society's book it is given 15 in 1862 and 14½x11½ at a later period.

ANTIOQUIA.—The same journal also reports a pair of the 5 cent black on yellow of the 1889 issue, without vertical perforations between them, and says that the 10 cent also exists in a similar state.

BRITISH HONDURAS (21).—J. W. Scott sends us specimens of two new provisionals. The 3 cents on 3 pence has the numeral of value obliterated by a bar and the word "FIVE" surcharged above.

5 cents on 3c. on 3p., brown; *black*.

The 6 cents on the 3 pence in blue has the numeral similarly erased and the figures "15" surcharged above.

15 cents on 6c. on 3p., blue; *red*.

The Philatelic Monthly is informed that a 48-cent stamp is to be issued. We also learn that the provisional 6 cents on 10c. has been found with inverted surcharge in each variety. We were afraid that this had been overlooked.

CONGO FREE STATE.—*The Philatelic World* reports that 2000 of the 15 cent stamps are to be converted into 5 cent stamps by means of a surcharge.

CYPRUS.—The following letter taken from *Tidning for Frimarksamlare* sheds a little light upon the "Postal Surcharge" stamps.

LARNACA, Sept. 16th, 1891.

The postal and fiscal stamps of Cyprus have never been surcharged "Postal Surcharge" for use on unpaid or insufficiently paid letters. They were so overprinted or canceled for the internal working of the department and were never sold over the counter. When one post-office owed money to another post-office the stamps were sent instead and canceled with the above words on the way-bills. These stamps have since been collected off the way-bills and, I believe, sold by one man at high rates.

DIEGO SUAREZ.—Not content with the quartet of horribles inflicted upon us last year, the authorities have just issued a new provisional of local workmanship. "A very sad stamp" is a free translation of M. Moen's comment concerning it. We think our readers will agree with him. In the center is a female figure holding a sword and leaning upon a shield in a rectangular frame inscribed "Diego Suarez" at the top, "Postes" at the sides and "Republique Francaise" at the bottom. Just above the latter is another label with 1891 and the numeral of value in a small rectangle above it and between the shield and the female. There is a rayed sun in the left upper corner behind

the figure. The usual official ordinance accompanies this new comer and announces the number issued to be 3,000.

5 centimes, black.

FRENCH CONGO.—Four stamps of a similar character have been issued here. They measure 21x26 mm. and are all inscribed "Postes" at the top and "Congo Francais" at the bottom. The 5 cent stamp has a branch of bananas or plantains in the center, the 10 cent a palm tree, the 15 cent a French flag and the 25 cent a negro's head.

5 centimes, black.
10 centimes, black.
15 centimes, black.
25 centimes, black.

On the second of September there were issued 3,000 provisionals formed by surcharging the 1 centime with "Congo Francais 5c." The variety with red surcharge has the letter "c" further away from the numeral than the other.

5 cent on 1c., black on blue; *black.*
5 cent on 1c., black on blue; *red.*

GUADELOUPE. — Patterning after Reunion this island has surcharged all the current stamps with the name of the colony in small block letters.

1 centime, black on blue.
2 centimes, brown on bistre.
4 centimes, violet on blue.
5 centimes, green on greenish.
10 centimes, black on violet.
15 centimes, blue on bluish.
20 centimes, red on green.
25 centimes, black on rose.
35 centimes, black on orange.
40 centimes, vermilion on bistre.
75 centimes, carmine on rose.
1 franc, bronze on green.

Also the following of the old issue with head of Liberty.

30 centimes, brown.
80 centimes, carmine.

The following errors are chronicled by *Le Timbre Poste*·

With GNADELOUPE—

1 centime, black on blue.
4 centimes, violet on blue.
10 centimes, black on violet.
15 centimes, blue on bluish.
40 centimes, vermilion on bistre.
75 centimes, carmine on rose.
30 centimes, brown (head of Liberty).
80 centimes, carmine (head of Liberty).

With GUADBLOUPE—

2 centimes, brown on bistre.
5 centimes, green on greenish.
20 centimes, red on green.
25 centimes, black on rose.
35 centimes, black on orange.
1 franc, bronze on green.

With GUADELONPE—

20 centimes, red on green.
25 centimes, black on rose.

The decree announcing this surcharge was dated at Basse Terre, August 5, 1891.

MADAGASCAR (43).— The two high value stamps have a rosy network as a background.

1 franc, black on yellow.
5 francs, black and violet on lilac.

One of M. Moen's correspondents says that it is almost impossible to obtain the stamps of this place and of Diego Suarez, as the officials send a few stamps through the post to ensure their having been actually in use and then send the rest, carefully postmarked, by an employe on one of the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes to a relative of his in Paris who is a stamp dealer. Comment seems unnecessary.

MAURITIUS (43).—By the kindness of Mr. Albert Rae, of Port Louis, we are enabled to give an account of the various issues of provisionals which have recently appeared in this island.

The supply of the 2 cent green having become exhausted, and as none would arrive for some time, on the 10th of September the postal authorities surcharged

33,250 of the 38 cents of 1879. These were all bought up the next day by some stamp dealers.

On the 12th the same surcharge was applied to 11,921 of the 4 cent rose of the 1885 issue and these were all sold by the 14th.

On the 16th were surcharged the entire remaining stock of the 17 cents of the 1879 issue, 3,577 in number, and 46,268 of the 38 cents of 1878. The first were all sold in one hour and the others in a couple of days.

The 4 cent rose was again called into use and 50,000 more issued.

2 cents on 38 cents, violet; *black*.

2 cents on 4 cents, rose; *black*.

2 cents on 38c. on 9p., violet; *black*.

2 cents on 17 cents, rose; *black*.

Of the first variety Mr. Rae reports errors, having double surcharges, some having one inverted.

Of the second variety an inverted surcharge and a double surcharge, one being inverted.

Of the third variety the same errors as the last, with the addition of a double surcharge with one inverted and with no bar below the latter.

Of the fourth variety only an inverted surcharge is reported.

The 8 cents have just appeared with the "C. A." watermark.

8 cents, blue.

MEXICO—*Chiapas* (43).—*The Record* reports two more varieties of this local emission.

½ real, black on pale blue.

2 reales, black on white; half of 4 reales.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (45).—The color of the 20 cent has been changed to salmon.

20 cent de peso, salmon.

PUERTO RICO (45).—Mr. Corwin sends us the 1 cent in a new color. It was probably issued with the 5 cent noted a short time since. Perforate 14.

1 cent de peso, light green.

QUEENSLAND.—W. A. H. Connor sends us a six penny of the unwatermarked series on heavy paper which has every indication of being imperforate. Mr. Connor has seen other specimens of the same stamp in San Francisco that have even wider margins than his own specimen.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (46).—The new type of "O. S." surcharge has been applied to the 2½ penny.

O. S. 2½ pence, red and green; *black*.

SURINAM (46).—The new unpaid letter stamp which *The Philatelic Record* spoke of a short time since and which we mentioned last month is similar to the old type, but the numerals are much shorter and the word "Cents" has been added in the lower part of the white circle.

TOBAGO.—The four pence has been surcharged "2½ pence" in black, according to *Der Philatelist*.

2½ pence on 4p., gray; *black*.

URUGUAY (47).—*Le Timbre Poste* says that the eighth stamp in the third horizontal row of the provisional recently issued bears the date of 1391 instead of 1891.

ZULULAND (48).—The 2½ penny of Great Britain has been surcharged like the rest of this colony's stamps.

2½ penny, violet on blue; *black*.

ENVELOPES.

BAVARIA.—M. Moen mentions a new size of the 10 pfennig and expresses the opinion that it is one of the printed to order varieties.

10 pfennig, red; 140x119 mm.

There is no design on the flap.

GREAT BRITAIN.—*The Philatelic Record* states that the die used at Somerset House for printing the envelopes sent in by private parties now has the initials "S. H." on the neck.

POST CARDS.

BAVARIA.—*La Carte Postale* announces that the 5 pfennig now has the vertical undulations for a watermark and that the cards are dated "91."

5 pfennig, green; 91.

GERMANY (48).—The following should be added to the already long list:

5 pfennig, green.
791 b f.
891 a c d m.
991 a b f.
5x5 pfennig, green.
791 f.
891 f.
991 f.
10 pfennig, red.
791 b g.
891 c.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—*Der Philatelist* has one of the provisional cards which has a one penny stamp with the surcharge ½p.

½p. on 1 penny, orange on white.

PUTTIALLA.—How shall we spell the name of this state when the officials themselves don't seem to know what is correct? The latest envelopes were surcharged Patiala and now *The Philatelic Record* has received the ¼ anna card with the same. According to *Hunter's Imperial Gazetteer* this is the correct way, and the officials have apparently just found out that the old way was not correct.

¼ anna, brown; *black*.

SERVIA.—The 5 para cards are now printed entirely in green. Size, 144x95 mm.

5 paras, green on rose.
5x5 paras, green on rose.

SWITZERLAND.—We take the following list of varieties of these cards from *La Carte Postale:*

5 centimes, black; IV,'91.—3,624,000.
5 centimes, black; VII, '91.—3,144,000.
5x5 centimes, black; I, '91.—120,000.
10 centimes, carmine; VI,'91.—1,200,000.
10x10 centimes, carmine; VII,'90.—48,000.

LETTER CARDS.

PARAGUAY.—The cards that were announced as being in preparation some time ago are now in use. They are 142x86 mm., and have a stamp of the type of the current adhesives. The inscriptions are in two lines reading "Republica del Paraguay" and "Carta-Tarjeta Postal."

2 centavos, red on yellow.
3 centavos, blue on yellow.

TELEGRAPHS.

INDIA.—The designs of these stamps have been somewhat changed. The frame in the lower half contains the head of the Queen as before, but the upper half has large numerals of value, etc. The frames and inscriptions vary for each value. Watermarked Crown and India, perforate, 14.

1 anna, yellow-green.
2 annas, carmine-brown.
4 annas, blue.
3 annas, brown.
1 rupee, gray-green.

ST. LOUIS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first fall meeting of the St. Louis Philatelic Society was held Wednesday evening, November 18, by invitation of the president, Mr. J. K. Tiffany, at his handsome residence in the western portion of the city. After a thorough investigation by the members of Mr. Tiffany's collection of United States stamps and proofs, British North American stamps, and his celebrated collection of counterfeits, the meeting was called to order by the president, the following members responding to the roll call: Messrs. J. K. Tiffany, N. W. Chandler, W. T. Muennighaus, L. Flachskamm, Henry Flachskamm, William H. Nienstedt, F. W. Miller, I. A. Mekeel, C. J. Fuelscher, Ph. Conrath and William Martin. Mr. Chas. Plesse was present as a visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The following gentlemen were proposed and elected members of the society: Mr. Chas. Plesse by William Martin, Messrs. Dr. P. Rossberg, F. A. Miller, J. M. Shinkle, and Mr. M. A. Steffan, by C. J. Fuelscher.

The meeting day was changed to the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p. m.

Mr. Nienstedt was appointed to secure suitable down-town rooms for the meetings of the society.

Upon motion of Mr. L. Flachskamm, THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION was elected to succeed the *Standard Philatelist* as official organ of the society. A copy of the journal will be sent each month to every passive member of the society.

Mr. Tiffany proposed, in order to make future meetings of the society more enjoyable and instructive, that some member or members, at every meeting, suggest subjects relating to philatelic matters for members to discuss.

Editors of the various stamp journals in the city were requested to read before the society any interesting communication received.

After some unimportant business the meeting was brought to a close, but did not adjourn. Mr. Tiffany, to the surprise of all, invited the members to step into the dining-room, where an elegant lunch was served. It was after midnight when the gathering broke up with a renewed appreciation of the benefits to be derived from the science of Philately.

OUR CHICAGO FRIENDS.

CHICAGO, ILL., Nov. 10th.

The one hundred and twenty-third regular meeting, held Oct. 15th, was called to order by President Wolsieffer; the attendance including Messrs. Bradt, Dilg, Haskell, Janssen, Massoth, A. S. Pierce, Ross, Severn and Vidal, and as visitor, Mr. McRae, of Montreal, Canada.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read.

Treasurer Haskell submitted his third quarterly report for 1891, the same showing a cash balance of $177.63.

Librarian A. S. Pierce made a report as to the condition of the library upon its receipt from the ex-librarian.

A communication from President Tiffany, of the A. P. A., was read, asking for the names of the persons who would be recommended by the C. P. S. as suitable for committeemen on the Chicago portion of the A. P. A. World's Fair Committee.

Chairman Dilg of the committee on publication reported progress.

The Governing Committee reported having approved a bill from the librarian and having accepted the librarian's report.

Treasurer Haskell's report was accepted, and upon his recommendation Messrs. Turner and Claussenius, of Chicago, were dropped for non-payment of dues, and also passive members, Wilhelm, Wallis, O'Keefe and Willets.

In accordance with President Tiffany's communication, President Wolsieffer recommended Messrs. A. L. Holman, S. B. Bradt, Samuel Leland, W. Janssen and A. S. Pierce as representatives of the C. P. S. on the World's Fair Committee.

An auction sale followed with Mr. Dilg as auctioneer.

Adjournment at 10:15.

C. E. SEVERN, Sec'y.

The one hundred and twenty-fourth regular meeting was called to order by President Wolsieffer, the following members answering the roll: Bradt, Cottlow, Dilg, Haskell, Hosmer, Janssen, Kurzweg, Leland, Massoth, A. S. Pierce, Ross, Severn and Vidal; also present as visitor, Mr. L. H. Drury.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

Bills were received from the C. S. M. Publishing Co. and the secretary.

The resignation of C. A. Lentz was received. Also a donation to the World's Fair Fund from E. R. Aldrich, Benson, Minn.

Mr. Hosmer spoke in relation to the proposed joint publication of a stamp journal of the W. P. U. and C. P. S., and for the W. P. U. declines co-operation for stated reasons.

On the part of the C. P. S., it was decided to empower Mr. A. S. Pierce to correspond with and solicit rates from papers with a view of bestowing official organship of the society.

The society's banquet to take place at the last regular meeting in December, on the occasion of installation of new officers, was placed, with all preliminaries and arrangements, in the hands of the Governing Committee.

Messrs. A. S. Pierce and Dilg were appointed to audit the Treasurer's books for the year, as per constitution.

The Governing Committee approved the bills presented and accepted the resignation of C. A. Lentz, while the names of C. S. Sturgis, Chicago, and Mr. Gurley, Danville, Ill., were posted, the former proposed by Mr. Bradt and the latter by Mr. Massoth.

Adjournment 10:20.

C. E. SEVERN, Sec'y.

GALVESTON NOTES.

GALVESTON, TEX., Nov. 20.

The Galveston Philatelic Association's fourteenth semi-monthly meeting was attended by a large majority of active and several passive and honorary members. President A. Drouet, Jr. occupied the chair. The meeting was called to order at 7 p. m. The call of the roll of membership revealed the fact that only two members were absent, viz.: L. B. Higgins and G. T. Austin, and after the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, several prominent philatelists were admitted, among whom was Mr. John C. Becker of Bloomington, Ill., and Mr. Fred Martini of Galveston. Thanks were extended Mr. John C. Becker for his handsome donation to the now large library of the association. Mr. Martini was appointed temporary librarian in the absence of Mr. G. T. Austin. This was followed by the election of Mr. W. E. Grover as an honorary member, and on motion of Mr. J. B. Weiley the two young Uedeman brothers, local philatelists, were admitted. Mr. A. Brouet, Jr. donated a handsome set of counterfeits to the association, followed by a donation by Mr. Weiley to increase the library, of a copy of "The Stamp Collector's Directory." Mr. M. C. Harris also donated a copy of Merrill's Fraud List. Upon motion a vote of thanks was tendered the gentlemen for their liberality. An amount of money was appropriated for the printing of more approval sheets for the exchange department; also another appropriation for printing membership credential cards. The last letter of Mr. Roy F. Green, editor of the *Spy Glass*, the official organ of the G. P. A., was read, and thanks extended him for the interest he has taken in the association. After the transaction of other business of less importance, the meeting adjourned, to meet next the 26th inst.

The G. P. A. Convention will be held at the rooms of the association, December 26, 1891, at which candidates for office will be nominated. The election will occur one week thereafter, at the second semi-annual meeting of the association.

The interest manifested by the press in Philately is becoming more pronounced every day. Recently the Galveston *Daily News* came out with a two-column item devoted to Philately. Most of the information was gleaned from members of the G. P. A. It was headed Galveston's Philatelic Society.

At the last meeting of the G. P. A., there were some fine specimens of stamps

exhibited, among which were some fine high values of United States revenues.

Mr. J. B. Weiley, "Our Philatelic Humorist," always has an audience before and after the meetings of the G. P. A., telling his philatelic jokes and experiences, and generally keeping everyone convulsed with laughter while he is about.

Philatelists, if you have any papers or counterfeit stamps, do not throw them away, but send them to the "G. P. A." library and album, and they will be accepted with thanks.

The G. P. A. is now one of the leading societies in the South.

WALLACE SMITH.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

Having been elected official organ of both the Chicago and the St. Louis Philatelic Societies, our subscription list is larger by 250 on that account alone.

The fifty-second edition of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co.'s Catalogue will appear about December 20.

Our exchange department should be patronized by all collectors having duplicates, etc., to exchange. Send us your exchange notice for the next number, and watch for the result.

The Chicago Philatelic Society is the largest local organization of stamp collectors in America. It meets twice a month, and there is always a good attendance at the gatherings.

It is stated that there are more stamp collectors of the German nationality, in this country as well as in Europe, than of any other.

Judging from the reports of the most prominent dealers in this city, the stamp season of 1891–92 will surpass any previous season.

A number of letter carriers in the local post-office are starting collections, and it is surprising how rapidly they become familiar with stamps.

Miss Mary Chouteau, a descendant of the famous Laclede and Chouteau families, the founders of St. Louis, is the only lady collector in this city known to us.

An examination of the arrangement of Mr. Tiffany's collection is worth the small expense of joining the St. Louis society, and the interesting information to be derived from him, is invaluable to any collector.

Mr. A. E. Fritz, of Chicago, paid us another visit last month, and is as an enthusiastic a philatelist as can be found.

Mr. Charles Plesse, who has charge of the Southern Hotel news stand, in this city, has one of the best general collections among those of the younger class of collectors here. He displayed his increasing interest in Philately by joining the St. Louis Philatelic Society.

The second auction sale of the S. B. Bradt Co. was another success, for which Mr. Bradt deserves credit.

Having made arrangements with the Chicago Philatelic Society to publish their list of auction sales each month, beginning with the January number, we shall thereby offer many bargains to our numerous readers.

Mr. Joseph M. Shinkle, of this city, is another enthusiastic collector, and a newly acquired member of the St. Louis Philatelic Society.

It is reported that Mr. Tiffany, when showing his famous counterfeit collection to a noted collector here, did not reveal the nature of the stamps therein till after this collector had expressed great satisfaction and enthusiasm about the many rarities contained in it, to the amusement of all other gentlemen present.

The largest collection ever bought by a western dealer, was purchased by the Mound City Stamp Co. from Mr. L. Custer of this city, and comprised his collection of United States and foreign postage, United States Revenue, card, match and

medicine stamps, and his famous collection of unused entire United States envelopes. The price was $2,000 cash; it required an express wagon to transport the collection.

G. B. Calman, the wholesale dealer, and the Mound City Stamp Co. are the only two American stamp dealers who have been able to insure their stocks of stamps.

A prominent collector of this city complains to us of the manner in which a certain dealer sends him sheets. He received recently a lot valued at $150, without his request. Surely a poor method of doing business.

Five new members were admitted to the St. Louis Philatelic Society at the November meeting, and several more will be proposed at the next meeting. There is no reason why the society should not have one of the largest memberships in the country. It has now the most prominent collectors and dealers in the United States.

23rd AUCTION SALE

Chicago Philatelic Society,

To be held January 21st, 1892.

All bids to be for each lot, irrespective of the number of the pieces.

Address all bids and correspondence to the auctioneer:

A. R. NIEMZ, Beuno Park, Ill.

No. lot.		UNITED STATES.	No. in lot.
1	1853,	3c, white nar. cur. label, entire	1
2	1853,	3c, white nar. straight label, entire	1
3	1853,	3c, buff nar. straight label, entire	1
4	1864,	*6c, purple, entire	1
5	1875,	*War Dep't, 6c, red on white, end of env.	1
6	1875,	*War Dep't, 12c, red on white, end of env	1
7	1875,	War Dep't, 3c, red on amber, *fawn and blue	3
8	1879,	*6c, carmine, Scott's No. 392, entire	10
9	1883,	*2c, red, Scott's No. 403, entire	15
10	1884,	*2c, red, Scott's No. 434, entire	10
11	1884,	*2c, rose, Scott's Nos. 403, 410, 434, entire	14
12	1884,	*2c, brown on manila, Scott's No. 434, entire	25
13	1884,	*Same as above	25
14	1884,	*2c, red on fawn, Scott's No. 410, entire	25
15	1883,	*Scott's Nos. 392, 410, 403, entire	15
16	1883,	*Scott's Nos. 410, 323, 392, 403	8
17	1882,	*5c brown and 5c blue, Die B, on white	2
18	1883,	*4c, green on amber manila, and manila amber	3
19	1887,	*5c, blue on blue and buff	2
20	1887,	*4c, red on blue and buff	2
21	1882,	*2c, red on blue, star wmk., entire	1
22	1884,	*2c, red on fawn, "two links," entire	1
No. lot.		LOCALS AND REVENUES.	No. in lot.
23	1848,	Blood's penny post, black on bronze	3
24	1848,	Blood's blue on lilac, bronze on black, bronze on lilac (pair)	3
25	1851,	1c, horseman carrier, black	1
26		25c, ctf. dbl. perf., 2c, blue, roul., 3c, telegraph	3
27		4c, playing cards	1
28		5c, 15c, 15c uns. pair, inl. exch.	3
29		1c, 5c express, 2c, 15c inl. exch., 5c inl. ex. p. p., 2c, ctf. unperf.	6
30		25c, ctf. double perf	1
31		4c, proprietary rouletted	1
32		20c, inl. ex., 20c, inl. ex. part perf., 20c foreign ex., 2c express, 2c ctf.	6
33		2c, blue U. S. I. R., rouletted	1
34		10c blue, and 6c purple roul. proprietary	2
		CONFEDERATE.	
35	1861,	5c, light green, uns. pr. on env.	1
36	1861,	5c, dark green, on env.	1
37	1862,	5c, blue, uns. pr. on env.	1
No. lot.		FOREIGN.	No. in lot.
38	1870,	Angola, 100 reis mauve	1
39	1861,	*Austrian Italy, 3 sld. green ent. env.	1
40	1872,	*Barbados, 1d, rose, 1d rose and 2d blue reg.	3
41	1889,	Brazil newsp. 20r yellow and *20r green	2
42	1891,	British Guiana, 1c, on 1, 2 and 3 dollars	3
43	1868,	Canada, set	8
44	1871-85,	Ceylon env. 4c blue, 5c on 4c blue blk. surch	2

No. lot.		FOREIGN.	No. in lot.
45	1867,	Columbia, cubiertas 50c, fine	1
46	1860,	Columbia, cubiertas official, black on blue	1
47	1882,	Dominica, ½d on half of 1d, lilac, small surch.	1
48	1882,	Dominica, ½d on half of 1d, lilac, red surch.	1
49	1888,	Dutch Indies, 15c on 25c, entire env.	1
50	1866,	Ecuador, 4r, red	1
51	1867-83,	Great Britain, 5s rose, 2s 6d, lilac	2
52	1883-4,	Great Britain, 5s. rose, 2s 6d, lilac	2
53	1884,	Great Britain, 1£, violet, wmk. 3 crowns	1
54	1879,	*Guine, 25 reis. rose	1
55	1866,	*Hamburg, 3 sch. blue, entire env.	1
56	1875,	*India, Rajpeepla 4p, letter sheet	1
57	1890,	Jamaica, official, ½d, 1d, 2d	3
58	1856,	Mecklenburg-Schwerin, ½sch. green, env. cut to shape	1
59	1872,	Mauritius, 10d. maroon	1
60	1884,	Mexico, ½ of 25c, green on env.	1
61	1889,	Nicaragua, 5c on 10c, entire env.	1
62	1869,	St. Vincent, 4d, orange	1
63	1873,	*Shanghai, 1 can. on 4c, lilac	1
64	1881,	*Turks' Islands, ½ on 6d, grey, blk. surch	1
65	1881,	*Turks' Islands, ½ on 1s. slate	1
66	1881,	*Turks' Islands, 2½ on 6d, grey	1
67	1881,	*Turks' Islands, ½ on 1s. violet	1
68	1859,	Uruguay, 60c, slate	1
69	1859,	Uruguay, 120c, blue	1
70	1868,	Victoria, 5s. blue and carmine	1
71		Victoria, 1865, 1s, 1876, 1s., 1875, ½ on 1d, green	3
72	1884,	Victoria, Rev. used postally, 3s, 4s	2
73	1852,	Wurtemberg, 18kr, blk. on violet, corner torn	1
74		160 used and unused postal cards, some rare	1
75		Exchange book, property of W. A. McFadden, value $7.91	1
76		Exchange book, property of H. S. Harte, value $4.02	1
77		Exchange book, property of H. B. Wilben, value $15.81	1
78	1852,	pony express, San Francisco hand-stamp	1
79	1887,	2c on amber, Wells Fargo frank	1
80		Hussey local on orig. cover, fine	1
81		Bermuda, 1d, rose, 100 in lot	1
82	1887,	Bolivia, 2c, 100 in lot	1
83	1871,	Bolivia, 5c, green, 100 in lot	1
84		Canada, 2c, registered, 100 in lot	1
85		Columbia, 5c. blue, 100 in lot	1
86	1870,	United States, 3c, grilled 100 in lot	1
87		New South Wales, 1d, 100 in lot	1
88		New South Wales, 2d, 100 in lot	1
89		Trinidad, 1d, 100 in lot	1
90		Japan, 6 var. postal cards, 1 env.	1
91	1870,	Japan, same	1

* Means unused.

Next Sale will be held March 17th, 1892. Lots for this Sale should be in my hands not later than January 15th.

A. R. NIEMZ, Auctioneer, BEUNO PARK, ILL.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS.—One cent per word for each insertion. *No advertisement received for less than 25c.* All advertisements must be paid for in advance. All will be set in solid brevier type, no display allowed.

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100 varieties of foreign stamps, 25 cents. 100 varieties for 500 U. S. Send for approval sheets at 33⅓ per cent. discount. DILLON BROS., Danville, Ill., U. S. A.

I will buy for cash, collections of not less than 2000 varieties. Always enclose stamp for reply. ALBERT SCHIFF, 462 W. 44th St., New York City.

Agents, write for some of my sheets at 33⅓ per cent. discount. A lot of current issues Canadian stamps for sale. L. E. WIDDER, Goderich, Ontario, Canada.

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25 varieties, 7 cents; 100 varieties, 12 cents. Packet No. 8, 30 varieties, including Mexico, 15 cents. LAKE VIEW STAMP CO., 1612 Wellington St., Chicago, Ill.

Stamps for sale and to exchange. 15 varieties given away to each person applying for approval sheets at 33⅓ per cent. commission. F. D. SHAW, Medford, Wis.

Send a 2 cent stamp and promise to return in 10 days, and receive from CHAS. KELLY, West End, Atlanta, Ga., a fine lot of approval sheets at 33⅓ per cent. discount.

Parties having United States stamps to sell or exchange should correspond with us. We allow the highest prices. MOUND CITY STAMP CO., 1322 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Ten good stamps free to anyone sending 2c stamp for my approval sheets at 40% commission. THE W. H. BARNUM CO., 47 Livingston street, Cleveland O.

WANTED—Vol. 1, No. 2, "*Metropolitan Philatelist.*" Philatelic literature exchanged for same. Sample copies; correspondence, JOHN M. HOLT, 3 Bainbridge St., Brooklyn, N. Y., U. S. A.

U. S. 30-cent 1872 and 1888, unused, 40 cents each. Approval sheets, 40 per cent. commission. 100 mixed 6 cents. 100 varieties 12 cents. W. H. BARNUM CO., 47 Livingston St., Cleveland, O.

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80 Nassau St., NEW YORK.

JANUARY, 1892.

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EDITED BY
F. H. LITTLEFIELD

ISSUED BY
The Stamp Collectors Publishing Company
ST LOUIS, MO

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COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

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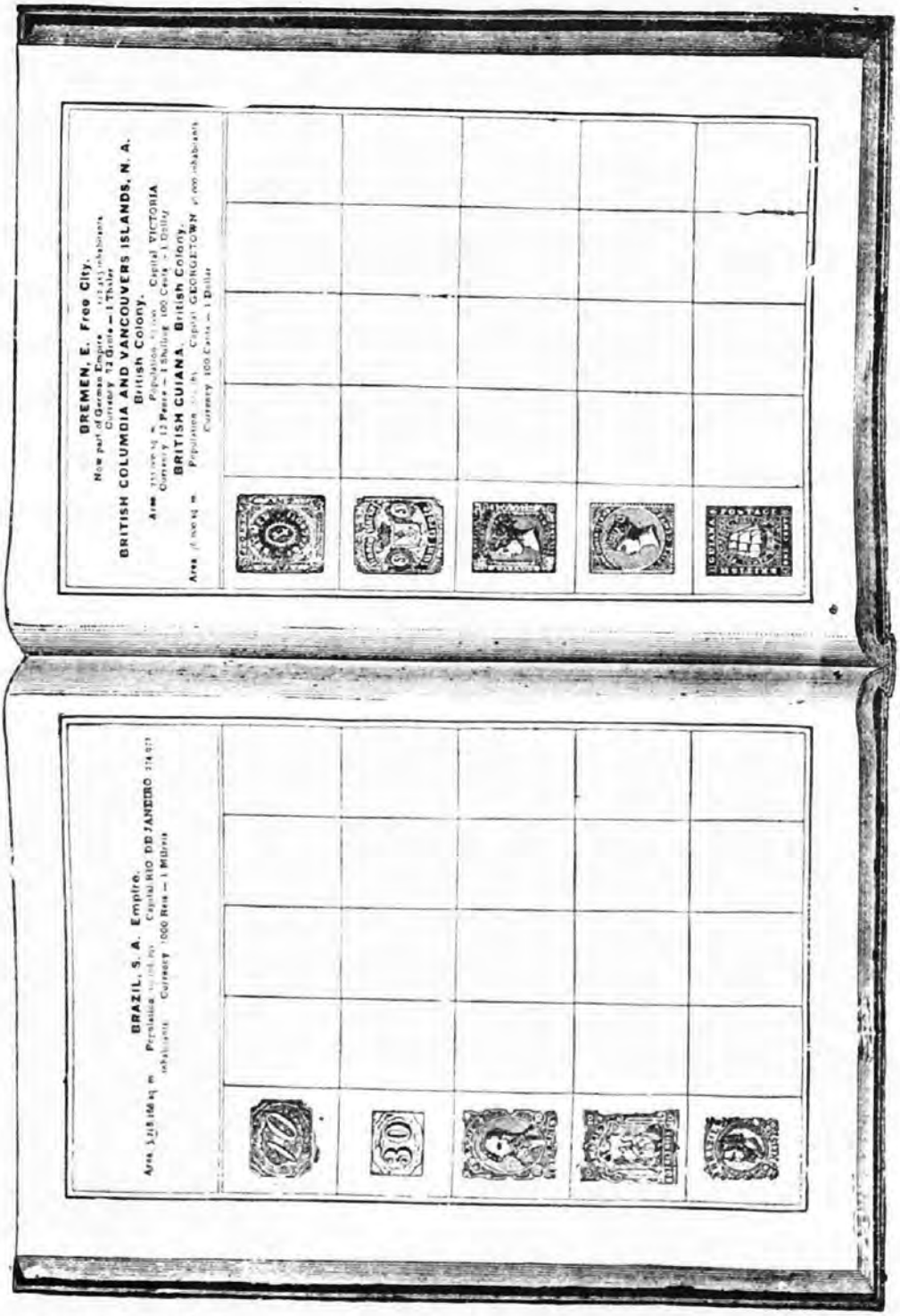

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NOTE:—SPECIAL NOTICE TO C. P. S. MEMBERS.—This page is reserved for our 24th Auction Sale, which will be held on March 17th, and will be advertised next month. Material for this sale should be sent to A. R. NIEMZ, BEUNO PARK, ILL., not later than Jan. 25th. Bids for these sales may be sent to any local member of the Society, who will execute them free of charge.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION.

VOL. I. JANUARY 1, 1892. NO. 4.

FIRST MONTH

CALENDAR.

31 - DAYS.

MOON'S PHASES,

	New York.	Saint Louis.
First Q.	6th, 8 o'clock, 16 min., evening.	6th, 7 o'clock, 12 min., evening.
Full M.	13th, 10 o'clock, 31 min., evening.	13th, 9 o'clock, 26 min., evening.
Last Q.	21st, 10 o'clock, 46 min., evening.	21st, 9 o'clock, 42 min., evening.
New M.	29th, 11 o'clock, 42 min., morning.	29th, 10 o'clock, 38 min., morning.

D. M.	D. W.	∴ Philatelic Events. ∴	☾'s pl. Const.	CALENDAR. For New York City, Conn., R.I., N.J., Penn., Ohio, Ind., Ill., Io. and Neb. Sun rises h. m.	Sun sets h. m.	Moon sets h. m.	Sun Slow. — m.	CALENDAR. For Virginia, West Va., Del., Md., Ky., Mo., Kan., Col. and Wyoming. Sun rises h. m.	Sun sets h. m.	Moon sets h. m.
1	Fri	1819, Sardinia, Hand Stamped Sheets, 1820 Embossed Stamp.	♑	7 25	4 43	6 18	4	7 16	4 51	6 29
2	Sat	1864, France, Fiscal, 20c Receplsses, Chemins de fer.	♑	7 25	4 44	7 31	4	7 16	4 52	7 40
(1)	2d Sunday after Christmas.	Venus in Capricornus. 9h. 20m. Day's length. 9h. 36m.								
3	Su	1853, Cape of Good Hope, 1st issue, 1d brick, blue paper, Anchor.	♑	7 25	4 45	8 45	5	7 17	4 53	8 53
4	Mo		♑	7 25	4 46	9 59	5	7 17	4 54	10 4
5	Tu	1856, United States, 5c, Jefferson, brown, unperforated.	♑	7 25	4 47	11 11	6	7 17	4 55	11 14
6	We	1885, St. Pierre Miquelon, surcharged French stamps.	♒	7 25	4 48	morn	6	7 17	4 56	morn
7	Th	1882, British Guiana, 1c and 2c provisional, Ship Type, set.	♒	7 25	4 49	0 24	6	7 17	4 57	0 25
8	Fri	1872, Chili, Post Cards, for general use, unstamped.	♒	7 25	4 50	1 37	7	7 16	4 57	1 35
9	Sat	1878, Russia, local, for Ostaschkoff (Tver) 5 Kop. Solferino.	♒	7 24	4 51	2 49	7	7 16	4 58	2 45
(2)	1st Sunday after Epiphany.	Mars in Libra. 9h. 28m. Day's length. 9h. 43m.								
10	Su	1866, Uruguay, Arms and Large Numerals, set.	♒	7 24	4 52	4 2	8	7 16	4 59	3 56
11	Mo	1882, South Australia, first newspaper wrapper, ½d, violet.	♒	7 24	4 53	5 13	8	7 16	5 0	5 5
12	Tu	1856, Cuba, Philippines and Porto Rico, fiscals, Dro Judicial, set.	♓	7 24	4 54	6 21	9	7 16	5 1	6 12
13	We	1865, Turkey, 2 issue, perforated, Star and Crescent, large surch'e	♓	7 23	4 55	rises	9	7 15	5 2	rises
14	Th	1853, England, plate No. 161, of 1d, approved.	♈	7 23	4 56	5 24	9	7 15	5 3	5 35
15	Fri	1862, England, 4d, large garter; and 9d, flowers, small letters in angles	♈	7 23	4 57	6 30	10	7 15	5 4	6 39
16	Sat	1884, Peru, 10s, gray.	♈	7 22	4 58	7 35	10	7 15	5 5	7 42
(3)	2d Sunday after Epiphany.	Jupiter in Aquarius. 9h. 31m. Day's length. 9h. 51m.								
17	Su	1877, Dutch Indies, 2½c, yellow.	♈	7 22	4 59	8 37	10	7 14	5 6	8 43
18	Mo	1860, France, fiscals, Effets de Commerce, Commerce and Eagle.	♈	7 21	6 1	9 38	11	7 14	5 7	9 42
19	Tu	1881, Eastern Roumelia, Turkish stamps of 1876, surcharged R. O.	♉	7 21	5 2	10 38	11	7 13	5 8	10 40
20	We	1863, Wurtemberg, Envelopes, large inscription, 2d seal.	♉	7 20	5 3	11 37	11	7 13	5 9	11 37
21	Th	1858, Poland, Envelope, for city letters, Varsovie.	♉	7 20	5 4	morn	12	7 12	5 10	morn
22	Fri	1888, Germany, local, Privat Stadt Post, Giessen.	♉	7 19	5 5	0 37	12	7 12	5 11	0 35
23	Sat	1864, France, fiscals, Effets de Commerce, head Napoleon III.	♉	7 18	5 6	1 38	12	7 11	5 13	1 34
(4)	3d Sunday after Epiphany.	Saturn in Virgo. 9h. 51m. Day's length. 10h. 3m.								
24	Su	1888, Argentine Republic, Letter Cards, 2c blue.	♉	7 17	5 8	2 41	12	7 11	5 14	2 36
25	Mo	1884, Mauritius, Post Card.	♉	7 17	5 9	3 46	13	7 10	5 15	3 39
26	Tu	1884, Uruguay, 2c of 1882, surcharged, Provisorio 1884.	♉	7 16	5 10	4 52	13	7 9	5 16	4 43
27	We	1852, United States, Carrier (eagle), withdrawn from use.	♊	7 15	5 11	5 53	13	7 9	5 17	5 45
28	Th	1851, Prussia, Envelopes, for use of King and Queen.	♊	7 14	5 12	6 49	13	7 8	5 19	6 40
29	Fri	1841, England, 1d Embossed Envelope, first issued.	♊	7 14	5 14	sets	13	7 8	5 20	sets
30	Sat		♊	7 13	5 15	6 26	14	7 7	5 21	6 34
(5)	4th Sunday after Epiphany.	Uranus in Libra. 10h. 4m. Day's length. 10h. 16m.								
31	Su	1846, Russia, Envelope for Moscow.	♋	7 12	5 16	7 44	14	7 6	5 22	7 49

THE STAMPS OF MEXICO.

ISSUES OF 1879-82.

[CONTINUED.]

With this number we complete the illustration of the remaining values and colors of the Mexican issues of 1879–82. The principal point of difference found in the two issues is in the paper—thick being used for that of 1879, and thin for that of 1882. The design in all cases is the same, the values and colors and paper alone varying. In our last issue the illustrations comprised the 1c brown, 2c violet, 5c orange, 10c blue and 25c carmine, of the 1879 issue. Of that issue there remain the 50c green, 85c violet and 100c black. These we present without further comment.

Taking up the issue of 1882, we find that all the values and colors of 1879 issue appear here, too; but on thin paper, of course. In addition we also have the 2c slate, 10c brown (error), 12c brown, 18c red brown, 24c violet, 25c red brown (error), 50c yellow and 100c orange. The last named two we illustrated in our October number, and therefore omit them here. We thus limit our illustrations this month to those stamps of the 1882 issue which are not duplicates of the 1879 issue in color; the design, of course, is always the same. It may be of interest to recall here that the 10c brown (error) appears both with and without perforations; the latter, of course, being far more valuable of the two. Another matter of interest is the fact that the 85c violet on thin paper has never been found with the office number thereon, as described in our last number. Though the writer has probably handled more of these stamps than any one else, he has yet to see one with the number thereon. The 2c of 1882, thin paper, appears in violet as well as slate, but in the former case is, of course, a duplication of the 1879 issue in all but paper.

THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO.

Mexico, to use the average school-boy's definition, is a country of the Western Hemisphere, bounded on the north by the United States, on the west and south by the Pacific Ocean and on the southeast and east by Honduras, Guatemala and the Gulf of Mexico. On the eastern coast extends the peninsula of Yucatan into the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west the peninsula of Old or Lower California is almost completely separated from Mexico by the Gulf of California—a long, narrow body of water running parallel with the peninsula. The highest mountains in Mexico are Popocatepetl, 5,390 meters; the Atlatepetl, 5,449 meters; Iztaccihuatl, 4,785 meters, and Cafre de Perote, 4,071 meters. All are partly, or have been, volcanic. Jorullo, but 1,160 meters high, however, has been the most active in the country. The rivers of Mexico are of little importance. The Rio Grande del Norte forms the northern boundary. Besides this are the Rio de Tampico, Rio de Guazacualco, and the Rio de Tabasco. These flow into the Gulf of Mexico. On the Pacific coast are the Rio Grande de Santiago, Rio Gageci. Among the lakes are Tezcuco, Xochimilco, Chalco, San Christoval and Zumpango, all in the valley of Tenochtlan.

Mexico is composed of these states: Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Sonora, Campeche, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Vera Cruz, Yucatan, Chiapas, Colima, Guerrero, Jalesco, Nuchoagan, Oaxaca, Sinaloa, Aguas Calientes, Durango, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Mexico, Morelos, Puebla, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Tlascala and Zacatecas, the federal district Mexico and the territory of Lower California. The bulk of the inhabitants are Indians and half-breeds. The prominent cities are the City of Mexico, with 400,000 inhabitants; Guadalajara 100,000, and Puebla 100,000.

The principal exports are gold, silver, lead, iron, coffee, sugar, cocoa, vanilla, sarsaparilla, jalap, cochineal, mahogany and logwood.

Now for historical matters. Of ancient matters we will not deal, but rather of the modern. From 1848 to 1861 the country was constantly in a state of revolution, which was the cause of several changes in presidents. In 1861 Juarez became dictator. Then Mexico, through various causes, became involved in disputes with England, France and Spain, and these powers landed troops in the revolution-ridden country. England and Spain soon withdrew, but France kept on advancing her troops toward Puebla, which city was captured after a month's siege. Next, at France's behest, Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian was chosen emperor, this occurring April 10, 1864. On the 12th of June Maximilian entered the capital. It was not long until the French troops were withdrawn (1866), and the republican element began to disturb the new emperor. He gathered his troops in Queretaro, but that city soon capitulated to the insurgents (May 15, 1867), the emperor and Generals Mejia and Miramon being made prisoners. A court-martial condemned them to death, and they were shot June 19. Juarez again became president. In 1871 another election was held, but as neither of three candidates secured a sufficient vote, Juarez again claimed the office. Again revolution broke out, but Juarez was unable to suppress it. He died in 1872, however, and October 16 of that year Lerda de Tajeda succeeded to the office. In 1874 another small revolution, over the civil marriage question, was checked. In 1876 Tajeda was again chosen president, but Porfirio Diaz, starting a revolution, compelled him to flee to San Francisco. Diaz then became president, serving a full term. In 1880 Diaz was succeeded by Gen. Manuel Gonzales, who in turn was succeeded by Diaz, who was again re-elected in 1888, but only after a forced change in the constitution. His term expires this year.

VICTOR SUPPANTSCHITSCH.

From the *Borsen Courier* we take the portrait, here presented, of Victor Suppantschitsch. To him must be given a place in the history of philately of no small importance. Born October 31, 1838, in Laibach, Krain, Austria; he was the son of a merchant. In 1857 he graduated from the high school of his native town, and after much time spent in travel through Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, Switzerland and Italy, he entered the University of Vienna, where he studied law. Graduating in 1862, he has gradually risen until now he holds a high place. He became a stamp collector through the death of his brother, who left him a small collection of stamps. He continued to add to it and thereby built up an immense correspondence with collectors all over the world. He became editor of the first German stamp journal, the *Magazin fuer Briefmarken*, and soon was one of the best known of stamp authorities in the world.

In 1870 he became associate editor of the Vienna *Briefmarken Zeitung*, also writing articles for other journals. This work he has kept up to the present day. In 1882 the death of his most intimate friend, F. Meyer, nearly caused the subject of our sketch to forsake his chosen field. Recovering, however, from his grief, he has been since more earnest, if that were possible, in the advancement of the science of philately, but in a purely literary way. He disposed of his immense collection, and devoted his time to writing.

Among his works are a monograph on "Afghanistan, her post and postage stamps," a "Guide to Philately" (1880) and others. The guide mentioned attracted attention from all over the world and received a most cordial reception from all philatelists; it was also honored with the bronze medal of the French Society. In 1882 appeared an album prepared by Suppantschitsch for Moritz Schauenburg, and a number of smaller editions intended for beginners. These have been, since that time, considered one of the most perfect album issues ever known. In 1888 the same publisher issued, with Suppantschitsch as preparer, a patent permanent world's stamp album, in six volumes. Suppantschitsch has long been, by reason of his prominence, an honorary member of the Hamburg and Graz Philatelic Societies, and, in consideration of his eminence, was a judge during the first international postal exhibition, at Vienna in April, 1890.

THE ISSUES OF THE PAST YEAR.

BY L. G. R.

The new issues of a year are always an interesting study to the philatelist. When the advanced collector looks over his album and sees new faces on the latest issues of stamps, in place of the old familiar ones, he recognizes that new men and new principles are coming to the front. When he sees the emblems of a republic displayed on stamps which always before have borne the coat of arms of a kingdom, he rejoices that in another country the power of the few has been broken and the government placed in the hands of the natural sovereigns, the people. Yet when he turns to the provisionals of a country racked by revolution, he finds that the millennium is as far off as ever, and that selfishness and greed still array brother against brother in civil war.

But the average collector does not stop to moralize thus. He notices any particular novelties chronicled in his philatelic journal, smiles at the latest freak in surcharges, and then passes on in search of more interesting reading. Yet the new issues of a year will generally repay a careful examination, and those of 1891 are no exception to this rule. The first thing to be noticed in this connection is the remarkably large number of varieties issued during the year just closed. I have carefully counted the new issues, taking as a basis one of the most reliable chronicles published, and I find that, counting only postage stamps and including none of the minute differences in paper, watermark, perforation or shades of color, there were 413 distinct varieties issued during 1891. If we include the varieties of paper, watermarks, etc., instead of 413 varieties we have at least 1000, and as for the Crœsus, who, besides collecting postage stamps, also attempts to accumulate envelopes, postal cards, telegraphs and revenues, he will have to find room in his album for at least 2000 specimens.

Since most collectors find quite enough to do in collecting postage stamps alone, without delving into any other branch of philately, I also will confine myself to postage stamps in this article. When we look into the matter fully we find that the surcharge is largely responsible for this flood of varieties. Out of the 413, 226 or considerably more than half, were old issues surcharged with a new value. Many philatelists believe that the collecting of surcharges is no longer indulged in to any great extent, and, no doubt, the active war waged on these dangerous varieties in our leading magazines, and by some of the foremost philatelists in the world, has done a great deal toward discouraging their collection. Yet there are still many dealers who advertise them at fancy prices and they must find buyers for this trash or they would no longer so advertise. The philatelic magazines continue to chronicle surcharges along with the legitimate stamps of new design, and I have included them in reckoning up the new issues, because many include them in their collections and not because I think they ought to be collected.

Leaving out of consideration the almost unlimited possibilities for fraud, every collector should ask himself whether he can afford to buy two stamps exactly alike, one with a surcharge, and the other without, when there are so many stamps of entirely different design to be bought for the same money. The collector of to-day is in a trying position; on one hand he sees many interesting and valuable stamps, issued years before he began to collect, becoming rarer and consequently more unattainable every day; on the other he sees constantly increasing multitudes of uninteresting varieties, which the leaders of fashion in stamp collecting have decreed must be secured by those who wish to be called philatelists. But many philatelists have asserted their independence of this senseless fashion which, it

is to be hoped, is no longer the prevailing one. Some writers seem to think, since more surcharges are being issued than ever before, that the crusade against this bane of philately has been of no effect. They argue from the standpoint that the surcharge owes its existence to philately; that surcharged stamps are made simply to sell to collectors, and that if collectors ceased buying, the Post-office officials would immediately stop overprinting their stamps. I do not quite agree with them in this respect. It is too true that many surcharges are made as a means of speculation, but I am of the opinion that these speculations have not paid very well lately; that the surcharge is getting to be a drug on the market, and that some dealers wish they had not quite so large a stock of them on hand.

But philately is not wholly to blame for this surplus. If collectors were to unanimously decide not to pay more for a stamp with a surcharge on it, than for the same stamp unsurcharged, it would undoubtedly prevent the Post-office officials from bringing out many more such speculations; but I think some stamps would still be surcharged as a means of convenience. It is very much cheaper and easier, when one value is exhausted, to overprint some other stamp with that value, than to take all the trouble and expense of preparing new designs and new plates; therefore, those countries which are not burdened with much spare cash, will probably continue to use the surcharge. But this fact does not oblige us to collect them. Surcharges are, no doubt, collectible, but I have little more interest in them than in the cancellation mark. Although stamps will probably be overprinted for many years to come, I hope and believe that the collecting of surcharges on their own account will soon be a thing of the past.

The beautiful stamps issued by Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, under the Seebeck speculation system are among the most notable of the year. It is a singular fact that since the stamps of these countries have been issued on the speculative plan, they have been immeasurably superior, both in design and execution, to those of the other American republics. The 1891 set of Salvador is especially fine, and in engraving, coloring, and beauty of design is worthy of comparison with any set ever issued.

There have been some changes in the stamp issuing countries during the year. The stamps of the Leeward Islands have taken the place of those of Antigua, Virgin Islands, Nevis, St. Christopher, Dominica and Montserrat. Terra Del Fuego, too, that thinly populated island at the extreme southern point of South America has joined the procession and issued a local stamp. The reasons for its existence are not very plain, unless it is another speculation. The design is none too artistic, but it is far preferable to most surcharges. Both the British East Africa and the British South Africa Company have issued their first sets of stamps, and I have heard some rumors that the British Central Africa Company has also brought out one or two values by means of the usual surcharge.

The little French colony of Diego Suarez which surprised us last year by those artistic (?) stamps, has just made another infantile attempt at issuing a provisional. I have not seen a specimen of it yet, but to judge from the comments of the press it is no more admired than its predecessors. These numerous provisionals are getting to be a nuisance. French Congo and Madagascar have recently got out some about as meritorious as the Diego Suarez, and next year we are to have separate stamps from each of a dozen or more French colonies. Verily, it is most remarkable what a large number of stamps some of these little islands and colonies use; or rather it would be re-

markable if we did not know that about nine-tenths of the sales are made to stamp dealers and collectors. This issuing of stamps for the purposes of speculation is a bad thing for philately, but there seems to be no means of lessening the evil.

The baby King of Spain has a rival in our albums. The first of a new series of stamps for the Netherlands has just been issued, bearing the portrait of eleven years old Queen Wilhelmina, and although they are not the novelty that the baby stamps of Spain were, they are very interesting. Several other countries, besides those which I have mentioned have issued stamps but none of them are especially noteworthy, the designs in most cases being commonplace. A few of the British colonies have issued stamps bearing the familiar head of Queen Victoria, with altered frame and lettering; and Bolivia, Monaco, Hayti, Sweden, Argentine, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivar and Luxembourg have brought out new stamps, none of which, however, are particularly striking.

Now we have entered on a new year and 1891 is a thing of the past. Let us unite in wishing that during the present year philately may advance still farther; that the interest manifested by its votaries may increase; and that the speculative provisional and the surcharge will take their proper places beside the counterfeit, to be shunned by every true philatelist.

IS PHILATELY A SCIENCE?

BY J. DE Q. D.

Since philately is a pursuit whose history reaches back but half a century, we collectors of the present are only laying foundations as yet, and find many things with reference to our favorite hobby still unsettled. Prominent among these is the question as to its very nature, whether a science or not. Outsiders readily enough answer the question by scoffing at the mere suggestion that the collection of stamps—for such they conceive philately to be and nothing else—is a science, whilst philatelists themselves have generally been too modest heretofore to more than hint that they considered it to be such. And even the staunchest philatelic journals generally avoid raising the question, making the assertion that philately is a science—if they do so at all—apologetically and in a half-quizzical manner. But why should things be so? Philately *is* a science when tried by all the tests that determine the right to that title. Why not, then, boldly assert the fact and gain the increased respect and attention that this truth, when recognized, would certainly secure from the world in general?

The term science in its broadest sense means simply knowledge, so that knowledge of any subject is properly the science of that subject. Understood in this way, we may have a science of anything, from ash piles to theology. But usage has further limited the term to those subjects of knowledge which are capable of systematic arrangement and which are of sufficient practical importance, or reasonable interest, to justify such an orderly arrangement of the matters with which they are concerned. If this, then, is a fair statement of the qualifications necessary for a new aspirant to the dignity of a science, we see at once why the knowledge of ash piles—for instance—could never assume that name. It is because, while a considerable amount of information could doubtless be collected concerning these very common objects, it is scarcely possible that this knowledge could be systematized. One might collect memoranda of 10,000 ash piles, noting the position, origin and composition of each, and yet he would never be able to bring them under any satisfactory classification or to lay down any rules governing them. And even if he did succeed in

these particulars, he would still fail of establishing a science of ash piles, for he could never demonstrate to the world that this classified knowledge was in any way useful or capable of yielding pleasure or profit to those who acquired it.

Let us, then, test philately by the aid of this illustration. Does its subject-matter readily lend itself to systematization? It it either useful or a source of pleasure? There can be no doubt as to the answer to the first question. Not only is the knowledge of stamps capable of orderly arrangement, but it is probably susceptible of a more complete and purely scientific, of a more demonstrably exact classification than the subject-matter of any science known to man, excepting, perhaps, mathematics. The complete stamp catalogue is the handbook of our science; it corresponds to the text-book of the grammarian or rhetorician, to the manual of the botanist or mineralogist, and is it not more complete, more satisfactory than any of these?

Grammar and rhetoric are sciences having different systems, different terminologies, different rules as expounded by various authors; philately offers but one system and one set of facts, no matter who treats of it.

Botany and mineralogy classify an immense number of facts as to plants and minerals, but these are placed differently as one or another investigator is followed, whilst the most complete manual of either of these sciences can give us no guarantee that it is perfectly exhaustive; on the contrary, we know that the best of them are far from complete; that there are still plants and minerals which no man has yet discovered; that there have been plants, and perhaps minerals, in ages past which no man ever will discover. The stamp catalogue, however, always proceeds by the same method of classification. Its arrangement of the sets issued by a country in chronological order, of the stamps in a set according to denomination, is so natural and obvious that they could be arranged in no other way. Besides this, the data of philately are perfectly known. It is barely possible, but no more than possible, that there may be a few insignificant stamps and trifling varieties which are still unknown to the most complete catalogue, but even if this is so, the fact still remains that philately, coming this near to a perfect account of all stamps, is the most exact of all sciences.

The only ground, then, on which the title of a true science can be denied to philately is in showing that it is so trivial in its nature that to call it a science would be ridiculous. Nearly all who are unacquainted with the pleasures, as well as advantages of collecting, unhesitatingly take this position. The days of persecution for the philatelist are by no means past yet, despite the great advances which the science has recently made. But it requires few words to expose the injustice and silliness of those who still ridicule stamp collecting as a "childish fad," shutting their eyes to its manifest advantages, while with the rest of the world they yield due respect to many other pursuits having far less excuse for their existence. It is not within the scope of this article to make a full argument as to the educational and other uses of philately. They have been so often and so ably presented that it will scarcely be denied that an intelligent study of stamps teaches geography and history, to make no further claims as to art and higher branches. Is not philately useful, then? More useful, more practical, than the study of worms and bugs, to whom learned pedants give sesquipedalian names and benefit the world not an iota thereby? More useful in the aggregate of popular education which it effects than many a musty and exclusive science, before the very sound of whose name all men bow with infinite respect. We must not forget, also, that

many fads are followed, and even exalted into sciences, whose sole object is to amuse and not to instruct. Philately is certainly superior to any of these in that it instructs besides affording recreation.

But the mere reason that it affords harmless and rational amusement is generally recognized as sufficient excuse for the existence of a pursuit or even science. What science of recreation, then, if we call it but that, has a more absorbing fascination for its devotees than philately? For one who has ever had the "fever" course through his veins there is no escape. Once a collector always a collector, tells the tale of his life. Equally creditable to philately, as showing its superior character, are the ranks of its followers. They come largely from the educated classes. Lawyers, physicians, clergymen are a numerous element; even noblemen and kings, statesmen and authors of world-wide reputation, go to swell the total. This being so, and the reasons why philately *is* a science being unanswerable let us boldly assume and vindicate that title for our beloved science until the whole world acknowledges and accepts it.

HOW SHALL WE COLLECT?

BY L. G. Q.

There has always been more or less discussion among philatelists as to whether it were better to collect the stamps of all nations, or only those of a single country or group of countries.

A quarter of a century ago there was no need to consider such a question. At that time the task of a collector was comparatively easy. Not a third of the present number of stamps had then been issued; the surcharge had not begun to vex the soul of the philatelist, and it was not then "the thing" to place a high value on accidental errors of printing and manufacture. O, happy collector of 1866! Your brother of to-day has not so straight a road to travel. He suffers from an embarrassment of riches. Not only has every year witnessed the introduction of many new issues, but the surcharge has given us two or three thousand varieties; and to cap the climax, some advanced collectors, evidently not finding enough in the collection of bona-fide stamps of government issue to occupy their time, have set the fashion of accumulating all sorts of uninteresting varieties, shades of color, errors in spelling, minute differences in perforation, counterfeits, etc.

Thus, when we look over the philatelic field, we see an almost unlimited number of varieties which can be fairly called collectible, and the question arises whether we shall attempt to traverse this trackless ocean of varieties, or shall limit our operations in some manner. It requires the expenditure of large sums of money and much time to approach a complete collection, and as most philatelists are not overburdened; either with spare time or spare cash (more especially the latter) we find that our collections are necessarily limited. The collection of the late T. K. Tapling, M. P., is probably as nearly a complete one as it is possible to find, and it certainly ought to be, valued as it is at £50,000 ($250,000). One who has such an amount of money to spend on a hobby can afford to collect everything, but I will venture to say there are very few of my readers who expect to spend even one two hundred and fiftieth of that sum on their collections.

It is evident, therefore, that some limitations must be made, and in this dilemma the advanced collector comes forward with his plan: "Do not collect the stamps of all countries, but only those of a few—whichever interests you most. In this way you will have a good chance to make a complete collection of the stamps of such countries, to secure every minute difference in color, or paper, or

perforation; every error of printing; in short, every possible variety that can be discovered."

This is, in brief, an epitome of the mode of collecting, commonly called specialism. The plan has met with some favor in various localities, notably in England, where many philatelists are confining their collections to Great Britain and her colonies; but in the United States, although a few are specializing, the great body of collectors is still filling the spaces of albums without particular system. This collecting without method is doubtless unsatisfactory, but is still preferred by many to the limiting and narrowing of their efforts to a few countries.

Now, do not think I am going to advise you to specialize, for I am not. I recognize, as well as anyone, the impossibility of collecting everything, but I do not think the collecting of the stamps of a few countries, instead of those of all, is the only or the best way of limiting our philatelic efforts. Some writers claim that there is more of interest in a special collection than there is in a general collection. I do not agree with them. How is it, reader? Is it not more interesting to look over an album containing stamps from every continent and every island; from every country, whether it be large or small, whether it be republic, empire, colony or principality, than one containing stamps from some dozen countries only in one corner of the globe.

Another argument of the specialist is that, by that plan, you will have a better chance of completing your collection, and will be able to go deeper into the study of the minor varieties and errors. Now, right here I want to ask these specialists a question. Can we afford to spend money for several stamps having the same design, but differing slightly in perforation or paper, when there are so many stamps of original and interesting designs which can be bought for the same money? I say that we cannot afford it. Others may think differently, and, of course, each one has a right to collect what he or she chooses, but I cannot help thinking that philately has fallen back a step when I see so much attention paid to unimportant and unintentional errors. I cannot see how a man who is not the possessor of every original stamp ever issued, can afford to spend his money for a surcharged stamp or a variety of perforation or watermark.

The crusade against the surcharge has been of great value to philately, and now that we have vanquished that enemy, let us attack another. This time the reformation is aimed at the multitude of varieties which so confuse and dismay the collector by their multiplicity.

Why do our cataloguers and philatelic writers consider it necessary to describe every trifling difference so carefully? Why is it that our stamp journals contain so much matter descriptive of these contemptible varieties, and so little which is really helpful and entertaining to the average collector? What use has anyone, but the most advanced collector, for a long and learned treatise concerning the surcharge on the stamps of Mexico, such as has recently appeared in one of our leading magazines? Why has it become the fashion to value a stamp bearing a rare surcharge or rare error more highly than the same stamp undisfigured, either by any accident or by any overprint?

If we leave out of consideration surcharges, errors and varieties of every kind (and why should we notice them?) and count only those stamps having a difference in design, we find the number of stamps greatly reduced and the necessity of limiting our collections far less urgent. By avoiding these uninteresting varieties, we find our task greatly simplified, although even then few of us can ever have the satisfaction of seeing all our

spaces filled. But what if we are not able to secure a complete collection? That does not oblige us to limit our efforts to a few countries. I would greatly prefer owning a collection of 1,000 stamps containing specimens from 200 different countries, than to have 1,000 stamps from only 20 countries.

One of the greatest pleasures to be derived from philately is the comparison of the stamps of countries differing widely in civilization. We note with interest the characteristics of a nation as pictured on its stamps. The dragon on the stamps of China denotes a rude, half-civilized, superstitious people; while the stamps of our own republic, bearing the portraits of our greatest soldiers and statesmen, indicates the existence of a far higher and nobler plane of civilization. How much he loses who confines his collection to the stamps of Britain and her dependencies? What a collection it must be in which on page after page nothing is to be seen but a succession of portraits of Queen Victoria! How monotonous such a collection must be compared with one containing stamps from every quarter of the globe; stamps adorned with symbolic pictures, with portraits of the most famous men of the day, with coats of arms, with landscapes, with historic scenes and with hundreds of other interesting devices and emblems. Which collection is the best? The one representing specialism or the one displaying a general field of work. Which would be most entertaining and instructive? The answer cannot, it seems to me, be uncertain for a moment. I know, at any rate, that my answer would not. Each collector must decide this question for himself. No one can dictate what shall be collected. I, myself, long since decided which plan to follow, and in this article I have attempted to present a few of my reasons for preferring general collecting to specialism. Having now presented the question fairly, I leave it with you for your decision, confident that in your verdict specialism will be "weighed in the balance and found wanting."

THOSE DEAR OLD DAYS.

BY G. W. G.

Those dear old days! Who does not recall them? The time when your philatelic horizon was of a roseate hue and vast possibilities loomed before you? When you were thrilled with a constant excitement? In those days you were young and hopeful. Everything had to you the zest and flavor of new wine. You tasted of that which was new, and went into ecstacies.

And so one day you began the collection of stamps. It matters very little how you came to enter philately's paths. The fact remains that you entered them, and with that we are concerned at present. I imagine that for a time you collected in secret, afraid of the jeers of your companions. But perhaps you did not. Mayhap you lived in one of those favored communities where collectors were not a rarity, and whose surroundings live in your memory to-day like a beautiful picture. If you were thus fortunate, you were indeed to be envied.

But time went on, and one day you saw a stamp paper. It concerns us not, whether it consisted of two or thirty pages. Your philatelic experiences had known no such publication before, and you paused, amazed, before this new shrine, to which, in the future, you were to pay your devotions. The chances are ten to one that you subscribed to the journal before you were a day older, and the probabilities are *twenty* to one that your name remained on its books until it was finally sucked down within the whirlpool of suspension. For who can willingly desert his first love? And who can forsake the virgin stamp paper of his collecting life without a pang? Of that familiar old paper, somewhere among your treasures you still preserve copies; and the other day when you ran across them in one of your peregrinations through

the attic you knew exactly what you should find within the well-worn covers. The editorial page with its terse paragraphs and wonderful offers of premium stamps and albums to subscribers and advertisers, was as fresh in your memory when you blew the dust from its leaves last week, as when you first eagerly read its golden promises. You recollected perfectly the ponderous articles which used to appear regularly on the first page, and could even recall most of the subjects treated.

And then the advertisements. How can you ever forget them? To-day you read hundreds of announcements, where you read only one or two then. But those were part of that early, energetic life of yours, and can never be forgotten. How many golden opportunities they offered, and how many dreams of philatelic wealth they held out.

And one day—you will never forget the time—you sent an exchange notice in to the editor. It appeared in the next number. Oh joy! Oh rapture!! For the first time your name appeared in print alongside of those of numerous other collectors. You can almost feel the thrill which rushed over you as you read the notice; the very notice which your pen had produced a week or two before. This was life at last, an exciting life which was rushing you into prominence. At least that was the idea which took possession of your poor deluded brain. How long that idea lingered I will not undertake to say, but it was gradually dissipated. But still you collected, and read, and dreamed, and enjoyed. You had stepped into a new, strange world, a paradise of novel sights and feelings.

The years passed by and the glamour of your new existence wore off. You settled down into the steady-going collector, and became a student of hand books and catalogues. You have lived to see yourself consulted instead of seeking information as formerly. In short, you are now "advanced."

Is your life now the life for which you used so much to long, better than the old one? Certainly not, if we consider the enthusiastic delight which resulted therefrom.

And this is the reason that sometimes, of a long evening, you close your album and gazing abstractedly into the fire, long for those halcyon days, the "dear old days," which will never return.

But bless you, my boy, we all do that; and we are all subject to fits of abstraction when we forsake the present for the past, and murmur with Schiller:

"Threefold the stride of time, from first to last!
Loitering slow, the FUTURE creepeth—
Arrow-swift the PRESENT sweepeth—
And motionless forever stands the PAST."

HOW TO START A COLLECTION.

BY "PILOT."

Your package of stamps, your album and your hinges have undoubtedly arrived by this time, and you are eager to begin work. Before beginning, however, permit me to make one suggestion, and impress upon you its value. Keep your album and its margins free from finger marks or anything else that might soil the clean, white pages upon which your stamps are to be fastened. Every collector who prides himself upon a clean collection will, before he places the stamps in his album, clean them thoroughly, for the most of them will come to him, not only soiled, but with much of the paper upon which it was originally fastened sticking to it. It will be necessary, however, to do the cleaning very carefully, because some of the stamps now in use are ornamented with coloring matter which will dissolve in water. Prominent among such stamps are the Russian issues. These must be handled

with much care, for to soak them in water, as is usually done, will result in the destruction of their colors. You will find, however, that by carefully moistening the back of the stamp you can easily remove the surplus paper, without injuring the stamp itself. Now, having gone this far, place your stamp, face up, on a smooth surface, blotting paper, if possible. Take a camel's hair brush, and, having wet it, rub it on a piece of soap to create a lather, and with this brush over the face of the stamp and so remove the dirt. Rinse with clean water and dry quickly between two pieces of clean, dry, white blotting paper. The result will surprise you and the satisfaction will repay you for your trouble.

Every stamp, after this process, should be carefully examined to make sure of its water-mark, perforation, etc. Be careful that these correspond with the catalogue which you have selected as your standard. If not water-marked, see that the paper, perforation and general make-up harmonize with the description there given. If unperforated, see that the margin is wide and not trimmed off to make an "unperforated" stamp out of a perforated one. In general, use your best endeavors to exclude counterfeits, which are a disgrace to any collection.

Before you undertake to establish the water-mark of a stamp the kind, form and size should be fixed in your memory, for while the different water-marks are produced by different methods, it is necessary to employ divers methods to ascertain the facts regarding them. The simplest method is to hold the stamp against the window when the water-mark will appear to the eye in a design lighter than the surrounding paper. In some of the colonials it will be necessary to place the stamp in a half-dark position, particularly to establish the crown C. B. and O. A. Others it will be necessary to moisten and place face down upon a dark surface, when the water-mark will become plainly visible.

These hints will probably be sufficient to enable almost anyone who loves his hobby, to detect any irregularities not in keeping with true stamp collecting. Every collector should make it his object to exclude any and every stamp that has a suspicious appearance, or is in any way torn. Should you take one not up to your expectations, give it room only until it can be replaced by a perfect specimen. This can be done only in time and through the aid of approval sheets from the dealer you patronize. These sheets, it might be well to explain to the young collector, are sheets of paper laid off in squares, in each of which is placed a stamp, of any issue, with the price marked below. From these sheets can be taken any stamps desired and the remainder returned to the dealer, with the cash for those retained. It is customary to make the selections and return promptly, say from five to ten days. Nearly all of the stamp business of the world is done in this way. The customer and dealer may transact business for years and never become personally acquainted. Dealers receive applications for these approval sheets from all parts of the world, and very seldom refuse them. You may ask, "Why is this?" And the answer is that the dealers have found from experience that the true philatelist is thoroughly in love with his pursuit, thoroughly honorable and never takes advantage of the man who trusts him. If philately only serves to teach its followers honesty, it has a mission in this world whose value cannot be overestimated.

Our philatelic almanac beginning with this number will be found invaluable to every collector, as it gives the most notable of philatelic events.

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THE POSTAGE STAMP.

According to the teachings of economics everything which tends to the advancement of commerce promotes national wealth and prosperity. The most common instances of this are the telegraph, railroads, etc. And yet a comparatively unsightly little thing—in its original form—has done more to bring nations close together than all means of transportation. We refer to the postage stamp. Its influence upon commerce has been both direct and indirect, and though its power has been more widespread in the latter form it has been none the less great.

Invention after invention has been made, and with each succeeding novelty the wonder has been how did we get along without it before. Yet how little attention is paid in every-day life to the little piece of engraved, adhesive paper which we attach to our letters and thereby secure rapid communication with all parts of the world. Truly, without this means of conveying our wishes, in business as well as personal matters, now available, of what use would be the ordinary methods of transportation?

Viewed in its single light, the postage stamp is nothing but a means of collecting charges for the transportation of our etters, and considering this alone the invention is only of direct value to the government in the way mentioned. But, looking at the facilitation of business, we can easily see to what extent prosperity has been increased and thereby nations made more powerful. It is true that the usual opinion of the postage stamp is that it is an economical way of securing the charges mentioned, but then with every economy effected, the charges are decreased and with that decrease intercommunication becomes a far easier matter and trade is quickened.

Let us look back to the days when postage on ordinary letters in Great Britain, for instance, within her own territory was several shillings; in France, several francs! Let us compare those systems with the present! The change is so overwhelming we can scarcely comprehend it, and the statistics, cited in proof, become mere rows of figures, almost without meaning to our dazed minds.

From the more selfish methods of purely national communication the postal union came gradually and with its perfection the reduction of postage, until now 2 cents will carry a letter thousands of miles and 5 cents around the world. With the postal union barriers between nations removed, the commerce of the

world began to increase, and to-day we stand amazed at what has resulted from the growth of inter-communication.

The postage stamp was the solution of the question of moderate and uniform letter rates, and to the English Parliament we must give credit for the greatest step forward ever taken in this matter. The acceptance of the plan of Rowland Hill has really led to the perfection of to-day's mail service, and while other nations might have done the same as England, in course of time, England did take the first step and to her belongs the credit.

THE QUESTION of a stamp exhibit at the World's Fair, at Chicago, seems to worry some of our contemporaries. What is the use of talking so much about it. Do something should be the actuating principle, and the time for making preparations is growing short. Philatelists be up and doing.

DELAY in issuing our December and January numbers was due to causes which could not be overcome, hereafter it will be our aim and purpose to have THE COMPANION in the hands of its readers by the 1st of each month.

THE IDEA that "least said soonest mended" applies to counterfeiting of postage stamps, will hardly be accepted as a good one. The only way to get rid of frauds is to expose them, and thoroughly.

PHILATELY is child's play, is it? Look at the prices asked and received for some of the rarer stamps.

Those of our readers desirous of entering into exchange relations with collectors all over the American continent, should send us their exchange notice, which will be inserted at the rate of 1 cent per word, and will be found a great medium to help dispose of their duplicates, etc.

DIAGONALLY PERFORATED STAMPS.

Those who are old enough to remember the introduction of postage stamps, says the London *Graphic*, will also recollect that unless a pair of scissors was handy the separation of a single stamp from its fellows on the sheet was a troublesome business, often leading to mutilation. At length some clever person came forward, Sloper, we believe, was the name (no relation to the celebrated "Ally" of that ilk), and said: "Why not punch the divisions between the stamps full of holes?" The Department adopted the suggestion, and paid the inventor 4,000*l.*, which had been offered as a reward to any one who would remedy the evil. Mr. C. B. Harness, Managing Director of the Medical Battery Company, Limited, 52 Oxford Street, now comes forward with a suggestion of a somewhat similar character. He proposes (as shown in our illustration)

that the ordinary penny stamp should be perforated diagonally, and that either triangle should be available for use as a half-penny stamp. The necessity of carrying two sorts of stamps will thus be obviated. At present, people often put a penny stamp on a newspaper, in default of having the lower-priced article at hand. Care, however, must be taken, if the improvement should be adopted, that both halves of the perforated stamp are defaced by the post-office clerks, or unscrupulous persons will make the undefaced part do duty another time.

OUR OWN POSTAL MUSEUM.

A Washington letter in the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* chats interestingly about the new postal museum of Postmaster-General Wanamaker, which, it says, "Will be organized as quickly as space can be cleared for it in the building of the Post-office Department. In response to his requests, sent out some months ago, many foreign governments have already forwarded to Washington exhibits illustrating the methods they adopt for carrying the mails. Included in these consignments are costumes of letter carriers, which in Europe are very gorgeous and military, specimen letter boxes, miniature mail vehicles, superb photographs of foreign post-offices, statuettes representing people engaged in transporting mail after various fashions, and ever so many other interesting things. There is a set of exquisitely executed figures in papier mache from India, which now adorns the mantelpiece of the Postmaster-General. One of them shows a postal runner in British India, carrying a bag of letters and clad only in a breech-clout, with a long spear in his hand, from which little bells dangle. The weapon is for his defence against the wild animals that infest the jungles through which he is obliged to pass, though one would think it a poor tool for coping with a striped tiger of Bengal, while the bells are intended to frighten the cobras, kraits, and other venomous serpents. Another statuette presents the same runner in the act of paddling across a stream in his customary manner, on a raft made simply of four big corked jars of earthenware fastened together. Other mail carriers are seen riding on camels, which easily travel eighty miles a day, or in light carts drawn by Indian buffaloes over rough roads where horses could not go.

Austria has sent a particularly gorgeous exhibit, unboxed yesterday for the first time. It comprises everything imaginable that has to do with the business of carrying mails, even to post-mark stamps, ink-pads, and the written music of the bugle calls by which the postmen in that country announce their arrival. England has promised costumes, but a full set of uniforms has already arrived from Canada. Letter-carriers in the British possessions are all howling official swells, with winter caps and collars of real Astrachan fur, leather leggings, scarlet chamois-skin under-waistcoats for cold weather, and gold buttons. With each suit comes a bristle brush for keeping the buttons bright. Italy, Spain, Germany, France and Switzerland have sent contributions for the museum. So have Russia, Turkey and Persia, and others are expected from elsewhere. The South American republics are disposed to secure representation in this permanent show of Mr. Wanamaker's. The Postmaster-General wishes to respond in kind by supplying these nations with samples illustrating Uncle Sam's way of carrying mails, but no appropriation for the purpose is at present available. It ought to be very useful for civilized countries to compare their postal methods. There is a very fine post-office museum of this sort now in Berlin, on which a great deal of money has been spent.

In Mr. Wanamaker's museum will also be illustrated various primitive methods of carrying the mails, as practised in different parts of the world now and in ancient times. For example, there will be shown a model of the negro postal runner of South Africa, who bears the letter intrusted to his care in a split stick, which he plants upright in the ground when he pauses to rest. He consumes little food, but much tobacco, and his endurance is wonderful. He wears no clothes, but covers his naked body with oil, rolling in the dust thereupon, so that the flies will find him too unpleasant to

bite. He carries the letter in the manner described, so that it will not get greasy, and while swimming with one hand across a stream he holds the missive out of the water with the other. The architect of the Post-office Department building once said that he regretted not having placed a statue of this primitive mail carrier above the main door of that edifice.

Another type of postman shown will be the messenger of scriptural times, frequently referred to in the Bible, who conveyed royal messages by word of mouth. It is incredible how swiftly information or orders could be transmitted in this way across the country, every man being obliged by law to immediately forsake his occupation and run and tell the next person along the line of communication. The Bedouins practice this method of conveying intelligence at the present day. If there is news for an individual, each one who hears it communicates it to all his neighbors, and they spread it in every direction until finally the man is found for whom it is meant. Japan has now as good a postal system as that of the United States, but fifty years ago a letter addressed to anybody in that country usually bore only the name, with no address whatever. The missive reached the intended recipient from hand to hand, either directly or by a method similar to that just described.

Other models in the new museum will represent the wonderful postal couriers who carry royal messages in China. They are the most rapid riders in the world, and have been known to make the entire distance of 3000 miles from L'hasa, the capital of Thibet, to Pekin in twenty-five days. They have a right to seize, by imperial requisition, any horses on their routes, no matter to whom the animals belong. One hundred miles a day is about their average rate of travel. They eat and sleep but little, dismounting once in a while to smoke a little opium. Before leaving his point of departure, each such courier has his dispatches placed in the lining of his robe, which is sealed upon his person, so that he cannot open the garment during his journey.

The work of these Chinese couriers reminds one somewhat of the famous pony express that used to make the distance of 2000 miles in ten days from St. Joseph to San Francisco, over the roughest sort of country. Daring riders, each traversing his allotted distance between two stations, simply transferred the mail bags from saddle to saddle, so that the entire journey was one continuous gallop. There was great danger from bandits and wild Indians. To illustrate this, a story which the writer knows to be true, is told of the famous Wild Bill, who was employed for a time as one of these pony mail-carriers. As he was dashing up to a lonely station on the plains he saw several men standing about the entrance of the "store," which was almost the only building there. His practiced eye perceived in the fraction of a second that he was going to be attacked. Leaping from his horse, he ran into the side entrance of the store, which led to the dwelling quarters overhead. The men followed him with drawn weapons, and while he retreated up the stairs he killed all seven of them one after another.

Other interesting methods for carrying the mails will be illustrated in the museum by miniature reindeer sledges, such as the Russians use on routes in Siberia; by dog teams, sleds, snow-shoes and skates, all of which are employed for the same purpose in the frozen Arctic; also by canoes, in which the people of the South Sea Islands, who have no kind of writing, carry the news. The Esquimaux have no postal system at all, and for lack of mutual communication whole villages sometimes perish. On one occasion, about ten years ago, a trader left two barrels of New England rum on St. Lawrence Island, just south of Behring Strait, in payment

for some furs. The native residents proceeded to get drunk and stay so. Consequently, they did not do any hunting, and when winter came they died of starvation. The explorer, Wilson, landed upon the island about a year later and found 700 or 800 dead, the entire population having been wiped out. Looking in through the chinney holes in the roofs of their dwellings he saw in every house only corpses lying about—all perished of hunger.

ORIGIN OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM.

BY G. W. A.

At various times and in numerous philatelic journals we have read of the origin of the postal system, but they all seem to fall far short of the real inventor. By proofs at my command I find that the postal system is not new, although in this age of invention and novelties we are wont to think that our ancestors of a couple of hundred years ago must have lived in a very crude manner.

But the time to which I refer is not 200 years ago, but over 2,000 years, and at that time, though stamps were not used, still postage was collected. It was very much on the same plan as our express companies now receive their charges for transportation. A letter could either be prepaid or paid by the receiver. And should a person stop the mail carrier, such an one was put to death. Nations also have frequently gone to war over the interference by one with mail of a national character.

By a glance at ancient historical annals one can easily find that Darius, king of the Medes and Persians, during his reign perceived that in order to secure to his people as many benefits as lay within his power to grant he must establish post routes, by the aid of which his people might correspond the one with the other. In this way not only the royal edicts but also business correspondence was carried. A courier ran on foot a distance of sixty miles, when he transferred it to another, who went a like distance. The post stations were placed about ten miles apart, and every third post was a branch post; that is, if the mail were going east, at the branch post were couriers to take either northern or southern mail. The parallel lines of the routes were thirty miles apart, so that no one was more than ten miles from a post.

The couriers were men selected by the king for their trustworthiness, and wore a uniform, so that no one could make a mistake about their vocation. All couriers bearing royal edicts wore shoulder straps of royal purple. They were always fleet of foot, and many were trained from their youth for the positions. They usually covered the distance in from seven and a half to ten hours, the mails being light. The mail bag was a very fine affair, and was made of fine Egyptian gold cloth, with a smaller inner bag, into which the mail was placed. I remember at Macalister College, during my course, I was shown one of these bags. It was said to have been used about 300 A. D. As they are very rare this one was highly prized, and our good old Dr. Neill was very loth to show it, but I was one of those favored ones.

The courier drew his pay from the government, but what he got is not stated, nor is the amount paid for carrying the letters. But we can infer that the latter was quite high, for it is said that the pos was self-supporting and that the mails were not heavy.

This number of the STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION greets the home of 8,000 active Philatelists, and will undoubtedly be read by over 20,000 persons. All those, not subscribers, should send their subscriptions now, as this will be the last sample copy they will receive.

CHICAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The one hundred and twenty-fifth regular meeting of the Chicago Philatelic Society was held November 19 at the Grand Pacific Hotel, those in attendance being Messrs. Bradt, Cottlow, Hosmer, Janssen, Kurzweg, Leland, Massoth, Niemz, A. S. Pierce, J. A. Pierce, Ross, Severn and Vidal. President Wolsieffer presided.

Bills from the Secretary and Librarian were read, and later, ordered paid.

A report from ex-auctioneer Bradt covering the period in which he served as auctioneer was read, and on motion was accepted. A statement was submitted by ex-superintendent Bradt giving a list of debtors to the exchange department and the amounts of individual indebtedness.

Librarian Pierce reported the donation of a bulky bundle of stamp literature from Mr. Bradt for the library, for which the society's thanks were given.

Mr. A. S. Pierce, as committee of one "on official organ," read communications from the publishers of THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION, St. Louis, Mo., stating terms, etc. By a prevailing motion Mr. Pierce was instructed to offer $100 for the publication for one year in THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION of all society proceedings, reports, etc., and one page of advertising, with the proviso that a copy of the paper be sent all C. P. S. members gratuitously for that period.

Mr. Hosmer spoke of matters connected with the auction department, after which Messrs. C. S. Sturgis, of Chicago, and Wm. F. E. Gurley, of Danville, Ill., were unanimously elected to membership, the former to active and the latter to passive.

After a recess an adjournment was had at 10:25 p. m.

C. E. SEVERN, Secretary.

The one hundred and twenty-sixth regular meeting was held on the evening of December 3, President Wolsieffer in the chair, the following members being present: Messrs. Bradt, Dilg, Fritz, Haskell, Hosmer, Janssen, Leland, A. S. Pierce, J. A. Pierce, Ross, Severn and Vidal.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

A communication from E. Y. Parker was read and the Secretary instructed as to the reply; also a communication from Stamp Collector's Companion Publishing Company, St. Louis, Mo.

It was decided that a banquet be held January 7, on the occasion of the installation of new officers, instead of at the last meeting in December, as was first intended.

The Governing Committee ordered payment of a bill from the Librarian and posted the following names as candidates for society membership: G. Foster Ingraham, Chicago, proposed by S. B. Bradt for active; H. Leutzenkirchen, Chicago, proposed by P. H. Dilg for passive, and

Guy A. Bryant, Princeton, Ill., proposed by S. B. Bradt for passive membership.

There being a few creditors of the exchange department whose accounts remained unpaid because of a number of delinquents in payment of balances due the department, it was decided that the Treasurer advance the ex-manager an amount sufficient to allow him to settle with the creditors, and suggestions were received and discussed regarding the acceleration of the payment of debtors' balances.

Nominations of officers for 1892 being in order, Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer was renominated for President, Mr. W. Janssen for Vice President and C. E. Severn for Secretary. After the positive refusal of Mr. L. A. Haskell to allow his name to again be put forward for the Treasuryship, Mr. A. S. Pierce was nominated for that office. For three remaining members of the Governing Committee, Messrs. Leland, Dahlberg, Kurzweg, McDonald, Dilg, Massoth, Hosmer, Ross and Holman were named, Messrs. Dilg, Hosmer and Ross declining, however.

After discussion and transaction of routine details, recess was declared, after which an adjournment was had at 10:15 p. m. C. E. SEVERN, Secretary.

NOTES.

At the one hundred and twenty-sixth meeting Mr. Wolsieffer exhibited the scarce 1875 Japan red wrapper, entire, and the two varieties of Japan officially sealed.

Mr. A. P. Hosmer declined to allow his name to be placed in nomination for a position on the Governing Committee, thinking it impolitic to occupy any official position for consecutive terms, but the members, entertaining the opposite opinion, prevailed upon him to permit his name to be used, the result being his unanimous election. Messrs. S. Leland and W. C. Kurzweg were also elected to membership on the Governing Committee.

Mr. L. A. Haskell, after a lengthy period of able service as Treasurer of the C. P. S., positively declined to allow his name to be again used in connection with that office.

During the year 1891 no especial effort was made to acquire members, the society having had no official organ the last ten months of the year. Nevertheless the society has prospered, and at the present time is doubtless more influential than at any period of its existence. Unusual care is exercised in selecting those to whom the privileges of membership are accorded, as only worthy collectors are desired.

Vice President Janssen has returned from an extended Eastern trip.

Mr. B. S. Ross has Mexican Revenues in abundance, and is quite an enthusiast regarding their collection.

The sixth annual installation of officers and banquet occurs January 7. The officers for 1892 are P. M. Wolsieffer, President; W. Janssen, Vice President; C. E. Severn, Secretary; A. S. Pierce, Treasurer. These also form the Governing Committee, with the addition of Messrs. Hosmer, Kurzweg and Leland.

The banquet of the Chicago Philatelic Society, commemorating the sixth annual installation of officers, was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, on the evening of Jan. 7th, 1892.

Those present, aside from the regular resident members of the Society, were Messrs. I. A. Mekeel, St. Louis; Mr. Bourne, Minneapolis; and Drury, White, Petford and Rowley, of Chicago, and honorary member, J. K. Tiffany, St. Louis, President of A. P. A. At the request and solicitation of President Wolsieffer, Mr. Tiffany, our honored guest, was called to preside, being supported right and left by Messrs. Wolsieffer and Holman, respectively. Nineteen participated in

the discussion of a dainty menu, and upon the conclusion of the enjoyable repast, cigars were passed.

Mr. Tiffany, in a few sentences eulogistic of President Wolsieffer, asked a response to the toast, "Why Wolsieffer was here." An apt reply merited the applause received.

Mr. Holman was requested to explain the "Relative Merits of Philately and Cricket," and neither was "wicket" Mr. Holman "stumped" nor "put out." Mr. Brádt was instructed to discuss "Philately from a Financial Aspect," and after these subjects—"grave and serious"—were disposed of, came as an anti-lachrymal, the bright evanescent remarks of J. W. Carrington, on "Why Another's Collection is Interesting to a Non-Collector." Mr. Leland's pleasing reply was to "Publishing a Philatelic Paper," while A. S. Pierce told of "Congenialities of the Treasuryship."

Mr. T. White, of the *Chicago Times* staff, pleasantly and intelligently spoke of "Philately and the Daily Press."

Messrs. Drury, Petford, Fritz, McDonald, Bourne, Rowley and Massoth, discoursed entertainingly on matters in connection with collecting.

J. K. Tiffany then honored those present with an address, eloquent, comprehensive and instructive. Remarks replete with encouragement to the stamp collector and advice to the philatelist, liberal views voiced in scholarly phrases, all permeated with a delicate shading of optimism, that caused, upon the conclusion, a continued period of applause, flattering in its spontaneity. Mr. Tiffany discoursed on subjects of national and local philatelic interest, and when the address was finished was unanimously thanked, earnestly and sincerely, for the pleasure given his hearers and for kindness in consenting to preside.

At an hour when Erebus was at the height of his reign, a memorable event was ended, partly necessitated by the inexorable departure of the "owl" street car.

Good fellowship prevailed and sociability; a greater love for our philatelic brethren resulted.

C. E. SEVERN,
Secretary.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

Mr. J. K. Tiffany attended the banquet of the Chicago Society, Thursday evening, Jan. 7th, at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Mr. W. W. Curdy, of Topeka, Kan., the most prominent collector in that city, was in the city a few days ago and made us a pleasant call.

Mr. Wm. Martin, Manager of the Universal Stamp Co., has taken a position with the St. Louis *Evening Chronicle*.

Mr. I. A. Mekeel was the only member of any local stamp firm to attend the Chicago banquet.

The meetings of the St. Louis Philatelic Society will hereafter be held at the "Moser Hotel."

Mr. F. A. Miller, one of our most ardent collectors, has just recovered from a severe attack of "La Grippe."

Mr. C. Sterling is the youngest, but one of the most enterprising, of the numerous stamp dealers in this city.

The government is not ready for 1 cent postage, but the country is.

The Chicago *Times*, of Sunday, Jan. 10, had an article of a column and a half devoted to stamp collecting, intelligently written. Mr. Wolsieffer had the kindness to send us a copy.

Ecuador has now joined Salvador, Nicaragua, etc., in adopting Seebeck's speculative issues. Next!

Some of our contemporaries suggest to us to illustrate new issues in colors. We believe it would interfere with the Postal union laws.

The new postal cards were much needed, especially the large size, which is particularly suitable for the business man.

Mr. G. Reymond has turned over the management of the Oliva Stamp Co. to Mr. Chas. Johnston, an energetic young man.

The first new postal card received by us was from Mr. W. H. Heusinger, of San Antonio, Tex., wishing us a happy New Year.

Mr. C. H. Mekeel has returned from his extended trip through Mexico.

Messrs. R. R. Bogert & Co., New York City, and Durbin & Hanes, of Philadelphia, two of the oldest stamp firms in America, have consolidated, and are incorporated for $75,000 under the name of The Bogert & Durbin Co., with offices in New York and Philadelphia.

THE PONY MAIL EXPRESS.

The pony mail express was in its time one of the most important features of transcontinental postal business, and a description of how it was first started may not be uninteresting. To an exchange we are indebted for the story which we print herewith:

John Scudder, of Colorado, was one of the first to advocate the organization of the celebrated pony express, and after its establishment assisted in its management and operation. In conversation, recently, he related the history of that famous enterprise:

"The firm of Majors, Russell & Waddell was at that time the wealthiest and most extensive freight contractor in the Union. Just to give an idea of the magnitude of the business, I will tell you that in 1857, when I first knew Mr. Russell, the firm was under contract with the national government to carry every pound of freight north, south and west of the Missouri river and east of the Rocky mountains, including every government post in that territory. At one time they had 7,200 wagons on the road, each costing from $80 to $100, and as each wagon required six yoke of oxen to pull it, you may form some conception of the amount of capital invested.

"It was in the fall of 1859 and during the ensuing winter I, together with some of Mr. Russell's men, gathered at the headquarters in Salt Lake City, which were under the charge of A. B. Miller, a man of considerable ability and known throughout the west as a sporting character. The eastern newspapers which found their way into camp were full of the overland agitation, and, becoming interested in the discussion, we began to figure on the time and distance. I did most of the calculating, and the more I figured the greater became our interest. We satisfied ourselves fully that the time could be greatly shortened, and the result was that the boys wrote to Mr. Russell, informing him that they would undertake to carry mail from St. Joseph, Mo., to San Francisco in twelve days. Now, in addition to his wonderful enterprise, Mr. Russell was a kindly man and ever ready to listen to suggestions from those under him. We were not surprised, therefore, when he replied promptly to our letter and requested that we acquaint him fully with the particulars of our plan. We at once drafted out a rough map of the country, showing the proposed route, together with the stations and their distances apart, and this we forwarded to him without delay. We at the same time wrote him another letter, explaining our plan of covering the route by relays of horses carrying a mail pouch, and strongly urged its entire practicability. Quite a number of communications passed between Mr. Russell and his agent at Salt Lake, and the upshot of it was that the former agreed to test the matter by stringing out a lot of horses and riders between the Missouri river and the Pacific coast. The first notice they received of Mr. Russell's acceptance, however, was the receipt of an order to buy 200 good horses at Salt Lake. At the same time Ben Fickland, who was then division master between Denver and Salt Lake, but afterwards famous as a blockade runner, left New York for San Francisco to buy horses there. The horses were good strong ones, but not heavy, and the prices paid for them ranged as high as $200 each. Associated with us also in the work of preparation for the great trial, was a man named Bromley, and the notorious Slade, who was afterwards hanged in Montana, and who was employed as division master between Denver and Fort Kearney. Another of those interested in the work was a man named Clute, who was Mr. Russell's manager at St. Joseph.

"After the purchase of the horses the work of distributing began, and I assisted Miller and Bromley in scattering them along the line between Salt Lake and Platte Bridge. This done, the line was given a practical test by being run over once or twice, and Mr. Russell was so far satisfied that he caused it to be au

nounced in the New York *Herald* and Washington *Star*, the latter of which he owned, that he would start the first horses from San Francisco and St. Joseph at the same hour on the 9th day of April, and that he would agree to carry letters or written correspondence between those points in ten days. This created great excitement in the East, and it became evident that Mr. Russell possessed a more thorough knowledge of the great West than was ever had in the departments at Washington. The stage line representatives who were working up this overland mail scheme laughed at his plans, and his partners even went to Washington to remonstrate against what they considered extravagant folly. So strong was his faith in his plan, and so firm was he in his determination to carry it out, that he assumed payment of all bills contracted, and thus the enterprise became his own.

"When the momentous 9th day of April arrived a magnificent black horse, carrying a mail pouch and rider, left St. Joseph on the ferryboat, bound West, in the presence of 10,000 cheering spectators. At the same hour a splendid white horse left San Francisco on the steamer for Sacramento. Over plains and mountains they sped, past station after station, day and night, without halting longer than to transfer the pouch from horse to horse, and in eight days and four hours the letters that left St. Joseph were in San Francisco. Mr. Russell's scheme was an assured success, and the pony express became for a time one of the most potent factors in civilization. It brought the far West into closer communication and sympathy with the East, and advanced the development of the West, in my opinion, fully fifty years. The stage companies' contract scheme fell through, and one year later Mr. Russell was given the contract for carrying the overland mails.

"In closing, I will state that the stations were from nine to fifteen miles apart, according to the nature of the country, and each rider covered from two to three stations, changing horses at each. They were a hardy, fearless set of men, and capable of enduring great exertion. The saddle, bridle and pouch were strongly and compactly made, and weighed together thirteen pounds. Each rider carried a small horn, by means of which he announced his approach from a distance, in order to warn the stable attendants, and in this way the horses were always in readiness on his arrival, and no time was lost."

THE NEW POSTAL CARDS.

A supply of the two new sizes of postal cards has been received at the St. Louis post-office and placed on sale. In post-office parlance these two sizes are designated as "A" and "C," to distinguish them from the old postal card "B." The first is of a fine quality of loft-dried paper, and the second is of a strong, finely finished jute paper. Size "A" is a beautiful little card, just suited to society uses, while the "C" size is much larger than the old postal card and especially designed for business purposes. A good long letter could be written on the back of this card, and it will doubtless prove very acceptable to the business world. The following is a description of each of the new cards:

"A."—Size, 2 15-16 by 4⅝ inches. Color of paper, pearl-gray. Design: In the upper right-hand corner is a portrait of General Grant, in citizen's dress, three-quarters face, looking to the left on a close-lined background, in an oval frame, partly inclosed by two branches of laurel, united at the base. To the left of the portrait are the words, "United States of America," in slightly shaded German letters, below which in small, plain letters are the words, "This side is for address only," the whole inclosed with a fine line, involved and broken here and there for the purpose of ornamentation, and forming an irregular panel. Above this panel and partly set into it is a small shield, on either side and on a level with the top of which are the words, "postal card," and "one cent," in small ornamental solid letters. The card is printed in dark blue.

"C."—Size, 3¾ by 6⅛ inches. Color of paper, light manila. Design: In the upper right-hand corner is a portrait of General Grant, in all respects the same as that on the "A" card. To the left of this, in heavily shaded German letters, are the words, "United States of America," surrounded by a fine ornamental line forming a panel, below which, in a separate panel with ornate ends, are the words, "This side is for address only," in plain, small letters. Above the whole, in somewhat ornamental lettering, are the words, "Postal card one cent," without separation excepting the ordinary spaces between the words. The card is printed in black.

CHRONICLE OF NEW ISSUES, ETC.

CONDUCTED BY C. J. FUELSCHER,
1322 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

TO WHOM ALL INFORMATION RESPECTING NEW ISSUES, ETC., SHOULD BE SENT.

All envelopes, unless otherwise stated, are on white wove paper.
All post cards, unless otherwise stated, are on buff cardboard.

ADHESIVES.

ANTIGUA.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, chronicles the 6d of the first issue, unwatermarked and imperforate, a strip of 3 specimens is known.

6d light green, no watermark, imperforate.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—There seems to be 3 types of the 1c brown, 1889 issue. The difference being mainly in the lined ground.

The *Monthly Journal* mentions various errors and curiosities of perforation of different issues.

½c brown (1872) imperforate.
2c yellow green (1888) imperforate.
3c blue green (1888) imperforate.
5c red (1888) imperforate.
6c red (1888) imperforate.

AUSTRIA.—The 20kr and 50kr of the latest type have been surcharged for use in the Levantine.

2 piastres on 20kr, black and olive green.
5 piastres on 50kr, black and violet.

BERMUDA.—From various sources we learn the existence of the ½d watermarked crown and "C. A." ½d green.

FRENCH CONGO.—The four woodblocks chronicled recently have turned out to be fraudulent.

INDIA.—The *Stamp News* has a specimen of the new 1 rupee stamp. The centre contains the head of the queen, and is printed in green, the balance being carmine. The four corners have "I. R." in ovals, and the inscription, "East India Postage," etc., is at the sides. It is watermarked star and perforated, 14.

1 rupee, green and carmine.

ITALY.—The 5c stamp is slightly changed, having the inscriptions now in colored letters, and the arms on horizontal lined ground.

5c green, watermarked crown, perforated, 14.

MARTINIQUE.—The 20c unpaid letter stamp is in use for prepayment of regular postage, being surcharged "Poste," and the new value 15c in black, also the 15c on 25c, with inverted surcharge.

15c on 25c, black on rose, inverted surcharge.
15c in black on 20c black.

MEXICO.—Several of the values are now watermarked "CORREOS E. U. M." on each horizontal row of ten stamps.

MONTENEGRO.—The 7nov is now printed in rose; perforation, 12½.

7nov, rose, perforated, 12½.

MOZAMBIQUE.—A recent royal decree has changed the name of this colony to the Free State of Eastern Africa, and it is divided into two provinces, Mozambique and Lorenzo-Marques. This will necessitate new stamps.

NEGRI-SEMBILAN.—There are three stamps of De la Rue design, but with a tiger coming out of the jungle, in place

of the queen's head. The name at the top is N. Sembilan; denomination being

1c green,
2c rose, } watermarked C. A.
5c blue,

NOSSI-BE.—Four more unpaid letter stamps have been made by surcharging the ordinary stamp. The value is in figures in the centre, "Nossi-Be" above and "A Percevoir" below; denomination 5c on 20c, 10c on 15c, 15c on 10c, 25c on 5c.

Unpaid letter stamps:

5c on 20c, red on *green*.
10c on 15c, blue.
15c on 10c, black on *lilac*.
25c on 5c, green on *green*.

PAHANG.—The 8c, Straits Settlement, has been surcharged "Pahang" in black, and there has been a new issue of these stamps, same as that of Negri-Sembilan, noted above, except, of course, the name.

PERAK.—Three new tiger stamps, similar to those of Pahang.

PORTO RICO.—We have the following changes in color: The 1c is blue-green, and the 5c is printed both in blue-green and yellow-green.

REUNION ISLAND.—The 20c, has been surcharged in the lower left corner "02c" and also "15c." The word "Reunion" is also surcharged diagonally. There are errors and varieties, such as "02" without the "c" and "Runion," "Reunio," "Peunion."

SALANGOR.—There are three stamps of the new design, with tiger, of the same values as Negri-Sembilan.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.—The stamps in use here have all been surcharged, with name of the colony in black or red and running diagonally from the lower left to the upper right corner, or from the upper right to the lower left corner.

SUNGEI UJONG.—The 8c and 10c Straits Settlements have been surcharged "Sungei Ujong" in two lines in black, and there are three stamps of the new type, same as Selangor, etc. On these latter the name is spelled "S. Ujong."

SWEDEN.—Two more values of the current type, with head, are in use, viz: 30ore brown, and 50ore gray.

TASMANIA.—The 4d has again changed color, and is printed in bistre.

4d, bistre.

TURKEY.—The new issue has the arms of the Sultan in a circle in the centre, the values in upper corners in Turkish numerals and in lower corners in Arabic. 10 paras, green; 20 paras, rose; 1 piastre, blue. The unpaid letter stamp of the same type will be all black.

URUGUAY.—The provisional 5c of 1891 has been surcharged "Oficial" diagonally; 500 of them.

ZULULAND.—The 2½d of Great Britain is surcharged "Zululand" in black.

ENVELOPES.

GOLD COAST.—The Registration envelopes have now the name of the colony in a horizontal line above the stamp.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS.—One cent per word for each insertion. *No advertisement received for less than 25c.* All advertisements must be paid for in advance. All will be set in solid brevier type, no display allowed.

Fine thin paper stamp hinges, 1,000 for 5c. 25 stamps, 5c. 60 stamps, 10c. G. MORGAN KING, Villa City, Fla.

Well mixed U. S. stamps, many varieties, all obsolete. Fifty cents per 1,000, post paid. ARTHUR C. PADDOCK, Nantucket, Mass.

One hundred fine stamps free to everyone who sends stamp for my approval sheets and promises to return in ten days. A. E. POOLE, Foxboro, Mass.

Ten good stamps free to anyone sending 2c stamp for my approval sheets at 40% commission. THE W. H. BARNUM CO., 47 Livingston street, Cleveland O.

One hundred varieties, including 1853 Envelope and other U. S., 25 cents. Hinges free. Send for my 50 per cent. sheets. W. H. LEHMAN, Hartford City, Ind.

25 varieties, 7 cents; 100 varieties, 12 cents. Packet No. 8, 30 varieties, including Mexico, 15 cents. LAKE VIEW STAMP CO., 1612 Wellington St., Chicago, Ill.

Stamps for sale and to exchange. 15 varieties given away to each person applying for approval sheets at 33⅓ per cent. commission. F. D. SHAW, Medford, Wis.

Parties having United States stamps to sell or exchange should correspond with us. We allow the highest prices. MOUND CITY STAMP CO., 1322 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Send 100 or more stamps, catalogued at not less than 2 cents each, and we will return an equal amount of Mexican stamps. OLIVA STAMP CO., 1623 Ohio Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

U. S. 30-cent 1872 and 1888, unused, 40 cents each. Approval sheets, 40 per cent. commission. 100 mixed 6 cents. 100 varieties 12 cents. W. H. BARNUM CO., 47 Livingston St., Cleveland, O.

Five thousand varieties! Fine packets, 10 cents, 25 cents, 50 cents and $1 each. Splendid net sheets at same prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Cash for wholesale lots. W. H. LIDDICOATT, London, Canada.

A gold dollar for 50 cents would not be a better bargain than the following: 250 all different Foreign stamps, catalogued over $5, price only $1. C. W. BURNHAM, stamp dealer, 32 Grant Place, Washington, D. C.

U. S. wanted! Will give a Foreign stamp catalogued at 10 cents for a U. S. catalogued at 5 cents (Scott's Fifty-first Catalogue). Price list and 25 different stamps for 3 cents in stamps. PLYMOUTH ROCK STAMP CO., Winchester, Mass.

To advertisers who wish to save money we advise the perusal of our circulars. We can make cheaper rates than a publisher. Try our combination advertisements. WESTERN PHILATELIC AGENCY, Box 1963, Iowa City, Iowa.

Free! Free!—Four varieties of U. S. Revenues to all sending for my approval sheets. I allow a commission of 33⅓ per cent. on small sales and 50 per cent. if entire selection is bought. Send at once. E. D. ROBERTS, Sutton, Neb.

Exchange—Collectors in all parts of the world are requested to send me their duplicates, and I will allow them three-fourths their catalogue value in exchange for stamps from my sheets. Address R. M. SPENCER, Nordhoff, Cal.

I offer U. S. stamps, General Issue and Department stamps, singly or in sets, and over 6,000 varieties of Foreign Postage stamps, for stamps in good condition, used or unused, single or in quantities, from Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat and Virgin Islands. C. F. ROTHFUCHS, 359½ Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C.

U. S. 30-cent, pure brown, 1888, 17c; 30 and 50-cent postage, due 1879, 33c; 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 and 30-cent 1890, 10c; same, well assorted, per 100, 60c; 4, 5 and 10-cent 1890, assorted, per 100, 25c; 20 varieties U. S. Revenues, 10c. Good sheets of old U. S. or foreign sent on approval, on receipt of deposit. ARTHUR C. PADDOCK, Nantucket, Mass. C.P.S. 263; P.S.A. 121.

Foreign stamps, on approval, 50 per cent. commission. U. S. stamps, 25 per cent. and 33⅓ per cent., a specialty. Cash discount on albums. Send for prices. Want to buy good collections. Prompt cash payments. 100 varieties, 9 cents; 50 U. S. (adhesive only), 35 cents. Eight-page list free. Established 1885. B. L. DREW, 122 Oxford St., Cambridge, Mass.

Bargains in United States stamps. 30 var. 15c; 50 var. 40c; 70 var., including 30 cents black and 90 cents orange, only $1.00. Revenues, 30 var. U. S., Mexico, including high values, 20c; 50 var. U. S., Mexico and Canada, 50c, worth $2.00. 150 varieties of postage and nice album, only 25c. Approval sheets at 40 per cent. discount. GEO. KAUFMAN, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

Wanted for cash, all kinds of stamps. Send them on approval for our best offer, accompanied with return postage. We sell 1000 mixed U. S., '53 to date, for 28 cents, prepaid. 700 philatelic papers and magazines for sale or exchange for stamps. 100 old U. S. Postage, before 1870, 25 cents. Try our sheets at 50 per cent. commission. Address LINDSEY & HARRINGTON, Greene, N. Y.

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SCHEIBLE & CO.
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APPROVAL SHEETS at 50 per cent. commission on all sales where remittance is 75 cents or over. Choicest stamps at 33⅓ and 40 per cent., according to grade.

The rapidly increasing business of our approval department has enabled us to more than double our stock during the past two years, so that we can now make the above liberal offer, to clear away some of our approval assortments, and make room for new consignments.

Every collector should have one of our large retail lists of single stamps, choice sets and packets. It will be published about January 1st, 1892, and will be sent to any address on receipt of 5 cents in stamps.

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