



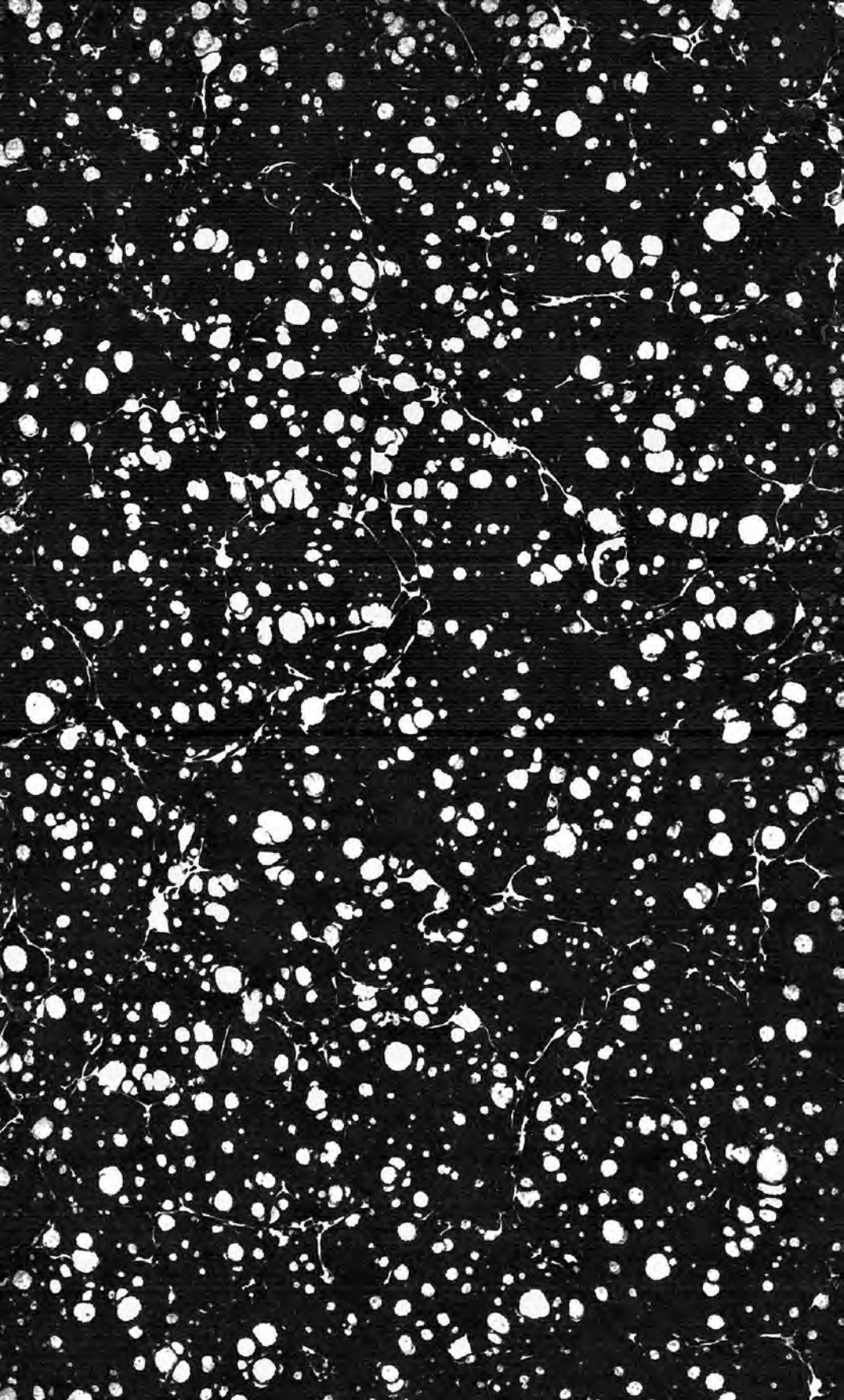
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Crawford 2229

THE

Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1. Jamestown, N. Y., June 1886. No. 1

Served Him Right.

A merchant alone in a desolate store Sang "Willow, titwillow, titwillow!" I said to him "Why are you pacing the floor?" Singing "Willow, titwillow, titwillow?" "Alas!" he replied, as he smothered his cries, "I thought it was nonsense to advertise, And now I've no custom at all but the flies. Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow."

—Model Printers' Guide.

THE CLEANING OF COINS.

BY DR. ROBERT MORRIS.

We have been requested to explain the manner of cleaning ancient coins. It is not a subject to be handled carelessly. Many a fine coin has had its moral character absolutely ruined by the insane desire to make it look "good as new." The noble relic of a Vespian has been soured in nitric acid until his noble nose had sunk under it. Marcus Aurelius has been laid on a red hot poker, until even his philosophy gave way. And, worse than all, the modest Etruscilla has been sand-papared—yes, sand-papared—until every mark of modesty fled from her face.

Bear in mind that an antique specimen is not intended to look as "good as new;" on the contrary, the older it looks the better.

The only object you can have in manipulating it is to make the type, portrait and lettering legible. Anything beyond that is to the damage of your property.

While the rust on silver and gold coins may and should be removed, that on copper and brass, if not too crusty, is preservative and ornamental, and should be severely let alone. But if it is deemed essential to remove it the safest way is to boil it in water for twenty-four hours, with three parts tartar and one part alum; then clean

with bran. Gold coins may be safely cleaned of any prejudicial rust by acid. Spirits of nitre eats anything but gold, and answers well for this.

—Every one subscribing for this paper before July 16th, 1886, will receive free, two red sea beans, two black-eyed Susans' and two red coral shells.

Autographs.

A young gentleman residing in the city of Cleveland has one of the largest and most valuable collections in the West. Many of the signatures being those of men who have but recently risen to eminence in political, theatrical and social spheres.

An eccentric man is almost always a jerky penman, in just that proportion that a easy-going, unassuming man signs his name in careful, methodical letters. Wendell Phillips wrote a graceful hand. Henry M. Stanley, the famous traveler, runs his surname and initials together with a neat flourish.

Chas. S. Stratton, "Tom Thumb," wrote a cramped hand, but his letters are just as large as though he was six feet tall.

Melville Landon "Eli Perkins," thus answered the Cleveland youth, who sent for his autograph:

"My Dear Boy—My advice to you is to try and reform. Stop drinking at once. If you go to the inebriate asylum the second time your prospects in life will be blasted. If you drink wine, my uncle consider, you will walk in winding ways, if you always go to bed with the lark. If you carry too much beer, the bier will soon carry you."

Ben Butler's signature resembles a streak

of zigzag lightning or a rail fence. It would also appear at the first glance that several chickens were roosting on the fence.

Roscoe Conkling runs his first name in what seems to be but three letters and writes his final "g" in the shape of a hook on a drag rope to a balloon.

George Francis Train signed himself, Aug. 30, 1872, as "The next President of the United States," and leads off with the following characteristic command:

"Down with kings,  
Smash the rings,  
God save the people."

Old Curiosity Shop "ads" only 30 cents per inch.

The following is a copy of a telegram received by the chief of police at Painesville, O., the day after President Lincoln's death:

TO PAINESVILLE O.F'S.

*By Telegraph from Cleveland, Apl. 15th, 1865.*

President Lincoln was killed last night. He was shot through the head at the theatre, and died at one o'clock this morning. Sec. Seward is also shot, but do not think he is dead. This is reliable. O. N.

It was written on a Western Union Telegraph Co.'s blank, on white paper, and occupies eight lines.

**A Generous Sister.**

"I think," said Christina to Florence,  
(Floy was seven and Chrissie just five.)

"That, really and truly, I'm one of  
The best little sisters alive."

"And why do you think so?" asked Florence.

"Because," said the curly-haired elf,

"I give you, and give you contin'ly,

All the things that I don't want myself."

—Good Cheer.

**Riddle.**

I never was, but always am to be;  
None ever saw me, you may never see;  
And yet I am the confidence of all  
Who live and breathe on this terrestrial ball.  
The answer is—To-morrow.

This Space Belongs to the  
**MARBLE HALL, No. 216 Main Street,**  
One Price Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers,  
Boys and Childrens CLOTHING A SPECIALTY.  
**COME AND SEE US.**  
**WE WILL SAVE YOU FROM 25 to 40 Per Cent.**

The Old Curiosity Shop.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION—25cts per annum in the U. S. and Canada.

ADVERTISING RATES—1 inch, 30cts; 1 column \$2.00; 1 page, \$3.90.

Discount on standing advertisements. Reading notices, 10 cents per line.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second-Class Mail Matter.

JUNE 1886.

How do you do? We are here, after a deal of trouble and preparation, and we mean to stay. Will you give us your support?

*Received, Thanks; Would Like More.*

The Mohawk Standard, Stamp and Coin Gazette, The Empire State Philatelist, The P. J. of A., Plain Talk, Minnesota Philatelist, The Capital City Philatelist, The Carson Philatelist, The Cumberland Collector and The Philatelist.

Mr. F. Stahl, publisher of the Minnesota Philatelist, has turned out to be the notorious Horace C. Jones. He awaits his trial for fraudulent use of the U. S. mails, in the St. Paul jail.

*A Grand Offer.*

To every one sending three subscribers to THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP will receive one year's subscription free of charge.

The Empire State Philatelist and the Capital City Philatelist are publishing serial stamp stories. The New York Sunday World of May 5th, had a philatelic story, telling about a great stamp "find," but I think the "find" could not be found in any other attic in America.

BOYS AND GIRLS

Indian Writing.

Suppose a band of the tribe of the Turtles make a raid on a village of the Beartribe. Suppose they burn the Bears' wigwams and steal off with their ponies and cattle. The chief wishes to let others know what clever robbers the Turtles are, so he draws upon a piece of smooth birch bark the following pictures:



INDIAN WRITING.

First comes a turtle, and it is a very big turtle, because he thinks that he and his clan are very great personages indeed. Then he draws as many wavy lines, to represent bows, as there are Indians in his party, and perhaps the same number of Indians with topknots; his lines bend forward to show in what direction the trail went. Following these, a rising sun stands for daybreak, and three lines under it mean that three days went by in going to the Bears. Next, he puts down as many funny little pyramids as there were Bear wigwams, and draws them upside down to show that they were destroyed. After that he draws, as well as he can, a wee, wee Bear, very small, in order to show his contempt for the bears. Finally, he draws, with the greatest care, as many oxen and ponies as he has captured, because he is chiefly proud of this part of his exploit and wishes all the world of the woods to know what a great and successful robber he is. He does not tell that the Bear braves were away when he surprised the camp, and probably does not care to tell that part of the story. We may understand it from the absence of any sign for scalps. Then to call the attention of all who pass through the wilderness, the war chief fixes the piece of bark to the top of a long pole and plants it on the path so that the most careless passer cannot fail to see it.

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

## EXCHANGES.

M. B., 218 Main St., Jamestown, N. Y.—  
One number of Youths' Companion for every  
department stamp sent me.

W. B. Brockway, 47 Hazzard St., James  
town, N. Y., 2,000 stamps to exchange for  
old collector's papers.

Subscribe for The Old Curiosity Shop,  
only 25 cents per year, with premium.

### Notice.

Next month we will have an interesting  
article from the pen of Will M. Clemens, of  
this city. Send your address for a sample  
copy of next month's issue. It will be a  
daisy.

### Notice.

I will send you this paper for a year for 50  
Dep't or Revenue Stamps: (Match and  
Medicine preferred.

Only 25 cents per year for The Old Cur-  
osity Shop, and premium free.

**F. E. HANCHET,**  
CARD AND JOB PRINTER,  
No. 44 Water Street, Jamestown, N. Y.  
Send for estimates.

**FOR SALE.**  
FINE SELF-INKING PRINTING PRESS  
AND OUTFIT, CHEAP.  
Inquire or write to  
LEWIS E. LAMMERS,  
Jamestown, N. Y.

**M. B. BROCKWAY,**  
218 MAIN STREET,  
Jamestown, N. Y.  
DEALER IN

FRESH FRUITS,  
CONFECTIONERY,  
SODA WATER,  
ALL KINDS OF SUMMER DRINKS  
AND FINE CIGARS.

**F. A. MONROE, D. D. S.,**  
No. 216 MAIN STREET,  
JAMESTOWN, N. Y.  
(Over Marble Hall.)

**FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,**  
AT LCW RATES.  
Sheets of good stamps sent on approval  
to responsible parties.  
Miss E. SCOTT,  
589 Monroe St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

**ICE CREAM, ICES,**  
SHERBIT AND FROZEN PUDDINGS,  
AT A. D. WORK'S,  
CONFECTIONER, 309 Main St.,  
Jamestown, N. Y.

1869. Established Seventeen Years. 1886.

**L. W. DURBIN,**  
Fifth and Library Streets,  
PHILADELPHIA, - - PENN'A.

The Finest assortment of genuine stamps in  
the country at the lowest prices.  
**PACKETS**—10 Stamps for 5 cents; 60 for  
25 cents; 120 for 50 cents; 370 for \$2.50. All  
different. Other packets, 25 cents to \$50.00.  
Packets of postal cards, 25 cents to \$50.00.

**ALBUMS**—From 28 cents up.  
**NEW STAMP CATALOGUE**—The latest,  
best, and most complete. Price, 25 cents;  
in cloth binding, 50 cents.

**NEW POSTAL CARD CATALOGUE**—  
Sixth Edition, 25 cents.  
Coats of Arms, gummed paper, flags and  
everything required by Stamp Collectors,  
always in stock, at the lowest prices.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. Orders filled  
the day of receipt.



# THE Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1.

Jamestown, N. Y., July 1886.

No. 2

## SPIDER SHOWERS.

Gilbert White records in his "History of Selborne," that in 1741 he saw a shower of spiders, which continued for nearly a whole day. Mr. Darwin saw one in 1832, while at sea, and each spider was supported by a tiny parachute, composed of a few threads of almost invisible gossamer. A writer in Chamber's Journal describes as follows a spider shower he saw in September, 1875:

"On the morning of the shower there had been some electrical disturbance. There had been one loud peal of thunder, but no rain.

"About 10 a. m. I noticed small spiders running over my coat sleeves, and had to brush off several trails of gossamer-web.

"Looking around, I found that brick walls, houses, branches of trees, etc., had these webs dangling from them, and that other gossamer-webs were continually falling from above, and adding to the accumulation.

"By midday, a long fence was festooned from point to point of its triangular rail-tops with a ribbon like ladder of gossamer and this was growing broader and broader as the tiny creatures kept running along this ladder, each increasing the breadth by adding its own contribution of another silken thread.

"All along this silken ladder the little strangers were running in an excited and hurried manner, as if they had lost their way, and had got into a strange country.

"Some in traveling over their improvised road, made mistakes, and got into bordering webs of the garden spiders, where they were speedily devoured.

"About one p. m. the clouds cleared off, the sun shone out, and I noticed that some of the spiders had begun to re-ascend into the atmosphere.

"Fixing my eyes upon one of them, I observed that as it left the gossamer pathway, it selected a clean spot on the iron railing, and gathering its limbs closely together, it projected from its spinners several threads which expanded outwards, and stretched upwards from nine to twelve inches.

"Then this parachute seemed to show a buoyant tendency, and suddenly the tiny creature left hold of the iron rail, or was lifted off it, and quickly vanished into thin air.

"Possibly the real home of the gossamer spiders may be in the blue ether, where, in the wonderful economy of nature, they may have their work to do. Or it may be that these Lilliputian roamers through space; like the migratory birds, have their appointed periods for going in one direction and returning in another.

"Who knows?—He only who made them and us, and whose ordained ministers are, humanely speaking, infinite in their number and variety."

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## THE LATEST.

L. W. DURBIN.

**BELGIUM**—The 10 and 25 cent Letter Cards now have stamps of the latest types impressed on them.

**CEYLON**—Two more values of the new set are out, viz: 25 cents, bistre and 28 cents, blue.

**FRANCE**—We have received specimens

of the 26 centimes impressed in black on flesh colored paper. Letter Cards of the value of 15 and 26 cent. were issued June 15th. It appears that those we announced some time since were non-official.

**HOLKAR**—It is stated that the full set of this Indian State will consist of five values,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 4 and 8 annas. We have had only the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna, violet. They have the head of the Prince in an oval, "Holkar State Postage," on the right; inscriptions in native characters at the top and on the left, and the value at the bottom..

**MADAGASCAR**—The British Vice Consul at Madagascar has issued a set of primitive postage stamps, consisting of the following values: 1, 2, 3, and 4 pence, violet, and 6 pence, red. They are type set and inscribed "B. C. M." and values. Over the stamp the seal of the British Vice-Consul is impressed.

**PERSIA**—We have received the following envelopes and wrappers, bearing stamps of the lion type: Wrapper, 1 schahi, carmine, on manilla; Envelopes, 6 schahis, carmine on white, 12 schahis, lilac on white.

**PERU**—The 1 centavo stamp has appeared in steel-blue.

**ST. DOMINGO**—The following envelopes are announced: 10 centavos, carmine on amber; 20 centavos, brown on white; 40 centavo, brown on blue; 45 centavo, purple on white; 60 centavo, green on blue.

**THE NEW REPUBLIC**—A correspondent in South Africa writes that he has received a stamp from Vryheid, the capital of the new Republic. It must be a very crude affair as he states that it appears to be an impression from a rubber stamp.

**TURKEY**—The two piastres has been issued in blue and orange.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER**—Still another provisional. This time they have run short of penny stamps and have supplied the deficiency by surcharging 6 penny stamps, "One Penny" in two lines.

**TOBAGO**—Another provisional  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny has been made by surcharging 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  penny, blue stamps.

**NABHA**—The inscription on the Nabha stamps is now in two horizontal lines.

**ATTEND THE  
G R E A T  
CLEARING  
SALE!  
OF  
Clothing,  
Hats, Caps,  
Furnishing Goods,  
Etc., Etc.**

—o—  
**MARBLE HALL,**

216 Main St., Jamestown, N. Y.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

### The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly by **W. B. BROCKWAY**, at  
47 Hazzard Street.

**SUBSCRIPTION**—25cts per annum in the U. S.  
and Canada.

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\$2.00; 1 page, \$3.90.

Discount on standing advertisements.  
Reading notices, 10 cents per line.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Sec-  
ond Class Mail Matter.

**JULY 1886.**

We have more copied matter in this month than we would like to have, but we promise not to have it occur again, if we can help it.

All letters requiring an answer must have a two cent stamp for return postage. This is positive.

The Philatelic Monthly says that Atlantic City has a local delivery. Look out for the stamps, it is said that they look like spool labels.

We see by the Carson Philatelist that R. R. Bogert has taken a partner, Mr. Philip Comstock being the man. The firm name is R. R. Bogert & Co.

We regret very much that the article by Will M. Clemens, announced in our last issue did not come to hand as expected. We hope that it will be in time for our next issue.

A gentleman in this city recently received a letter from the dead letter office at Washington. It was written in March, 1885, by an "Aunt Jane," to a nephew in the Transvaal, Africa. It had been forwarded from place to place in the effort to find the person to whom it was addressed, and finally came back to this gentleman (whose name was mentioned in the letter). We understand that the envelope was much sought after by postmark collectors.

#### Among Our Exchanges.

We notice that the date on Philatelic Notes is 1885. It is probably a mistake of the printer.

The Youth's Ledger comes before us this month for the first time. It is bright and newsy.

The Cumberland collector is out for the second time, filled with more and better matter than the first number.

The Carson Philatelist is trying to discourage all new Philatelic publications. Just like 'em.

We would like a few more exchanges. Send in your papers, please.

#### Notice.

During the month of May I received an order for stamps from F. C. Stewart, No. 10 Stewart Block, Cleveland, Ohio. The order was filled and mailed the same day that it was received. I have just received the letter that I mailed from the dead letter office as unclaimed and advertised. If he will let me know his address, the stamps will be forwarded at once.

W. B. BROCKWAY,  
47 Hazzard Street,  
Jamestown, N. Y.

**WE WANT AGENTS.**—All who desire to act as agents for the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, sending a two cent stamp, will receive by return mail a package of O. C. S. together with terms to agents, etc. Don't fail to send.

We have received the first number of the Stamp Collector. It contains 32 pages of solid reading matter. The best we have seen. Come again.

**SUBSCRIBE FOR**

# Old Curiosity Shop

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

Subscribe for The Old Curiosity Shop only 25 cents per year, with premium.

### Notice.

I will send you this paper for a year for 50 Dep't or Revenue Stamps. (Match and Medicine preferred.)

Only 25 cents per year for The Old Curiosity Shop, and premium free.

## RUBBER STAMPS.

### BEST AND CHEAPEST.

Your name in fancy type, with ink, pad, box, etc., and special reduced price list, circulars, etc., for only 25 cents. Specimen book and complete agent terms for 8 cents. Special reduced prices to publishers offering my stamps as premiums.

T. S. SPARROW, Verona, N. Y.

N. B.—My \$5 copying tablet receipt sent to publishers inserting above and this.

### A. D. WORK.

PLAIN AND FANCY BAKING,  
ICE CREAM AND ICES.

309 MAIN STREET; JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

### LOOK! LOOK!

Every collector should send two good references and get one of my unequalled approval sheets. Good commissions allowed. A prize of \$1 00 to the agent who sells the most stamps before Dec. 1, 1886. No postals.

ALBERT R. SMITH,

Greenland, N. H.

### M. E. BROCKWAY,

218 MAIN STREET,

Jamestown, N. Y.

DEALER IN

FRESH FRUITS,

CONFECTIONERY,

SODA WATER,

ALL KINDS OF SUMMER DRINKS  
AND FINE CIGARS.

### NOTICE COLLECTORS.

The national committee request all persons intending to join the National Society to carefully consider whom they prefer for temporary officers, and to send to them as soon as possible the names of such persons as each individual member of each society prefers for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If members will respond promptly to this request they will greatly aid the committee in preparing nominations, and hasten the day when an election of temporary officers can be made. These officers will be elected for the purpose of organizing the society, and with full power to draw up a constitution and rules for the government of the society. Their term of office will be but temporary, but they will be succeeded by permanent officers as soon as their work is accomplished. Theo. F. Cuno, 148 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.; S. B. Bradt, Grand Crossing, Ill.; W. G. Whilden, Jr., 93 Washington St., Atlanta, Ga.

Old Curiosity Shop "ads" only 30 cents per inch.

### PREMIUMS.

Any one subscribing for this paper before Aug. 20, 1886, may have any one of the following. Be sure to tell in your letter which one you want. ~~50~~ Please write only on one side of the paper. ~~25~~

- No. 1. 4 different English Telegraph stamps.
- " 2. 4 " American Rapid "
- " 3. 8 " Tin Tags.
- " 4. 10 " Postmarks.
- " 5. Any five cent stamp in Durkin's catalogue, send list of five.

Address publisher,

W. B. BROCKWAY,

47 Hazzard Street,

Jamestown, N. Y.



# THE Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1.

Jamestown, N. Y., Aug. 1886.

No. 3

## TRICKS IN BANK NOTES.

### Anecdotes Told by an Old Man in the National Treasury.

A Washington correspondent writes: It is doubtful if any point of interest in Washington receives more attention from visitors at the capital than does the Treasury building. During the hours when its different departments are thrown open to sightseers, there is a constant flow of curious people passing from one department to another. Most of these individuals hurry in and out of the Treasury just as they hurry to the Smithsonian Institution, the Corcoran Art Gallery and similar resorts, simply because it is one of the places to "do," and because they do not want their neighbors at home to suppose that they had missed anything worth seeing. They are of the same class as those who consider it their bounden duty to present themselves at the White House, shake hands in a curious, meaningless fashion with the President, although they never utter a word to him (for which he is doubtless exceedingly grateful), and then pass on to stare, in an equally meaningless way, at the paintings on the walls of the audience chamber, as if the chief magistrate was a certain kind of curiosity, and the paintings another, each of kindred value. However, some few intelligent people visit the Treasury, listen patiently to attendants who are ready and willing to explain whatever may be of interest relative to the different departments, and who come away with a fund of useful information and a store of reminiscences well worth repeating. Many of the people one encounters on these tours of inspection are amusing studies. I met two young men in the Treasury who had gone there solely

to see the photograph of the notorious youth who shot the still more notorious Jesse James. Long and closely they gazed at the counterfeit presentment of a being who in their eyes was probably a god. It needed no vast stretch of fancy to discern dime novels in their inside coat pockets, and bowie knives and revolvers in their diseased thoughts. Once they had gratified their curiosity in regard to the bit of cardboard, they listlessly quitted the apartment, eagerly comparing notes.

Many of the lady visitors ask most absurd questions. To a chattering group of females an attendant was exhibiting some spurious silver dollars. Imagine the amused smile which played about his mouth when one of his fair guests innocently asked:

"How much real silver do counterfeiters put in a bad dollar?"

His reply was well worth repeating. He said:

"Madame, it depends entirely upon the conscience of the counterfeiter."

The lady's manner indicated that she hardly understood the explanation. In any case she displayed considerable hesitancy about further interrogations.

There is a white-haired, sharp-eyed little old man in the Treasury who has been one of the features of the place for years. While not readily accessible to ordinary visitors, he can, on presentation of a letter of introduction, render himself an extremely interesting personage, inasmuch as he is a perfect storehouse of anecdotes, which he relates with all the charm of an accomplished raconteur. Into this gentleman's hands, speaking metaphorically, I happened to fall, and required no particular effort to make the official talkative. He was inspecting at the moment a

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

spurious \$100 note, and this circumstance gave rise to his first anecdote.

"I tell you," he said, "there is apparently no limit to the clever tricks of counterfeiters. Just look at this note. It doubtless deceived over a hundred people before it came into our hands. I know for a fact that it was accepted as genuine by a bank teller in high standing, and yet the instant a certain young woman in one of our departments let her experienced eye fall upon it, she detected its worthless character. The neat workmanship on this bill reminds me of a case which came to our notice some time ago. A counterfeiter had got up a number of \$100 notes on six separate banks. The copy used was on a bank which made its \$100 notes in this style. On one end of the paper was an engraving of a ship, the yard arm of which ran between two delicate flourishes underneath the word "the," which was the first word of the name of the bank of issue; as, for instance, The National Bank of the Republic, or The First National Bank. The fraud would have been a particularly neat one had the counterfeiter made his notes payable by the same bank from which he obtained his original specimen. Instead of being sufficiently shrewd, however, to avail himself of that precaution, or perhaps through an excess of caution, he made them payable by six other banks. Each of these latter institutions had one distinctive feature on the face of their one hundred dollar notes. The yard-arm of the vessel instead of running between the two minute flourishes barely touched the outside of the flourish nearer the top of the note, and approached closer to the word 'the' by the sixteenth of an inch. Of course the counterfeit, which was a capital piece of workmanship with the one exception mentioned, deceived merchants easily, and deceived many bank tellers as well. The moment the notes passed through the hands of a lynx-eyed young lady at the Treasury, she discovered their spurious quality in a twinkling."

(To be continued.)

Old Curiosity Shop "ads" only 30 cents per inch.

### NUMISMATICS.

—The 1886 cent is liable to become a rarity. There has been none struck off for circulation thus far. A few were struck for proof sets.

—It is reported that two gold dollars are worth three silver dollars.

—The Elmira Telegram has a coin department.

—At a sale of old coins at Philadelphia not long since, a centennial dollar of bronze, said to be the only one in existence, brought \$90. An 1838 dollar, said to be the only one ever seen with a plain edge, brought \$117 50. Silver half dollars of 1801 and 1802 sold for \$8.00 each. A dime of the same date brought \$34, and a half dime \$16.20.—*Signs of the Times.*

—There is considerable talk about the wonderful 1804 dollar which was sold here the other day by a stranger as a rare coin and for which \$100 was paid. The fact that a similar coin has been sold in Omaha for a like amount causes the suspicion that the stranger was a sharper who is working the scheme. He did not try to force the coin on the market, but accidentally showed it with some other silver in his hand, and on being offered \$10 for it seemed to be as much surprised as anyone that it was worth even that much. Another stranger in the room inspected the coin and suggested that he had better not accept the \$10, as it might be worth \$100. This started some investigation, and those who are collecting rare coins were soon notified of the rare specimen, and began to eagerly bid for it. Now it appears that another such rare coin is discovered in the hands of a stranger in Omaha, and just as eagerly bought there. Honors between the two cities are easy—*Council Bluffs cor. Omaha Bee.*

All letters requiring an answer must have a two cent stamp for return postage. This is positive.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

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Published Monthly by **W. B. BROCKWAY**, at  
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\$2.00; 1 page, \$3.90.

Discount on standing advertisements,  
Reading notices, 10 cents per line

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Sec-  
ond Class Mail Matter.

**AUGUST 1886.**

**JOIN** the National Philatelic Associa-  
tion.

**DON'T** fail to read our notice to agents  
in another column.

**NOW** that the "oleo." bill has passed—  
what will the tax stamps be like?

**WILL** the proprietors of any auction  
sales of stamps, coins, bric a brac, etc., send  
lists to us?

"**THE** 12 cent special delivery will not  
be issued for some time," so says the Third  
Assistant Postmaster-General.

**WE** have heard the names of Messrs.  
Durbin, Sterling, Bogert, Whilden, and  
Collin proposed for the presidency of the  
N. P. A. Any more?

**THE** new postal cards will surely be is-  
sued now. The report we have heard says  
that the card will have Jefferson's head in  
black on white cards.

**THERE** are six postoffices in the town of  
Woodstock, Conn. There is Woodstock,  
North Woodstock, South Woodstock, East  
Woodstock, West Woodstock and Wood-  
stock Valley. It must be quite a place.

Only 25 cents per year for The Old Cur-  
iosity Shop, and premium free.

### INTERESTING

—A \$50 mortgage has been on a house  
at Norfolk, Va., for eighty-one years. The  
interest has been paid annually with due  
regularity.

—The "Pet" hotel on Broadway, New  
York, is full to overflowing. Canaries are  
charged 25 cents per week, parrots 50 cts.,  
monkeys 75 cents, cats \$2.50 and dogs  
from \$2 to \$4.50.

—Below is a copy of a hand-bill ob-  
tained at Chicago at the time of the great  
fire there in '71:—

### THIEVES AND BURGLARS!

OFFICE OF  
PINKERTON'S POLICE.

Orders are hereby given to the captains,  
lieutenants, sergeants and men of Pinkert-  
on's Preventive Police, that they are in  
charge of the Burned District, from Polk  
street from the River to the Lake and to  
the Chicago river. Any person stealing or  
seeking to steal any of the property in my  
charge, or attempt to break open the safes,  
as the men cannot make arrests at the pre-  
sent time, they shall (and below in large  
black letters the following) Kill the Per-  
sons by my Orders. No Mercy Shall be  
Shown them, but Death shall be their  
fate.

ALLEN PINKERTON.

### NOTICE.

During the month of May I received an  
order for stamps from F. C. Stewart, No. 10  
Stewart Block, Cleveland, Ohio. The order  
was filled and mailed the same day that it  
was received. I have just received the let-  
ter that I mailed from the dead letter office  
as unclaimed and advertised. If he will let  
me know his address, the stamps will be for-  
warded at once.

W. B. BROCKWAY,  
47 Hazzard Street,  
Jamestown, N. Y.

**WE WANT AGENTS.**—All who desire to  
act as agents for the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP,  
sending a two cent stamp, will receive by  
return mail a package of O. C. S. together  
with terms to agents, etc. Dont fail to send.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

### NUMBER ONE.

"I tell you," said Robbie, eating his peach,  
And giving his sister none,

"I believe in the good old saying that each  
Should look out for Number One."

"Why, yes," answered Katie, wise little elf,  
"But the counting should be begun

With the other one instead of yourself,—  
And he should be Number One."

—St. Nicholas.

### Ancient Methods of Measuring Time.

No wonder the ancients didn't get along in the world as well as the people of to-day—they lost too much time. And the reason they lost time was because of their imperfect ways of measuring it. They had to depend on the sun dial for the most part. A sun dial might be very useful when there was any sun, but it was entirely useless on cloudy days and during the night. In the latter case the truant husband inclined to hang out late profited much. It might be two o'clock in the morning when he crept in, but he could swear it was only 10, and his poor wife had no way of proving that he was lying. It removes much of the bitterness of a lie when you can't prove it on a fellow.

The Greeks and Romans, of whom we have occasion to speak occasionally, although this is not a strictly classical journal, had an improvement on the sun dial, which they could resort to when the sun dial was on a strike for eight hours as a day's work. It was a large jar filled with water, and a hole was made in the bottom through which the water could escape. The flow of the water told off the hours. It was called the clepsydra, which means "The water steals away."

Sometimes an old Roman who had been drinking a good many Roman punches before going to bed would wake up in the silent watches—we mean sun dials—of the night, parched with thirst. No other liquid being handy he would drink the contents of his clepsydra. That stopped the clock, of course, and he would everlastingly lie abed waiting for morning to come. He would never miss the water till the clepsydra was dry.

King Alfred burned candles to tell the time by, each candle lasting two hours. A dozen candles would make one day, though he got a little confused when the grocer, in order to hold the royal patronage and advertise himself as the special candle maker for the king, gave him thirteen for a dozen.

There are few kings since Alfred's time who could make note of time in that manner, because so many of them were in the habit of burning their candles at both ends.—Texas Sittings.

### AGENTS! NOTICE!

Send a two-cent stamp to the publisher of this paper and you will receive a package of this paper with the terms we are offering to agents. You will be pleased. Last month there was a great call for sample copies and our subscription list has swelled nearly half.

### Notice.

All persons sending me an original article upon any subject pertaining to Philately, Mimismatics, Bric a brac, Curiosities or Birds' Eggs, with not less than 300 words, will receive this paper for one year free.

## A BARGAIN!

A collection of about

### 400 ♦ Different ♦ Tags

For sale cheap at a bargain.

All good ones.

In writing always send stamp.

Address, "A. J. B." 47 Hazzard St.,  
Jamestown, N. Y.

M. E. BROCKWAY,

218 MAIN STREET,  
JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

DEALER IN

FRESH FRUITS,

CONFECTIONERY,

SODA WATER,

ALL KINDS OF SUMMER DRINKS  
AND FINE CIGARS.

### LOOK! LOOK!

Every collector should send two good references and get one of my unequalled approval sheets. Good commissions allowed. A prize of \$1 00 to the agent who sells the most stamps before Dec. 1, 1886. No postals.

ALBERT R. SMITH,  
Greenland, N. H.





# Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1.

Jamestown, N. Y., Sept. 1886.

No. 4

## THE ELECTION.

The following is the result of the election of the N. P. A., held at New York Sept. 14, 1886:

John K. Tiffany, of St. Louis, Mo.—President.

R. R. Bogert, of New York City—Vice President.

S. B. Bradt, of Chicago—Secretary.

L. W. Darbin, Philadelphia—Treasurer.

J. M. Chute, of Boston,—Editor of Official Organ.

## TRICKS IN BANK NOTES.

Anecdotes Told by an Old Man in the National Treasury.

Continued from last month.

"It must be difficult, then," I remarked, "to hoodwink your clever female clerks?"

"Yes, indeed, it is. Their eyes are so thoroughly educated as to make a mistake almost impossible."

"How do they educate their eyes?"

"By constantly running over money. To casually watch these women at work you would probably imagine that their sole aim was simply to count the money as rapidly as possible. Not so. A clerk will take a pile of bills, tightly fastened together with rubber bands, and without so much as loosening the fastenings, she will begin to count a a lightning rate by merely turning over quickly the upper right-hand corner of each note. Still though she has only such a small portion of the note for her guide, she will discover a counterfeit readily. Let me relate a little incident which happened while the Seventh regiment was in the city. Some of the boys, among them a paying teller from a New York bank, paid us a call, looking very elegant in their tasteful uniforms. They were engaged for several moments in

watching the clerks count money in the manner described. Suddenly one of the young women snapped a note from the package which she was running over. After she had thrown it aside in an apparently careless manner, I picked it up and handed it to the visitors for inspection. It was passed from one to another without eliciting any special comment. Finally it reached the man whom I knew to be a paying teller. He examined it for a moment and returned it to my possession without a word. I asked him if he had noticed anything peculiar in regard to it. He replied in the negative. And yet it was an ingenious counterfeit, as the experienced eye of the clerk had detected the instant she had turned up a corner of it."

"Is it possible," I asked, "for a note to be so split in two as to show both sides of it intact?"

"Oh yes, and it is very easily done. You procure a certain kind of gum, and paste the note downward to a piece of paper. Then you paste another piece of paper over the back of the note. By carefully pulling the two pieces apart the fibre of the note will split, and what looks like a difficult transaction is easily accomplished. Nothing, however, can be gained by the operation. If one-half of such a bill were forwarded to us for redemption, we would return to the sender one-half of its face value. Sharpers indulge occasionally in a little game which consists of piecing notes. That is, they will make nine notes out of eight, each not being pieced once. When you come to measure them you will find that they are precisely one-eighth shorter than they should be. Merchants are readily doped by them, but rarely a bank cashier."

"What is the rule relative to the redemp-

tion of mutilated currency?"

"We redeem nothing smaller than one-half of a note, and we pay in proportion to the quantity of the note sent, except when there is only one-tenth missing. In the latter case we pay the full face value. If you were to send us a one-dollar note, one-quarter of which had been torn away, we would give you seventy-five cents for it. If within six months, not later, you succeed in recovering the missing part, we would, on its presentation, pay you twenty five cents more. Suppose you brought us a shred of a note, with the edges fringed, and asserted that it was the remnants of a \$100 bill which had accidentally been destroyed by fire, we would request you to make an affidavit in support of your story. If you could still further substantiate your statement by the affidavits of several reputable persons who had witnessed the destruction of the bill, we would then accept the shred and give you \$100. Of course, people frequently try to impose upon us, but they invariably come to grief. A man once sent us a lot of small pieces of various denominations which were very ragged looking. He wrote that they were the remaining portions of bills which had been carried from his money drawer by mice and nibbled into shreds. They were turned over to some of the female employees, women so experienced that, although they have only a tiny shred to go by, can tell positively from that shred the face value of the note of which it was a portion, its origin and the date of its issue, even should there be not a single letter or figure upon it. It took these experts only a trifling space of time to discover that the nibbled fragments had formerly belonged to counterfeiters. However, as the sender had made no affidavit in the matter he escaped punishment."

**THE LATEST.**

From L. W. Durbin.

**BHOPAL.**—The  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna of the last issue has been changed to green and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna to red. Both are unperforated.

**BRITISH BECHUANALAND.**—The post card,

penny wrapper and registered envelopes of Cape of Good Hope have been surcharged for use in Bechuanaland.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—A 1 cent card, gray on buff, is announced.

**(EXLON.**—Another of the new issue has made its appearance: 15 cents, olive.

**CUBACOA.**—Rumor has it that 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cent stamps and 5 cent postal cards are in preparation.

**DOMINICA.**—The color of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny has been changed to green and that of the 4 d. to gray. The 6 d. green comes surcharged d "One Penny" as well as "Half Penny."

**FRENCH COLONIES.**—The 25 centimes is now printed black on flesh colored paper.

**GAMBIA.**—Several of the current series have changed color as follows: 3 pence, pale green; 1 shilling, brown. There is said to be a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  pence, blue, also in use.

**GRENADA.**—The following named postal cards are said to have been issued:  $\frac{1}{2}$  pence, green; 1 d. rose; 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. brown, all in double as well as single form. Also, 2 d. blue, registered envelope and  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. green; 1 d. rose; 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. brown and 2 d. blue wrappers.

**GUATEMALA.**—The complete set of the new issue is as follows:

1 centavo, blue;	2 centavos, brown;
5 centavos, purple;	10 " red;
20 " green;	25 " orange;
50 " green;	100 " brown;
150 " blue;	200 " yellow.

**MEXICO.**—Envelopes of 5 centavos, blue and 10 centavos, lilac have been emitted with stamps of the new design, and also 2, 5 and 10 centavo postal cards.

**MONTSEBRAT.**—A double penny card is announced.

**NEVIS.**—Double 1 and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  penny cards are now in use.

**PEBAK.**—The 2 cents, rose is said to have been surcharged "one cent" and used for that value.

**RUSSIA.**—An international 3 kopeck card has been issued. It is printed in red and black on buff.

**SANDWICH ISLANDS.**—The color of the 12 cents has been changed to red, we are informed.

**TOBAGO.**—The color of the half-penny is now green.

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor. | 47 HAZZARD STREET, Jamestown, N. Y.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In the U. S. and Canada, 20 c. per annum.  
In the Postal Union, 30 c. per annum.

Terms invariably in advance

## ADVERTISING RATES:

1/2 inch	25c	1/2 col	\$1 25
1 inch	40c	1 "	2 55
2 inches	75c	1 page	5 00

Discount on ads. standing 3 months or more.

Reading notices 8 cents per line.

All matter should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion in the next number.

Address everything to **W. B. BROCKWAY,**  
47 Hazzard St., Jamestown, N. Y.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second Class Mail Matter.

SEPT. 1886.

## A REDUCTION.

We have (with this number) been before the public four months, and with this number we are to reduce the subscription price to 20 cents per annum. All the subscriptions that have been received at 25 cents each, with all those received before the 20th of this month, Sept., will be credited to eighteen months, and as our circulation has increased so very rapidly that we have raised our advertising rates as per inside heading.

WHAT has become of the notorious Horace C. Jones alias F. Stahl? Has his case been dropped?

MR F. M. GILHAM, of Oakland, Cal., has our thanks for the fine catalogue of curiosities which he sent us.

WE will give to every one sending us ten addresses of boys and girls in their vicinity a three months' subscription to this paper.

OUR thanks are due Mr. Willie Brindley, of East Liverpool, O., for the fine arrow head that he so kindly donated us.

WE will send the *Mohawk Standard* and

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP one year for 30c., or the *Cumberland Collector* and THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP one year for 40c.

## OUR "X'S."

- The *Capital City Philatelist* seems to have forgotten that it is publishing a serial story.

- It is said that the "Summer" number of *The Philatelist* is out, but we have not seen it.

- Why does the *Philatelic Tribune* have a cover?

- The *Stamp and Coin Gazette* is the only one of the larger collectors papers that stands up for the small ones.

- The *Tag World* is here. It is very interesting. Can we not have the first and second numbers, too? Come again.

- The *Tromp*, of Oakland, Md., is another on our X list. Come regular, please.

- The *Stamp* is one of the best of our X's. Success be with you.

- No 4 of the *Cumberland Collector* is as bright as a new dollar.

- Evidently the *Collector's Science Monthly* does not think that we are worth exchanging with.

- The *Philatelic Herald* for June and July is at hand. We would like to see more of it.

- The *Youth's Pilot* for July and August is on our table. We would like to see it again.

-- We want all publishers to understand that if they receive a copy of this paper that they are on our exchange list, but if they fail to send their papers their names will be stricken from our list.

- The *Stamp World* for September is at hand.

## HO! YE AUTHORS!

We, like some other collectors' papers, have been accused of using too much copied matter in our paper, so we make the following

## GRAND OFFER.

We will give 200 different tin tags, (some very scarce) for the best article on Stamps, Coins, Tags or Curiosities. Articles must have at least 300 words. All articles are subject to publication. Articles must be in by Nov 1st.

**Exchange Column.**

This column is for the use of the subscribers and agents of this paper. Exchanges are limited to 50 words.

I will give a six months' subscription to this paper for every four old collectors papers sent me till Sept. 30, 1886.

W. B. BROCKWAY, 47 Hazzard St.,  
Jamestown, N. Y.

One set of P. E. I. stamps 1872 issue complete and unused for 12 2c. unused U. S. stamps. Wanted—odd numbers and complete volumes of philatelic papers for which I will pay good cash or exchange prices.

M. A. MACDONALD,  
Eldon, P. E. I. Canada.

F. A. Thomas, No. 345 Footes Avenue, Jamestown, N. Y., has a small brass cannon cost 65 cents, will exchange for best offer of bird's eggs.

Vol. IV, *Golden Days*, (a few numbers missing) and Vol. V, complete, for the best offer of stamps with or without album; or, for books by Castlemon, Alger or Optic.

F. E. HANCHETT,  
44 Water St., Jamestown, N. Y.

**Buried Animals.**

The name of an animal, with the letters in their natural order, will be found in each of the following sentences:

1. If you will give me the broken seal, Pa can replace it, I am sure.
2. It would certainly be a very good idea to do so, Ethel.
3. The little black cub is only waiting for a chance to bite you.
4. I will not give her mine.
5. He gave them each a moist piece of preserved ginger.
6. She did not encourage Nettie to pursue her musical studies.
7. The parlor is already dusted and ready for our visitors.
8. How will a man, in his position ever retrieve himself?
9. I was there when Lem urged his claim so persistently.
10. Did you ask if Pa could stop at the big grocery.
11. Pa can stop, I am sure.
12. I set out this shallow pan daily, for the birds.
13. At the sound of the familiar tap I ran to the window.
14. Did you call Jack a lazy lad?—St. Nicholas.

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September 1st just issued. Cheapest in the U.S. Every dealer should send at once for a copy.

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many varieties for a 4c stamp

Agents wanted to sell approval sheets. Collections bought.

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Box 233, Hye, New York.

CHAS. J. DEAHL & CO.,

P. O. Box 305, Alexandria, Va.

Dealers in U. S. and Foreign

Approval sheets sent to collectors on receipt of satisfactory reference.

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**FREE! FREE!! FREE!!!**

—sample copy of

**THE CURIOSITY WORLD**

Devoted to Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, Birds' Eggs, Natural History, Autographs, Postmarks, Tags, Etc. 25c per year. JOHN M. HUBBARD, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

**The Midget** is a monthly paper full of stories, poems, natural history etc. etc., and is only 30 cts a year. Ad. rates 25 cents per line. Subscribe and advertise and you will not regret it. Send for sample copy to **FRICK & GIBSON,** 13 South Queen St., York, Pa.

**FOR SALE** A 16-bracket Birjo, nearly new Will sell cheap. Address "H" this office.

# THE Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1. Jamestown, N. Y., Oct. 1886.

No. 5

Written for the Old Curiosity Shop.

## "THE OLD WOODEN BOX."

BY HUDDLESTON.

Reading the article published in "The New York World" of May 5th, entitled "The Old Hair Trunk" caused me to think that out of "The Old Wooden Box" of letters in the attic I might "strike" upon some stamps as rare as those taken from the trunk described in that piece. The only thing that stood in my way towards reaching the contents of this box was that under no circumstances was anybody allowed to enter the attic in which it was stored, as there were some very valuable articles in this room that had been handed down two or three generations. So this put me to planning how I was to enter this room. I knew I could not enter by the door for it was invariably kept barred and locked and the key in the keeping of my grandfather, the owner of the treasure which I sought. Living next door to us was the leader of the party of boys to which I belonged and whenever one of us had any problem of whatever sort to be solved we confided in him. Knowing that I could not work out my scheme by myself there was nothing left for me to do but to get Simon, (as our leader was called,) to help me. That day we met and discussed the matter thoroughly, finally agreeing to meet the next night at 10 o'clock to put our plans into execution. All the next day Simon and myself were busy at work arranging articles that were to be used in helping us carry out the project. A few minutes after tea that night Simon and myself met as appointed. The first that was to be done was to reach the top of the house but that was no difficult task for we merely had to climb the old Elm that stood near the house, and tie a rope around a limb that leaned a little way over the house and swing down on the roof over the attic. Having landed safely we began to remove

the shingles with as little noise as possible. Having accomplished this we sawed a hole through the rest of the roof just large enough to allow us to pass through. Our rope which was tied to the limb above was long enough to reach to the floor of the room, so we slid down the rope, lit our candles, and were soon at work looking over the old letters. After looking over many and not finding anything of interest it occurred to me for the first time that in every pile of letters there was not a fortune to be found. A gloom came over me now for we were nearly to the bottom of the box and no Brattleboros had appeared. We had finished the last pack when the clock struck one and thought best to start back because the roof had to be mended before dawn. We climbed the rope with heavy hearts for of the fortune we had expected, only about one dollar's worth was secured (by Durbin's Catalogue) and half of that belonged to Simon as his share. We mended the roof and had just climbed down the tree, when I happened to look up I beheld a blaze coming from the place where we had made a hole in the roof. What were we to do? If we alarmed the neighbors we would be obliged to account for being out there that time of night. We were standing there in a state of perplexity when we heard a loud explosion. It waked up the neighbors who arrived immediately and succeeded in extinguishing the fire just as the fire department arrived. While all this was taking place poor grandfather was most beside himself. His treasures that he cherished so dearly swept away in a few moments, could he ever be reconciled to the loss? It was sad to witness the old man's grief, especially when one's conscience was at work. Of course we both knew that the fault was ours and that we must account for the accident. So with heavy hearts we told them all and that our candles must have caught among some rubbish. Kind old grandfather forgave us though he never fully got over his loss, and many a heavy heart have I had as he would gaze at me so sadly. What would I not have given to have removed that sadness from his face, but the evil moment had passed and I could do naught but try in the end to please him.

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BY RUDDLESTON.

Reading the article published in "The New York World" of May 5th, entitled "The Old Hair Trunk" caused me to think that out of "The Old Wooden Box" of letters in the attic I might "strike" upon some stamps as rare as those taken from the trunk described in that piece. The only thing that stood in my way towards reaching the contents of this box was that under no circumstances was anybody allowed to enter the attic in which it was stored, as there were some very valuable articles in this room that had been handed down two or three generations. So this put me to planning how I was to enter this room. I knew I could not enter by the door for it was invariably kept barred and locked and the key in the keeping of my grandfather, the owner of the treasure which I sought. Living next door to us was the leader of the party of boys to which I belonged and whenever one of us had any problem of whatever sort to be solved we confided in him. Knowing that I could not work out my scheme by myself there was nothing left for me to do but to get Simon, (as our leader was called), to help me. That day we met and discussed the matter thoroughly, finally agreeing to meet the next night at 10 o'clock to put our plans into execution. All the next day Simon and myself were busy at work arranging articles that were to be used in helping us carry out the project. A few minutes after tea that night Simon and myself met as appointed. The first that was to be done was to reach the top of the house but that was no difficult task for we merely had to climb the old Elm that stood near the house, and tie a rope around a limb that leaned a little way over the house and swing down on the roof over the attic. Having landed safely we began to remove

the shingles with as little noise as possible. Having accomplished this we sawed a hole through the rest of the roof just large enough to allow us to pass through. Our rope which was tied to the limb above was long enough to reach to the floor of the room, so we slid down the rope, lit our candles, and were soon at work looking over the old letters. After looking over many and not finding anything of interest it occurred to me for the first time that in every pile of letters there was not a fortune to be found. A gloom came over me now for we were nearly to the bottom of the box and no Brattleboros had appeared. We had finished the last pack when the clock struck one and thought best to start back because the roof had to be mended before dawn. We climbed the rope with heavy hearts for of the fortune we had expected, only about one dollar's worth was secured (by Durbin's Catalogue) and half of that belonged to Simon as his share. We mended the roof and had just climbed down the tree, when I happened to look up I beheld a blaze coming from the place where we had made a hole in the roof. What were we to do? If we alarmed the neighbors we would be obliged to account for being out there that time of night. We were standing there in a state of perplexity when we heard a loud explosion. It waked up the neighbors who arrived immediately and succeeded in extinguishing the fire just as the fire department arrived. While all this was taking place poor grandfather was most beside himself. His treasures that he cherished so dearly swept away in a few moments, could he ever be reconciled to the loss? It was sad to witness the old man's grief, especially when one's conscience was at work. Of course we both knew that the fault was ours and that we must account for the accident. So with heavy hearts we told them all and that our candle must have caught among some rubbish. Kind old grandfather forgave us though he never fully got over his loss, and many a heavy heart have I had as he would gaze at me so sadly. What would I not have given to have removed that sadness from his face, but the evil moment had passed and I could do naught but try in the end to please him.

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

Written for the O. C. S.

## COINS.

BY A. G. C.

Metallic money, specie; pieces of metal, generally gold, silver or copper, bearing certain marks to indicate their value, and designated to be used as money. How early gold and silver began to be used as money, history does not inform us. Coins were probably used as early as the 5th century B. C., but by the 4th century money was found throughout the civilized world, every State having a proper coinage. Most of the commoner metals have in turn been used for making coins. Copper formed the early money of the Romans and when Caesar landed in Britain, coins of brass and iron were found in use. At the present day, the precious metals gold and silver, with copper for the lowest denomination are almost universally employed as the material of coin. Gold and silver in a state of purity are soft, and coins made of these metals would suffer loss and injury to a certain degree if there were no means of hardening them, and the addition of a small quantity of alloy is found to produce this effect. In the U. S. the gold coins must be made of metal consisting of 9 10 fine. This is the Standard fineness. In the Eagle there must be 258 grains. In estimating the value of coins, it is the quantity of fine metal contained in them which is considered, the alloy goes for nothing. In Great Britain two systems prevail, one for gold, and one for silver, the fineness of gold is expressed in carats, absolute purity being 24 carats fine. Coins are generally made, flat, circular and thin. In U. S. the silver coins range from the 3 cent piece to the dollar or from 11 1-2 grains to 412 1-2 in weight, and from about 1-2 inch to 1 1-2 inches in diameter. Gold coins range from the dollar of 25 8-10 grains to the double eagle of 516 grains. The new cent coin (copper and nickel) is about 3-4 of an inch in diameter and weighs 72 grains. Coins having no mark are from the mint, at Philadelphia. There are 15 or more private units in California. New Jersey authorized a copper coinage in 1786 and Mass. in 1786 also; In 1793, cents and half cents were issued.

## THE LATEST.

From L. W. Durbin.

**ANTIOQUIA.**—The remainder of the new issue has come to hand. They are as follows: 10 centavos, carmine; 20 centavos, purple; 50 centavos, buff; 1 peso, yellow on blue; 2 pesos, green on lilac.

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.**—Letter cards of the value of 3 and 5 kr. are now in use.

**CHAMBA STATE.**—Another of the Indian states has come into the list of stamp-issuing countries. They use the stamps of British India surcharged "Chamba State" in two horizontal lines.

**COCHIN CHINA.**—We have the 25 centimes of the current French Colonies surcharged "C. H. for use in Cochin China.

**CURACOA.**—The color of the 12 1-2 c. mentioned last month is yellow.

**FARIDKOT STATE.**—This state is now using the stamps of British India surcharged "Faridkot State." We have the following values: 1-2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 annas and 1 rupee, and the same with "Service" surcharge.

**GRENADA.**—A 2 pence registered envelope is in use.

**GUATEMALA.**—In our list of the new issue last month we omitted the 75 centavos, carmine.

**HUNGARY.**—The following letter cards have been issued: 3 kr., green on yellow; 5 kr., red on yellow.

**ICELAND.**—A newspaper wrapper is said to have been issued, bearing a 5 aur, green stamp.

**MADAGASCAR.**—We have seen the 1 and 2 penny stamps with a different border from those first described, and printed in rose instead of lilac.

**MARTINIQUE.**—A provisional 5 centime stamp has been made by surcharging the current 20 c. French Colonies.

**MONTSERRAT.**—The 4 pence has come to hand, printed in lilac. The 4 d. gray mentioned in our last catalogue probably does not exist.

**NEW REPUBLIC.**—This republic, of which mention was made some time since in *The Monthly*, has a series of stamps of which two only have thus far been seen, viz., 1 and 2 pence, black of buff paper. They have the value in the centre, "Nieuwe Republiek" above in two lines, "24 May, '86, Zuid Afrika" below in two lines. The stamps are perforated.



# The Old Curiosity Shop.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor. | 47 HAZZARD STREET, Jamestown, N. Y.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In the U. S. and Canada, 20 c. per annum.  
In the Postal Union, 30 c. per annum.

Terms invariably in advance.

### ADVERTISING RATES:

1/2 inch.....	25c	1/2 col.....	\$1 25
1 inch.....	40c	1 ".....	2 55
2 inches.....	75c	1 page.....	5 00

Discount on ads. standing 3 months or more.

Reading notices 8 cents per line.

All matter should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion in the next number.

Address everything to **W. B. BROCKWAY,** Hazzard St., Jamestown, N. Y.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second Class Mail Matter.

**OCT. 1886.**

### THE A. P. A.

Last month we gave the result of the result of the election. It seems to be satisfactory as we have heard no complaint. We are sure that a better set of officers could not have been selected. We wish the officers our congratulations.

It is with great pleasure that we present to our readers the story on our first page although rather late. We are sure it will please.

If any paper of our size can boast of solid advertisers than ours we would like to see it. Anyone can trust our advertisers for they are the dealers of the land.

Mr. E. F. Gambs of San Francisco, Cal. has honored us with his premium coin list. It is a neat twenty page book containing the value of all the coins worth over face value. It is illustrated but the neatest picture of the whole book is the stamp photo of Mr. E. F. Gambs on the 3 page above. Anyone after seeing that face would cease to wonder at his success.

The *Curiosity World* at hand. Very good. Don't forget that we X with all.

### OUR CLUB LIST.

The Tramp .....	30c.
" Mohawk Standard.....	30c.
" Cumberland Collector .....	4c.

Any of the above papers with the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP one year for the price opposite its name.

### OUR PREMIUMS.

Until Nov. 15, 1886, we will give to every one sending us 20 cents for a one year's subscription their choice of the following splendid premiums:

- 1st—300 mixed stamps.
- 2nd—25 different tin tags.
- 3rd—1 English telegraph stamp.
- 4th—6 months' extra subscription.
- 5th—35 different stamps.
- 6th—To every fifth I will give a copy of an elegant 'Flirtation Book' and
- 7th—100 different post marks.

All day long for over a week a crowd has been at the window of Mayhew's art store looking at the wonderful sword there displayed. The sword that drew so much attention was composed of over two hundred Chinese coins woven together with a silken cord passed through the holes; the sword was about two feet long. It is quite a curiosity.

### CHOICE TEN CENTS.

100 varieties foreign stamps.....	10 cents
20 " revenue " .....	10 "
5 " Saxony " .....	10 "
6 " Philatelic papers.....	10 "
Stamp Album.....	10 "
How to deal in stamps.....	10 "
Indian arrow head.....	10 "

All the above for 50 cts. postal note. Send for an approval sheet of foreign and United States stamps at 25 per cent commission.

ALLEN CHASE, Bucksport, Me.  
Mention OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

### Special Offer.

FOR . 60 . DAYS . ONLY  
THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP  
**One Year for Ten Cents.**

This offer is good only to December 1, '86. Don't let this offer go by. It will never be repeated.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

Wm. v. d. WETTERN, Jr.,

Wholesale Dealer in

**Postage Stamps.**

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md

September 11st just issued. Cheapest in the U.S.  
Every dealer should send at once for a copy.

**RUBBER STAMP** With your name in Fancy  
Type, 25 Visiting Cards and  
India Ink to mark linen, only 25 cents (stamps.)  
Book of 2 00 styles free with each order. Agents  
wanted. Big pay. **THALMAN MFG CO.**  
Baltimore, Md.

**FREE! FREE!! FREE!!!**

ample copy of

**THE CURIOSITY WORLD**

Devoted to stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, Birds,  
Eggs, Natural History, Autographs, Postmarks,  
Tags, Etc. 25c per year. **JOHN M. HUBBARD,**  
Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

1860. Established Seventeen Years. 1886.

**L. W. DURBIN,**

Fifth and Library Streets,

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

The Finest assortment of genuine stamps in  
the country at the lowest prices.

**PACKETS**—10 Stamps for 5 cents; 60 for  
25 cents; 102 for 50 cents; 370 for \$2.50.  
All different. Other packets, 25 cents to  
\$50 00. Packets of postal cards, 25 cents to  
\$50 00

**ALBUMS**—From 28 cents up.

**NEW STAMP CATALOGUE**—The latest,  
best, and most complete. Price, 25 cents;  
in cloth binding, 50 cents.

**NEW POSTAL CARD CATALOGUE**—  
sixth Edition 25 cents.

Coats of Arms, gummed paper, flags and  
everything required by Stamp Collectors,  
always in stock, at the lowest prices.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. Orders filled  
the day of receipt.



**CEO. H. RICHMOND,**

Postage Stamps for Collectors

210 9th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Circulars free, or with 100 Foreign Stamps  
for 5c. If you name this paper. Best ex-  
change prices paid for old U. S. Stamps.  
Copy Collector's Aid for stamp, 50 good,  
mixed stamps, to trade with, 20c. 100  
choice varieties, 25c. 4 Brazil, 5c.; 3

Japan, 5c.; 3 Egypt, 5c.; 3 Spain, 5c.; 2 New Zealand, 5c.; 3  
Cape Good Hope, 5c. The six sets, 25c. Flags of all nations,  
25c.; Coats of Arms, 50c.; Portraits, 50c. The three, \$1.00.



Largest Stock of Stamps and Coins in the World. *Standard Stamp Catalogue*, 200 pages, illustrated with 2000 engravings, 25c. *Standard Copper Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Standard Silver Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Philatelist Album*, 400 illustrations, board cover, 25c.; cloth, 50c. *International Album*, with specially designed spaces for every stamp issued, board cover, \$1.50, cloth \$2.50; also on heavy paper in various styles of binding, from \$5 to \$20. **APPROVAL SHEETS** sent to responsible parties. **AGENTS** wanted everywhere. Our packets cannot be equalled in quality or price. Circulars sent free. **Scott Stamp & Coin Co., L'd, 721 Broadway, N. Y.**

**MRS. M. J. SMITH,**

Dealer in

**Human Hair Goods & Fine Toilet Articles.**

A large stock of Switches at all prices.

306 Main Street, Jamestown, N. Y.

Longest Established (1860) in America. **F. TRIFET,** Importer and Dealer in

**FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STAMPS**

408 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Complete sets of all departments; set of 1874 Periodicals; U. S. Proofs and Envelopes, etc., in stock. Approval sheets on receipt of references. 1886-7 Catalogue, illustrated, being our 17th edition, post free, 25 cents. Commissions and collections wanted. References, twenty years' reputation in one city. **Special Offer:** 104-page Album (board covers, cloth back, 264 cuts), and 104 Stamps (no two alike), all for 40c. 50 scarce, 10c.

# The Tramp

Contains jolly bits for Mirthful Mortals, a monthly devoted to Collectors, Exchanges, Agents and Funny People.

**One Year 20 Cents. Sample Free.**

Advertising Rates:—5 cts per line, 35 cts per inch. The *Tramp* and *OLD CURIOSITY SHOP* one year only 30 cts.

**THE TRAMP CO.,** Oakland, Md.

## TO COIN, STAMP AND CURIOSITY COLLECTORS.

Selections of goods will be sent on approval. References required. Agents wanted. Superior 21 page catalogue free. Birds Egg list for stamp.

**W. F. GREANY,**

827 Braunion St., San Francisco, Cal.

# —THE— Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1.

Jamestown, N. Y., Nov. 1886.

No. 6

Written for the O. C. S.

## A GENERAL'S ORDER.

BY G. A. R.

"Now, father, you must tell me that story you promised me," said Willie to his father.

"All right, my son," answered his father, "get me my pipe and tobacco and I will begin. Let me see, what was it I promised to tell you about?"

"Why, can't you remember? Why, about that old letter that you had so much trouble sending from your camp."

"Oh, yes," said his father, "now listen."

"Yes."

"Well, General Cox issued an order that no man was to send a letter home, but I was bound to and as I had heard of a sutler that was to leave camp that night to go after supplies. Learning the time that he was to start I went to my tent and wrote a letter. When it was finished I wrapped it up in a piece of paper and went to the sutler's tent. The messenger had just mounted his horse as I got there. His pants were tucked down in his boots. I went up and shoved this letter down in his boot, he looked down when he felt me working at his boot and I raised my finger as a sign to say nothing. I then took a piece of paper out of my pocket and asked him if he would post it as soon as he had a chance. He said that he would be glad to but he had strict orders not to. He then looked at his boot and then at me and nodded his head and was off. He had not been gone long when it commenced to rain, and the constant motion of his leg in the boot together with the water made the letter look pretty rough. He posted it when he got to the station and your mother kept it when she received it."

The American Tag Association is well under way. Full particulars next months.

## IN LETTER BOXES.

Some of the Many Peculiar Findings of Collectors of the Mail.

"Do we ever find anything beside mail matter in the letter boxes?" repeated an old mail carrier who was hurrying west on Monroe street yesterday. "Oh very frequently," he continued, slugging his pouch upon his right arm. "We often fish out 'snipes,' old memorandum books, pool tickets and all that sort of stuff, but the strangest find was made by a carrier up in the Twenty-second street district. When he opened a box one morning a year or more ago he found a lady's diamond ring lying on top of a stack of letters. Right beside it was a slip of paper, upon which were written these words:

Please return this ring to Mrs. —, of Wabash avenue. I lost it in the box while trying to pull out a letter which I had dropped in by mistake.

"The carrier took the ring to the address given on the slip and received a handsome reward. Up in the Twelfth street district several years ago one of the carriers found over \$100 in greenbacks and a lot of jewelry in a letter box. He took the stuff to the postoffice, but nobody ever came after it, and it was finally turned over to the Police Department. Here it was recognized as a portion of the property stolen from a house on Johnson street. The thief, fearing capture, had thrust the stuff into the box, and, of course, made no effort to reclaim it."

## Climbing Up the Golden Stairs.

NEW YORK, Nov. 9.—Marcus Rosenfeld, author of a number of well known variety songs, among others "Climbing Up the Golden Stairs," pleaded guilty to-day to forging a check for \$225 on the Germania bank.—Daily Paper. The paying teller of the bank is a philatelist. The above shows that he knows a counterfeit check as well as he knows a bogus stamp.

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

## Exchange Column.

This column is for the use of the subscribers and agents of this paper. Exchanges are limited to 50 words.

A pair of Barney & Berry all clamp ice skates No. 9 for an International Stamp album, latest issue.

FRANK HANCHETT,  
44 Water street, Jamestown, N. Y.

One set (2) Corean stamps, 5 and 10 m., unused, for every silver 20c piece, or for the 24c Treasury, 10c P. O., or any Executive Department stamp. Stamps for same.

N. E. CARTER, Delavan, Wis.

I will give any agent that sends in ten subscriptions to this paper, 50 slips of paper with his or her name neatly printed on.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Jamestown, N. Y.

I have about 500 varieties of foreign stamps, 100 varieties of U. S. stamps, and 300 varieties of tin t. bacco tags, which I would like to exchange for other stamps or tags not in my collection. Canada correspondence preferred. Publishers of Philatelic papers please send sample c. pies.

FRANCIS JACKSON, Delavan, Wis.

### OUR AGENTS.

The following persons are authorized to receive ads for the O. C. S. :

C. S. Strain, Columbus Grove, Ohio; Amateur Advertising agency, Davidsburg, Pa.; W. Norton, 973 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

### OUR CLUB LIST.

The Tramp.....	30c
" Mohawk Standard.....	30c
" Cumberland Collector.....	40c
" Youth's Herald.....	30c
" Tag World.....	35c

Any of the above papers with the OLD CURIOUSITY SHOP one year for the price opposite its name.

Over \$12,000,000 in gold have arrived in this country from Europe within the past month or so.

## A Paragraph's Metamorphoses.

I.

Joseph Marcel was trying to set a game hen at Point au Prince, when the game cock flew in his face and pecked him severely on the left eyelid.

II.

A Canuck farmer had his eye pecked out by a game cock the other day. It served him right for trying to set the hen on china eggs.

III.

The ferocity of the game cock at certain seasons of the year was strikingly illustrated at Point au Prince recently, when a Canadian farmer had to kill one of those noble birds in self-defense.

IV.

A Canadian farmer was killed the other day by his favorite game cock. A man never knows when he is safe from harm.

V.

One of the most brutal exhibitions on record was the fight at Point au Prince, Canada, a few days ago, between a brawny farmer, with his hands tied, and a ferocious game cock. The bird had been trained to fly at a man's eyes, and in the fifth round pecked his left orb into giblets. After thirty-nine bloody rounds the human brute caught his feathered adversary between his teeth and bit off its head.—Omaha Bee.

### Shoes for His Majesty.

The Madrid court shoemaker has been ordered by Queen Christine to make a pair of shoes for his majesty Alfonso XIII. They will be made of white leather and elaborately embroidered with gold. Before the young king puts his feet into them, the shoes, according to old usage, will be sprinkled with holy water. Queen Christine has given orders that, together with her son's first shoes, 300 pairs be made for poor children and distributed in her name.—New York Post.

### A Writer's Rule.

Brander Matthews says he has made it a rule never to call personally on an editor until he had accepted an article. The only occasion on which he violated this rule saw him the owner of a rejected manuscript. If only more authors would form and observe this regulation.—New York Graphic.

### Something to Do.

A boarding house mistress has added another ornament to her wall decorations. It is in the shape of a motto which reads thus, "Laugh and grow fat." She wants to give the mouths of her boarders something to do.—Boston Commonwealth

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Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second Class Mail Matter.

**NOV. 1886.**

Where is the Cumberland Collector?

Wish we had a complete list of *The Stamp*.

The Youth's Herald has a new heading we like the old one better.

Advertisers should advertise in our next number. It will pay them.

The Stamp Collector is dead. That's too bad; it was a splendid paper.

The committee of the exposition to be held at Paris in 1889 have favored us with an illustrated catalogue.

Mr. Mekeel has been offered the soul inspiring office of janitor of the A. P. A. If small gifts are appreciated we will furnish a dust pan.

Remember that our great reduction offer lasts only a few days more. It will be your last chance to get a good paper for almost nothing. Subscribe at once!

All persons who are interested in a business course should send to Williams & Rogers, Rochester, N. Y., for a sample copy of their "Review." It will pay them.

An Open Letter to Albert R. Smith, Greenland, N. H.

SIR—I have fulfilled my share of the contract and now I would like you to fulfill yours, or send me 60 cents for "ads" inserted.

W. B. BROCKWAY.

### What Became of the May flower.

It has been ascertained that this noted vessel was chartered in 1659 A. D., by the East India Co., and went to Masulipatam from Gombroone for a cargo of rice and general produce. She was lost on the return voyage.

In looking over an old copy of *The Chautauqua Tourist* we find the following:

'Frank L. Mills, of Cincinnati, is the crack oarsman at Lakewood this season.'

Is this the popular stamp dealer of Cincinnati?

If you receive more than one copy of this paper please hand to your friends who you think would like such a paper. Don't forget our reduction offer, good only to December 1, 1886.

We have been honored with the "Stamp Collectors' Companion" compliments of the *Stamp World*. Although the book is rather out of date it is well worth the price, 15 cts.

## Special Offer.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

**One Year for Ten Cents.**

This offer is good only to December 1, '86. Don't let this offer go by. It will never be repeated.

### CHOICE TEN CENTS.

100 varieties foreign stamps.....	10 cents
20 " revenue ".....	10 "
5 " Saxony ".....	10 "
6 " Philatelic papers.....	10 "
Stamp Album.....	10 "
How to deal in stamps.....	10 "
Indian arrow head.....	10 "

All the above for 50 cts. postal note. Send for an approval sheet of foreign and United States stamps at 25 per cent commission.

ALLEN CHASE, Bucksport, Me.  
Mention OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

# Stamps, Coins Curiosities

## From Turkey

A full line of Oriental Goods. Come and look.

**TURKISH BAZAR,**  
121 W. 3d St. Jamestown, N. Y.

## CATCH 'EM WHILE THEIR HOT.

25 Different Rare Stamps..... 5c  
25 Different Unused Stamps..... 75c  
For sale by **PAUL V. LOTH,**  
14 Barr St., Cincinnati, O.

**Wm. v. d. WETTERN, Jr.,**  
Wholesale Dealer in

## Postage Stamps.

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

September 1st just issued. Cheapest in the U.S.  
Every dealer should send at once for a copy.

**RUBBER STAMP** With your name in Fancy Type, 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen, only 25 cents (stamps.) Book of 200 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. **THALMAN MFG CO.,**  
Baltimore, Md.

**FREE ! FREE !! FREE !!!**

sample copy of

## THE CURIOSITY WORLD

Devoted to Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, Birds' Eggs, Natural History, Autographs, Postmarks, Tags, Etc. 25c per year. **JOHN M. HUBBARD,**  
Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.



**GEO. H. RICHMOND,**

Postage Stamps for Collectors

210 9th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Circulars free, or with 100 Foreign Stamps for 5c. If you name this paper. Best exchange prices paid for old U. S. Stamps. Copy Collector's Aid for stamp. 500 good, mixed stamps, to trade with, 50c. 100 choice varieties, 25c. 4 Brazil, 5c.; 3 Japan, 5c.; 3 Egypt, 5c.; 3 Spain, 5c.; 3 New Zealand, 5c.; 3 Cape Good Hope, 5c. The six sets, 55c. Flags of all nations, 55c.; Coats of Arms, 50c.; Portraits, 50c. The three, \$1.00.

## TO COIN, STAMP CURIOUSITY COLLECTORS.

Selections of goods will be sent on approval. References required. Agents wanted. Superior 24 page catalogue free. Birds Egg list for stamp.

**W. F. GREANY,**  
827 Brannon St., San Francisco, Cal.

## Boys Make Money

By selling our packets of stamps. 8c per doz. Gifts for large sales. **UNION STAMP CO.,**  
Box 57, N. Tarrytown, N. Y.

# Le Timbre Levatin

A Journal devoted exclusively to the Orient Stamps. Appearing ten times a year at Constantinople, under the direction of

**MR. APIK YAREMIDJI,**  
At Thrapia, near Constantinople.

Subscriptions, 2 fr. 50c. per year; advertisements, 25c. per line, 31 fr. 25c. a page. N. B.—This journal will appear in German and English as soon as we shall have 500 subscribers in each of these countries. It is desirable for American and German amateurs to subscribe immediately. Nos. 1 and 2 are free postpaid to all merchants and collectors in the world up to Nov 30, 1886.



Largest Stock of Stamps and Coins in the World. *Standard Stamp Catalogue*, 200 pages, illustrated with engravings, 25c. *Standard Copper Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Standard Silver Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Philatelist Album*, 400 illustrations, board cover, 25c. cloth, 50c. *International Album*, with specially designed spaces for every stamp issued, board cover, \$1.50, cloth \$2.50; also on heavy paper in various styles of binding, from \$5 to \$20. APPROVAL SHEETS sent to responsible parties. AGENTS wanted everywhere. Our packets cannot be equalled in quality or price. Circulars sent free. **Scott Stamp & Coin Co., L'd, 721 Broadway, N. Y.**

Longest Established (1846) in America. **F. TRIFET,** Importer and Dealer in  
**FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STAMPS**  
408 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Complete sets of all departments; set of 1874 Periodical U. S. Proofs and Envelopes, etc., in stock. Approval sheets on receipt of references. 1886-7 Catalogue, illustrated, being our 17th edition, post free, 25 cents. Commissions and collections wanted. References: twenty years' reputation in one city. **Special Offer:** 10 page Album (board covers, cloth back, 264 cuts), and 10 Stamps (no two alike), all for 40c. 50 scarce, 100

**MRS. M. J. SMITH,**

Dealer in

## Human Hair Goods & Fine Toilet Articles

A large stock of Switches at all prices.  
306 Main Street, Jamestown, N. Y.

In answering advertisements always mention O. C. S.

# Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1. Jamestown, N. Y., Dec. 1886. No. 7

## DEFINITIONS.

**WE** find that it is the case of most of our young collectors that they do not know the meaning of a great many of the words used by the older collectors, and for their benefit we publish below the meaning of most of these words. The following is a clipping from the "Stamp Collector's Companion":

**AUTHENTIC.**—When used in reference to a stamp, means that said stamp is all right in every particular; that it was printed upon the original dies by the government of the country in question.

**CONTINENTAL.**—All of the very common stamps of the continent of Europe constitute the continentals often advertised by dealers.

**ESSAY.**—In adopting new stamps, different designs may be submitted to the government before a creditable one is decided upon; the ones not chosen constitute essays.

**FAC-SIMILE.**—An exact imitation of a stamp is called a fac-simile.

**LITHOGRAPH.**—A stamp is lithographed when it is printed from an engraving on stone.

**PERFORATION.**—The small indentations around the edges of a stamp constitute its perforation. Those with smooth edges are perforated; those with ragged edges are pul-tted.

**PHILATELY.**—The word in use for distinguishing the science of stamp collecting.

**REPRINTS.**—When stamps are reproduced by any government for the use of stamp dealers, they are called reprints.

**REMAINDERS.**—Are the stamps remaining at the time a new set is issued. They are usually sold to dealers.

**VARIETIES.**—Variations in perforation, color, etc., are classed under this head.

**TETE BECHE.**—Is the term applied to two

stamps joined together, one of which is printed upside down. Some of the earlier issues of France so exist.

**WATERMARK.**—Is a water-colored design woven into the paper of a stamp. When it exists, can always be seen by holding the stamp when wet before a lighted lamp.

## APPOINTMENTS.

**THE** officers of the A. P. A. have made the following appointments: Librarian, E. D. Kline, Toledo, O; Exchange Superintendent, E. B. Howes, Providence, R. I; Purchasing Agt, Theo. F. Cuno, Brooklyn, N. Y; Official Editor, W. R. Fraser, Altoona, Pa; Trustees, E. B. Sterling, Trenton, N. J; Wm. v. d. Wettern, Baltimore, Md; J. C. Feldwisch, Denver, Col. There was no appointment of counterfeit detector.

## THAT 1886 CENT.

**SOMETIME** ago we noticed in one of our exchanges that the cents for 1886 would not be issued this year, except for proof sets. We lately received a letter from one of our subscribers saying, "The 1886 cent is very common here."

## ACQUITTED.

**THE** trial of F. Stahl, jr., came off during the latter part of October. He was acquitted of the charge of using the U. S. mails for a fraudulent purpose. H. C. Jones is still at large.

## WHAT IS IT?

**IN** looking over a young friend's album recently, I noticed a 10 pf. Wurtemberg envelope stamp, embossed but not printed. Is it a misprint or a regular issue?

GEO. H. PARTRIDGE, Jamestown, N.Y.

[Will some of our readers answer the above.—ED.]

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

### NATIONAL TAG ASSOCIATION.

PLEASE let me inform the readers of your paper that the tag collectors of United States have decided to organize a National Tag Society. The following committee have been appointed to act upon it: Mr. Frank L. Willcutt, 1114 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. Jas. Whitsett, Golden City, Mo.; Mr. Charles Reimers, Rock Island, Ill. The above committee have accepted the position and will do all in their power to the point of organization. There will be a bureau of exchange. All members can send tags (not exceeding fifty) to be exchanged. Tags can also be exchanged by list. Each month a circular or paper will be issued. It will give all the new issues, where they can be obtained, exchange and correspondence columns, valuable information concerning this hobby, etc. Everybody write the following on a postal card and send it to one of the committee:

.....date.  
I will join the National Tag Society about to be formed. Please advise me when any action is to be taken for permanent organization. Name.....  
Age..... Postoffice.....

Ten cents per month will be required of each member to print the monthly papers, etc. I trust that collectors to whom this appeal is sent, will respond and give us their aid at the earliest possible convenience.

Many members are already enrolled and the number is being constantly swelled.

Yours Very Resp't,  
FRANK L. WILLCUTT,

Pub. of Tag World.

To W. B. Brockway, Pub. O. C. S.

### PREMIUMS.

☉ all sending 20c for a year's subscription may have any one of the following premiums:

- 1 V nickel without word "cents."
- 1 Flirtation book.
- 20 slips of paper with name on, for pasting in books.
- 25 different stamps.
- 25 different tin tags.
- 25 different postmarks.


For Artist Materials,  
Picture Frames,  
→ PICTURES, ←

Wall Paper & Window Shades,

—GO TO—

E. C. MAYHEW'S,  
117 Main St. Jamestown, N. Y.

### TURKISH CURIOSITIES.

Turkish Stamps  Coins,

Also a full line Turkish curiosities, etc., old and new, at  
TURKISH BAZAR,  
121 W. 3d St. Jamestown, N. Y.

### FOREIGN STAMPS!

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

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

TO COIN, STAMP   
CURIOSITY COLLECTORS.

Selections of goods will be sent on approval. References required. Agents wanted. Superior 24 page catalogue free. Birds Egg list for stamp.

W. F. GREANY,  
827 Brannon St. San Francisco, Cal.

HERE YOU ARE!  
AMATEUR PAPERS

Printed neatly and cheaply. Correspondence solicited. This paper is a sample of our work. Address with stamp,

A. B. FLETCHER,  
West Second St. Jamestown, N. Y.

FREE! FREE!! FREE!!!

Sample copy of

THE CURIOSITY WORLD

Devoted to Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, Birds' Eggs, Natural History, Autographs, Postmarks, Tags, Etc. 25c per year. JOHN M. HUBBARD,  
Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.



# The Old Curiosity Shop.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor. | 47 HAZZARD STREET, Jamestown, N. Y.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In the U. S. and Canada, 20 c. per annum.

In the Postal Union, 30 c. per annum.

Terms invariably in advance

### ADVERTISING RATES:

1/2 inch.....	25c	1/2 col.....	\$1 25
1 inch.....	40c	1 ".....	2 55
2 inches.....	75c	1 page.....	5 00

Discount on ads. standing 3 months or more.

Reading notices 8 cents per line.

All matter should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion in the next number

Address everything to W. B. BROCKWAY, 47 Hazzard St., Jamestown. N. Y.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second Class Mail Matter.

DEC. 1886.

The California Collector is the latest, welcome.

The American Philatelist will appear in January.

The revenue on "oleo" last month equalled \$100,000.

It cost \$28,486,798 to run the inland mail service last year

In last month's editorials read Youth's Ledger for Youth's Herald

It gives us great pleasure to announce for next month a continued article on the Confederate stamps

The funeral car of Abraham Lincoln is now used as a boarding car on the Pacific railroad.

One hundred and forty six gold florins of the time of Emperor Segismunds and earlier than the 15th century have recently been unearthed in a private garden at Wortemburg.

We respectfully call all dealers attention to the fact that we have changed our advertising space so that it will be more to their advantage. Hereafter we will give but one column of ads on a page.

## CHRONICLE.

From L. W. Durbin.

**AUSTRIAN ITALY**—The following additional values have been surcharged for use in Turkey: 20 paras on 5 soldi; 1 piastre on 10 soldi; 2 piastres on 20 soldi; 5 piastres on 50 soldi.

**BARBADOS**.—Three new values of the current type have been issued, viz., 6 pence, gray; 1 shilling, yellow-brown; 5 shillings, red brown.

**BELGIUM**.—The color of the 5 centime post card has been changed from yellow-green to dark green.

**FINLAND**.—A double 10 penni card has been emitted, red and black on buff

**FRANCE**.—The lately issued 25 centimes, black on flesh, has been surcharged 1 piastre for use in Turkey.

**GERMAN EMPIRE**.—The 10 pfennig card now comes with somewhat different inscriptions.

**GRENADA**.—Another provisional has been made. It is the three half penny revenue stamp surcharged, "Postage 1 d"

**MEXICO**.—The newspaper wrappers now bear stamps of the latest design

**UNITED STATES**.—A new 2 cent stamp is expected about the first of the year, also a new 1 cent. The new postals are in circulation; they are not much improvement on the old ones

**ROUMANIA**.—The 25 bani of the new type is now in use

L. M. Hamlin, the publisher and stamp dealer, died at his home in Augusta, Me., Nov. 6, 1886, at the age of 21 years. By his death the N. E. P. A. will lose one of its most valued officers. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved parents

John M. Hubbard, of Lake Village, N. H., is about to publish the "Stamp Collectors of the World," containing the addresses of over 1000 stamp collectors in all parts of the world. If you are an active collector, send him your name and address, to the above address, and your name will be inserted free of charge.

It is said that a druggist in the southern part of Pennsylvania gave away fifty of the new silver certificates, believing them to be a patent medicine advertisement.

**Exchange Column.**

This column is for the use of the subscribers and agents of this paper. Exchanges are limited to 50 words.

U. S. revenue, document, match, medicine, proprietary and playing card stamps to exchange. Also philatelic and coin papers for the same. B & A., box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Fine arrow heads to exchange for large copper cents or U. S. coins; also cent for cent. Send list of coins you have and state what you want for them in any sort of curiosities. H. T. Urson, Parkersburg, W. Va.

I will exchange a Japanese newspaper for a U. S. 7c stamp of 1870, used. Stamps for the same. Used U. S. money order envelopes (new issue) without stamps, for foreign stamps. J. D. Sloat, St. Charles, Mo. Box 117.

For every 200 square cut envelope stamps, or 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10c letter stamps I will give 4 varieties of side blown eggs, one for every eagle cent sent me, 2 for every large U. S. copper cent or silver 3 cent piece. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H.

Tin tags for the same, 1200 (many rare), tin tags for a printing press, chase not less than 4x6. 150 different paper tags, finely mounted, for a complete set of U. S. locals. Stamps for stamps, send list. ARCHIE K. BATES, Titusville, Pa.



**GEO. H. RICHMOND,**  
Postage Stamps for Collectors  
2109th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Circulars free, or with 100 Foreign Stamps for 5c. If you name this paper. Best exchange prices paid for old U. S. Stamps. Copy Collector's Aid for stamp. 600 good, mixed stamps, to trade with, 30c. 100 choice varieties, 25c. 4 Brazil, 5c.; 2 Japan, 5c.; 2 Egypt, 5c.; 2 Spain, 5c.; 2 New Zealand, 5c.; 2 Cape Good Hope, 5c. The six sets, 25c. Flags of all nations, 5c.; Coats of Arms, 5c.; Portraits, 6c. The three, \$1.00.

**Wm. v. d. WETTERN, Jr.,**  
Wholesale Dealer in  
**Postage Stamps.**  
176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

September list just issued. Cheapest in the U. S. Every dealer should send at once for a copy.



Largest Stock of Stamps and Coins in the World. *Standard Stamp Catalogue*, 200 pages, illustrated with 2000 engravings, 25c. *Standard Copper Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Standard Silver Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Philatelist Album*, 400 illustrations, board cover, 25c. cloth, 50c. *International Album*, with specially designed spaces for every stamp issued, board cover, \$1.50, cloth \$2.50; also on heavy paper in various styles of binding, from \$5 to \$20. APPROVAL SHEETS sent to responsible parties. AGENTS wanted everywhere. Our packets cannot be equalled in quality or price. Circulars sent free. Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd, 721 Broadway, N. Y.

Longest Established (1866) in America. **F. TRIFET,** Importer and Dealer in  
**FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STAMPS**  
408 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.  
Complete sets of all departments; set of 1874 Periodicals; U. S. Proofs and Envelopes, etc., in stock. Approval sheets on receipt of references. 1886-7 Catalogue, illustrated, being our 17th edition, post free, 25 cents. Consignments and collections wanted. References: twenty years' reputation in one city. **Special Offer:** 104-page Album (board covers, cloth back, 264 cuts), and 100 Stamps (no two alike), all for 40c. 50 scarce, 10c.

**Boys Make Money**

By selling our penny packets 8c per doz. Rare stamp given where you sell 5 doz. UNION STAMP CO. N. Tarrytown, N. Y. Box 57.

**DLAREHSHTUOY**

Any one forming the above letters into the correct words will receive FREE a fine premium and a four month's subscription to the YOUTH'S HERALD, providing ten cents is sent to pay expenses. This is done only to introduce the HERALD, a fine, twelve page monthly, containing serial and short stories, Natural History, Humor, etc. The exchange column will in future be a special feature of this publication. Everybody send for sample copy free. Those not sending correct words, will receive HERALD without premium.

**SHETTEL & NES,**  
34 N. Beaver St. York, Pa.

**RUBBER STAMP** With your name in Fancy Type, 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen, only 25 cents (stamps, Book of 2900 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. THALMAN MFG CO., Baltimore, Md.

In answering advertisements always mention the O. C. S.

# Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1.

Jamestown, N. Y., Jan. 1887.

No 8

From the Philadelphia Weekly Times.

## SOME WAR STAMPS.

In February, 1861, representatives of seceding States assembled at the State House in Montgomery, Ala., and formed a government independent of the United States. Among the departments of that government was that of the Post Office, with John H. Reagan Postmaster General. Arrangements for the establishment of new postal routes and the issuing of a series of postage stamps independent of the issues of the United States Government, were at once begun.

The postmasters in many of the Southern towns, finding it impossible to carry on their business systematically without postage stamps and the government being delayed in the production of an immediate issue, took the matter into their own hands and arranged for the issuing of provisional stamps for use in their local offices. The result of this sudden impulse was the production of no less than half a hundred varieties of provisional stamps, the designs of which, in the main, were very crude. Many of these early Confederate stamps consisted only of type-work frame and were similar to the common post mark.

One of the first provisional stamps issued was that bearing the name of Madison, a small town in Madison county, Florida. S. J. Perry, the postmaster, produced these stamps in 1861, and it is claimed as early as in December, 1860. The stamp was a type set frame, with the value, three cents, in the centre, printed in bronze on blue woven foolscap paper. It is said a five-cent stamp was also issued by this postmaster.

Early in 1861 the postmaster at Mobile, Ala., issued a set of two stamps, a two-cent stamp, printed in black, and a five-cent stamp, printed in blue ink on heavy paper.

About the same time there appeared from Athens, Ga., two stamps of the value of five and ten cents, but differing slightly in design and color of paper upon which they were printed. The one was printed in purple ink and the other in deep brick red. It will be noticed that the Athens stamp differs from that of Mobile in the publication of the postmaster's name on the stamp, "J. Crawford, P. M." in the upper circle of the design.

No sooner had these first specimens of provisional postage stamps made their appearance than half of the postmasters throughout the country south of Mason and Dixon's line changed the dating stamps in their offices to postage stamp dies. The design usually consisted of the dating stamp with the date left out and the figures of value either written or printed in its stead. In certain instances the stamps were authenticated by the initials of the postmaster, written in colored ink across the stamp or on the back of the envelope. The larger portion of these general provisionals that have no real artistic design are not unlike the stamp made by the postmaster at The Plains, Va.

The three Confederate provisional stamps designed and issued by as many postmasters, which most resemble each other are these from the Petersburg and Pleasant Shade, Virginia, and Rheatown, Tennessee, post offices. But few of these stamps were issued and but half a score of each variety are now known to be in existence. The Petersburg stamp was printed in dull-red ink on rather thick, soft paper, and was of the value of five cents. The Pleasant Shade and Rheatown stamps were also printed in red, the latter having the name of the postmaster "D. Pence," printed across the top, and the former bearing the name of "R. E. Davis, P. M." The name of "W. E. Bass, P. M."

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

on the bottom of the Petersburg stamp, appears in less prominent type than the other two

The Knoxville, Tenn., postmaster issued in 1861 six varieties of stamps—the largest number of any Confederate post office. These were all of the value of five cents, but different in design and color. The design was prepared by an engraver at Nashville—and is after the design of the Nashville stamp. A circular stamp, not of engraved design, but in a printed frame, was also issued. It is said that the circular stamp was only for temporary use, having been made by a Knoxville printer while the design engraved by the Nashville man was being prepared. The circular stamp was bordered by eleven stars, while in the centre appeared the figure of value and the word "paid." The circle of stars was surrounded by an oval band inscribed "C. H. Charlton, P. M., Knoxville, Tennessee." Spandrels of ornamental scroll work, enclosed in a double line frame, also appeared on this unique stamp. The name of "W. D. McMish, P. M.," appeared on the Nashville stamp, in the upper circle. The Nashville stamp was issued in values of three, five and ten cents.

(To be Continued.)

Written for the Old Curiosity Shop.

### Curious Reptiles of the Mesozoic Period.

The Ichthyosaurus (Gr. fish-lizard) was a sort of reptile-whale, that attained, in some instances, a length of thirty feet or upwards. Its general bodily form was that of a fish, to which was added the head and breast-bone of a lizard; the paddles of a whale; the snout of a porpoise, and the teeth of a crocodile. The Ichthyosaurus, however, was a true air-breathing animal, and could do what no whale or porpoise of the present day is capable of accomplishing, viz: It could crawl upon the shore as do the seals and walrus. It had an enormous eyeball, which was larger in proportion to the skull, than the eye of any other animal—the orbital cavity in one species being fourteen inches in the largest diameter; and this eye, having no

Continued on Third Page.

### OUR WORK.

We present our readers this month our eighth number, and we can honestly say that we are proud of our paper. Yes, it is small, but it is at the same time, alive to the interests of its patrons, and we do not think there is one that can say they are not satisfied with it. When we started in we determined to issue at least twelve numbers and all that have subscribed since our first number will receive twelve numbers anyway.



GEO. H. RICHMOND,

Postage Stamps for Collectors

2109th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Circulars free, or with 100 Foreign Stamps for 5c. If you name this paper. Best exchange prices paid for old U. S. Stamps. Copy Collector's Aid for stamp. 500 good, mixed stamps, to trade with, 20c. 100 choice varieties, 25c. 4 Brazil, 5c.; 3 Japan, 5c.; 3 Egypt, 5c.; 3 Spain, 5c.; 3 New Zealand, 5c.; 3 Cape Good Hope, 5c. The six sets, 25c. Flags of all nations, 25c.; Coats of Arms, 50c.; Portraits, 50c. The three, \$1.00.

**BEAUTIFUL MINERALS CHEAP.**—phalerite. Brites, Quartz Crystals (clusters), Galerite, these minerals are crystalline specimens—no cabinet complete without them. Milky Quartz. Calcite, blue, white and mottled Flint, Crinoid Lime Stone, Fossil Shells, Porous Tufa. Good specimens of above 5c.; fine (large) specimen, 10 to 25c. Stalactite, 5c.; large, 10c. Banded flint (black and white) fine specimen, 5 to 15c. Sludge Blend, 5c. per oz. Collectors wishing choice specimens to beautify the cabinet can find none better; 10 very choice (2x2 in.) specimens 1.00; 2, 1x1 specimen 50c, post paid. Satisfaction guaranteed. Stamps rejected in amounts over 50c.

GEO. D. SFORV, Cartersville, Mo.

**A LARGE BUNCH OF MOSS,** very beautiful and decorative, grown in Central America. sent to any address upon receipt of **10 CENTS** BESSIE SEYMOUR, Olivia, Ala.

### UNUSED SETS OF STAMPS.

5 varieties Bergedorf.	.....	.09
10 " German Empire,	.....	.15
3 " Heligoland wrappers complete....	.....	.05
6 " Porto Rico, '82	.....	.05
12 " Sardinia	.....	.05

Postage 2c extra All the above 50c, post free. All stamps guaranteed genuine. Sheets of stamps on approval at 25 per cent discount, sent for 25c stamp and reference. BLACKSTONE STAMP CO., Box 241, Worcester, Mass.

**50** ELEGANT Imported Embossed Chromo Cards, no two alike, with your name on, sheet Autograph Album Verses, sheet Wonderful Secrets, Family Magazine 3 months, pack May I C U Home cards, pack Transparent cards and five latest songs, ALL FOR TEN CENTS. (silver). Send at once. Address PEARL CARD CO., Armourdale, Kansas.

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor. | 47 HAZZARD STREET, Jamestown, N. Y.

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2 inches.....	75c	1 page.....	4 00

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Reading notices 8 cents per line.

All matter should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion in the next number.

Address everything to W. B. BROCKWAY, 47 Hazzard St., Jamestown, N. Y.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second Class Mail Matter.

JAN. 1887.

Halifax Philatelist No 1, at hand. Very good.

Who will win, Chalmers or Hill? We favor Chalmers.

Durbin has the 16th edition of his standard catalogue in press.

We have noticed S. Allan Taylor's ad. in a few papers. Beware!

J. M. Hubbard has pleased us with a copy of the "Stamp Dealers of the World."

F. J. Stanton will publish the "Largest stamp collectors directory in the world."

Mr. B. P. Bower of Cleveland, O., will please accept thanks for fine lot of war tokens received

Many thanks to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. for the advance sheets of their new catalogue at hand.

We will furnish any of the following papers with THE CURIOSITY SHOP one year for the price set opposite its name:

Trump.....	30c	Curiosity World.....	30c
Tag World.....	35c	Youth's Herald.....	30c
Peerless Review.....	50c	Mohawk Standard.....	30c
Witch City Collector.....	30c	Le Timbre Levantin.....	60c
Cumberland Collector.....	40c.		

### Curious Reptiles—Continued from 2d page.

eyelids, was protected from injury by a casing of numerous thin, flexible bones. The length of its jaws was sometimes upwards of six feet, and its teeth were numerous and formidable. Its skin was naked like that of a whale, not covered with scales. Owl like, it probably pursued its prey at night, and must have been exceedingly destructive to the animals with which it lived. In some instances, the petrified stomach of the Ichthyosaurus has been found filled with the half-digested fossilized remains of fish, reptiles and even the young of its own species.

The Plesiosaurus was another marine reptile, ranging from ten to twenty feet in length, which has been likened to "a turtle threaded through with the body of a snake." The head, which resembled a lizard, was very small; its paddles were large, like those of a turtle; and the tail was like that of a crocodile. But the most remarkable feature of this animal was the enormous length of its neck; which contained twenty to forty cervical (neck) vertebra. This reptile was carnivorous; but unlike the Ichthyosaurus, which was a deep sea animal, it was a shore creature, and lived in bays and shallow water; lurking under marine vegetation, it obtained its prey by darting out its long neck, and seizing it with its sharp and formidable teeth. Crocodiles of various species, and often of great size, inhabited the same seas.

We also find in the rocks of this epoch, bones and tracks of tortoises, and in some instances, what appear to have been the eggs of these animals, have been found fossil.

Coprolites. In connection with the remains of fishes and reptiles in the rocks of the Mesozoic period, there are found certain curious organic bodies, which all geologists are agreed are the fossilized "voidings" or "excrements" of the above referred to animals; and which have received the name of Coprolites. These, in many instances, contain scales, fragments of bones, etc., the undigested portions of the animal's food—and often exhibit on their surface the corrugation and vascular impressions of the intestines.

GEO. D. STORX.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

### EXCHANGE COLUMN.

This column is for the use of the subscribers and agents of this paper. Exchanges are limited to 50 words.

I will exchange arrow heads for old U. S. and foreign coins (copper). For every 100 square cut envelope stamps will also give an arrow head, must be of mixed denominations. Stamps sent on approval for exchange if desired. Correspondence solicited. J. D. Sloat, St. Charles, Mo. Box 177.

An excellent arrow head for a dime of 1876 C Haddaway, Easton, Md.

U. S. revenue, document, match, medicine, proprietary and playing card stamps to exchange for others of same, or for U. S. postage and newspaper stamps and foreign postage, not in my collection. Stamp and coin papers to exchange. B. G. A., box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Will exchange a beautiful gold embossed perfume casket for every V nickle without cents, or every dime dated before 1880. Box 9, Davidsburg, Pa.

Fine arrow and spear heads to exchange for U. S. coins. 1 arrow for any U. S. coin dated before 1820, 2 for any one dated before 1800. H. T. Upson, Parkersburg, Va.

A half-cent of 1796 to the highest bidder. It is in good condition. Also a half-cent of 1809, 13 stars surcharged with 2 arrows across liberty's head, to the highest bidder. E. W. Hardinghouse, 549 Court St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Read the word "when" in place of "where" in Union Stamp Co's ad. in December issue.

**OLD COINS** Price List for 3c stamp. Big prices paid.  
F. A. MORE, Lewiston, Me.

Wm. v. d. WETTERN, Jr.,  
Wholesale Dealer in

**Postage Stamps.**

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

September list just issued. Cheapest in the U. S. Every dealer should send at once for a copy.



Largest Stock of Stamps and Coins in the World. *Standard Stamp Catalogue*, 200 pages, illustrated with 2000 engravings, 25c. *Standard Silver Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Philatelist Album*, 400 illustrations, board cover, 25c. cloth, 50c. *International Album*, with specially designed spaces for every stamp issued, board cover, \$1.50, cloth \$2.50; also on heavy paper in various styles of binding, from \$5 to \$20. APPROVAL SHEETS sent to responsible parties. AGENTS wanted everywhere. Our products cannot be equalled in quality or price. Circulate.  
Scott Stamp & Coin Co., 721 Broadway, N. Y.

Longest Established (1866) in America. **F. TRIFET,** Importer and Dealer in  
**FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STAMPS**  
408 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Complete sets of all departments; set of 1874 Periodicals; U. S. Proofs and Envelopes, etc., in stock. Approval sheets on receipt of references. 1886-7 Catalogue, illustrated, being our 17th edition, post free, 25 cents. Commissions and collections wanted. References, twenty years' reputation in one city. **Special Offer:** 104-page Album (board covers, cloth back, 264 cuts), and 100 Stamps (no two alike), all for 40c. 50 scarce, 10c.

**TO COIN, STAMP and CURIOSITY COLLECTORS**

Selections of goods will be sent on approval. References required. Agents wanted. Superior page catalogue free. Birds Egg list for stamp.

W. F. GREANY,  
827 Brannon St., San Francisco, Cal.

**FREE! FREE!! FREE!!!**

Sample copy of

**THE CURIOSITY WORLD**

Devoted to Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, Birds Eggs, Natural History, Autographs, Postmarks, Tags, Etc. 25c per year. JOHN M. HUBBARD, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

**RUBBER STAMP** With your name in Fancy Type, 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen, only 25 cents (stamps). Book of 200 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. THALMAN MFG CO., Baltimore, Md.

**THE COLLECTOR**

Is an 8-page journal devoted to collectors of all branches. Advertising rates, 25 cents per inch. Subscription price, 25 cents per year. Send stamp for sample copy to

**COLLECTOR PUBLISHING CO.,**  
Easton, Md.

**SEND** Description of yourself with 15 cts for complete written prediction of your future life etc. N. M. GEER, Port Homer, Ohio.

# Old Curiosity Shop.

From the Philadelphia Weekly Times.

## SOME WAR STAMPS.

[Continued from last month.]

The stamps issued by the postmaster of New Orleans were among the earliest of the provisionals, and were reprinted soon after the city was occupied by the Union forces. Five varieties were issued by the postmaster, Mr. J. L. Riddell. Two of these stamps were of the two-cent value and the other three of the five-cent. The colors were as follows: Two-cent red, two-cent blue, five-cent brown on blue. These stamps were lithographed in sheets of forty stamps each and were used exclusively in the New Orleans postoffice.

The stamp issued by Mr. J. McCormick, postmaster at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was printed in the office of the Gazette and Comet. There are

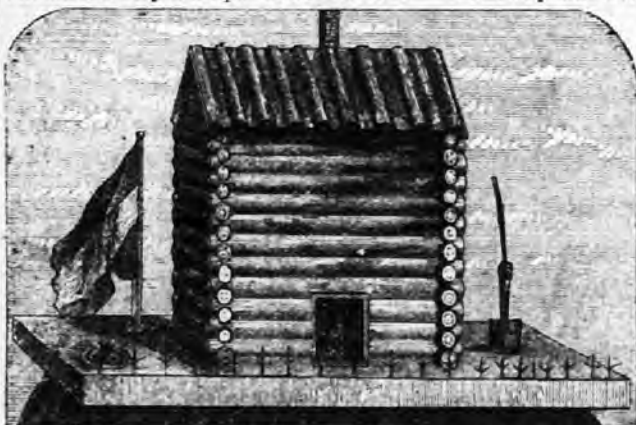
but two copies of this stamp now in existence. They are considered very rare. The groundwork of the stamp is printed in green and the border and lettering in carmine ink. It is a type set design, with the inscription "P. O. Baton Rouge, Louisiana," a large 5 in the centre, and "J. McCormick," the name of the postmaster, below. Two designs of this stamp were issued, a two-cent red stamp and a five-cent red and green.

### THREE ALABAMA STAMPS.

The postmaster at Greenville, Alabama, issued three stamps for his town during 1861

—two, five and ten cent stamps. These were printed on heavy glazed paper, the frame of the five-cent stamp being in blue ink, while on the ten-cent stamp the frame is in red and the letters in blue. The lettering was executed by hand, and the stamp, on the whole, is very ungraceful and unartistic.

The Livingston stamp, also from the state of Alabama, shows real and artistic taste in the design, and is in fact one of the best designed stamps issued by the Confederacy. It was a fine lithograph, and was impressed in blue on white paper of an extra fine manufacture. The stamp was evidently the work



of a thorough artist. The design is unique. The large figure 5 rests on a shield, supported by an oak and laurel branch; above appears a many-rayed star. A border surrounds the entire design, and

is inscribed "Paid" above, "Cents" below and "Livingston Post Office at the side. At each angle rests a cherub.

### VARIOUS STAMP ISSUES

A five-cent stamp was issued for the Kingston, (Tenn) postoffice in May, 1861. It is something like the Livingston stamp, the design being less artistic. The five appears in the centre, with "cents" below in curved lines. The whole is surrounded by an outer frame of pearls. The stamp was printed on white paper in green ink.

The Charleston, S. C., stamps were issued by M. Alfred Nuger, the postmaster. The

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

adhesive is printed on very thin white paper. Envelopes similar to the adhesive stamp were issued and were impressed on various colored paper.

At various times during the year 1861 provisional stamps were also issued by the postmasters of Columbia, South Carolina; Fredericksburg, Virginia; Jackson, Mississippi; Lynchburg, Virginia; Marion, Virginia; Macon, Georgia; Memphis, Tennessee (three varieties); Pittsylvania, Virginia; Ringgold, Georgia; Uniontown, Virginia, and two or three other towns. These conclude the issues of the Confederate provisional stamps

(To be Continued.)

## CRITIC'S TABLE.

B BELDING.

Stamp World and Wise and Otherwise is the new name of the Stamp World.

We haven't seen the American Numismatist since No 2:

The Curiosity World is just immense.

The Western Philatelist should be a success.

The Carson Philatelist has suspended.

The Stamp is one year old.

The Empire State Philatelist is the handsomest philatelic paper in the U. S.

The Tag Press is another new one Our wish is "success,"

Where is the Quaker City Philatelist. We haven't seen it since November.

We have heard a good deal about the Texas stamp papers, but we haven't seen any as yet.

Many thanks to Nulli Secundus. It is the finest amateur literary paper we have seen.

Massachusetts has three new papers, two for January and one for February - Witch City Collector, Peerless Review and Bay State Collector. They are all very good.

The International Philatelic Advertiser is at hand. It should have more reading matter.

To show you how good the promises are made by the Philatelic Magazine. It was to come regularly. It has been since November, 1886, since we saw it last.

Do any of our readers remember a stamp paper published in Buffalo, N. Y. by the name of the Philatelic Triumph? We have just had a copy of No. 1 sent us from somewhere. Thanks to the sender.

B. BELDING.

## Collectors of N. Y. State.

Send us your name on a postal card. We want a complete list of collectors throughout the state for our State Directory Advertisements 50 cents per inch Address without delay. O. D. SMITH Delta, N. Y.



**GEO. H. RICHMOND,**  
Postage Stamps for Collectors  
210 9th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Circulars free, or with 100 Foreign Stamps for 5c. If you name this paper. Best exchange prices paid for old U. S. Stamps. Copy Collector's Aid for stamp. 500 good, mixed stamps, to trade with, 50c. 100 choice varieties, 25c. 4 Brazil, 5c.; 3 Japan, 5c.; 2 Egypt, 5c.; 2 Spain, 5c.; 2 New Zealand, 5c.; 1 Cape Good Hope, 5c. The six sets, 25c. Flags of all nations, 5c.; Coats of Arms, 50c.; Portraits, 50c. The three, 1.00.

## UNUSED SETS OF STAMPS.

5 varieties Bergedorf.	.....	.00
10 " German Empire,	.....	.10
3 " Heligoland wrappers complete	.....	.00
6 " Porto Rico, '82	.....	.00
12 " Sardinia	.....	.00

Postage 2c extra All the above 50c, post free. All stamps guaranteed genuine. Sheets of stamps on approval at 25 per cent discount, sent for 2 stamp and reference. BLACKSTONE STAMP CO., Box 241, Worcester, Mass.

**50** ELEGANT Imported Embossed Chromo Cards, no two alike, with your name on, sheet Autograph Album Verses, sheet Wonderful Secrets, Family Magazine 3 months, pack May I C U Home cards, pack Transparent cards and five latest songs, ALL FOR TEN CENTS. (silver). Send at once. Address PEARL CARD CO, Armourdale, Kansas.



# S U P P L E M E N T.

JAMESTOWN, FEB. 1st. 1887.

DEAR SIR.

Upon the reverse of this sheet you will please find a list of U. S. COINS, still lacking to complete my collection, and if convenient wish that you look over those that you have on hand, and if finding any of the dates on the list, please inform me the lowest price that you take for them, postage to be paid on the same to its destination. The Coins, are classified as follows, 1st. Proof. 2d. Good. 3d. Fair; the date still being visible. I have also a number of duplicate Coins, of the United States, and Foreign Countries, and am desirous of obtaining any dates, not already collected, and by sending me a list of those that you have, as also the list of those lacking and I can give you the price of each, and every piece upon the same conditions as requested. I also have a number of Confederate Stamps, uncanceled procured in Richmond, V., as also a variety of U. S. Revenue Stamps, issued during the late war, which I would exchange for some not duplicate to the collections already made. References, First -1st.- National Bank; City National Bank. Chautauqua Co. Nat. Bank. Postmaster at this place: Prof. S. G. Love; Supt. J. U. S. and C. I.

Trusting that this may meet with your approval, and that I may hear from you when convenient, remain.

Yours Truly,

CHAS. L. BISHOP.

No. 304 East 3d. St.

## U. S. COINS.

DOLLARS. 1793 '94 '95 '96 '97 1800 '01  
'02 '03 '04 '10 '11 '13 '15 '21 '23 '25 '40  
'54. HALF-DOLLARS, 1797 1801 '02 '03  
'04 '05 '06 '13 '15 '16 '18 '22 '23 '31 '40  
'44 '47 '50 '51. QUARTER-DOLLARS,  
1796 '97 '98 1800 '01 '02 '04 '05 '06 '07  
16 -18 -19 -20 -21 -22 -23 -25 -27 -32 -50 51  
-64 -66 -67 -68. DIMES, 1793 -96 -97 -98  
-99 1800 -01 -02 -03 -04 -05 -07 -09 -10 -11  
-12 -13 -14 -20 -21 -22 -23 -25 -44 -63 -64 -65  
-66 -68. HALF-DIMES, 1795 '96 1800 '01  
'02 '03 '05 '30 '38 '39 '46 '63 '64. HALF-  
CENTS, 1793 '94 '95 '96 '97 '99 1800 '02 '04  
'05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '25 '26 '28 '57.  
TWO-CENT-PIECES, 1873.

**W**E will furnish any of the following papers together with the CURIOSITY SHOP one year for the price set opposite its name.

Tramp . . . . .	30c
Tag World . . . . .	35c
Youth's Herald . . . . .	30c
Peerless Review . . . . .	35c
Mohawk Standard . . . . .	30c
Witch City Collector . . . . .	30c
Cumberland Collector . . . . .	40c
Le Timbre Levantin . . . . .	60c

Please write the following on a postal card and sent it to us:

I collect.....

Please send a sample copy to the following address, and oblige:

.....Name.

—We have seen the 1887 pennies.

—This paper 10 cents per year.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

# The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor. | 47 HAZZARD STREET, Jamestown, N. Y.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In the U. S. and Canada, 10 c. per annum.

In the Postal Union, 22c. per annum.

Terms invariably in advance

### ADVERTISING RATES:

1/2 inch.....	25c	1/2 col.....	\$1 10
1 ".....	49c	1 ".....	2 00
1 inches.....	75c	1 page.....	4 00

Discount on ads. standing 3 months or more.

Reading notices 8 cents per line.

All matter should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion in the next number

Address everything to **W. B. BROCKWAY,**  
47 Hazzard St., Jamestown, N. Y.

Entered at the Jamestown Post-Office as Second Class Mail Matter.

**FEB 1887.**

### UNION LOG CABIN.

(See Illustration)

This pretty little log cabin is the property of its maker, Mr. Chas. L. Bishop, of this city. It is composed of 66 pieces, each one foot long and one inch in diameter. In the winter of 1866 while in Richmond, Va., he conceived the idea of building a miniature log cabin and to procure every log from the state or territory which it represented, and of a kind peculiar to the same. He issued circulars to all parts of the United States, which were responded to by governors, congressmen, United States officers, ladies and men high in office. The cabin was completed Oct. 11, 1871. The roof is composed of shingles, no two being of the same kind. The chimney is made of a brick taken from the oldest church in Alexandria, Va. The church is the one in which Washington worshiped. Each piece in the cabin and surroundings is of historical value.

Mr. Bishop is an invalid and has employed most of his life in compiling his museum, of which he is so proud. He has also a very large collector of stamps and coins.

The Russian General Kaulbars' temper is well illustrated by the letter which he sent

to the Moscow Gazette, thanking his foreign and evil wishing anonymous correspondents for having increased the postage stamp collection of his daughters and requesting other newspapers to copy this announcement.

### ANOTHER CHANGE.

We make another change this month. We have engaged Mr. B. Belding to take charge of our Critic's Table. It will hereafter be a leading feature of this paper, and we also reduce the subscription rates to 10 cents per year. We hope that this change will be received right. We remain as ever,

Your servants,  
THE EDITORS.

### Read and Remember.

We have received a copy of the cover of the "American Philatelic Press Directory." We advise everyone to buy a copy when out.

We want to tell all persons asking us for sample copies one thing. When you send us a postal asking for a sample copy, write your address plainly. We receive some postals that it is almost impossible to read. Always tell the paper you saw our ad. in, and if you don't get a copy of our paper in a week or so don't write again. You will surely receive one when your turn comes.

It looks as though Jamestown will have a rousing big stamp society. The name is the James own Philatelists. A. R. Bar on Mechanic street, president and F. E. Hanchett, Water street, secretary and treasurer. Philatelic papers will confer a favor by sending sample copies to the president.

We refer all who are interested in coins to read the letter on our supplement this month. If you have any of the coins he wants, write him

An eight page and cover curiosity paper is announced from Emporia, Kansas, March 1st "Curio" will be the name.

In answering advertisements always mention the O. C. S.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

### EXCHANGE COLUMN.

This column is for the use of the subscribers and agents of this paper. Exchanges are limited to 10 words.

U S revenue and foreign postage stamps to exchange for others of same not in my collection. Send approval sheets and I will do the same Philatelic papers to exchange. Send lists. B G A, box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Will exchange 8 amateur papers, all different, for 25 revenue or 100 mixed foreign stamps sent me. C. S. Strain, Columbus Grove, O.

I will exchange a flirtation book, 10 different stamps and your name on 20 slips of paper, for pasting books, for a dime dated prior to 1880. W. B. Brockway, Jamestown, N. Y.

Have fine arrow and spear heads to exchange for U. S. coins. I will also purchase U. S. coins. H. T. Upson, Parkersburg West Va.

Milkman David Whitney is the possessor of a silver dollar on which the head of the goddess of liberty stands at right angles with the "buzzard" on the other side, as if the old lady had been knocked down and the bird was about to commence a banquet upon her flesh. At the Birmingham bank the specimen was pronounced genuine, but entirely unique and unexplainable. - Ansonia (Conn.) Sentinel.

A resident of Portsmouth, England, owns a quadrilateral pyramid composed of the eighty four guineas found in Nelson's possession when he fell at Trafalgar.

100 Foreign Stamps and a nice present sent postpaid, only 5c. Address, E. F. NEWCOMER, Decatur, Ill.

Wm. v. d. WETTERN, Jr., Wholesale Dealer in

Postage Stamps.

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

September 1st, just issued. Cheapest in the U.S. Every dealer should send at once for a copy.

Mr. John M. Hubbard of Lake Village, N. H., has issued his book "The Stamp Collectors of the World" It is the best directory we have seen Send for a copy. Price 10 cents.

SEND 10 CENTS AND RECEIVE AN EXCELLENT FLIRTATION BOOK. 10 DIFFERENT STAMPS AND THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP 3 MONTHS FREE. ADDRESS, W B BROCKWAY, 47 HAZZARD ST, JAMESTOWN, N Y

The railway earnings for January show large gains over those for January, 1886



Largest Stock of Stamps and Coins in the World. *Standard Stamp Catalogue*, 200 pages, illustrated with 2000 engravings, 25c. *Standard Copper Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Standard Silver Catalogue*, illustrated, 25c. *Philatelist Album*, 400 illustrations, board cover, 25c.; cloth, 50c. *International Album*, with specially designed spaces for every stamp issued, board cover, \$1.50, cloth \$2.50; also on heavy paper in various styles of binding, from \$5 to \$20. APPROVAL SHEETS sent to responsible parties. AGENTS wanted everywhere. Our packets cannot be equalled in quality or price. Circulars sent free. Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd, 721 Broadway, N. Y.

Longest Established (1860) in America. **F. TRIFET,** Importer and Dealer in **FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STAMPS**

408 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. Complete sets of all departments; set of 1874 Periodicals; U. S. Proofs and Envelopes, etc. in stock. Approval sheets on receipt of references. 1886-7 Catalogue, illustrated, being our 17th edition, post free, 25 cents. Consignments and collections wanted. References: twenty years' reputation in one city. **Special Offer:** 104-page Album (board covers, cloth back, 264 cuts), and 100 Stamps (no two alike), all for 40c. 50 scarce, 10c.

**TO COIN, STAMP and CURIOSITY COLLECTORS.**

Selections of goods will be sent on approval. References required. Agents wanted. Superior 24 page catalogue free. Birds Egg list for stamp. W. F. GREANY, 827 Brannon St. San Francisco, Cal.

**RUBBER STAMP** With your name in Fancy Type, 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen, only 25 cents (stamps.) Book of 2400 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. **THALMAN MFG CO.,** Baltimore, Md.

—THE—

# Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1

Jamestown, N. Y., U. S. A., March 1887.

No. 10

From the Philadelphia Weekly Times.

## SOME WAR STAMPS.

(Continued from last month.)

No provisionals were issued by the Richmond Post Office, and their issue elsewhere did not meet with the approval of the Confederate Post Office Department. No effort was made toward issuing a general government issue until September, 1861, when the contract for furnishing postal stamps was awarded to Noyer & Ludwig, lithographers, of Richmond, Va. This first issue was printed during the fall and winter of 1861 and the spring of 1862. The set comprised five stamps, of the following denominations and colors:

- Two cents, green.
- Five cents, green.
- Five cents, blue.
- Ten cents, blue.
- Ten cents, red.

On the two-cent stamp appeared a fair likeness of Andrew Jackson. The head of Jefferson Davis was engraved on the two five-cent stamps, the design being made from a fine photograph furnished by Mr. Davis. The ten-cent stamps bore the head of James Madison.

Early in 1862 the government dispatched an agent to England to form a contract with De La Rue & Co., for the manufacture of one and five-cent stamps. The stamps were electrotyped and the sheets contained one hundred impressions each. The plates and a large quantity of stamps were shipped on board a steamer bound to Wilmington, N. C. The steamer was captured and the stamps confiscated by the United States Government. A second attempt was more successful, and duplicate plates with some 400,000 sheets of stamps, were safely shipped to Richmond and did duty with those lithographed by Noyer and Ludwig.

The portrait of Calhoun on the one-cent being

imperfect this stamp was never used by the department, and the rate of postage being changed before their arrival from England there was no need of a further issue of this value. The lithographed stamps of Noyer and Ludwig not meeting the requirements of the government, a new contract was granted to Archer & Daly, engravers, of Richmond, Va., in 1863. The dies of the stamps of the 1861 issue were subsequently ordered destroyed by the President, Jefferson Davis.

The new series were of finer design than the original issue and compare favorably with the well-executed specimens of the postage stamp of to-day. The 1863 issue consisted of the following:

- One cent, orange.
- Two cents, red.
- Five cents, blue.
- Ten cents, blue.
- Twenty cents, green.

The head of Calhoun appears upon the one-cent stamp and is a fair likeness. Jackson's face is on the two-cent stamp; while a portrait of Jefferson Davis, similar to that on the 1861 issue, covers the face of the five and ten-cent stamps. The head of Washington is on the twenty-cent stamp. The twenty-cent stamp was prepared by M. Halpin, an English engraver residing in Richmond.

The supply of the small five-cent stamps, engraved by De La Rue becoming exhausted, the plates were delivered to Archer and Daly, who struck off a new supply. The stamps printed in London were finely executed, but those printed in Richmond were badly smudged and printed in a much darker shade of blue. Archer & Daly failing to comply with the terms of their contract, a new one was entered into with Keating & Ball, of Columbia, S. C., and the plates were delivered to them. This firm

## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

ever engraved stamps for the Confederacy, but printed them from the plates prepared in Richmond.

For the better conveniences of separating the stamps Keating and Ball engraved a line between them on the plates of the ten-cent value. They also fixed their imprint upon the plates to decide the responsibility of issue. None of the Confederate stamps were perforated. The great fire at Columbia, which occurred a few weeks prior to the evacuation of Richmond, destroyed all the dies, rolls, plates and stamps in possession of Keating & Ball. When the Union soldiers entered the Southern towns the unused stamps and dies were either destroyed or turned over to the authorities at Washington, together with Confederate notes and bonds. What stamps are now in existence that tell upon their face the story of the war are either preserved in museums or jealously guarded by private collectors.

WILL. M. CLEMENS.

### OUR CRITIC'S TABLE.

B. BELDING.

Has the *Tramp* suspended?

The *Gopher* is a lively amateur.

*Monthly Advertiser* has enlarged.

*Mystic World* has not visited us lately.

The *Philatelist*, of Phila., has suspended.

The *Museum Bulletin* has improved wonderfully.

*Oil City Critic* is the best weekly paper we have seen.

The *Philatelic Herald* should have the support it deserves.

The *Mocking Bird* is a splendid paper but ads are too cheap.

The *Stamp* is the finest stamp paper of the western states.

We join hands with the *Philatelic Gazette* in fighting the Samoa stamps.

*Herdman's Miscellany* is a new one from Berkeley upon Tweed, England.

W. F. Bishop requests us to say that the reason we did not receive his paper, was, that we were dropped from his list.

The *Norm* of Buffalo, N. Y., is one of the finest amateurs we have received.

The special edition of the P. J. of A. has the pictures of six of the officers of the A. P. A.

We advise the *Texas Philatelist* to get a new printer, a new editor and a new proof reader.

The *Exchange*, Washington, D. C., is the only amateur paper we have seen that owned that the editors were boys.

Longest Established  
(1866) in America.

**F. TRIFET,** Importer and Dealer in  
**FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STAMPS**

408 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Complete sets of all departments; set of 1874 Periodicals; U. S. Proofs and Envelopes, etc., in stock. Approval sheets on receipt of references. 1886-7 Catalogue, illustrated, being our 17th edition, post free, 25 cents. Consignments and collections wanted. References, twenty years' reputation in one city. **Special Offer:** 104-page Album (board covers, cloth back, 264 cuts), and 100 Stamps (no two alike), all for 40c. 50 scarce, 10c.

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Agents wanted. Big pay.

THALMAN M'F'G CO.,  
Baltimore, Md.



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Japan, 5c.; 2 Egypt, 5c.; 2 Spain, 5c.; 2 New Zealand, 5c.; 2 Cape Good Hope, 5c. The six sets, 25c. Flags of all nations, 5c.; Coats of Arms, 50c.; Portraits, 50c. The three, \$1.00.

**50** ELEGANT Imported Embossed Chrono Cards, no two alike, with your name on, sheet Autograph Album Verses, sheet Wonderful Secrets. Family Magazine 3 months, pack May I C U Home cards, pack Transparent cards and five latest songs. ALL FOR TEN CENTS, (silver). Send at once. Address PEARL CARD CO., Armourdale, Kansas.

**To Coin, Stamp and Curiosity Collectors.**

Selections of goods will be sent on approval. References required. Agents wanted. Superior 24 page catalogue free. Birds Egg list for stamp.

**W. F. GREANY,**

827 Brannon St., Sun Francisco, Cal.

# S U P P L E M E N T.

JAMESTOWN, FEB. 1st. 1887.

DEAR SIR.

Upon the reverse of this sheet you will please find a list of U. S. COINS, still lacking to complete my collection, and if convenient wish that you look over those that you have on hand, and if finding any of the dates on the list, please inform me the lowest price that you take for them, postage to be paid on the same to its destination. The Coins, are classified as follows, 1st. Proof. 2d. Good. 3d. Fair; the date still being visible. I have also a number of duplicate Coins, of the United States, and Foreign Countries, and am desirous of obtaining any dates, not already collected, and by sending me a list of those that you have, as also the list of those lacking and I can give you the price of each, and every piece upon the same conditions as requested. I also have a number of Confederate Stamps, uncanceled procured in Richmond, V., as also a variety of U. S. Revenue Stamps, issued during the late war, which I would exchange for some not duplicate to the collections already made. References, First -1st.- National Bank; City National Bank. Chautauqua Co. Nat. Bank. Postmaster at this place: Prof. S. G. Love; Supt. J. U. S. and C. I.

Trusting that this may meet with your approval, and that I may hear from you when convenient, remain.

Yours Truly,

CHAS. L. BISHOP.

No. 304 East 3d. St.



## U. S. COINS.

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DOLLARS, 1793 '94 '95 '96 '97 1800 '01  
'02 '03 '04 '10 '11 '13 '15 '21 '23 '25 '40  
'54. HALF-DOLLARS, 1797 1801 '02 '03  
'04 '05 '06 '13 '15 '16 '18 '22 '23 '31 '40  
'44 '47 '50 '51. QUARTER-DOLLARS,  
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16 -18 -19 -20 -21 -22 -23 -25 -27 -32 -50 51  
-64 -66 -67 -68. DIMES, 1793 -96 -97 -98  
-99 1800 -01 -02 -03 -04 -05 -07 -09 -10 -11  
-12 -13 -14 -20 -21 -22 -23 -25 -44 -63 -64 -65  
-66 -68. HALF-DIMES, 1795 '96 1800 '01  
'02 '03 '05 '30 '38 '39 '46 '63 '64. HALF-  
CENTS, 1793 '94 '95 '96 '97 '99 1800 '02 '04  
'05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '25 '26 '28 '57.  
TWO-CENT-PIECES, 1873.

**W**E will furnish any of the following papers together with the **CURIOSITY SHOP** one year for the price set opposite its name.

Tramp . . . . .	30c
Tag World . . . . .	35c
Youth's Herald . . . . .	30c
Peerless Review . . . . .	35c
Mohawk Standard . . . . .	30c
Witch City Collector . . . . .	30c
Cumberland Collector . . . . .	40c
Le Timbre Levantin . . . . .	60c

Please write the following on a postal card and sent it to us.

I collect.....

Please send a sample copy to the following address, and oblige

.....Name.

—We have seen the 1887 pennies.

—This paper 10 cents per year.

## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

### The Old Curiosity Shop.

Published Monthly.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Editor. | 47 HAZZARD STREET, Jamestown, N. Y.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In the U. S. and Canada, - - - 10c. per annum.  
In the Postal Union, - - - 22c. per annum.

Terms invariably in advance.

#### ADVERTISING RATES:

½ inch.....	25c	½ col.....	\$1 10
1 ".....	40c	1 ".....	2 00
2 inches.....	75c	1 page.....	4 00

Discount on ads. standing 3 months or more.

Reading notices 8 cents per line.

All matter should be in by the 10th of each month to insure insertion in the next number.

If this notice is marked, your subscription has expired. Please renew.

Address everything to

W. B. BROCKWAY.

47 Hazzard St. Jamestown, N. Y.

Circulation, 1,000.

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Jamestown Post Office.

### MARCH, 1887.

#### CHRONICLE.

R. R. BOGERT.

**AZORES.**—The 50 reis, blue of 1879 comes with small surcharge.

**BOLIVIA.**—The new 1c and 2c are the same type as the 1870 issue with 11 stars and the 5c and 10c have 9 stars. The 1c is lake, 2c lilac, 5c green, 10c brown. These values and the cards and envelopes are on their way to Bolivia.

**BOSUNIA.**—A letter card 3 kr. green on green with white inside.

**BRITISH BECHUANAALAND.**—The 4d and 1sh have been surcharged in black.

**BR. HONDURAS.**—The 1sh is gray.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**—The 15c envelope comes on white laid paper 153 x 86 mm and the 45c on white wove paper 210 x 93 mm.

**ECUADOR.**—A new issue is expected.

**FERNANDO PO.**—The 5c has been surcharged the same as the 2c.

**GIBRALTAR.**—The ½d green and 2d brown—purple without surcharge have appeared.

**GENADA.**—The 1d is now inscribed at the top, "Gemada—Postage and Revenue" in two lines.

**GUADELOUPE.**—*Le Timbre Post* mentions a 40c unpaid letter stamp on blue paper; it is postmarked Feb. 7, 1878.

**HYDUABAD.**—A 2½ anna envelope has been issued, gray green on white.

**ITALY.**—*Der Philatelist* mentions a card without stamp inscribed: "Circolare Postale—Deu Centesimi." Brown on white.

**MACAO.**—The new set is reported as issued. Same design as Cape Verd 1886.

**MEXICO.**—The words "Mexico D. F." have been omitted from the official seal.

**NEW REPUBLIC.**—Two new values are reported, 3d and 4d. Color violet on both straw and bluish paper.

**NORTH BORNEO.**—The ½d of the first type has been surcharged "and Revenue" and the 4c and 8c same type in two lines "3 cents" and "5 cents" respectively.

**RUSSIA.**—The stamps on the 7 k envelopes are to be slightly changed.

**SAMOA.**—New stamps are reported; ½d violet brown; 1d green; 2d orange; 4d blue. Three palm trees are in the center in a circle with "Samoa Postage" above and the value below.

**S. AUSTRALIA.**—The letters "O. S." have few surcharged on the stamps of the reply paid card.

**STR. SETTLEMENTS.**—*Der Philatelist* reports the 32c with surcharge "Three Cents" in black in one line.

**TIMOR.**—The set with embossed head is reported same values and colors as Cape Verd 1886, with addition of 80 reis gray.

**TOLMIA.**—Of the current type perforated we hear of 1c gray brown, 2c violet and the 5c is violet instead of brown.

**VICTORIA.**—The current bands ½d and 1d come on white, yellow and blue paper.

**WURTEMBERG.**—A 10 pf card has been issued resembling that of the German Empire 1886.

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—Wholesale Dealer in—

## POSTAGE STAMPS,

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.,

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## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE JAMESTOWN PHILATELISTS.

FEB. 17, 1887.—First meeting held with four charter members:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P. M. A. R. Barton was elected President and F. E. Hanchett Sec'y and Treas. for ensuing four months. One name was proposed for membership but was rejected. W. B. Brockway was appointed by Pres. to draw up a set of resolutions proclaiming it as our belief that Jas. Chalmers was the originator of the postage stamp. On motion of G. H. Partridge the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP of Jamestown, N. Y., was chosen as the official organ of the society; carried. Adjourned at 9:10 P. M.

#### MEETING OF FEB. 22, 1887.

Meeting called to order at 7, P. M. Pres. Barton in the chair. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

The following resolutions were read and approved and a copy ordered sent Patrick Chalmers:

WHEREAS, The controversy between Mr. Pat. Chalmers and Mr. Parsons Hill, each in favor of their respective fathers as the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, is increasing, and

WHEREAS, After full consideration we, the Jamestown Philatelists in meeting Feb. 22, 1887, wish it,

RESOLVED, We give it as our belief that James Chalmers of Dundee, Scotland, was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished his son and the official paper of this society.

J. C. Peterson was proposed for membership by Pres. Barton and accepted. Adjourned at 8, P. M. Evening passed socially.

#### MEETING OF MARCH 8, '87.

Pres. Barton in the chair. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Sec'y Hanchette moved that meetings be held once in every two weeks. Adjourned at 8, P. M. Evening passed socially by looking over collections and the exchange of stamps.

F. E. HANCHETTE, Sec'y.



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— THE —

# Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1

Jamestown, N. Y., U. S. A., April 1887.

No. 11

## CHRONICLE.

R. R. BOGERT.

**BOSNIA**—We hear of an official post-card, black on white.

**BRAZIL**—There are two new stamps, 300 reis blue and 500 reis olive. They are inscribed "Correio Imperio de Brazil." The 300 has a constellation of stars in the center and the 500 an Imperial crown.

**BR. BECHUAUALAND**—The 1d band is issued with surcharged in two types.

**BULGARIA**—The 1 franc stamp is now inscribed "Edin Lev."

**CANADA**—The stamp on the 1c card has been slightly altered and resembles that on the band of 1875.

**COCHIN CHINA**—The 2c has been surcharged "5" and "C. C. H."

**COSTA RICA**—The 5c and 10c were issued Feb. 23d with portrait of the new president.

**DUTCH INDIA**—The stamp on the 5c card has now figure of value in center. Green on white.

**FARIDKOT**—The cards and envelopes are surcharged with "Faridkot State" in two lines and arms below the stamps. Envelopes  $\frac{1}{2}$ a green, 1a. brown, Cards  $\frac{1}{4}$ a,  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4}$ a. The surcharge is in black.

**SOUTH AFR. REPUBLIC**—The 3d lilac 1885 has been surcharged "2d" below which are double lines canceling the original value.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**—*Le Timbre Poste* illustrates new stamps, 3d green, head in oval. "Postage and Revenue" above, value below, and "South Australia" at the sides; 2sh 6d lilac, 5sh rose. large stamp 23x40 mm, with same inscription but differently disposed.

**TRINIDAD**—There is a 2x2d card blue on buff.

**UNITED STATES**—The new 2c envelope has head of Washington in oval band, "United States Postage" at the top and sides and below separated from the same by two stars is "Two Cents." Between the two latter words in a shield containing the figure of value. The lettering is on a plain ground. The color is green. The 5c is to have Grant instead of Garfield.

**U. S. OF COLUMBIA**—There is a new 2½c stamp lilac with usual arms in oval inscribed "Republica de Colombia." On a curved band across the stamp in large letters is "RETARDO" This is for us on letter received after the closing of the mail.

**VICTORIA**—The 2d is now issued with head on ground of horizontal lines.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE JAMESTOWN PHILATELISTS.

MEETING OF MARCH 22d, 1887.

Meeting called at 7 P. M. President Barton in chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Patrick Chalmers was elected an honorary member. A talk by F. E. Harbrett on the "Stamps of Brazil" was very interesting. Evening passed socially. Adjourned at 9:30 P. M.

MEETING OF APRIL 5th, 1887.

Meeting called at 7 P. M. President Barton in chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. W. B. Brockway was elected Secretary pro tem. Secretary ordered to subscribe for the "Stamp" and "Keystone State Philatelist." Receipts and assessment blanks were ordered printed. Evening passed socially. Adjourned at 9 P. M.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Secy. pro tem.

## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

### THE MOUND BUILDERS.

A. K. BATES.

For THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

At the time when America was discovered nations were found in the central and southern part of the continent that had attained to quite a high order of civilization, and many ruins of ancient temples and cities are now from time to time discovered in those countries overgrown with enormous trees, the roots of which are intertwined with the remains of other enormous trees, which show that the structures that they cover must have been in ruins for centuries.

There are no such ruins of ancient cities in the territory now belonging to the United States, but there are remains of ancient fortifications and mounds, of an extremely curious character, scattered through very extensive regions of our western country, which indicate the existence there in former times of a higher civilization, and different modes of life from those manifested by the present race of Indians.

The remains of ancient fortifications in the upper parts of the valley of the Mississippi are very numerous, and they are on a very extended scale. They are laid out regularly and denote the existence of considerable towns, or of places of encampments of large bodies of men. In some of them spaces of fifty and a hundred acres are enclosed.

In most of the mounds fragments of pottery were found. These relics consist of pieces of broken jars, kettles, stew-pans, porringers, and other domestic utensils of that sort.

Some of these specimens gave indications of considerable art in the manufacture of them, being ornamented with various devices worked in clay. Whether these articles were baked in the sun or over a fire has never been ascertained.

In many instances the mounds are found on open plains or are covered with thickets of plants or trees of moderate age. In cases as these it is hard to determine the antiquity of the mound but on the whole there is abundance of evidence in these ancient remains that this continent has been inhabited by the ancestors of the present Indian races for a very long period. It is, moreover, generally supposed that the population was far more numerous, that the nation comprising it, was composed of a more civilized race, than those found in possession of it by the Europeans when they first visited it.

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APRIL, 1887.

—E. R. Aldrich, Benson, Mich., will please accept thanks for copy of Philatelic Annual, at hand. Price 10 cents.

—Miss Ella Scott, Brooklyn, N. Y., has favored us with a price list.

—Wm. P. Brown's price list at hand, many thanks.

—A noted French collector of postage stamps at Varennes, posses a million and a half of specimens, and is compelled to employ two secretaries in the work of classification.—Ex.

It is no wonder that the public do not take more interest in Philatelic matters when articles like the above are published in the leading papers of to-day.

—Allen & Co., whose ad appears in this issue are perfectly reliable.

—The *Tag Press* is dead. After getting out two numbers it suspended. A. K. Bates, the senior partner, has turned most of his time to Amateur Journalism. It is to be hoped Titusville, Pa., will not be long without another Philatelic, Tag or Amateur paper.

While we know nothing about the new aspir-

ant for the place of inventor of the postage stamp, we do know that the proofs furnished by Patrick Chalmers are perfectly satisfactory to us and we will stick to him until better proofs are furnished by this Frenchman, who has kept quiet so long.

—The *Stamp World* has been sold to the *Western Philatelist*, the oldest philatelic journal in the U. S., now is the *Philatelic Herald*.

—We very much regret a mistake in I. W. Risdon's ad in our December issue, please read, 2 cent stamp instead of 2 stamps.

—Mr. E. B. Hanes has resigned the position of Supt. of Exchange Dept. Ill health is the cause. We would suggest W. G. Whilden, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., as a good man for the office.

—The *Western Philatelist* did not send us its third number, send it on please.

—We would like Nos. 1 and 2 of the *Keystone State Philatelist*.

—On account of our columns being crowded last month we were obliged to omit our Exchange column. We have partly caught up this month, however.

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### EXCHANGE COLUMN.

This column is for the use of Subscribers. Exchanges limited to 30 words. All exchanges must be written on a separate piece of paper. No postals noticed.

—Wanted to exchange with stamp collectors in all parts of the world; also U. S. revenues especially state. Address N. E. Carter, Delevan, Wis., U. S. A.

—13 Bank-checks with 2c revenue stamp on them all, different dates in the year 1876, for every Eagle nickle or large copper cent sent me. Address, Jay Cook, Irving Park, Cook Co., Ill.

—Will exchange Stamps, Newspapers, Tin Tags, Adv. cards, for the same. W. D. Boyd, Box 184, Simcoe, Ont.

—A Breech-loading, single barrel shot gun, 12 gauge, for a 35 or 38 caliber breech-loading rifle. F. E. Hanchett, 44 Water St., Jamestown, N. Y.

—1400 Tin Tags, for the best offer of a printing press and outfit. Amateur papers for the same. Send lists to A. K. Bates, Titusville, Pa.

—U. S. Revenue, Match, Medicine, Proprietary and Playing cards, also U. S. and Foreign Postage stamps to exchange of others of same not in my collection. Philatelic papers to exchange for stamps. B. G. A., p. o. box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

—I pay cash or give good exchange in Indian Relics, etc., for U. S. coins. H. T. Ujson, Parkersburg, W. Va.

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Box 401, Kennedy, N. Y.





—THE—

# Old Curiosity Shop.

Vol. 1

Jamestown, N. Y., U. S. A., May 1887.

No. 12

## CHRONICLES.

R. R. BOGERT.

**BOLIVIA.**—The new stamps are rouletted and have 11 stars; the colors are as follows. 1c lake (c. c. 135) 2c lilac (c. c. 61) 5c blue (c. c. 43) 10c orange [c. c. 4].

**BRAZIL.**—We have a new 50 reis stamp with 50-R in the center. Color blue, [c. c. 53.]

**BRITISH GUINA.**—There are cards of 3d and 3x3d rose on buff.

**COCHIN CHINA.**—The 25c black on rose is surcharged "5."

**COLUMBIA.**—The 2c is reported on yellow paper.

**ECUADOR.**—The new 1c, 2c, 5c, contain the usual arms in a horse shoe shaped band, inscribed "Union Postale Universelle; Equateur." The value is below in the center in large figures in upper corners. The 80c has "Ecuador Correos," in arch above, and "Ochevta Centavos" at bottom. The figures of value are in lower corners. Colors: 1c green, c. c. 21; 2c vermilion, c. c. 120; 5c blue, c. c. 43; 80c olive brown. There are also three envelopes, 25x80 mm, white laid paper, all with arms in large oval of ornamental design, with figures of value at sides. 6c blue, inscribed above "Union Postale Universelle Equateur," and 5c orange, inscribed above "Ecuador, Correos."

**GIBRALTAR.**—The new 1sh is brown and the 2d registry envelope red, and 1-2d band green have been issued,

**JAPAN.**—Some of the current stamps have been surcharged to do duty as unpaid letter stamps.

**MADAGASCAR.**—There are new values 4d, 6d, 1sh, 1 sh 6d, 2sh, same design and color.

**NEW REPUBLIC.**—High values have been issued, 2sh 6d, to 30sh, violet on blue, probably for fiscal use.

**NORTH BORENO.**—The 3c violet, has been issued of the new type and the 50c old type has been surcharged "10 Cents," in black. We hear also of a 1c being found in the sheet of 4c and therefore carmine instead of orange.

**PORTO RICO.**—The 3c post card is now brown on buff.

**PORTUGESE INDIA.**—M. Moens has discovered a 200 reis orange surcharged "6."

**PULTIALLA.**—The cards and envelopes of British India are now in use here, with surcharge.

**ROUMANIA.**—The 3 bani is now lilac on blue.

**SAMOA.**—"Der Ph." reports 1sh rose, c. c. 142, and 2sh 6d violet, c. c. 59.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER.**—The 1sh violet is reported.

**ST. THORNE.**—There is a set of same design and color as that of Cape Verde.

**SOUTH AFR. REPUBLIC.**—The 3d has been surcharged "2d" in two types.

**SALVADOR.**—We have seen new stamps, 3c brown and 10c orange. The measure 23x30 mm. The 3c has female standing with flag in oval with U P U and value below; the figures of value are at the sides and four globes inscribed "Morazan-Barrios-Cabarias-Jerez," at the top is "Servicio Postal del Salvador." The 10c has the usual volcano and sun in the centre, and above the same inscription as the 3c and in addition "America Central." Below is the value in figures and in words. We have also proofs of three envelopes, 5c blue, 10c red, 11c

## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

blue. They are all inscribed in oval band "Servicio Postal del Salvador," with value below in figures and in words. The 5c has head to left with "Rufino F" below; the 10c has the head of a female, and the 11c has the arms of Salvador.

VICTORIA—The new 1-2d has been changed to pink.

### History of the Postal Card.

A treatise on the history of the postal card has been published in Berlin. The originator of the idea is said to have been a German state official, Dr. Stephen, who wrote an essay upon it in 1865. Austria was the first to adopt it, beginning in October, 1869. The first three months witnessed the passage of 2,930,000 cards through the mails. Germany followed suit in 1870, and on the first day after the introduction of the postal card, 45,468 were sent off in Berlin alone; and within two months over 2,000,000 were used. Other countries soon initiated the same step. During the Franco-Prussian war the postal card system was a great boon to both armies. Over 10,000,000 cards passed during the campaign between the German soldiers and their friends and home. The greatest proportional consumption of postal cards occurs unquestionably in the United States. The whole of Europe is estimated to use annually 350,000,000, while the consumption in the United States will not fall short of 230,000,000. Germany consumed in 1879 122,747,000. The use of the postal card is, moreover, continually increasing, and, to some extent, at the expense of the letter correspondence. There are now said to be 73 countries in which it is introduced. Austria, which has the honor of first putting the idea into practical execution, is now said to have cards of the poorest material and most inconvenient form,—Confectioner's Journal.

—Again we have not room for the Exchanges yet they shall appear next month.

—We had high hopes of the *Witch City Collector* but we haven't seen it for some time.

—We would like to know when the *Philatelic Herald* will catch up with itself.

—Price lists have been received from W. S. Aldrich, Boston, Mass., and Chas. Brehm, of Erie, Pa., for which the publishers will please accept thanks.

—The Am. Philatelic Press Directory, published by Geo. H. Richmond, N.Y., is at hand. We see much room for improvement, but it is well worth the price asked, 25 cents.

—W. F. Greany's catalogue at hand, many thanks. The birds egg, coin and stamp dept's are very accurate. Send stamp for one.

—Patrie Chalmers will please accept our sincere thanks for the cabinet photograph of his father and also for a complete unused set of the new English stamps. Mr. Chalmers is working hard to establish his fathers claim to the invention of the adhesive stamp. We are sure he deserves success.

—An Arrow-head for every 100 square cut envelope stamps. No 2 and 1 cent wanted; also a fine arrow-head for every two U. S. ½c pieces (old dates). A postmark and stamp from Australia for every large U. S. copper cent. J. D. Sloat, box 77, St. Charles, Mo.

—I have collections of stamps, called "The R L M Collection," each contains 50 all different old U. S., Revenue, (rare) and Foreign stamps with date of issue and value of each, which I will give for a dime dated before 1884. Address, Box 5, Mt. Holley, N. J.

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## The Old Curiosity Shop.

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MAY, 1887.

## TOBACCO TAGS

### Their Use and Abuse.

A. K. BATES.

The collecting of Tobacco Tags as well as the other branches of collecting, is carried on principally by exchanging. But the difficulty is that there is a chance to-cheat, and this fact alone is a strong argument against it, because it may lead some boys into the temptation to steal some tags. Then again, it represents a bad habit, one which destroys the health of many boys who indulge in its use.

The use of Tobacco is principally in saloons and tobacco shops, and as many tags are dropped there, it encourages boys who otherwise would have given such buildings "a wide berth," to enter buildings where they or anybody else ought never to enter, and I would advise boys who have to enter such buildings to stop altogether, and take up a different branch of collecting.

Tag collecting can however, be conducted in a harmless way, as well as useful. In the first place never cheat a brother collector of any of his specimens, and never enter saloons or to-

bacco stores, but buy a lot of good, clean tags from some reliable dealer to do your exchanging.

If a boy has any correspondence at all, it helps him not a little, as it gives him good practice on his penmanship, and by reading the letters he receives from his fellow-exchangers, he obtains the ways to write good business letters, and helps him greatly to form his sentences correctly.

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## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

### Honor to Whom Honor is Due.

It seems to us that the *Philatelic Fortnightly's* arguments against James Chalmers are somewhat lame. They seem to think that the invention of the postage stamp was not much of an invention, perhaps it is not in their eyes, but to be robbed of the honor of inventing a thing used so much in every day life must have been hard. They say:

"Why should honor be paid to a man, who, even if the idea was his, sat down and allowed another man to carry out the plan?"

If our esteemed contemporary would stop a minute and think, they would see that Mr. Chalmers was poor, while Sir Rowland Hill (to whom they evidently refer) was wealthy, and the "Sir" hitched onto his name would help the scheme along a great deal. As to his sitting down and letting another man "carry out the plan," they do not seem to remember that wealthy men and corporations carry out the ideas of hundreds of men who are too poor to do it themselves, and moreover, did this justify this Hill to claim the invention if he was only carrying out another's idea?

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A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIG-A-BRAG



Vol. 6, No. 1.

Whole No. 31.

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→ JULY, 1887. ←



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# Old Curiosity Shop.

VOL. 6.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., JULY, 1887.

No. 1.

## THE OBJECTS OF PHILATELY.

BY JOSEPH J. CASEY.



Is there a limit to stamp collecting? Will the stamp collector have finished

when he has gotten together every specimen laid down in the completest catalogue.

Coins and stamps have many things in common, though the former is by far the nobler pursuit. History would be wanting in many of its interesting details—those, for instance, concerning the inner workings of the nation or people if numismatists had no higher motive than the perfect formation of their cabinets in their several specialties. There may be coin collectors as there are stamp collectors whose only ambition may seem the accumulation of pieces of copper, or silver, or gold. From these one may learn the rarity of a certain piece, or its market value but never the cause for its origin, the motives for its change—in fine, that solid information without which the cabinet however rich it may be, is yet a mere plaything.

Numismatics has long been considered one of the sciences, because, uniting pleasure with study, it tends to diffuse knowledge made available to every one. Its great strength may be seen in the ancient coins—particularly those of Greece and Rome—which are an open book of the inner life of those nations. We venture to say, however, that the results now evident in numismatics would never have been obtained if collectors gathered their specimens without a thought beyond their market value.

In stamp collecting there is no reason why similar results can not be obtained. It, too, has its selfish side—the personal gratification of the collector, depending upon the length of his purse. Here ambition goes no further than the amassing of quantities. But there is the nobler side, and for this we have always contended.

If stamp collecting lacks that respectability which age confers, it must be remembered that the stamps themselves are but recent innovations. There is that in them which more than counterbalances this respectability and gives stamp collecting a tone at once marked and decided. It is an educator in every sense of the word, and in its curriculum embraces all the other arts and sciences. Your true student of philately looks beyond the printed or embossed impressions and though the field in which he works may be limited by the recent origin of his specimens, still there is nothing to prevent him from going beyond into all the past. However, if he confines himself to what is directly suggested by his collection, he will have ample material for the most elaborate study. And herein will be found that higher plane to which we invite every collector. Here will be found those incentives which make stamp collecting more than an amusing pastime, and lasting long after your collection will have been completed.

To illustrate: On the current stamps of the United States are certain portraits. These represent certain individuals, named in the catalogues. Who they are, why they are so represented, what they have done, are natural inquiries and lead at once to a knowledge of the history of this country. A 5c. stamp makes its appearance, and, from the stamp papers, one learns that it is for postage between certain countries, and repre-

sents one of the heroes of the Mexican war insidiously one is led to inquire into this war, and soon learns the relations which have existed and now exist between Mexico and this country. The reasons for the use of the stamp are taken up, and one is brought face to face with certain other foreign countries.

Another instance: A collector obtains a set of stamps which he is told comes from Montenegro, or perhaps Servia. Inquiries are made, and history and geography come into play to tell him where those countries are, the people inhabiting them, their importance in the political world. With renewed interests he follows their struggles for independence, and suddenly the dispatches in the newspapers of the day open new regions for thought which he eagerly proceeds to lay bare, and this unceasingly and untiringly, because there is a certain pleasure behind all to urge him forward.

We might go on indefinitely in this strain, showing how the judgement is sharpened to detect the true from the false; how the taste is strengthened or cultivated in the efforts to acquire neatness and precision; how the eye is improved in its desire to attain certain effects by the proper adjustment of colors and shades, and so on through the whole scale, almost of human knowledge.

With such grand objects accessible to all, stamp collecting need not longer be treated as a childish pastime. It will present a ready answer to "what good is it?" or "what are you going to do with your stamps?" and from a pretense of passing time away frivolously, will become a reality of employing leisure hours profitably. — [Coin and Stamp Journal.

### NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

**BOLIVIA** — "Der Ph" reports the envelopes 5c blue, 10c orange on yellow laid paper, 150x85 mm, and postal cards 134x85; 1c brown on green; 2c blue on white. The stamps on the cards are same as adhesives, but those on the envelopes have figure of value at top in the center.

**BR. GUIANA** — The new cards have the medalion omitted.

**COLOMBIA** — There is a new 2c card, black on dark yellow, with stamp inscribed "Correas de la Republica de Colombia"

**DANISH, W. I.** — The 7c has been surcharged in black "1 cent"

**GAMBIA** — The  $\frac{1}{2}$ c is green, 1d carmine, 2d orange.

**NEWFOUNDLAND** — The color of the 1c is now (c. c. 78) instead of (c. c. 91).

**PARAGUAY** — A new 5c blue has been issued. The arms are in an oval in the upper part and large figure 5 below. At the sides "Union Postal Universal." This is of a different design from that issued last year with surcharge "official."

**PORTUGAL** — The letter cards mentioned some time ago have been issued 25 reis, brown on buff and 50 reis blue on white. The interior is white.

**POUNTCHE** — There is a  $\frac{1}{2}$ a red (c. d. 124) very similar to that of 1884. The stamps of 1885,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 4a now come red or green.

**ST CHRISTOPHER**. The  $\frac{1}{4}$ d has been surcharged "one penny" in two lines.

**ST. LUCIA**. — The color of the 1d is lilac (c. c. 64).

**SENEGAL** — The 20c. red or green has been surcharged "15" in six varieties of type.

**SIAM** Stamps of new design have been issued 2<sup>ath</sup> green and carmine; 3<sup>ath</sup>, green and blue; 4<sup>ath</sup> green and brown; 8<sup>ath</sup>, green and yellow; 12<sup>ath</sup> lilac and carmine; 24<sup>ath</sup>, lilac and blue; 64<sup>ath</sup>, lilac and brown. Postal cards, 4<sup>aths</sup> and 4x4<sup>aths</sup>, carmine on buff.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA** — Of the new design there are 10sh. blue and 3 pounds green.

**TIMOR** — We have seen "Timor" surcharged on the 10 reis green of Mozambique.

**UNITED STATES** — Ten cent envelopes have appeared with the new watermark. We hear of Nos 2, 3, 11, on white, 2, 3, amber, 5, 7, 9, buff and blue, 7 manila and amber manila.

**VENZUELA** We hear of a 20 bolivar, carmine, of the 1880 issue. Eramelas.

## EARLY COINAGE OF NEW ENGLAND

BY CHAS. E. WILLARD

From the very first the New England colonists were embarrassed by want of a standard currency. The careless management of the coinage by the predecessors of King Charles made money scarce even in England; the colonists were mostly poor men, the amount of coin, therefore, brought to the New World was exceedingly small. To supply this need various devices were resorted to. The Indians were accustomed to use as currency, wampum, a sort of bead made from certain sea-shell. A currency so easy to obtain, and so well adopted for trade with the natives recommended itself to the colonists, and they adopted it, establishing as its value in English coin  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a penny for white beads,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a penny for blue. It was an unwieldy, bulky medium at best, but did very well as long as it was current. Barter was, however, the favorite of trade. Corn was the medium mostly used, but beaver-skins, fish or cattle passed current. Lumber is mentioned in the Colonial records as offered by the firm of Salisbury for taxes; and Sir Edmund Andros in 1687, accepted the rates of the town of Hingham in milk pails. The general court regulated, as well as it could, the values of these articles and amounts in which they should be accepted as legal tender. But they had to make court and changes, and the collections owed treasurers often sustained heavy losses from shrinkage in value. There were many objections to barter it; it was inconvenient; the transportation of "taxes" cost the state a large percentage of the sum assessed; foreign trade refused to accept produce for goods which were necessary to the colonists. The ships which traded with Holland and the Indies brought in small quantities of coin, but it was scarce and seldom of standard fineness. From England came almost none, its exportation being prohibited by parliament.

Accordingly, May 31, 1652, the general court passed an order establishing a mint at Boston, Jno. Hill was appointed master, and authorized to coin shillings, six penny

and three penny pieces "flat and square on the sides, and stamped on the one side with N. E., and on the other side with the figure XII, VI, III according to the value of each piece." The alloy was of the British standard but the weight less by  $\frac{1}{8}$ . A building was erected for the mint, one story high, and sixteen feet square.

Hardly was the new coin issued when it was found that it offered unusual advantages for fraud. The stamp occupied but a very small part of the coin, leaving wide margins for "clippings," and was so wide that it required no great skill to counterfeit it. This coinage had a brief existence, being superseded, two months after its first issue by the famous "pine tree" coinage. This was issued in the same denominations and had the following design: "A double ring on either side with this inscription;—Massachusetts and a tree in the centre on one side, and the year of our Lord on the other." These coins were issued for a period of thirty-five years, a two penny piece being added in 1662. There were several different dies, but the date except on the two-penny—is uniformly 1652. The pine tree raises with the artistic skill of the engraver; on one die it is so unique a pine that it is commonly called a "scrub oak," and was pointed out to King Charles by Geo. Temple as a representation of the "Royal Oak."

But even the mint could not supply lack of money. The Indian race had left the state deep in debt; English traders drained the purses of the colonists; English officials denounced their coinage as treasonable, and as injurious to the standard of the British mint. The colonists tried in vain to propitiate the king. Coinage ceased, and the functions of the mint were limited to testing and stamping with the value in New England money, foreign coinage. The old hard times returned. The general court, which had some time since ordered taxes to be paid in coin, was now glad to accept produce and even wampum, and offered to abate one-fourth of all taxes paid in coin. When William came to the throne, the colonist petitioned for author-

ity to coin their own money. But he refused to grant this, and no further attempt to revive the mint was made. It had an existence of about thirty-five years; years of continual warfare with the greed and jealousy of the mother country.

### THE SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

BY H. A. TALBOT.

Probably no shore bird is better known in the eastern states, than this small species. Near the ocean and its inlets they are perfectly at home, and even on land near the large pools or lakes, they are found and breed in great numbers. It is amusing to see a male during the mating season, puffed up, as it were with pride, and standing upon a stone, bow with its hinder parts to all points of the compass.

While the birds are attending to the incubating duties, they are quite shy, and it is scarcely ever you find a nest unless by flushing the bird itself. Even then you may walk over it a few times before discovering the eggs. The nest itself is nothing to speak about; a few leaves or sticks scraped together and made into the form of a nest. But upon attempting to take it up, the whole thing will drop to pieces. Farther north a much better nest is made of hay or moss. The eggs are always four in number, pointedly pyriform in shape, and it is the fact with this bird as with all the waders, that they arrange the eggs with the small points toward the centre of the nest. Their color is a light clay, blotched with numerous spots of blackish brown or chocolate although differing greatly at times in both color and markings.

For the most part they frequent the shore, and subsist by picking out with their long bills the shell-fish or small crabs lurking beneath the stones. On a wet or windy day you will see them skimming over the water with quick motions, or running from rock to rock with remarkable agility. The young birds are born with down upon them, and after a few hours leave the nest and go foraging for themselves. During September the flocks make up and leave for warmer climes to pass the winter.

### FIELD CRICKETS.

BY F. M. WEBSTER.

One morning after a rainy night, as I was passing along the highway, I noticed one of our common field crickets working at a kernel of corn that had dropped from some farmer's wagon while on the way to market. The rain had softened the grain; and after watching the insect some time, I found it was eating the germ of the softened kernel; I watched patiently until the cricket seemed to have satisfied its hunger, and found the corn had been eaten away. Early in the fall I found them in cornfields eating the crowns of kernels or ears that had been blown to the ground, something I had always before attributed to mice.

The same insect has annoyed farmers considerably in another manner. Much of the harvesting is done with self-binding harvesting machines, using corn for binding. Judge of the surprise and chagrin of the farmer when on drawing in his stacks of grain, to find instead of compact bound sheaves only a mass of unbound grain, the bands of cord having been cut in many places by the crickets. Also I noticed numbers of our common black blister beetle (*Epicauta pennsylvanica*) denuding the ears of corn of the silk before the kernel had been fecundated, thereby either partially or wholly destroying the ear. I have also found *Diatrocha fossata*, Lec., which usually feeds upon the pollen of the flowers of the composite, varying its bill of fare by eating the pollen corn. Its near relative, *D. longicornis*, Say, which I fear is to be the future pest of the cornfield, I found feeding upon both silk and kernel; one individual had excavated nearly the whole interior of a kernel, and was still at work, being so far advanced into the interior as to leave only the tip of his abdomen visible. I had supposed the insect relied upon the flowers of thistles and some of the composite for his food, but now think were all of these taken away it would find abundant sustenance in the cornfield itself.

**COPPER AND ITS USES.**

BY A. K. BATES.

Copper occurs native in considerable quantities; also combined with oxygen, sulphur, selenium and various acids. The ores of copper vary in specific gravity from 3.5 to 8.5, and seldom exceed 4 in hardness. Many of the ores give to borax a green color in the outer flame and an opaque dull red in the inner.

Native copper accompanies the ores of copper and usually occurs in the vicinity of dikes of igneous rocks. Siberia, Cornwall and Brazil, are noted for the copper that has been found in their boundaries. A mass supposed to be from Bahia, now at Lisbon, is said to weigh 2616 pounds.

One of the most extraordinary fields of native copper, are those around Lake Superior, where it occurs mostly in vertical seams in trap, and also in the enclosing sandstone. A mass was taken from there to Washington which weighed 3704 pounds. Masses of from 1000 to 3700 pounds have been exposed on the wharves of Boston. These however are small, compared with some that have since been brought to light. One very large mass quarried at the famous 'Cliff mine' weight about 200 tons, and was (it is said by the owners of the mine) 40 feet long, six feet deep and six inches thick on the average. The copper obtained around the "Lake Region" is mixed with about 3.10 per cent. of silver. Besides this perfectly pure silver, in strings, masses and grains, as often disseminated through the copper and some masses, with large spots of silver, resembling as one Professor remarked "a porphyry with its teal copper crystals." Crystals of native copper are also found penetrating masses, prehnite, and analcime, in the trap rock.

Small specimens of native copper have been found in the states of New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts, where much the same formation occurs. One mass from near Somerville, weighs 78 pounds, and, it is claimed, that the original weight was 128 pounds. Near New Haven, Conn., a mass of 90 pounds

was found. Near New Brunswick, N. J., a vein or sheet of copper, from a sixteenth to an eighth of an inch thick, has been observed and traced for several rods. Copper pyrites occur in veins of granite and allied rocks; also in graywacke, etc. It is usually associated with iron pyrites, and very often with galena, blende and carbonates of copper. The copper of Fahlun, Sweden, is found nearly always in this form, where it occurs with serpentine in gneiss.

**CURIOSITY SHOP NOTES.**

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There are 66,000 persons connected in various ways with the business of our postal service.

The New York Numismatic Society has a very large collection, which is kept very close. A number of members have collections of value.

Half-cents are, some of them rare, from the fact that they are not used in business. The date of 1831 is worth \$20, and that of 1828 but 5 cents.

THERE was received at this post office a few days ago on a registered letter a 12 cent 1869 issue stamp, steamship.

THE American Philatelist has suspended.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

A Journal for Scientists and Antiquarians.

WILL M. CLEMENS, Editor.

W. B. BROCKWAY, Publisher.

\*.\*THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is published promptly on the first of each month and is devoted to the interests of collectors and students of coins, stamps, autographs, antiquities, natural history subjects and other curiosities. It has the largest circulation and influence of any journal of its kind in the world.

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**THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP,  
Jamestown, N. Y.**

*Jamestown, N. Y., July 1, 1887*

### SPECIAL JULY OFFER.

To every person sending 25 cents for one year's subscription before August 1, 1887, we will send as a free premium, a bleeding tooth shell from the Bahama Islands. This is one of the most desirable of ocean curiosities.

THE police are looking for S. Allan Taylor, and old time stamp fraud and counterfeiter.

J. W. HUBBARD'S latest premium coin list is at hand. It is an excellent publication and well worth the price asked for it.

### PROSPECTUS.



With the present issue THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP enters upon its sixth volume. It is now in the high tide of its success and its already large circulation is rapidly increasing. The publishers will put forth every effort in the future to make it not only the leading but the best publication of the kind in the world. The editorial control of the magazine is under the charge of Mr. Will M. Clemens. The editor will print in the forth coming issues of the present volume articles and essays relating to United States and foreign postage and revenue stamps, coins, medals, tokens, autographs, shells, minerals, fossils, birds, bird eggs, Indian relics, antiquities, old books, rare engravings, and all manner of curiosities. Our purpose is to make it a better stamp paper than any stamp paper published; a better coin journal than the other coin journals; in fact our aim is to furnish the representative periodical of the various kinds of collecting. A prominent feature of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP will be its illustrations. Among the contributors already engaged are Dr. Robert Morris, J. J. Casey, L. W. Dublin, Alvin Davis, T. Martin Weirs, F. M. Webster, Dr. C. C. Abbott, W. F. Feich, A. W. Hinde, E. E. Haynes, J. M. McCreery, L. C. Boysen, and many others.

\*.\*RENEWALS. Subscribers finding this notice marked with a blue pencil will know that their subscription has expired. Please renew promptly.

\*.\*CONTRIBUTIONS on topics of interest to our readers solicited. All matter accepted will be promptly paid for. Mss. returned only when stamps are enclosed. All letters should contain stamp for reply.

\*.\*REMITTANCES should be made by postal note, money order, bank check or registered letter. We cannot accept Canada stamps or U. S. stamps of a higher value than 2 cents. Remit by postal note when possible.

## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Notices of exchange not to exceed 4 lines inserted for 10 cents each issue. No notices inserted free

This paper will be sent one year for 100 revenue stamps, 20 official stamps, 25 match or medicine stamps, 100 old U. S. stamps. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, Jamestown, N. Y.

U. S. revenue, documents, match, medicine, proprietary, playing card and U. S. and foreign postage stamps to exchange. Philatelic papers to exchange for others or stamps. B. G. A., P. O. box 67, Brooklyn N. Y.,

U. S. postage, department, envelope, document, match, medicine and playing card stamps for same not in my collection. Also entire envelopes for exchange. E. B. Cornwell, Rubicon, Wis.

Indian relics and many rare foreign coins to exchange for U. S. coins and autographs. H. T. Upson, Parkersburg, W. Va.

One complete vol. of The Metropolitan (200 page) in exchange for stamps or Philatelic papers Judd C. Rice, Dallas, Luz. Co, Pa.

I have about 500 postmarks (some duplicate) that I will exchange for coins, postmarks are from all parts of the U. S., those collecting postmarks will do well to write me for first come first served. J. D. Sloat, box 177 St. Charles, Mo.

Stamps, tags, birds eggs and philatelic papers to exchange for stamp albums. Anyone having any albums to exchange for anything else please write to me. Ulysses Clark, Pipestone, Minn.

Three Hindoo and 3 Indian coins for an 1887 V. nickel. Ralph Mason, box 5 Mt. Holly, N. J.

U. S. stamps wanted for collection. Good exchange given, send lists and terms to W. B. Brackway, Jamestown, N. Y.

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The regular monthly circulation of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is 3 000 copies. Terms for acceptable advertising 10 cts. per line, \$1 per inch, \$3 per column, \$10 per page, each and every insertion. No lottery or quack medicine cards inserted at any price. Each line averages 8 words. Our terms are strictly cash in advance. Address, THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, Jamestown, N. Y.

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. 6, NO. 2.

WHOLE NO. 32

CONTENTS FOR

## August, 1887.



1. Young Stamp Collectors, - - *H. O. Ward.*
2. The Virgin Islands, - - - *F. H. Swartz.*
3. Newly Issued Stamps, - - *R. R. Boyert.*
4. Continental Currency, - - *A. K. Bates.*
5. Editorial, - - - - - *Will M. Clemens.*
6. Swedish Copper Dalers, - *Frank S. Lusk.*
7. A Stranger in Gotham, - - *W. Wilbert.*
8. Notes on Coin.
9. Exchange Notices.
10. Advertisements.



## The Old Curiosity Shop.

J. JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

Twenty-Five Cents Per Year.



# Old Curiosity Shop.

VOL. 6.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., AUGUST,

NO 2.

## YOUNG STAMP COLLECTORS.

BY H. O. WARD.



With our younger collectors the task of discriminating between the various modes of stamp collecting is one of some moment, and the sooner a collector decides upon a plan, the better it is for him. A great many collect upon the so called French plan, which advises the collector to admit into his album every variety of shade, color, paper and perforation which exist. This plan has its advantages and its disadvantages. A collection arranged on the French system presents a source of never failing delight and instruction to the true philatelist, and for a dealer, or an editor of a philatelic publication, it is of great advantage as a reference, still it has some defects, being very expensive, and requiring a large amount of time and labor to be properly arranged; and then, again, a collection can never be made as complete, as some of the varieties are now unobtainable, and others so extremely scarce that only a few are to be met with, and those being held at such a figure that only the wealthy collector can hope to give them a place in his album.



Then there is the English system of collecting, which is only a slight modification of the French plan, and as it is on the same principle, the same remarks will hold good for it also.

Perhaps the plan which has the greatest number of adherents on this continent is

the American system, which advises the collection of only one variety of a stamp, and denounces the collection of every slight variety, which the French plan advocates. This system is perhaps the best for young collectors; being more simple, and requiring a smaller expenditure of money.

Then a collection arranged on this plan has more of interest to the casual observer, who cannot see why a distinction should be made between two stamps because one has perforated edges and the other not; or one may be darker in shade than another, when in all other respects they are identical.

Another thing in its favor is, that a collection can more easily be made complete. A collector can very easily obtain one variety of almost every stamp, when if he attempts the feat of accumulating one of every slight variety it will only be accomplished after years of time and labor, and at great expense.

In conclusion, we would advise the beginner to commence collecting on the American system, for the reasons above stated. After a time, as his collection increases in numbers, and he becomes more familiar with the various details of stamp collecting, he may venture to include varieties of shade, perforation and watermark in his album, providing he is well supplied with the necessary cash, and has the qualities of patience and perseverance well developed.

### SPECIAL AUGUST OFFER.

To every person sending 25 cents for one year's subscription before September 15th, 1887, we will send as a free premium, a bleeding tooth shell from the Bahama Islands. This is one of the most desirable of ocean curiosities.

## THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

BY F. H. SWARTZ.



Virgin Islands were discovered by Columbus 1493, and consist of a cluster of rocks. Only a portion of them belong to Great Britain, the Danes possessing St. Thomas, St. John, and Sainte Croix, and the Spaniards claiming those nearest to Puerto Rico. The largest island in the group belonging to England is Tortola, which is situated in 18 degrees, 27 minutes N. lat. and 64 degrees, 39 minutes W. long.

The Government consists of an Executive and Legislative Council. Sugar is grown in small quantities, and many of the landed properties have recently planted cotton with success. On the 29th October, 1867, the islands were visited by a terrible hurricane, which caused great destruction to life and property. Sir Arthur Rumbold, administrator of S. Kitts, thus describes the calamity, which I extract as a specimen of the visitations to which these islands are frequently subjected :

"The storm lasted from eleven a. m. to three p. m., but the greatest force was from twelve to two; in that brief space of time two-thirds of the miserable tenements of the town were blown down. The gaol is destroyed; the church, the hospital, pier, school house, Wesleyan chapel and poor-house are also destroyed, and my own dwelling unroofed and rendered uninhabitable. The loss of life cannot as yet be correctly ascertained. I have, however, been officially informed of about twelve deaths in the town, two at Peter's Island, two at West End, while I hear that a quantity of people are killed in other parts of the country, and scarcely a hut or habitation is left standing. All was bright and

verdant; the withering blast has passed over it, and not a fruit or other tree remains. The works of the few remaining estates are all totally destroyed.

Another hurricane in August, 1871, inflicted nearly equal damage.

The islands now belonging to Great Britain were first colonized by a party of Dutch buccaneers, who, about 1668, established themselves on Tortola, but were soon afterwards driven out by English adventurers of the same class, when, ere long, they were attached to the government of the Leeward Islands. It is to be feared that terrible cruelty was practiced towards the slave in Tortola. In 1811 a planter named Hodge was hung for murdering his negroes by slow tortures—a measure that called forth such indignation amongst the whites that the Governor was obliged to proceed in person to Tortola and proclaim martial law before the sentence could be executed. This hideous ruffian was a member of Council!

The area of the Virgin Islands—so called after St. Ursula and the eleven thousand maidens—is 57 square miles, with a population of 6,551 souls.

The first stamps issued by this country was in 1875, which consisted of 1 penny, green, with the figure of Virgin in the center, with name at the top and denomination at the bottom; 4 pence, red brown, with same cut, only about one-third larger; 6 pence, rose, with figure of Virgin; 1 shilling, crimson, with cut the same as the 6 pence; and shilling crimson with scarlet edge, the same as the other. The next issue was in 1880, which consisted of 1 penny green, and 2½ pence green. The design was as follows: In the center the bust of the Queen, with Virgin Islands at the top and denomination at the bottom.

—Renewals. —Subscribers finding this notice marked with a blue pencil will know that their subscription has expired. Please renew promptly.

## NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

Azores—The Portuguese letter cards have been surcharged for use here.

Ceylon—A new stamp value 1R 12c. has made its appearance. It is of a similar design to the old 2 R 50c. Color reddish violet.

Colombia—Two new stamps, value 2c and 20c, with portraits of two gentlemen above which is the new inscription "Republica de Colombia" have been issued.

Ecuador—There is a new 10c. stamp; also postcards 5c and 5x5.

Egypt—Envelopes are expected soon of the value of 1 piaster. The cards and stamps are to be slightly altered.

Great Britain—The "W B Z" mentions the 2 sh 6d with surcharge "Official"

Macao—Three new surcharges have come from here. The 80 reis has been surcharged 5 reis, 10 reis and 20 reis—in black in two lines and the original value obliterated by a bar.

Martinique—The 20c red on green has been surcharged "M Q E 15c (2 var) Martinique 015 and Martinique 15."

Newfoundland—It is intended to issue a ½c stamp and to change the types of some of the other values.

St. Helena—The "I. B. J." reports the 3d as lilac and 6d slate gray.

S. Af. Republic—The 2d has been changed to yellow brown from violet.

South Australia—A new 6d stamp has been issued, inscribed "Postage and Revenue" and in general appearance is like the 3d. Color blue.

United States—A new 1c stamp somewhat resembling the old one has been issued. The head of Franklin is in an oval with shaded background, the lower portion or the oval being bordered with pearls and the upper portion with a curved panel containing in small white letters the words, "United States Postage" The whole is on a shield shaped tablet with a truncated, pyramidal base bearing on it the words

"One 1. Cent." Color ultramarine.

Venezuela—There have been issued two cards 10c blue on blue and 10x10 green on buff. The stamp is of the type of the 10c adhesive, which has probably not yet been issued. There is a frame of Greek pattern and the usual inscription.

Victoria—The head of the Queen on the 40 stamp is now on horizontally lined ground.

## CONTINENTAL CURRENCY.

BY A. K. BATES.

During the Revolutionary war, the continental congress was almost continually harassed for want of money. The colonies at the beginning of the war (and, in fact, after it) were so weak and poor that bills of credit of continental currency were issued, for the payment of which the public relied on their faith as to the ability of the then so called congress.

The cause of liberty required constant advances, and in 1780 there was no less than \$200,000,000 of this continental money in circulation.

At first these bills passed at par, but as congress kept issuing them in large amounts, people would not take them except at a great discount, because congress could not redeem them with gold or silver.

In April, 1780, one dollar in this currency was equal to 1.40 of a silver dollar, and soon after it took \$75 in this currency to equal \$1 in silver, and at one time a pair of boots cost \$600 in continental money, and a soldier's pay for a month would hardly buy him a dinner. British agents also helped injure the credit of congress by making many counterfeit bills. At this crisis Robert Morris, a very patriotic man, established a bank at Philadelphia which helped amazingly. If any one has in his possession any of these bills, I would advise him to keep them for they are indeed relics. Its owner may well say:

And ever this relic from thy shrine,  
O holy Freedom! hath to me  
A potent power, a voice and sign  
To testify thee;  
And, grasping it, methinks I feel  
A deeper faith, a stronger zeal.

WHITTIER.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

A JOURNAL FOR SCIENTISTS AND ANTIQUARIANS.

\***THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP** is published promptly on the first of each month and is devoted to the interests of collectors and students of coins, stamps autographs, antiquities, natural history subjects and other curiosities. It has the largest circulation and influence of any journal of its kind in the world.

\***Subscription Rates** per year 25 cents. To all foreign countries 35 cents. Single copies 3 cents. Our only terms to agents are as follows: 3 subscriptions one year 60 cents; 6 subscriptions, \$1.25; 10 subscriptions, \$1.75. Terms, cash in advance.

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Address all communications to

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP,

140 Allen Street, Jamestown, N. Y.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., AUGUST, 1887.

### A CHANGE IN FIRM.

Will M. Clemens has purchased all right and title in THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP from W. B. Brockway, and will issue the magazine in future from 140 Allen Street, Jamestown, N. Y.

### IS THIS A FRAUD?

The editor of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP a few weeks ago received a letter from Wm. P. Brown, dealer in U. S and foreign postage stamps, 114 Nassau street, New York:

NEW YORK CITY, July 15, 1887.

DEAR SIR:

A short time ago I obtained from a stamp collector in Phoenix, a few stamps of the Northern Mutual Telegraph Co. which I was unable to find any dealers here that knew anything about them. After a good deal of search I found the address of the former President of the Co., Mr. Joseph Owen of Oswego, who informs

me that the company was running for several years, and issued stamps which were sold to the public for a short time only in 1883 when the company sold out its lines and ceased its existence. They had a branch office at No. 50 Exchange Place, New York city. In looking over his papers in the office among the rubbish Mr. Owen found two of the original telegrams with stamps affixed to them. I send you a copy of one, the order was prepaid with a 20 cent stamp. I also obtained from Mr. Owen the remaining stock of the stamps and enclose one sheet for you to notice in your paper.

(I am selling the stamps at 25c. per set, or \$1.50 per sheet to dealers.)

Any further information you may need about the company I presume you can obtain from Mr. Owen.

Yours truly,

WM. P. BROWN.

Mr. Brown enclosed with his letter a telegraph blank of the "Northern Mutual Telegraph and Telephone Company," which is printed in exact imitation of the the telegraph blanks of the Western Union. Attached to this "blank" are two of the stamps of the value of ten cents.

Some time later Mr. Brown mailed us an electrotype cut of the "newly discovered stamp" which we take pleasure in printing herein.



The stamps sent as samples and the stamps on the alleged telegraph blank are poorly printed from a wood cut, perhaps from the same electrotype printed above. To

say the least, the whole thing looks rather "fishy" to us, but for the sake of Mr. Brown, who has always been a reputable stamp dealer, we hope there is no fraud in the case. What does the philatelic press of America say about it? We await discussion of the new stamps with interest.



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The five volumes, 31 numbers, complete for \$4 each. These volumes contain over 200 pages and 100 illustrations.

**SWEDISH COPPER DALERS.**

BY FRANK S LUSK.

During the celebrated contests of Charles XII, called sometimes the "Madman of the North," and Peter the Great of Russia, Sweden was greatly impoverished. Continued wars had utterly exhausted the resources of Sweden; trade in that country became paralyzed, foreign commerce entirely suspended, and Charles, when he returned from Turkey, where he had taken refuge, finding his affairs in a desperate

state, intrusted the management of finances to Baron de Gortz. Baron de Gortz was an able but unscrupulous man, and one of his first measures for the relief of the monetary stringency was the issuing of dalers struck in copper, with forced currency for all debts at par value. A large number of these were issued between the years 1715-19 of ten different types, each elaborately designed and carefully struck to prevent counterfeiting, the work being done under the supervision of a French mint master named Rouger. The reverses of these coins all bear "I Daler S. M." in three lines, and on the obverse of each there is a different design, as follows: A Crown, 1715. Pallas; 1716. Wett och Wapen, 1717. Saturnus, 1718. Mars, 1718. Jupiter, 1718. Mercurius, 1718. Flink och Fardig, 1718. Phoebus, 1718. Hoppet (Hope), 1719. The series was closed by one bearing the Baron's own effigy, a circumstance that led, ultimately, to his being indicted and executed for treason. The ten types we have described comprise the whole of these interesting historical coins. As a set they are rare, but single specimens are frequently found among foreign coins, and several types are sometimes offered together at coin auction sales.

For the first time after more than two years, the process of gold coining at the Royal Mint was recently resumed. It was remarked that the strong man who pours the molten stream from crucible to mould, and who holds that post because of his especial skill in directing the metal into narrow apertures without spilling or waste, showed on this momentous occasion some little signs of nervousness and agitation. Gold coinage, says a recent number of the Pall Mall Gazette, was successfully resumed in the reconstructed premises with new and improved machinery, and it will probably be long indeed before there is such another interruption of the coinage as has been now happily brought to a conclusion.

## A STRANGER IN GOTHAM.

INTERVIEW WITH A MAN WHO MAKES IMPROVEMENT OF THE MEMORY A SPECIALTY.

The third or fourth story, front, of an imposing building on Fifth avenue, near its junction with Broadway, New York, bears a sign sure to attract attention from the street. It is in black and white, extends across a window, and aside from a "professor's" name bears in huge capitals the word "Memory." Curiosity impelled me to ascend the winding stairways which led to the office to which the window and its sign belong. A pretty girl sprang up from manipulation of a typewriter in an outer office as I entered, and when I asked for the professor stepped into an inner room, where I was soon invited.

A stout man with a big head, partly bald, and a gray mustache, sat in this apartment tearing open letters from a pile before him. I asked an explanation of his peculiar sign.

"There is little to explain about it," he said, "except that I teach people to remember anything they want to remember. With the co operation of any pupil any one can have just as good a memory as he may desire to have."

"How long does it take to learn, professor?"

"The course consists of five lessons, which may be given by mail fully as well as in person."

"And how long are the lessons?"

"That depends on the pupil, of course; the average is about three hours, I think. Much of my teaching is done in classes by a series of lectures. I have lectured to a class of 200 at Yale college, 400 at the Pennsylvania, 100 Columbia law students, 300 lady students of Wellesley college and many others in this country. In England I have been even more prominently identified with educational institutions."

"How long have you been in this business!"

"About twenty-five years, most of the time abroad. I still have a branch in London, and, in fact, have been in this country only about a year. I was induced to come here by my Americam pupils."

"There are two stages of memory," the little man said to me—"receptive power and revival of impression. My system is to increase each of these so you can remember because you can't help yours. If Concentration is the cardinal feature of the system, and the first thing is to strengthen the power of attention so you hold your mind on any subject without wandering. Our natural memories are broken down by learning things by rote."

The professor gave me a pamphlet profuse with caps, italics and boldface lines from which I learn that he also teaches "whist memory" and the art of illustration, or how to find appropriate anecdotes, adages, formulas, etc. Among the gentleman's pupils have been Judah P. Benjamin, W. W. Astor, Dr. Buckley and Mark Twain. This year the professor is to lecture before the Chautauqua [N. Y.] university.

WALTER WIBERLY.

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 NOTES ON COINS.

The coins of the German Empire are of gold, silver, nickel and copper. All the gold coins, according to the law of July 19, 1873, are of one purity, 9 parts of pure metal and one part of copper alloy. Out of 500 grammes of pure gold are coined 69½ twenty-mark pieces, 139½ ten-mark pieces, 279 5 mark pieces.

A boy, who lives in Butte county, in California, recently shot an owl which evidently was once a captive. Attached to one of the bird's legs was a gold dollar, of the coinage of 1856. The coin was fastened to the bird by means of a piece of wire. The bird was an aged one, and the dollar had evidently been carried many years.

## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Notices of exchange not to exceed 4 lines inserted for 10 cents each issue. No notices inserted free.

This paper will be sent one year for 100 revenue stamps, 20 official stamps, 25 match or medicine stamps, 100 old U. S. stamps. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, Jamestown, N. Y.

U. S. stamps wanted for collection. Good exchange given, send lists and terms to W. B. Brockway, Jamestown N. Y.

I will pay 50c. cash for No. 3 Keystone Philatelic Gazette. 15 used U. S. Postal cards for every philatelic or coin paper sent me. P. F. O'Keefe, Mansfield Valley, Pa.

Amateur papers of all kinds exchanged. Send list to A. K. Bates, Titusville, Pa.

Photographs, coins, a small combination safe, etc., for offers of coins or curiosities. Send lists. Would like to correspond with boys about 15. Howard G. Chase, Wiscasset, Mt. Pocono, Monroe Co., Pa.

Contributions on topics of interest to our readers solicited. All matter accepted will be promptly paid for. Mss. returned only when stamps are enclosed. All letters should contain stamp for reply.

Remittances should be made by postal note, money order, bank check or registered letter. We cannot accept Canada stamps or U. S. stamps of a higher value than 2 cents. Remit by postal note when possible

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 A MONTHLY MAGAZINE  
 IN  
 INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING  
 EDITED BY  
 CHARLES WILKINSON MCKEL  
 PUBLISHED BY THE  
 PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.  
 ST. LOUIS MO. U. S. A.



# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

A

JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
 PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
 NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
 BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. 6.

WHOLE NO. 33

CONTENTS FOR

## September, 1887.

1. Coin Collecting, - *Lewis G. Boyesen.*
2. The Envelopes of Japan, - *I. Nassau.*
3. The New U. S. Stamps, - *A. R. Sweet.*
4. The Ancient Manner of Coining,  
*Dr. Robert Morris.*
5. Editorial Notes, - *Will M. Clemens.*
6. Newly Issued Stamps, - *R. R. Bogert.*
7. L. W. Durbin.
8. Advertisements.

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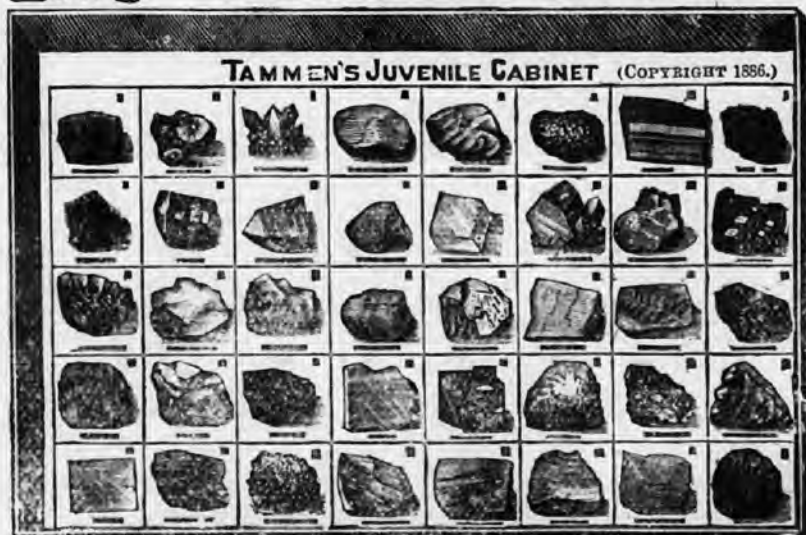
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**GOLDEN RULE.**  
April 15th.—We have examined this cabinet, and consider it worth more than the price asked.

**CHRISTIAN UNION,** April 8th.—We desire to recommend very highly the juvenile cabinet devised by H. H. Tammén, as much valuable information can be obtained about minerals. The price is very low; we advise our readers to send for one or more.

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Our 85c. (special offer) Cabinet—size 8 1/2 by 6 1/2 inches—is a set of 40 Mineral Specimens, regularly and systematically arranged. The objects consist of Gold, Silver, Zinc, Copper, Iron Ores, Topaz, Amazon Stone, Feldspar, Quartz, Cuprite, Ice and Satin Spars, Carnelian, Selenite, Variscite, Magnetite, Fluorspar, Chalcedony, Petrified and Silicified Woods, and 21 others equally rare and desirable. The specimens in this Cabinet are contained in a strong and neatly finished paste-board box, divided into 40 sections (see illustration), in which the objects are affixed. A descriptive manual is sent with each Cabinet, giving the history, properties and uses of the different minerals and gems. You get greater returns for your money in knowledge, science and fact, by purchasing one of these Cabinets of Rocky Mountain Minerals than you can ordinarily obtain for ten times the cost! We give this bargain because we live in the heart of the "Rockies," collect our own Specimens, and sell enormous quantities. Send (stamps or money order) at once. Upon receipt of this amount, **85 cts.** we will send you this handsome Collection, post-paid. Sent same day order is received.

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# Old Curiosity Shop.

VOL. 12

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1887.

NO. 33.

## COIN COLLECTING.

BY LEWIS G. BOYSEN.



IN Europe coin collecting amounts to almost a mania—almost all classes of citizens being engaged in the collection and classification of coins, medals, etc. Magazines, pamphlets, newspapers and books of almost endless variety, are published in many of the large cities of Europe, and dealers are counted by hundreds, while customers

are enumerated by thousands.

In this country how different! With the exception of some few dealers and collectors in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and elsewhere, there can scarcely be found sufficient interest to warrant a newspaper boy in opening a penny stand at a street corner. It is certainly a lame apology to say our country is new, our coins modern and few in numbers. It is not so. We have the most beautiful coins in the world—gold, silver, copper and nickel—navy, army and other medals by the thousands. Is our country's history of less interest and importance than that of the Nations of the old world? Have we lost the desire to remember the glorious days of our forefathers? What is the cause of our

apathy? Why is it that we allow a few half-empty shelves, drawers and cases, in the rooms of various historical societies to be the only depositories of our National emblems, and there to lay moulding, dust-covered and unobserved, secreted from the great mass of humanity, and seen by only a few of a philosophical turn of mind, who have the time and means to pay a visit to those lonely but useful institutions? Every house and home of Americans, rich and poor, should be a depository of coins, which point unerringly, to the origin, struggle and existence of our young Republic. Every parent should instruct their children the importance of studying the coins and emblems of their country. Our advice is, to young and old of whatever condition in life,—save the coins! Study the coins! Age adds value to the most common coins now in circulation; and when profit and pleasure are combined with the knowledge gained, the study affords to all an occupation of usefulness.

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The tumble-weed derives its name from the circumstance that when ripe the wind tears it up by the roots and sends it over the fields rolling hither and thither, so that its seed is soon thrashed out. It is sometimes seen piled fence high on the prairie farm.

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The engraving and cutting of all gems, except the diamond, were known to the ancients. The Egyptians discovered the art of cutting agates before the Christian era, and by them was introduced into other lands. The polishing and cutting of diamonds are of recent date, being made known to the world in 1476, by Louis de Berghens, of Burges.





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## THE ENVELOPES OF JAPAN.

BY I. NASSAU.



Like all other countries Japan, too, saw the benefit of the postal system that was instituted by Sir Rowland Hill, and in 1871 postoffices were opened in every large city, and stamps issued for the prepayment of postage on letters and parcels. Subsequently stamped envelopes, which were then and are still used in Europe and America, came to the notice of the postal department. Not only because the spirit of the Japanese is to imitate everything foreign, but more especially for the reason that they clearly saw the convenience of such things, that in 1875 a set of stamped envelopes was issued. They were as follows: 1 sen, blue; 2 sens, yellow, 4 sens, rose; 6 sens, brown.

The design of the stamp is exactly the same as the adhesives of 1875. The next year another set was issued. They are the same as the preceding, except that the inscription in the center is different. The stamps of 1875 says "Yubin-kitty," meaning postage stamps, while those of 1876 read "Yubin-hoki," which means postal envelope. "Yubin" means mail, "kitty" a ticket; therefore "Yubin-kitty" is, literally, a mail ticket. "Hoki" means, literally, a skin for covering; here, of course, it is put for paper for covering a letter—an envelope. It is a curious fact that the right hand side of our envelope is the top of the Japanese envelope, and hence the stamped impression on the latter is on the left hand corner, and the name and address of a person is written from top to bottom.

Forged specimens of the two pence, half penny of the present issue of some of the West India Island stamps are floating about. They are of a very rough make and are generally printed in a wrong color.

## THE NEW U. S. STAMPS.

BY A. R. SWEET.

On October 1 the new two cent stamps will be on sale. The stamp of this denomination now in use is of a metallic red color. The new stamp, which will be issued about September 15, will be green. The reason for this change is that until the minimum rate of letter postage was reduced to two cents the color of the stamp most generally used, namely, the three cent, was green, and the postoffice official think that the color gave more general satisfaction to the public than any other. It was the intention of the postoffice department to make numerous other changes in the color of other adhesive stamps at the same time, but as the contractors have large numbers of the old kind on hand, the changes have been postponed. This will give the contractors an opportunity to get rid of their stock, and the changes will be made as soon as convenient.

The following changes in stamped envelopes have been ordered to go into effect as soon as the contractors can get the stock ready: Two-cent, from red to green; four-cent, from green to carmine; five-cent, from brown to dark blue; thirty-cent, from black to brown; ninety-cent, from carmine to purple.

There will be some slight changes in the designs of the one, two, three, four and five-cent impressed stamps, but the only radical change will be in the five-cent stamp. In this case the adhesive stamp will portray the head of Garfield, while the impressed stamp on the five-cent envelope will bear a likeness of Grant. It is said that the friendly rivalry now going on between the various countries in the matter of pretty stamps is one of the reasons for the changes.

Almost the only character inscribed on Oriental Coins is the Arabic, variously modified.

## ANCIENT MANNER OF COINING.

BY DR. ROBERT MORRIS, L. L. D.

The manner of coining by striking was very imperfect as compared with modern mint machinery. The flan (or planchet) not being fixed between the two dies glided frequently (glisse) from side to side under the blows, and the stamp did not always come in the center of the coin. Nor was this all. The person who held the cuneus or wedge, often carelessly tipped it from the perpendicular, and so the coin was made thinner on one edge than the other, and the inscriptions correspondingly plainer.

It is extremely rare, not to say with some authors impossible, to find two hammered pieces struck from the same die. Very ancient dies exist in the collections of antiquaries.

We know but little of the persons appointed by the Greeks to make their money. But with the Romans, that part of the administration was established about A. V. C. 547 (B. C. 206). Three magistrates styled "triumviri aesi, flando, argenti," that is, "the three magistrates for coining brouze, gold and silver," were appointed to oversee the public mintage. There was appointed over them a *Question Urbain*, the "*Cuator denariorum flandorum*". This triumvirate of coinage was reckoned among the most dignified positions. It was commonly bestowed upon young gentlemen of family. Caesar increased the number of these magistrates to four, as indeed he enlarged the number of police officers generally to give places to his followers, but Augustus re-established the number three, and they so remained.

From the time of Tiberius [deceased A. D. 37] the *Curatores Monetæ* were distinct from the *Urban Questors*. Under the Emperors of Constantinople the triumvirate ceased to exist. They were succeeded by a "Count of Sacred Gifts" who was overseer of the mint under command of

procurators styled Presidents of the various Mints.

The laborers in the Mint of the Republic were government slaves; of the Empire the Emperor's slaves. They formed a real corporation, which became so large as sometimes disquiet the Emperors, lest they should revolt. The Emperor Aurelian, indeed, was compelled to lead his army against the coin making operatives in the mint at Rome, and Julian, nearly a century later, conducted his troops against the same class who had revolted at Syzicus, where the mint was large and long established.

The chief of the mints; the exactors, who recorded the metal; the nummularious officinae or cashier; the chief of the engravers [*praepositus sculptorum*] belonged to the class of freemen. The weighers [*acquatores*], the assayers, the men who made the planchets [flans or blanks], the placers, who laid the flan on the inclosure, the hammers, who struck, and the signatores, who engraved the dies; were slaves.

All these united formed the strong corps entitled "*familia monetalis*".

---

Nearly all the nickel used in the U. S. comes from the Gap mines, Lancaster Co., Penna. Nickel does not tarnish in the presence of sulphur like silver, hence it is to some extent replacing silver.

---

The basis of all clay aluminum, a beautiful, white, tough and very tight metal of great value. It exists in immense quantities in all clay, but no easy means has yet been discovered of extracting it.

---

An English diamond merchant has offered two millions of dollars for the famous "Regent" diamond, which the French Government has offered for sale. It belonged to the crown jewels of the empire.

---

A stamped envelope for letters and packages was used in Paris by a private company as early as 1758.

## The Old Curiosity Shop.

A JOURNAL FOR SCIENTISTS AND ANTIQUARIANS.

\*THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is published promptly on the first of each month and is devoted to the interests of collectors and students of coins, stamps autographs, antiquities, natural history subjects and other curiosities. It has the largest circulation and influence of any journal of its kind in the world.

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\*Advertising Rates, per line of 8 words each insertion 10c; per inch \$1; per column, \$6; per page \$10. No reductions, no exchange. Cash in advance only. We never cut our rates.

\*Notices of Exchange will be printed at the rate of 10 cents for every notice not over four lines. No notice inserted free.

\*THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is entered at the post office at Jamestown, N. Y., as second class mail matter. It is an old established publication with able conductors and is not an experiment. It means business, prefers to do business on a strictly cash basis and has no use for triflers, dead beats or cranks.

Address all communications to

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP,

140 Allen Street, Jamestown, N. Y.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1887.

We hear very little said about the new telegraph stamps recently discovered by Mr. William P. Brown of New York. Our remarks in last month's issue on the subject brought forth a long letter from Mr. Brown, in which he continues to show proof that the Northern Mutual telegraph stamps are genuine. We hope they are and we trust that Mr. Brown will reap both fame and fortune from their discovery.

\*.\*

For many years we have been opposed to reprints of any kind. Reprints are counterfeits pure and simple. A dealer who sells reprints of any stamp, U. S., local or otherwise, should be classed among the dealers in counterfeits. The reprints must go. Do not place a stamp in your album that is not genuine.

\*.\*

What is the object of a philatelic or stamp society, if members are bent on quarreling and raising a row. Better no society at all than a continual muss.

Artificial ivory is made from a combination of caoutchouc, sulphur and some white ingredients, such as gypsum, sulphate of baryta, oxide of zinc, or pipe clay. Numerous patents have been granted in the United States for its manufacture, but it is inferior in every respect to the genuine article.

\*.\*

The Collector's Review was the first paper received containing a report of the Chicago convention, and a well written and complete report it was.

\*.\*

The first price list of stamps was published by Meunt Brown of London, in 1862, the second by Dr. Gray of the British Museum in the same year.

\*.\*

There are several varieties of the 1 cent Canada newspaper wrapper known, some of them are fairly rare.

\*.\*

P. H. Hill of Nashville, Tenn., has one of the finest collection of stamps in this country. He has over 4000 adhesive and cut envelopes, most of them unused. Mr. Hill has been an ardent stamp collector for thirty years.

\*.\*

Revenue stamps are steadily gaining in popularity and value. Match stamps are becoming particularly rare.

\*.\*

There is very little profit in postal cards and very few dealers import them. Cards are not popular with collectors owing to their size and the difficulty of arranging them.

\*.\*

The new United States stamps which are announced in another column are anxiously looked for.

## NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

Antiqua—The 2½d is now blue and the 4d red brown.

Argentine Republic—The 1c. of 1873 has been found rouletted.

Bavaria—The cards come with date "87" at the left.

Br. Bechnanaland—The wrappers and card of the Cape of Good Hope are now surcharged for use here.

Cashmere—The current ½ anna is blue.

Ceylon—The surcharge "15 cents" on the 12c. envelope is now in two lines.

Cochin China—The 30c unpaid letter stamp is said to have been surcharged for use as 20c and 1 fe.

Danish W. I.—The 3c card is now on buff and there is a 2x2c card, blue on white.

French Guiana—In addition to the surcharge issued in December we hear of three others with date "April 1887;" viz: 0.05 on 2c. 1881, 0.20 on 35c 1881, and 0.25 on 30c Liberty.

Grenada—It is stated that the 1d., 6d. 2 sh. revenues have been surcharged "Postage" with "1d" below.

Holland—The 5c and 10c unpaid letter stamp of the new design are issued.

Hungary—There is a new 5 kr envelope, carmine on gray. The stamp is oval, and contains the figure of value with crown and posthorn.

Labuan—The 4c card now measure 121x89mm.

Paraguay—"The Ph Record" reports a series of stamp of same design as the 5c lately issued, 1c green, 2c carmine, 7c chocolate, 10c purple, 15c orange, 20c pink.

Portugal—A new 20c rose was issued July 1st, not embossed and with portraits of the king ¾ to the right, also a card with same stamp. The 500 reis is now lilac instead of black.

Roumania—The color of the unpaid letter stamp is to be changed.

St. Christopher—New cards have been issued with head in circle; 1d carmine on buff and 1½d brown on buff.

Switzerland—It is said stamps are to be issued without embossing.

## L. W. DURBIN DEAD.

The editor and publisher of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP had been a warm personal friend of the late L. W. Durbin for the past 10 years. The death of Mr. Durbin has cast a gloom over the philatelic world, for the science has lost not only a dealer and publisher but a firm and lasting friend.

Mr. Durbin died at his home near Philadelphia, Saturday, August 13, of consumption. He was 39 years of age. He was considered an authority on stamps and philatelic matters. At the time of his death he was treasurer of the American Philatelic association.



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 Agents were willing to pay. So we went to **One of the Leading Stamp Manufacturers in  
 the United States**, and briefly stating to him our difficulties, inquired what he could do for us.  
 During our talk with him, we gently hinted that there were Thousands of Subscription Agents,  
 besides hundreds of others, who *needed* a **Cheap Rubber Stamp**, not only for marking  
 Circulars, but for Marking their Clothing, Books, Printing their own Cards, Labels, Tags,  
 Envelopes, Etc., Etc. Before leaving the Manufactory, we had made arrangements with the  
 Proprietor to furnish our Agents or the with a *Good Rubber Stamp, including*  
**Ink and Pads, all in a neat Box.**

Our Agents in addition to  
 can take orders for Stamp and make a handsome Profit over **30 Cents**.  
 When you send Twelve or more orders at once we can furnish them at **25 Cents** each.  
 Give Plain Directions and State the Style of Stamp desired, Styles given below, also, the color of  
 Ink you prefer, we can furnish Red, Blue, Violet, Black, Green, or Indelible. Please send  
 Postage Stamps or Postal Note for **30 CENTS**.

**SAMPLES OF STYLES.**

1 <i>Henry Clark.</i>	5 <sup>c</sup> Leave your Subscription with <b>A. K. ARNOLD,</b> Elmira, - N. Y.	8 <b>J. G. WHITE,</b> Subscription Agent, Cleveland, Ohio.
2 <b>PRINTED MATTER.</b>	6 Frank Ryan, No. 1132 Grand Street, St. Louis, Mo.	9 <b>FROM</b> <i>William Black,</i> Brooklyn, N. Y.
3 <b>CENTRAL SUBSCRIPTION      Agency      LeROY, N. Y.</b>	7 <b>American Card Co.,</b> LOCK BOX 49, LeRoy, N. Y.	10 If not called for in TEN DAYS, Return to <b>WM. SPENCER,</b> CHICAGO, ILLS.
4 <b>Henry Jones,</b> Boston, Mass.	<b>ADDRESS AT ONCE ALLEN &amp; CO., BOX 61 KENNEDY, N. Y.</b>	

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



Volume 6.

Number 34.

CONTENTS FOR

## October, 1887.



1. Lines on an Old Coin, - *Curio.*
2. Stamp Collecting, - *A. M. Brown.*
3. Document Stamps, - *Will M. Clemens.*
4. Newly Issued Stamps, - *R. R. Boyert.*
5. The Franklin Cent, - *John S. Reese.*
6. Four Prize Offers.
8. Advertisements.



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Jamestown, N. Y.

Twenty-Five Cents Per Year.



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*Will M. Clemens*

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## LINES ON AN OLD COIN.

BY CURIO.

This coin has passed from hand to hand:

Long years has been the sport of fate,

Worn are the emblems on each side,

Time has defaced the motto, date.

Ti' like a sweet, poetic gem

That once had borne its author's fame,

But now for its own value lives

Without a date, without a name.

And in a cabinet it rests

A silent witness of the past,

Giving no token of the scenes

In which its busy life was cast.

## STAMP COLLECTING.

BY A. M. BROWN.



Much has been written and said about the benefits of stamp-collecting, but in all these articles the writers generally over-reach themselves and miss

the point. They will begin and tell you it teaches history, geography, and stimulates researches in all branches of fine arts (?), but how or in what way they do not state. In the first place we will begin and take history. I selected twenty so-called intelligent young men, six of whom were collectors, and asked them what they knew about the history of Spain. Sixteen of them did not even know the name of the present monarch. Do you reader? Two of them had some sort of vague ideas. One could give a

good general history, and another could give it almost exactly for the last half century. The four last were collectors. Then take geography: How many of you could locate and tell what countries Antigua, Bolivar and Hong Kong belong to? But you may ask what good this does; and I will reply by asking you how you can intelligently read about the present Franco-China and Tonquin difficulties without knowing the position of the chief place? Ask any of your friends to what country Hong Kong belongs, and note how many tell you China. There, in the values of many of the new-issue stamps, you learn the decimal system is gradually extending all over the globe. In this way, you see, a collector picks up all sorts of little notes, small in themselves, but all go to make one an intelligent and well-informed person.

The two Bergedorf stamps, issued on November 1, 1861, were in circulation only eleven days, and are proportionally rare. Equally rare is a variety of the 1½ sch'g, inscribed "Schillinge," instead of shilling, of which a few specimens only were issued before the error committed, in the final e, was discovered.

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That once had borne its author's fame,  
But now for its own value lives  
Without a date, without a name.

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A silent witness of the past,  
Giving no token of the scenes  
In which its busy life was cast.

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## DOCUMENT STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

The Revenue stamps of the United States are of historical value, in as much that they played an important part in the civil war in America. They composed a form of government taxation made from necessity, during the days of emergency in 1862.

The National Congress by an act passed July 1, 1862, levied a stamp tax or duty on hundreds of the daily necessities of the people. This resulted in an issue of document stamps in 1862 in value from one cent to \$200, the standard colors of the stamps being blue, red, and green; their use being confined to legal documents of all kinds, playing cards, photographs, receipts, telegrams, express packages, etc.

The first issue of document stamps in 1862 were unperforated. They were issued during the next two years only and are consequently classed among the rare stamps of our country.

## DOCUMENT STAMPS, 1862, UNPERFORATED.

(Head of Washington in oval, various borders.)

EACH.

1c Express.....	\$ 30	50c Proprietary.....	2
1c Playing Cards.....	80	3c Telegraph.....	1
1c Proprietary.....	1 75	4c Inland Exchange.....	1 25
1c Telegraph.....	80	4c Playing Cards.....	6
2c Bank check, blue.....	10	4c Proprietary.....	2
2c Bank check, orange.....	75	5c Agreement.....	1
2c Certificate, blue.....	75	5c Certificate.....	50
2c Certificate, orange.....	75	5c Express.....	50
2c Express, blue.....	60	5c Inland Exchange.....	50
2c Express, orange.....	4	5c Playing Cards.....	4
2c Playing Cards, blue.....	2	6c Inland Exchange.....	2
2c Playing Cards, orange.....	2 50	10c Bill of Lading.....	85
2c U. S. Int. Rev.....	2	10c Certificate.....	35
2c Proprietary, blue.....	2	10c Contract.....	35
2c Proprietary, orange.....	2	10c Inland Exchange.....	35
3c For. Exchange.....	85	10c Power of Attorney.....	60
3c Playing Cards.....	3	15c Inland Exchange.....	50
		20c For. Exchange.....	50
		20c Ind. exchange.....	30
		25c Bond.....	50
		25c Certificate.....	50
		25c Entry of Goods.....	50
		25c Insurance.....	50
		25c Life Insurance.....	75
		25c Power of Attorney.....	75
		25c Protest.....	1
		25c Warehouse Receipt.....	1
		30c Foreign Exchange.....	50
		30c Inl. Exchange.....	35
		40c Inl. Exchange.....	50
		50c Conveyance.....	50
		50c Entry of Goods.....	50
		50c For. Exchange.....	50
		50c Lease.....	1
		50c Life Insurance.....	1
		50c Mortgage.....	75
		50c Original Process.....	50
		50c Passage Ticket.....	75
		50c Probate of Will.....	4 00
		50c Surety Bond.....	75
		60c Inland Exchange.....	75
		70c Foreign Exchange.....	90
		\$1 Conveyance.....	75
		1 Entry of Goods.....	75
		1 Foreign Exchange.....	75
		1 Inland Exchange.....	50
		1 Lease.....	1 10
		1 Life Insurance.....	1 25
		1 Manifest.....	85
		1 Mortgage.....	1 25
		1 Pass Ticket.....	2
		1 Power of Attorney.....	75
		1 Probate of Will.....	1 50
		\$1 30 For. Exchange.....	5 50
		1 50 In. Exchange.....	50

1 60	For. Exchange.....	2	2c Express, orange.....	10
1 90	For. Exchange.....	12	2c Playing Cards, blue.....	15
2	Conveyance.....	1 50	2c Playing Cards, orange.....	30
2	Mortgage.....	1 50	2c Proprietary, blue.....	03
2	Probate of Will.....	2	3c Proprietary, orange.....	50
2 50	In. Exchange.....	2 50	3c Foreign Exchange.....	03
3	Charter Party.....	2 50	3c Playing Cards.....	1 50
3	Manifest.....	2	3c Proprietary.....	05
3 50	Inland Exchange.....	15	3c Telegraph.....	10
5	Charter Party.....	2	4c Inland Exchange.....	01
5	Conveyance.....	2	4c Playing Cards.....	1 10
5	Manifest.....	2	4c Proprietary.....	08
5	Mortgage.....	2	5c Agreement.....	01
5	Probate of Will.....	2	5c Certificate.....	01
10	Charter Party.....	2	5c Express.....	05
10	Conveyance.....	2	5c Foreign Ex.....	04
10	Mortgage.....	2	5c Inland Exchange.....	01
10	Probate of Will.....	2	5c Playing Cards.....	50
15	Mortgage.....	4	5c Proprietary.....	75
20	Conveyance.....	4	6c Inland Exchange.....	02
20	Probate of Will.....	25	6c Proprietary.....	5 00
25	Mortgage.....	5	10c Bill of Lading.....	05
50	U. S. I. R. ....	10	10c Certificate.....	01
200	U. S. I. R. ....	25	10c Contract.....	01
			10c Foreign Ex.....	08
			10c Inland Exchange.....	01
			10c Power of Attorney.....	02
			10c Proprietary.....	1 00
			15c Foreign Ex.....	15
			15c Inland Exchange.....	02
			20c For. Exchange.....	15
			20c Ind. exchange.....	02
			25c Bond.....	10
			25c Certificate.....	01
			25c Entry of Goods.....	05
			25c Insurance.....	01
			25c Life Insurance.....	10
			25c Power of Attorney.....	01
			25c Protest.....	12
			25c Warehouse Receipt.....	25
			30c Foreign Exchange.....	15
			30c Inl. Exchange.....	02
			40c Inl. Exchange.....	02
			50c Conveyance.....	01
			50c Entry of Goods.....	01
			50c For. Exchange.....	20
			50c Lease.....	50
			50c Life Insurance.....	05
			50c Mortgage.....	05
			50c Original Process.....	01
			50c Passage Ticket.....	15
			50c Probate of Will.....	1 10
			50c Surety Bond.....	05
			60c Inland Exchange.....	02
			70c Foreign Exchange.....	02

In July, 1864, a new Internal Revenue act was past by the United States government and additional burdens were imposed upon the people. The new issue of stamps were similar to those of 1862, in color, value and styles, excepting that they were perforated.

These document stamps had to be affixed to all instruments of writing designated by the law, covering every known form of business or legal paper, none of which were valid or could be placed on record without them.

#### DOCUMENT STAMPS, 1864, PERFORATED.

(Head of Washington in oval, various colors.)

	EACH.
1c Express.....	\$ 02
1c Playing Cards.....	50
1c Proprietary.....	02
1c Telegraph.....	03
2c U. S. Int. Rev.....	01
2c Bank Check, blue.....	01
2c Bank Check, orange.....	01
2c Certificate, blue.....	50
2c Certificate, orange.....	25
2c Express, blue.....	05

\$1	Conveyance.....	10	DANISH W. I.—Slight change in the
1	Entry of Goods.....	04	subscription on the 3c card, white.
1	Foreign Exchange.....	02	MACAO.—The 100 and 200 reis are
1	Inland Exchange.....	02	surcharged in black respectively "5-
1	Lease.....	05	Reis" "10-Reis."
1	Life Insurance.....	10	MARTIUS.—The 13c is surcharged
1	Manifest.....	20	"2 cents" on red.
1	Mortgage.....	1 50	NEW SOUTH WALES.—Major Evans
1	Pass Ticket.....	1 50	writes to the "Ph R" that a few sheets
1	Power of Attorney.....	10	of the 2d were issued with red sur-
1	Probate of Will.....	25	charge "O. S." but the 9d and 10d
\$1 30	For. Exchange.....	15	were only surcharged in black. The 1d
1 50	In. Exchange.....	10	envelopes comes on blue paper.
1 60	For. Exchange.....	50	NOWAMYGIN.—The stamps of this
1 90	For. Exchange.....	50	state have been reset. They are a little
2	Conveyance.....	04	narrower and there is no space between
2	Mortgage.....	03	the two words in the third line.
2	Probate of Will.....	25	PARAGUAY.—There is a 5c envelope,
2 50	In. Exchange.....	05	blue on cream laid and a 2c band, red on
3	Charter Party.....	06	manilla. Stamp of current type.
3	Manifest.....	08	PORTUGAL.—There is a 20 x 20 reis
3 50	Inland Exchange.....	35	carmine on pale buff, bearing the new
5	Charter Party.....	30	stamp.
5	Conveyance.....	10	SANTANDER.—The 1c stamp is in-
5	Manifest.....	40	scribed "Republic de Colombia."
5	Mortgage.....	30	UNITED STATES.—The following
5	Probate of Will.....	25	changes took place about the 10th of
10	Charter Party.....	50	September. The 2c stamp is green ; 3c
10	Conveyance.....	1	vermillion ; 4c carmine ; 5c blue with
10	Mortgage.....	50	head of Grant ; 30c brown ; 90c purple.
10	Probate of Will.....	50	The colors of the envelope stamps will
15	Mortgage.....	2	be changed to correspond with the ad-
20	Conveyance.....	2	hesives. We have seen only the 1c and
20	Probate of Will.....	25	2c which have the head in oval band
25	Mortgage.....	2	with "United States Postage" above
50	U. S. Int. Rev.....	3	and value below in words, separated be-
\$200	U. S. Int. Rev.....	10	low in figures of value on a shield. The

(Continued next month.)

**NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.**

BY R. R. BOGERT.

AZORES.—The new 20 reis stamps are issued, with small surcharge.

BR. BECHANALAND.—The patent stamps of Great Britain are now utilized, having "British Bechanaland Postage and Revenue," in three lines in black in place of the word "Patent"—1d, 3d, 6d, lilac, 1sh green.

BULGARIA.—There is a 20s, pale blue and 50s blue green.

CEYLON.—A new 5c envelope, type of the 4d. Blue on white laid paper, 140 x 78 nun.

DANISH W. I.—Slight change in the subscription on the 3c card, white.

MACAO.—The 100 and 200 reis are surcharged in black respectively "5-Reis" "10-Reis."

MARTIUS.—The 13c is surcharged "2 cents" on red.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Major Evans writes to the "Ph R" that a few sheets of the 2d were issued with red surcharge "O. S." but the 9d and 10d were only surcharged in black. The 1d envelopes comes on blue paper.

NOWAMYGIN.—The stamps of this state have been reset. They are a little narrower and there is no space between the two words in the third line.

PARAGUAY.—There is a 5c envelope, blue on cream laid and a 2c band, red on manilla. Stamp of current type.

PORTUGAL.—There is a 20 x 20 reis carmine on pale buff, bearing the new stamp.

SANTANDER.—The 1c stamp is inscribed "Republic de Colombia."

UNITED STATES.—The following changes took place about the 10th of September. The 2c stamp is green ; 3c vermillion ; 4c carmine ; 5c blue with head of Grant ; 30c brown ; 90c purple. The colors of the envelope stamps will be changed to correspond with the adhesives. We have seen only the 1c and 2c which have the head in oval band with "United States Postage" above and value below in words, separated below in figures of value on a shield. The lettering is on a plain ground. The 5c will have the head of Grant. The 2c letter sheet now has "Series 1." in up-left corner, and the paper is watermarked with "U. S." in monogram.

VICTORIA.—The 4d, registry envelope, pink, has now the words "Stamp Duty."

## THE FRANKLIN CENT.

BY JOHN R. REESE.



One of the most interesting and widely circulated of all the colonial series of coins is the Franklin or Fugio cent. It was the first coin issued

by the authority of the United States after the establishment of the United States mint, in 1786. They were coined for several years, but all bear the date 1787, and were made according to the following resolution of Congress, dated July 6th, 1787 :

“RESOLVED, That the Board of Treasury direct the contractor for the copper coinage to stamp on one side of each piece the following device, viz : Thirteen circles linked together, a small circle in the middle, with the words ‘We are one;’ on the other side of the same piece the following device, viz : A sun dial with the hours expressed on the face of it ; a meridian sun above, on one side of which is to be the word ‘Fugio,’ and on the other the year in figures 1789; below the dial the ‘Mind Your Business.’”

They were issued in great numbers, yet good specimens now bring high prices wherever offered for sale. There was but one variety issued, but as several dies were made slight variations were noticed. On some specimens the word “States” precedes “United.”

There are a few pieces now in existence which resemble the Franklin cent, but are made more after the pattern of the Continental silver currency of 1776. Some have stars within the rings on the obverse, others have the name of states on the rings, with the words “We are

one” omitted from center circle and “American Congress” inserted instead of “United States.” The origin of these is unknown but is supposed to have been issued by private parties before the original Franklin cent was issued.

## FOUR PRIZE OFFERS.

FIRST.—For the largest number of new subscribers to THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, received before January 1, 1888, a prize of Five Dollars in gold will be given. Sample copies for canvassing will be sent upon receipt of ten cents.

SECOND.—Every agent sending \$1.00 and four new subscribers before Nov. 1, 1887, will receive a copy of Famous Funny Fellows, large \$1.00 book bound in cloth.

THIRD.—For the best article on Philately, Numismatics, or Natural History, received before Jan. 1, 1888, a prize of Three Dollars in cash will be awarded.

FOURTH.—Ten Bleeding Tooth Shells will be given for two new subscribers. Only subscribers can compete for these prizes.

We have received from the Western Philatelic Publishing Company of Chicago, a pamphlet containing President Tiffany’s address before the recent convention of the American Philatelic Association. Price 10 cents.

“T. Crawford, P.M.,” appears on upper label of the five cent Athens, Ga., (Confederate) 1861 stamps, which were undoubtedly circulated in that way. The postmaster’s name was Cohn.

A fifty centimes stamp was authorized for France in 1850, but from unknown cause it was never issued.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP CIRCULATES EVERYWHERE.

IT IS THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM, SWORN CIRCULATION 2,000 COPIES.

TEN CENTS PER LINE EACH INSERTION. ONE DOLLAR PER INCH EACH INSERTION. TERMS STRICTLY CASH IN ADVANCE.

125 VAR. of fine stamps, only 14 cents.  
W CONGDON, Waterman, Ill.

10 Cents pays for a spicy paper 6 months. THE GEM, box 34, Logansville, Ohio.

100 Mixed match medicine and document stamps will secure this paper one year.  
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 BRIC-A-BRAC



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EDITOR:

*Will M. Clemens*

P. O. Box 917. San Diego, Cal.



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# Old Curiosity Shop.

VOL. VII.

FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 35.

## THE LOTUS OF THE EAST.

By WILL M. CLEMENS.

The Indian Lotus, or Lily of the East, was to the ancients full of meaning, and is to be found all over the East. Egypt, Palestine, Persia and India, present the flower in the decorations of their architecture, in the hands and on the heads of their sculptural figures, whether in statue or in bas relief. It is found in the sacred vestments and architecture of the tabernacle and temple of the Israelites. The flower is also mentioned by the Savior, as an image of peculiar beauty and glory, when comparing the works of nature with the decorations of art. It is also represented in all pictures of the Salutation of Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, and in fact has been held in mysterious veneration by people of all nations and all times.

The old heraldic work of "The Theater of Honor," published in France about two hundred years ago, gives a curious account of the lotus flower. It is the symbol of divinity, of purity, and abundance, and of a love most complete in perfection, charity and benediction. In the Bible, that mirror of chastity, Susanna, is defined Susa, which signifies the lily flower. The chief city of the

Persians bore that name for its excellency. The lily's three leaves appearing in the arms of France, mean piety, justice and charity.

The Persians attached a peculiar sanctity to the flower. Water, in their belief, was held in the next degree of reverence to fire; and the white flower which sprung from the bosom of the colder element, was considered an emblem of its purity, submissiveness, and, above all, of its fecundity when meeting the rays of the great solar flame. These symbols united in the lily their joint properties had produced, represented to the poetical conception of the East; first, the creative and regenerating attributes of the Supreme Being himself; and, secondly, the impartial powers of the great elements of earth, air, water and fire, to act on each other, so that, at the return of certain seasons, moisture should spread over the land, from the clouds or the rivers, the air should dry the ground, the sun's beams fructify it, and the grateful earth, at the call of all united in the genial breath of Spring, pour forth her increase. Hence, as the sovereigns of the East have always been revered, according to a tradition of their being the express vicegerents of the Deity, it is not surprising to see the same emblematic flower carried in a pro-

cession to their honor, which would be found "breathing sweet incense," amongst the symbols of an entirely religious festival.

### ETYMOLOGY OF COINS.

By R. D. BROWN.

Barter or the exchange of wealth is one of the oldest of human institutions and many of the terms connected with it go back to early times for their origin. Pecuniary comes from "pecus," and dates from ages when cattle were the chief wealth and values were reckoned by the number of the herd. The word money is from *moneta* because in Rome coins were first regularly struck in the temple of Juno Moneta, which again was derived from *monere*, to warn, because it was built on the spot where Manlius heard the Gauls approaching to the attack of the city. "Coin" is probably from the Latin *cuneus*, a die or stamp. Many coins are merely so-called from their weight, as for instance the pound, the French livre, Italian lira; others from the metal, as the "aureus;" the "rupee" from the Sanskrit "rupya," silver; others from the design, as the angel, the testoon, from *teste* or *tele*, head; others from the head of the state, as the sovereign, crown; others from the proper name of the monarch, such as the daric, from Darius, the philip, louis d'or, or the napoleon. The dollar or thaler is short for the Joachimsthaler, or money of the Joachims Valley, in Bohemia, where these coins were struck

in the sixteenth century. Guineas were first called after the country from which the gold was obtained, and the franc is an abbreviation of the inscription *Francorum Rex*. The "sou" is from the Latin *solidus*. The word shilling appears to be derived from a root signifying to divide; and in several cases the name indicates the fraction of some larger coin, as the denarius, half-penny, cent and mill. The pound was originally not a coin, but a weight, and comes from the Latin *pondus*. The British pound originally was a pound of silver, which was divided into two hundred and forty pennies. The origin of the word penny is unknown. Some have derived it from *pendo*, to weigh; but this does not seem very satisfactory. The word "sterling" is said to go back to the time of the Conquest, but the derivation has been much disputed. Some have supposed that it was at first attributed to the coins struck at Sterling, but for this there is not the slightest evidence; that the name was derived from coins having a star on the obverse, but no coins which could have given rise to such a name are known. The most probable suggestion is that it has reference to the Easterling or North German merchants.

### ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

By L. W. DURBIN.

From an historical point of view, the stamps which we call Alsace and Lorraine are exceedingly interesting. They were not only used in the two provinces

whose names they bear, but also in all parts of France occupied by the German army, and that included the country as far north as Amiens and west to Le Mans. Hence, one could make a collection of those stamps which would show by the postmarks all the towns and cities occupied by the invaders, and it would not be impossible to form it so that it would give by the dates of the postmarks, pretty nearly a correct idea of the time the various places were held. The design of the stamps is very plain, and inexpensive. The sheets were made as follows: The sheets of paper were covered with a network of fine lines and then broad bands of color were printed across and vertically. In the squares thus formed, the words "Postes" and "Centimes" with the numeral of value were printed.

It sometimes happened that the sheets, after the network was put on, were laid in the press upside down, for printing the value on, and thus varieties of all denominations are found with the points of the network up as well as down. Those with the points down are the errors and all are scarce, the 10 centimes being the oftener met with. There are also numerous varieties of type and color owing to different printings and settings of the type.

The illustration shows the style of the stamps, of which the following is the set: 1 centime, green; 2 centimes, brown; 4 centimes, gray; 5 centimes, green; 10 centimes, bistre; 20 centimes, blue; 25 centimes, brown. They were issued in

August, 1870, except the 5 and 25 centimes, which did not come out until January of the next year. As the territory of France was evacuated by the Germans the French stamps took the place of those of Alsace and Lorraine and after the cession of the two provinces, German stamps were alone used there. It is asserted that the people of Alsace and Lorraine are not contented under German rule, and it is certain the French cannot become reconciled to the division of their country which took place. Hence, these stamps may at some future time become still more interesting to the collector, by reason of the territory which they once covered, becoming again the battlefield of the two mighty nations.

#### HISTORICAL NOTES.

The ancients used black and white beans as ballots.

The ancient name of the Scilly Isles was the Cassiterides or Tin Islands.

Russian prisoners were first sent to Siberia in 1710 by Peter the Great.

Brotherhoods for building bridges existed in the twelfth century.

The Thirty Years' War began in Bohemia in 1618 and ended in Westphalia in 1648.

Forty years ago 40,000 houses were built in Great Britain; now the number is 80,000.

The system of paying workman's wages in goods instead of money was prohibited by the English Parliament in 1831.



## THE EDITOR'S GOSSIP.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP makes its appearance this month for the first time since October, 1887. The removal of the editor from Jamestown, N. Y. to San Diego, California, a distance of many miles, has been the direct cause of all this delay. The office materials of the magazine were shipped by freight on the first of November, and it required over two months, owing to blockades on the railroads, for the freight to reach its destination. Now, that we are in condition to issue our magazine again, we can promise that the publication will appear promptly on time each month hereafter.

\* \* \*

Will M. Clemens, the original founder of the magazine, which is now one of the oldest stamp and coin publications in this country, will remain as editor of the paper. C. R. Orcutt, well known as the publisher of the *West American Scientist*, will hereafter be the publisher of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP. Re-established upon a new and firmer basis, THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP enters its new career under very flattering prospects. It desires to extend to each of its readers and patrons A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

\* \* \*

Contributions upon the various subjects to which this magazine is devoted, are solicited from our readers. We intend to present each month the freshest and best ideas, and are willing to recip-

rocate to the full value of every essay or article accepted.

\* \* \*

A treatise on the history of the postal card has been published in Berlin. The originator of the idea is said to have been a German state official, Dr. Stephen, who wrote an essay upon it in 1865. Austria was the first to adopt it, beginning in October, 1869. The first three months witnessed the passage of 2,930,000 cards through the mails. Germany followed suit in 1870, and on the first day after the introduction of the postal card, 45,468 were sent off in Berlin alone; and within two months over 2,000,000 were used. Other countries soon initiated the same step. During the Franco-Prussian war the postal card system was a great boon to both armies. Over 10,000,000 cards passed during the campaign between the German soldiers and their friends at home. The greatest proportional consumption of postal cards occurs unquestionably in the United States. The whole of Europe is estimated to use annually 350,000,000, while the consumption in the United States will not fall short of 230,000,000.

\* \* \*

An important sale at auction occurred on January 10, by L. J. Bird & Co., the Boston auctioneers. The sale included the valuable collection of E. Locke Mason, of No. 175 Washington street, Boston, and included American and foreign gold, copper, silver and nickel coins, medals, rare old American his-

torical china, early American imprints, currency, store cards, numismatic books and other desirable specimens. We understand that extra good prices were realized at this sale.

\* \* \*

One of the largest collections of American autographs belongs to a gentleman in Boston. Its value, however, is small in comparison to that of many smaller collections. It was made on a wholesale principal of buying whatever was cheap at auction sales. In this way a great many hundred scraps of paper, representing a great variety of styles of penmanship, some of them very badly written, have been bought at an average cost, perhaps, of three or four cents each. In addition, the gentleman has many very valuable specimens, but they do not, on the whole, preserve a high standard for such a collection of American autographs.

\* \* \*

A new issue of copper and bronze coins has been ordered by the government of Japan. This is exclusive information, THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP having received a few days ago private advices to this effect from Japan. The well known coin, the *tempo*, has not been in circulation in Japan for some months past, and consequently is rapidly becoming rare.

\* \* \*

Six fossil human bodies, those of a man, two women and three children,

have been found in a cave in a coal mine at Bally-Grenay, Pas de Calais, and eleven have been found in an adjoining apartment, with arms and utensils in petrified wood and stone, and precious stones. The walls were decorated with pictures of combats between men and animals of great size.

\* \* \*

Different tribes of Indians use different sorts of poison in their arrow points. The Comanches use the juice of the Spanish bayonet; the Apaches bruise the heads of rattlesnakes with bits of deer liver, allow it to putrefy and dip their arrows in it. The Moquis irritate a rattlesnake until he bites himself, and moisten their darts in the blood. Poisons made from the stings of bees and from ants are used by other tribes.

\* \* \*

Our readers will doubtless appreciate the improved appearance of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP. Our aim during the coming year will be to constantly better both the contents and general aspect of our magazine, and we hope to place it at the head of all similar publications in this country. When the value of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is fully known to the dealers they will not hesitate to make their announcements in our advertising columns. There are few publications in this or any other country excelling THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP as an advertising medium.

## COINS OF MARC ANTONY.

By DR. ROBERT L. MORRIS.

The death of Cæsar (B. C. 44), instead of restoring the republican form of government to Rome—as the conspirators Brutus, Cassius and the rest had hoped—removed forever the possibility of such a change; for the whole control of the State fell incontinently into the hands of three unscrupulous men, who, under the name of a triumvirate, or “three-men power,” drove the chariot of State as they listed. “Who is ignorant,” says an old historian, “of the manner in which they sealed their nefarious bond with blood, and overcame all opposition in the blood of the free.”

*Obverse.* The faces of the triumvirate, Caius Cæsar Octavius, Marcus Antony, and Marcus Æmilius Lepidus, to the right. Busts bare. Beardless. Heads unadorned. No inscription. These portraits will repay close attention. How various the expressions of the three! “Young Octavius,” as Shakespeare calls him, is 22 years of age, as seen on the coin; Marc Antony is 42; Lepidus is older.

*Reverse.* The Ephesian Diana; adored at Ephesus as the goddess of Nature; whose symbolical figure, by its multitude of breasts and heads of animals hung around it, denotes the fecundity of Nature. The deer on the coin are those caught by herself at Anaurus, and used to draw her chariot.

*Inscription.* The single word APXIEP (archier) is all that remains of the epigraph which once swept in a half circle

around the goddess. Patin explains it thus: “This collegueship, so terrible to all good men when it should be destroyed, the priest himself of the temple of Ephesus impressed this coin in the words of the community; so that the name being effaced nothing remains save the name of the priest.”

## U. S. PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

There were issued in the United States since 1861 about 825 varieties of private proprietary stamps, that is counting the different kinds of papers, such as “old,” “silk-threaded,” “pink,” and “water-marked,” all of which were ordered by patent medicine dealers and match manufacturers in the U. S., and were only used by such, as they are strictly private. Of the 825 varieties that were issued, about 234 were used by match and medicine firms in the metropolis. Eighty-two kinds made their appearance in the Quaker City; Boston lists about 68 well known specimens; St. Louis comes next with about 46; 25 different styles were used Pittsburg, 21 in Buffalo, 18 in Cincinnati, 16 in Louisville, 14 each in San Francisco and Detroit, 13 each in Baltimore, Providence and Cleveland, while Chicago has 12; the remaining 236 were distributed from and used in smaller cities and towns by patent medicine and match firms. Besides these are some 165 different perforated, including probably 100 varieties unperforated document, and an immense number of spirit, tobacco, cigar, cigarette, and license stamps.

## AN INDIAN IDOL.

A remarkable Indian idol was recently taken from Horse creek, in Cedar county, Missouri, the home of the last mound-builders. This Indian or Aztec idol, as it is believed to be, is four feet long, and weighs sixty-four pounds. In general outline or figure it resembles a lizard or chameleon. It is carved out of slate or lead-colored stone or composition of moderate hardness, is as smooth as glass, and shows that it is the work of a person of fine imagination, intelligence and skill, whether he lived one thousand years ago or is living today. On a closer examination the idol is found to be made up of part of a dozen creatures—amphibia, carnivora, insects, reptiles and fowls. The top of the head has the semblance of a flat-bone plate, and is shaped like that of an eagle, with a long, sharp beak. Near the middle of the beak is a horn, like that of a rhinoceros, and of light yellow color. The under part of the head is shaped like that of a turtle or frog, and is of light yellow. The eye is like that of an eagle. It has two legs in front and two behind. The legs are shaped exactly like those of an elephant, have four yellow toes on each foot, and the feet have the spongy appearance peculiar to those of an elephant. Between each pair of legs on the abdomen, is the representation of the plate of bone like that on a turtle. On the neck are two shields, or wing-covers like those on the back of a common beetle. Behind the legs, and about the middle of the

tail, extend a row of diamond shape yellow spots. The idol is in a perfect state of preservation, and at the distance of a few steps, looks as if it were alive.



## PREPARING SKELETON LEAVES.

A correspondent of *Knowledge* gives these directions for preparing skeleton leaves: Take a large saucepan of cold water and a piece of scrubbing soap about four inches square, cut into small slices. Gather mature leaves, seed vessel, etc.; put some soap into the water, then a layer of leaves one by one, then more soap, then leaves, and so on. Put on a lid, set the pan by the side of a fire, and let it simmer. After an hour take out a few leaves and try them between the thumb and finger; if the pulp separates readily from the fiber remove them from the fire; if not let the pan remain. Some leaves, such as ivy, orange, etc., are done in an hour or two; others of a tougher fiber take half a day. Seed vessels of a mallow or compannia take a short time. Large poppy or stramonium requires perhaps two days. Now lay a leaf upon a plate, under a tap of running water, and beat it with sharp strokes with a hard brush—say a tooth brush; the green matter will run off with the water. When the skeleton is quite clean, dry it upon blotting paper. To bleach the specimens put a quarter of a pound of chloride of lime into a large bottle of water, cork it and let it stand some days. Strain it and mix with more water in a basin; immerse the leaves,

etc. Again carefully watch and remove them as soon as they are white, for the lime soon renders them brittle and rotten. Wash again in pure water and dry as before. As the stems usually come away from most leaves, it is well to boil several stalks separately, and after bleaching to mount the leaves by gumming them to the stems.



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## CONTENTS :

Natural History .....	1
The Warbling Vireo—Part II.....	2
Proofs and Essays .....	2
An Indian Graveyard.....	3
Exterminating Snails.....	4
A Dog Caught by an Eagle.....	5
A Rich Discovery—Part II.....	6
U. S. Half-Dimes .....	6
Egg of the Great Auk at Auction .....	7
Review Table.....	7
Exchange Notes.....	8
Life in the Chuckawalla Mountains.....	9

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Yellow-headed Tit	40		
Robin (4)	03		
Bluebird	02		
Western Bluebird	08		
English Sparrow	04		
<b>CURIOSITIES.</b>			
Alligator Teeth	05		
Barnacles (Pacific)	05		
Bird Wings (3 var. named)	05		
Buffalo Teeth	10		
Black-eyed Susans (per doz.)	05		
Chilacoth Bean Pods (large and curious)	15		
Chilacoth Beans (per doz.)	05		
		<b>MINERALS.</b>	
		Vermiculite on Quartz	5 to 1.25
		Idocrase	5 to 60
		Garnet (Alumin.)	5 to 60
		Asmanite	5 to 25
		Tin Ore (Cassiterite)	5 to 75
		Calcite	5 to 1.00
		Dufrenite	5 to 1.00
		Obsidian, (jet black)	5 to 50
		Petrified Wood (very fine)	5 to 1.00
		<b>SHELLS.</b>	
		Helix Newberryana	20 to 25
		Helix Tudiculata	15 to 25
		Acmae Persona	10
		Acmae Scabra	05
		Acmae Spectrum	5 to 10
		Acmae Gigantea	5 to 10
		Acmae Testudinalis	05
		Haliothis Cracherodi	5 to 25
		Cerithidea Sacrata	5 to 10
		Crepidula Adunca	05
		Oliva Biblicata	10
<b>STAMPS AND COINS.</b>			

I have a large number of United States and Foreign postage and revenue stamps; also many United States and Foreign coins, which will be listed, soon as they can be classified and arranged. Address,

E. M. HAIGHT,  
Box 24, Riverside, California.

To be returned at once to E. M. HAIGHT, Box 24, Riverside, California.

# International Scientists' & Exchangers' DIRECTORY.

Date, ..... 1888.

Surname: ..... Given Name: .....

If convenient send your name *printed*.

Full Postoffice Address: .....

Titles or Profession,

If you desire them given in the Directory: .....

Have you a Collection? .....

Do you wish to increase your collection by making exchanges? .....

Please name here those departments of Science in which you are interested :  
.....  
.....  
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## SUBSCRIPTION BLANK.

..... 1888.

To MR. E. M. HAIGHT,  
Riverside, California, U. S. A.

Please enter me as a subscriber to the first edition of the INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS' AND EXCHANGERS' DIRECTORY, and send me when issued one copy, for which I agree to pay 25 cents.

*Signature*, .....

*Address*, .....





# The ♦ Old ♦ Curiosity ♦ Shop.

VOL. VIII. NO. I.

OCTOBER, 1888.

WHOLE NO. 39.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

### PART III.

After leaving the unorganized bodies we turn our attention to botany, the commencement of unorganized bodies. The science of botany includes everything relating to the vegetable kingdom—whether in a living or in a fossil state. Its object is not, as some have supposed, merely to name and arrange the vegetable productions of the globe. It embraces a consideration of the external forms of plants and of their anatomical structures, however minute the functions which they performed, of their classification and arrangement, of their distribution over the globe at the present and at former epochs, and of the uses to which they are subservient. It examines the plant in its earliest state of development when it appears as a simple cell, and follows it through all its stages of progress until it attains maturity. It takes a comprehensive view of all the plants which cover the earth, from the minutest lichen or moss, only visible by the aid of a microscope, to the most gigantic productions of the tropics. It marks the relations which subsist between all members of the vegetable world, and traces the mode in which the most despised weeds contribute to the growth of the mighty denizens of the forest. The plants which adorn the globe, more or less, in all countries, must necessarily have attracted the attention of mankind from the earliest times. The science that treats of them dates back to the days of Solomon, for that wise monarch "spoke of trees" from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop on the wall. The Chaldeans, Egyptians and

Greeks were the early cultivators of science, and botany was not neglected, although the study of it was mixed up with crude speculations as to vegetable life and as to the changes of plants into animals. *Æsculapius* and his priests, the *Æsclepiades*, who studied the art of medicine, had their attention directed to plants, in a pharmaceutical point of view. About 300 years before Christ, *Theophrastus* wrote a history of plants, and described about 500 species used in the treatment of diseases. Botany may be divided into the following departments:

First—Structural botany, having reference to the anatomical structure of the various parts of plants, including vegetable histology, or the microscopic examination of tissues.

Second—Morphological botany, the study of the forms of plants and their organs.

Third—Physiological botany, by some termed organology, the study of the life of the entire plant and its organs, or the consideration of the functions of the living plant.

Fourth—Systematic botany, the arrangement and classification of plants.

Fifth—Geographical botany, the consideration of the mode in which plants are distributed over the different regions of the globe.

Sixth—Palaontological botany, the study of the forms and structures of the plants found in a fossil state, in the various strata of which the earth is composed.

C. S. MASON.

(To be Continued.)

[The first two parts of this article appeared in Nos. 1 and 2 of "The Collector's Illustrated Magazine," a few copies being left, which will be supplied at 5 cents each.]

## THE WARBLING VIREO.

(*Vireo Gilvas.*)

### PART II.

The soft, murmuring song-notes of this innocent little tenant of the woods and groves is often heard in the sunny days of our early summer months, while the performer itself is hidden in deep concealment amid the foliage of the trees. And at other times it may be seen in the woods or among the fruit and ornamental trees near the residence of the farmer or the dweller in the village, silently gleaning its insect food, without any exhibition of fear for the children romping around, but with a watchful eye on the domestic cat, whose green eyes watch its every movement from below. This species may also be observed in the branches of the timber scattered along the banks of the watercourses, and in low, second-growth woods: but its chief place of habitat is the shade of the ancient forest, some remains of which still dot the rolling lands, and swampy vales of Ontario. And when its domestic felicity is disturbed by the invasion of its nesting place on the part of mankind, its notes of displeasure seem peculiarly sad and appealing, as if it meant to say: "O! crowning work of creation; are there not enemies enough among the feathered race and lower orders of quadrupeds to disturb our domestic affairs and peace of mind, as well as in the passing of the thunder-storm and the various changes of climate, without you adding to our cares and the number of our foes, especially when we are among your best friends and cannot possibly, under any circumstances, do you any harm? Shame!" The song-notes of the male of this species are low and soft, but musical, and are generally warbled in the latter part of May and through the month of June, or chiefly while the female is busy at her nesting work or patiently incubating her eggs.

And it is also probable that while she performs this duty, her wants are daily supplied with the most desirable articles of food by her kind and affectionate partner, who also assists to supply the young with their daily needs, until they are able to provide for themselves.

Like many others of the smaller species of our birds, this vireo is often imposed upon by that feathered tramp, the Cowbird, who, by depositing one or more of its eggs in the nest of this species, imposes upon it the burthen of raising the young, to the detriment of its own progeny. The nest and eggs of this bird can scarcely be distinguished from those of the red-eyed Vireo, except, perhaps, that both are a little smaller and more elevated off the ground, and perhaps better concealed by the surrounding foliage. The nest is composed of various fine, fibrous materials, firmly and neatly fitted together, in the form of a small basket, the rims of which are fastened to the forks of a small horizontal branch, at various elevations from the ground. The set of eggs numbers three or four; clear white, with a few dark spots towards the large end. Like the other members of its family who visit this country, its periods of migration are the months of May and September.

WM. L. KELLS.

(*To be Continued.*)

[The first part of this article appeared in No. 2 of "The Collector's Illustrated Magazine," a few copies being left, which will be supplied at 5 cents each.]

—:O:—

## PROOFS AND ESSAYS.

BY FIG.

A great many collectors regard proofs of stamps—or stamp-proofs as they are quite often termed—a kind of drug on the market, or a cheap substitute for the unobtainable speci-

mens that were used to pay postage. I wish to give collectors an idea of what proofs are and of the benefit they are to us. As most collectors are aware, proofs are the first impressions from the plates, and consequently are very bright and showy. They are struck off on different varieties of paper, and are printed principally to test the plates to see if the engravings are correct. They are not allowed to be used for postage, so the few that are struck off are sold to any one that will pay the required price asked by the Government. The reason collectors should appreciate the value of proofs is illustrated in the fact that many stamps which are almost unobtainable—except for large sums—can be substituted in a collection of these proofs; and they fill the place well. How much better it is to book a proof of a rare stamp, to fill the set of a certain issue, than to have no representation of it at all? And when collectors realize what these proofs are, they should appreciate their value more—as, for instance, with high values of the State Department, and also high values of newspaper stamps, the originals used or unused can hardly be purchased; and the proofs of same can be had at a comparatively small sum, which is, or should be, considered a very lucky circumstance to the collector who desires to complete his sets of U. S. stamps. Now, let us turn our attention for a short time to essays. These impressions are not to be called stamps, for they never were intended to be used for postage. They are simply printed from engravings which the government had ordered to be made to see how they would appear if it was considered probable that they should be used for postage stamps. They are generally printed in every variety of color—just as the thing happens. They are not to be considered proofs, as they are the proof of nothing but themselves, as they are all that are printed; but, if the design of an engraving is accepted as an issue by the government, it is not an essay, but a proof. I think I have distinguished the difference between a proof and an essay, and in concluding would state that I advise collectors, who are unable to obtain the real issue of stamps, to substitute the same with proofs; but, as to essays, I would advise collectors to let them alone, as they are nothing but philatelic curiosities or postal samples.

—:o:—

### AN INDIAN GRAVEYARD.

It had been a very quiet week and when Saturday came, the universal holiday throughout the country, we were all glad to break the monotony by taking an excursion into the woods. As boys are wont in the summer time to spend about half their time in the woods or along some stream, so were we.

If my memory serves me rightly, about a dozen of us left the common rendezvous (the old fire alarm tower, then unused and falling to pieces) about eight o'clock a certain Saturday morning in June, 1877. We were uncertain where to at go first, some wanted to go fishing, while others were in for playing games upon the village "green". We finally decided to go to a spot some three miles from town, where we had never been, and where recently there had been some dozen or two skeletons unearthed in a gravel pit. This locality had become famous to all the boys in the neighborhood as a relic field, and many a youngster carried arrow heads and pottery fragments in his pockets to school, and exhibited them to the envy of the other boys.

We reached the plain that this gravel pit is situated on shortly after nine o'clock. We found there a pit some fifty feet in length and twenty feet deep. There was a stratum of surface soil three feet in thickness, and it was in the surface soil that the bodies had been buried. We found,

that by climbing up the sides of the pit and using some tools that the men had left when hauling gravel, we could unearth numbers of bones and fragments of pottery. The bodies seemed buried with regularity, but unaccompanied by relics of any description save a few arrows and pottery pieces. We searched the spot for several hours, and found and carried away several hundred pieces of pottery and twenty arrows. One of the boys secured a whole skull of which he was very proud. I remember he kept that skull for a number of years and finally loaned it to a doctor. The doctor probably sent it to a medical college for the boy never saw it again.

On our way home from the graveyard we went down a creek for half a mile or more out of our way to examine a mound said to be there. We found this mound smaller than was reported, but yet it was very interesting because there was a small ring of two feet in height around the mound. I afterwards found out that this mound was famous in the early history of our county, not because of any relics found in it, but for this reason:

When Gen. Clarke was sent against the Miamis and Shawnees of southern and western Ohio, he met with great resistance at a point now known as Old Town, Ohio. It was here that the Indians (Shawnees) had one of their largest villages. Clarke burnt their town by advancing upon it in the night, and surprising the Indians. The Indians immediately fled, and he, as I have said, fired their huts, but they gathered together as soon as daylight came, and when Gen. Clarke began his march back to Fort Washington, attacked him with great fury. Clarke was near this mound when the attack commenced. There were woods all around him, and it seemed as if there was an Indian behind every tree. Hastily gathering a few logs and throwing up this little ring around the mound with the

points of their bayonets, his men laid down side by side inside their fortification. There was barely room for all of them. It is said that they at last repulsed the Indians, although the loss was about equal on both sides. Clarke retreated to Fort Washington. Numbers of ramrods and bullets, as well as other evidences of a battle, have been found in the neighborhood of this mound.

The mound itself was opened in 1880 by a New York gentleman whose name I never could learn, but the owner of the mound told me that this gentleman carried away with him numbers of implements of slate, and a few fine spear heads as rewards for his labor.

The gravel pit, which ten years ago was so small, has now assumed large proportions, and numbers of relics have been frequently found in the excavations for gravel.

W. K. MOOREHEAD.

—:O:—

### EXTERMINATING SNAILS.

Some of our native Land Mollusca, as well as our indigenous plants, are in danger of extermination in the near future, as the result of pasturing sheep in certain localities—for example, *Helix* (*Arionta*), *Ayresiana*, *Næw*, whose habitat is restricted to some of the islands off our Coast, recorded from Santa Rosa, San Clemente and San Miguel Islands.

The immense numbers of dead and bleached shells found upon these islands show that it was formerly very abundant, but "live shells" are now very scarce.

The sheep, which have been continuously pastured and allowed to run at large for a number of years, eat off the grass and other vegetation, leaving the sandy soil unprotected from the trade winds, which strike the islands with great force, removing the soil to such a depth in some places as to leave the roots of trees and shrubs standing erect above the present surface to the

height of three or four feet, thus depriving the snails of their natural protection and food, causing them to die in large numbers. At the time of my visit to Santa Rosa Island, some years ago, the ground was, in some places, nearly covered by dead shells, and but few live specimens could be found, and those only near the roots of the Opuntias (native Cacti), where the sheep could not disturb them. I searched diligently in the localities where the dead shells were found, but failed to find a single living specimen. The few I did find were in localities at some distance from their old haunts, and only where the cacti were sheltered from the action of the prevailing winds, and where the vegetation was not suited for food for the sheep.

LORENZO G. YATES.

### A DOG CAUGHT BY AN EAGLE.

Late one afternoon, as I was eating supper, I heard a commotion in the flock. I thought it was probably due to a coyote, as there are many in the hills. I sprang to the opening of the tent and stepped out. As I did so I saw an immense eagle on outstretched pinions swooping down upon the flock. For a moment I surveyed the king of the sky with admiration—but it was only for a moment. With a rush of wing he seemed to drop from his perch in heaven, and a second later I heard the agonizing kiyies of my imported Scotch shepherd dog—the eagle had mistaken him for a lamb. For a few moments there was a conflict on the ground, when slowly the eagle ascended with the struggling, kiying dog in his talons. The load was heavy but the proud monarch of the air, with majestic bearing, mounted upward. I rushed into the tent and seized my gun and cartridge-belt. The eagle at this time was about 75 feet above the ground. The first

shot seemed to daze him and the dog uttered an additional yelp of pain. Five more shots I fired into the bird and dog. The seventh shot the eagle let go the dog and the animal fell dead at my feet. The eagle, slowly fluttering, came to the ground. My first impulse was to kill him, and then I formed a second and better resolution, that I would keep the bird; and here it is, as sound as a dollar, as the shot only stunned him for the time being.

[The above, a fine representative of the grey eagle, measured nine feet six-and-a-half inches from tip to tip of wings, and was on exhibition here in Riverside.—E.D.]

—:O:—

With this issue, "The Old Curiosity Shop" again changes hands within the space of a few months. Originally founded by Will M. Clemens, it is now in its seventh volume, and is one of the oldest and best established *collector's* journals in this country. In presenting to you this, the first number issued under its new management, we earnestly ask your co-operation to further the advancement of the sciences which we represent, and hope you may be able to send us notes and contributions, of interest to our readers, which will enable us to keep "The Old Curiosity Shop" up to the standard already established by our predecessors.

\* \* \*

After issuing two numbers of "The Collector's Illustrated Magazine," we were obliged to discontinue, much to our regret, being unable to get it entered for transmission through the mails as second-class matter, and all unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts will be filled with this magazine.

\* \* \*

When writing to any of our advertisers, please do us a favor by saying that you saw their advertisement in "The Old Curiosity Shop."

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

E. M. HAIGHT, ..... Editor and Proprietor.

Published for the editor by C. B. ORCUTT, San Diego, Cal. Address all correspondence to the Editor, E. M. HAIGHT, River side, Cal.

Entered as Second-Class Matter at the San Diego Post Office.

## ADVERTISING RATES.

Terms cash in advance

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	9 Mo.	12 Mo.
Per Line.....	.05	.13	25	.36	.45
1/2 inch.....	.30	.80	1.50	2.15	2.70
1 inch.....	.50	1.35	2.55	3.60	4.50
2 inch.....	.90	2.40	4.60	6.50	8.10
3 inch.....	1.35	3.65	6.85	9.70	12.15
1/4 page.....	1.65	4.45	8.40	11.85	14.55
1/2 page.....	3.10	8.35	15.80	22.30	27.90
3/4 page.....	4.20	11.35	21.40	30.25	37.80
1 page.....	5.00	13.50	25.50	36.00	45.00

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contributions relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to E. M. HAIGHT, Riverside, Cal.

## A RICH DISCOVERY.

### PART II.

This was the answer given her as she called the following day. She burst into tears exclaiming, "God pity us; must we starve?" and before we could address her another word she was gone. The next week as I was passing out of the bank, I met Harry, and shaking him by the hand, I inquired after his mother and sisters. All were well; but he wanted me, if I would, to take the old French coin, and give him \$3 for it, which I did and told him to keep up good heart, may be he would find more if he was diligent in his search. He assured me he would be and went away quite light-hearted. I think about two weeks after this Harry came into the bank, inquiring for me. I saw on the instant he had some agreeable news to communicate, and

took him into an inner room, where we would be alone. The instant the door was shut, he burst out with "O, Mr. B., I have found lots of them." I guessed at once what he meant, and said, "Tell me all about it, Harry." He was excited most thoroughly, but told the story plainly. "For the first few days after you were there, I dug considerably in the old fort but found only a few pieces of old iron and a solitary copper; but I kept constantly at it, for we so needed the money if I could find any, and your words encouraged me very much. I came to the city and let you have the one I had at \$3, and spent the money for flour to keep us alive. Every day after this I felt I *must* find more gold pieces or what should we do. Day before yesterday I found two of them near one of the inner corners of the fort. This greatly encouraged me. I commenced digging all around, and digging deeper. Yesterday all day I kept going deeper, and at dark I gave up tired out and disheartened. Thought I would not try any more; but my night's sleep rested me and I went early at it again. Some time in the forenoon I came upon some old rotten wood that seemed to have been plank. My pick went through it into a hollow space below.

J. G. BINGHAM.

(To be continued.)

[The first part of this article appeared in No. 2 of "The Collectors' Illustrated Magazine," a few copies being left, which will be supplied at five cents each.]

—:O:—

## U. S. HALF-DIMES.

BY HOWARD ROCHESTER.

Our silver half-dimes first made their appearance in 1794, and were coined until 1874 (1873 being the last date), except the years of 1798, 1799, 1804, 1806 to 1829. In all there are sixty-three different specimens, about nineteen of which com-

mand a premium. The rarest date of the half-dime is that of 1802, which retails in fine condition for \$100.00, and will be purchased by a coin dealer for \$75.00 or over, according to condition. The next rarest specimen is that of 1797, with thirteen stars. It sells for \$20.00. Then come the years of 1794, 1797, with fifteen and sixteen stars, and 1805. Each sells for \$15.00. In the year of 1797, three varieties were coined, one with thirteen stars, another fifteen and the other with sixteen—the former being the rarest. There were two varieties coined in 1835—one with small date and the other with large date, both being worth about the same; and that very little. In the year 1838, there were two varieties coined—one with stars and the other without. In the years of 1840, 1848, 1853 and 1860 were also two varieties coined, none of which command much of a premium, except the one of 1860 with stars, which sells, proof condition, for \$4.00. Much can be found to interest the young numismatist by studying the various issues, etc., in the United States silver half-dimes. You can get much information from any standard or reliable catalogue—one that gives electrotypes of the different issues and one that can be relied upon; for instance, "Scott's Catalogue of Gold and Silver Coins." You should also have a good premium coin book. You can roughly guess the price that a dealer will give you for a coin by dividing the retail price by five. If it comes over twenty-five per cent. over face value, they will generally purchase it; if less, they don't generally command a premium, and they are not likely to purchase it. Much can be learned in this way at a very little expense.

—:o:—

Publishers noticing "The Old Curiosity Shop" in their columns, please send marked copy and will reciprocate.

## EGG OF THE GREAT AUK AT AUCTION.

At an auction sale in London, December 13, 1887, an egg of the great auk was sold to a Mr. Leopold Field for the snug little sum of one hundred and sixty-eight pounds sterling (eight hundred dollars). Its former owner purchased it some twenty years ago for thirty-one pounds. Probably, many people thought him crazy, but he realized about four hundred per cent. on his investment. Almost equal to "corner lots"—was it not?

LORENZO G. YATES,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

—:o:—

## REVIEW TABLE.

We have received from Mr. Geo. F. Whittemore of Fitchburg, Mass., a very neatly-printed catalogue of the "Flora of Fitchburg and Vicinity." It is the work of several students of the Fitchburg High School, and contains a list of eight hundred and sixteen specimens.

\* \* \*

A catalogue of California fossils has been received from J. G. Cooper, M. D., Haywards, Alameda Co., Cal., compiled from the seventh annual report of the State mineralogist. It is neatly printed and bound in paper, and contains about eighty-five pages. The localities of the fossils are given, and it also shows the advancement made in our knowledge of California fossils since the latest published catalogue of fossils in 1869.

\* \* \*

Dr. Lorenzo G. Yates, of Santa Barbara, Cal., author of "The Ferns of Ceylon," "Notes on Hawaiian Ferns," "The Ferns of N. America," etc., has under preparation a work entitled "All Known Ferns," which will be invaluable to all students of pteridology, as fourteen years have elapsed since the publication of any similar



work, and during that time more than six hundred new species of ferns have been discovered and described, the descriptions being scattered through the publications of various scientific bodies and societies throughout the civilized world, thus rendering it almost impossible for the majority of students to gain access to the description and names of the new species. The work will be an octavo of about 300 pages, substantially bound in cloth, and the price will not exceed \$2.50.

\* \*

"Insect Life" is the title of a new journal devoted to the economy and life habits of insects, especially in their relation to agriculture. Edited by U. S. Entomologist, Prof. C. V. Riley, and his assistants, Washington, D. C. Vol. I. No. 1, July, 1888, contains several articles on injurious insects, with descriptions, life habits and remedies for their destruction, and is of inestimable value to the farmer.

\* \*

W. G. Robinette, of Flag Pond, Va., will please accept thanks for a copy of his price-list and a box of very fine petrimtes. Any one desiring to obtain some of these curious fossils should address him at once.

—:O:—

### EXCHANGE NOTICES.

This column is for the use of subscribers only. Exchange notices must be in by the 15th of the current month to insure insertion in following number, and must be written on separate piece of paper. No postal cards noticed.

I would like to exchange natural history specimens of all kinds for job printing. Send samples and prices of work.  
E. M. HAIGHT,  
Riverside, Cal.

\* \*

Wanted—Dana's Manual (complete) of Geology, a good manual of N. A. Ornithology, papers and books relating to West Coast Botany, Lepidoptera and Conchology, Amateur Publications. Send sample

copies with offers, also want good minerals. Will exchange western bird skins for the same.

AURELIUS TODD,

Elk Head, Oregon.

\* \*

Seventy-five assorted Chinese coins for the best offer of bird's eggs in sets, also U. S. and foreign stamps and coins for bird's eggs.

JAMES LEVY,

3255 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

\* \*

Sets, single and second-class eggs for exchange, or petrified wood given for eggs  
A. CALDERWOOD, Jr.,  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., Cal.

\* \*

Stone Indian relics wanted—I will exchange any organ or sewing machine, violin new from factory, for first-class Indian relics, or will exchange coins in pennies and half-pennies dated 1794 and upwards; have 150 to exchange.

W. M. H. GWT,

Hamburg, Pa.

\* \*

Would like to obtain by exchange or purchase, butterflies and moths from Pacific Coast. Specimens from Texas, Arizona and Mexico especially desired.

CHAS. S. MCKNIGHT, M. D.,

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

\* \*

Steatite, pyrites, magnetic and specular iron ore for any three minerals 2x2.  
C. R. NORTH,

Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

\* \*

Wanted—A good folding ring insect net, will give L. and F. W. shells, minerals, and western bird skins. Would also like manuals of geology, ornithology, conchology and herpetology.

AURELIUS TODD,

Elk Head, Or.

\* \*

A dime of 1800 for a book on taxidermy.  
L. J. CARTER,

Waynesburg, Pa.

Birds eggs to exchange for eggs in sets. Persons having eggs for sale please send their price lists.

W. E. PRATT,  
2513 Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

\* \* \*

Fine crinoid heads for trilobites or polished agates or three good sized for dime before 1870.

J. G. WAINWRIGHT,  
Waukegan, Ill.

\* \* \*

A pair of double-spur climbing irons and four V nickels without cents for best offer of birds' eggs in sets.

W. E. PRATT,  
2513 Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

\* \* \*

A bleeding tooth shell for every 100 mixed stamps, any kind. Not less than 1000 taken.

WILL M. CLEMENS,  
Box 917, San Diego, Cal.

\* \* \*

To any one sending me a first-class set of eggs with data of either of the following Nos. (Ridgways Nom.), I will send them by return mail a receipt for compound with full directions for embalming birds, far easier than skinning and stuffing, and will keep them in any climate; have tested it thoroughly for years:

Nos—161, 245, 246, 257, 335, 338, 394, 408, 420, 425, 432, 465, 455, 481, 483, 512 or 574. If you wish to exchange other varieties write for terms.

Box 101, R. D. Goss,  
New Sharon, Mahaska Co., Iowa.

## LIFE IN THE CHUCKAWALLA MOUNTAINS.

The Chuckawalla mountains form a portion of the Colorado Desert, occupying the northeastern part of San Diego county, Cal. They are most appropriately named the Chuckawalla or Lizard mountains, for lizards certainly there predominate in the animal kingdom both in variety and numbers—possibly it would not be desirable to lead a long life in any other form. No snakes were seen during a week's stay in July this year, but probably a longer sojourn would have resulted in as great a variety as I should have cared for in that line. Several species of rattlesnakes as well as various harmless snakes are said to reside in these mountains, but they did not call on me. A single 'side winder' rattlesnake was found on the plain near the railroad station as I was about to depart, but he was not anxious for a further acquaintance—neither was I.

Mountain sheep, deer and antelope are said to abound among these mountains, but I only had a glimpse of a mountain sheep; one meal of venison was enjoyed—thanks to an Indian's skill in hunting. Several beautiful pairs of mountain sheep horns were also seen. but no opportunity presented for stealing them.

Around a few old Indian and prospecting camps I was tantalized with finding fragments of the shell of the dry land tortoise, but no sign of one in the flesh rewarding my search in all my wanderings. Fish transplanted from the Dos Palmas spring seemed to be doing well in the

spring at the mining camp.

Coyotes, jack rabbits and cotton tails were not rare, considering the number of acres they must require for support. A flock of young quail near the camp during my stay are worthy of mention. Few other birds were observed, but a few bats and night hawks sailed around us evenings, catching what few insects they could that I had not caught during the day—altogether I believe they were more successful, certainly more persevering than my self. Bees were noticed in great numbers on the Dalea bushes that were covered with their indigo blue blossoms at the time (early in July).

The last Indian had disappeared from these hills (we met him going toward San Bernardino); four weary mules, a dog, and half a dozen examples of the genus Homo, complete my monograph on the life in the Chuckawallas—no, I forgot, the mosquito is worthy of respect.—*West American Scientist*.

[P. S.—The prospector's long-eared friend, the patient burro, wants to be remembered. He eagerly devoured every word in the *Young Men's Journal*—paper and all.]

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## CONTENTS:

Natural History—Part IV.....	13
Wild Birds.....	14
Fossil Resin.....	15
Coins of Nova Scotia.....	16
The Collector in Mexico.....	17
A Rich Discovery.....	18
Indian Carvings.....	19
Humming Birds.....	20
Some Notes on the Cray-Fish... ..	21
Exchange Notes.....	21

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# The † Old † Curiosity † Shop.

VOL. VIII. No. 2.

NOVEMBER, 1888.

WHOLE NO. 40.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

### PART IV.

While speaking of botany it would be wrong to omit speaking of one who has been called the "Father of Botany." Carl von Linne, or as he was commonly called Linnæus, was born on the 28th of May, 1707, at the village of Rooshoolt, in Smaland, a province of Sweden, where his father, Nicholas Linne, was clergyman. He entered as a pupil at the University of Lund, and about the years 1727-28, was received into the house of Stobæus, a physician in that city, where he had abundant opportunities of prosecuting natural history. He afterward proceeded to Upsal, and had to struggle with great difficulties while studying there. He aided Celsius in his Hierobotanicon, or account of the plants of the Scriptures, and he became assistant to Rudbeck, Professor of Botany. He afterwards traveled in Lapland, took his degree in Holland, visited England, and commenced practice in Stockholm, where he lectured on botany and mineralogy. He finally became Professor of Botany at Upsal, and was one of the most popular lecturers of the day. He died on the 8th of January, 1778, in the seventy-first year of his age. His herbarium is now in the possession of the Linnæan Society. After dealing with the inorganic branches of natural history and the first branch of the organic bodies, we next turn our attention to those organized bodies that have the power of motion. Zoology (from zoon, an animal, and logos, a discourse) is a branch of natural history, and is itself divided into a number of branches pursued as distinct sciences, the subject being

too vast to be thoroughly studied in any other way. It is necessary, though, that the results of investigations in particular departments should be brought together so that the whole animal kingdom may be viewed as a whole and the relation between widely different groups of animals to each other be determined. The number of species of animals is far greater than that of plants, and the diversity among them is also greater, so that a division of the science of zoology into branches relating to different groups very naturally takes place. We give names to these different subjects corresponding to the object studied, viz: studies having mammalia for the principal features are called mazology, (from mazon, a teat.) This is not a satisfactory name however, a curious circumstance being, that what may be called the highest branch of zoology, has no popularly received name. Studies of birds are those known as ornithology, that relating to reptiles is herpetology, that to serpents, ophiology, that relating to fishes ichthyology. Among invertebrate animals the great group of mollusca is the subject of the science of molacology. This term is not generally used. Among shells the term conchology is employed. Those branches relating to insects are universally known as entomology, and the term helminthology is applied to the study of worms. Physiology is one of the most important branches of zoology, and with it is closely connected that branch of chemistry which treats of animal substances. Up to the time of Aristotle the study of zoology was not prosecuted to any extent. In his hands it became a science, and a foundation of a system of classification was laid. No

artificial system of classification like the sexual system of Linnæus was ever proposed. Aristotle divided them into two classes, the highest having red blood, the lowest having a colorless fluid instead of blood, the former corresponding to the vertebrate, and the latter to the invertebrate of modern zoologists. In the study of zoology far more attention has been paid recently than formerly to the relation which each part of the animal organization bears to the whole, as the respiratory system to the circulating system, the digestive system, the nervous system, etc. The study of the science has become more philosophical, and the view obtained of nature more complete, and if the difficulty of classification is found greater than when characters, derived from the particular parts of the organization, were more exclusively regarded, the result, when fairly wrought out, is a system at once more perfect and more natural.

C. S. MASON.

—:O:—  
**WILD BIRDS.**

(Family **Leoniidæ**, **Butcher Birds.**)

—  
**PART III.**

This family of birds receives its name from its general habit of hanging its victims on a thorn of a bush, or a sliver of a fence, while it tears it to pieces and devours it. There are some four species of this family, all of which belong to the same genus; found in North America, and of these three are reckoned among the "Birds of Ontario," but it is disputable whether the two smaller members of this genus are not simply sectional variations of the same species. In general appearance and habits, there is a strong family resemblance.

**The Northern Butcher Bird.**

(*Lanius Borealis.*)

This bird appears to make its summer home and nesting place in those vast regions of the Canadian Domin-

ion which lie to the north and west of the province of Ontario, though it is probable that some of them may nest and rear their young in the district of Muskoka. In its general appearance it closely resembles the more common white-rumped butcher bird, or shrike, as it is also called, and which is resident in Ontario from early spring till late in Autumn; and it requires a close examination in order to distinguish the difference. Upon a close inspection, however, it will be found that the *Borealis* is over an inch longer in size of body, and lighter in color, than the other species. The northern shrike is between nine and ten inches in length, and the extent of each wing about four and a half inches. The plumage on the upper parts of the body is bluish-ash, with a black bar on the side of the head; the wings and tail are black, and the lower parts are white. When it is standing on a perch the tail jerks nervously to either side. It usually makes its advent in Central Ontario late in autumn, or about the first snowfall; and except in very cold weather is commonly observed in all the winter months. It is more often observed singly than otherwise, though sometimes it is observed in pairs, and more rarely in parties of four or six. It may often be observed sentinel-like, standing on a high post, the top of a bush, or a tall tree, from whence it has an extensive view of its surroundings, and from such positions it often darts off like a flash after some unfortunate small bird, which it frequently hunts down and captures by its superior speed of flight. Sometimes it will take its stand on a high tree in the woods near where timber is being cut down, and where flocks of cross-bills and others of our small winter birds are feeding among the evergreens, and in its own peculiar style begins to discourse sweet music, evidently with the design of deceiving its feath-

ered audience, until an opportunity occurs of making one of them a victim to its hunger, now rendered doubly keen by the freezing blasts of winter. And when it has secured its prey it flies off with it in its bill or claws, like a little falcon, to some suitable spot where, undisturbed, it can feed at leisure.

Of late years the English sparrow furnishes many a repast to this bird in the winter season, and it would be a matter of congratulation if it would succeed in almost exterminating this increasing pest. The nest and eggs of this species are said to be much similar to those of the white-rump species, except that they are a little larger in size.

WM. L. KELLS.

(To be continued.)

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### FOSSIL RESIN.

We find a hard, brittle substance, classed by Dana as an "oxygenated hydro-carbon," or mineral resin known as amber.

But amber is a fossil or petrified resin; formed in one of those long geological ages long ago, somewhat as resin is from the pine to-day.

Pliny said that it was an exudation from trees of the pine family.

Amber is generally of a yellow color, passing from a light straw to orange, but it is also sometimes red or brown.

It is sometimes perfectly transparent, but more frequently translucent.

Amber was held in high repute by the ancients, both for articles of jewelry and ornamental purposes.

It was believed by the Romans that a necklace of amber beads hung around the necks of infants prevented them from secret poisons.

The Greeks tried to account for amber by a fable or myth, purporting that the Heliadæ, on seeing their brother Phaethon hurled by the lightning of Jove into Eridanus,

were by the pitying gods turned into poplar trees, and the tears they shed were dropped as amber on the shores of the river.

Thales of Miletus, one of "the seven wise men of Greece," observed that amber when rubbed with a cloth would attract light bodies, as bits of straw, feathers, etc., and on this simple observation the modern science of electricity was founded.

We have no idea at what time nor by whom amber was first discovered; we find it first mentioned in the *Odyssey* of Homer where, speaking of the jewels offered by the Phœnician traders to the Queen of Syra, he says "The gold necklace hung with bits of amber."

The most abundant supply of amber is obtained from the shores of the Baltic, where it occurs in regular veins.

On the Prussian coast are mines for obtaining and working it.

According to Dana "It has been found in various parts of the green sand formation in the United States, either loosely embedded in the soil or engaged in marl or lignite, as at Gayhead, on Martha's Vineyard, near Trenton, and also at Camden, in New Jersey, and at Cape Sable, near Magotho river in Maryland.

When rubbed or burned amber emits a very pleasant odor, and great quantities are consumed at Mecca by the pilgrim followers of Mohammed.

The value of amber depends on its color, size, and luster.

In 1576 a mass found in Prussia, and weighing eleven pounds, was presented to the emperor.

A piece in the royal cabinet at Berlin weighs eighteen pounds; other large pieces of twelve or thirteen pounds weight have occasionally been found, but are extremely rare.

Pieces of amber are sometimes found containing fossil insects, leaves or twigs. These are rare, and col-

lectors have been imposed upon by fraudulent imitations.

Amber is used now chiefly for mouth pieces of pipes and cigar holders, and in making a kind of varnish.

WESLEY GEORGE.

COINS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

All numismatists who are interested in Canadian coins, will find that the coins of Nova Scotia form an interesting series by themselves. There are about thirty varieties in all, several of which are quite rare. As far as we know Nova Scotia has only a copper coinage, consisting of pennies, half-pennies and tokens. There is, occasionally, a variety that was coined several years, bearing the date of the coinage.

No. 1 is a penny piece with a milled edge, bearing the dates of 1823-24-32. Obverse, head of George IV, surrounded by "Province of Nova Scotia." Reverse, a thistle in full bloom; above thistle, "One Penny Token;" below date 1824 or 1832. We never saw the coin with the date 1823.

No. 2 is the same as No. 1, except the head of Victoria takes the place of George IV. This coin is dated either 1840 or 1843.

No. 3 is a half-penny piece with the same obverse and reverse as No. 1, and was issued in 1823-24-32.

No. 4, a half-penny, has the same obverse and reverse as No. 2, and was coined in 1840-43.

No. 5, a penny token, has for its obverse a crowned head of Victoria, surrounded by "Victoria; D; G; Britannia; Reg; F; D; date 1856 under bust, only issued that year Reverse, may flower in center "Province of Nova Scotia" above and "One Penny Token" beneath.

No. 6 is a half penny token of the same date and design as No. 5.

No. 7 is a copper cent issued in 861-62-64. Obverse, head of Victoria, crowned with a wreath of

leaves, surrounded by the same words as No. 5, in an abbreviated form. Reverse, crown in center, order which is a line and date, surrounded by a beaded circle and a wreath of flowers; above "One Cent," below "Nova Scotia."

No. 8 is a half cent of the same design as No. 7, and coined in 1861-64.

No. 9. Obverse, head surrounded by a circle; outside of it are the words "Half-penny Token;" below, date 1814. Reverse, a large building, surrounded by "Payable by Hosterman & Etter, Halifax."

No. 10. Obverse, head to right same as No. 9; no circle around head, date 1815. Reverse, similar to No. 9.

No. 11. Obverse, the same as No. 10. Reverse, a ship under full sail, and motto "Success to Navigation and Trade."

No. 12 is smaller than No. 11. Obverse, similar to No. 11 with same date. Reverse, ship under full sail, surrounded by "Payable by John Alexander Barry, Halifax."

No. 13. Obverse, same as No. 12. Reverse, ship under full sail, with the word "Halifax" underneath.

No. 14. Obverse, same as No. 12. Reverse, a seated figure, "Genuine British Copper."

No. 15. Obverse, a barrel in center, surrounded by a circle; outside are the words "Half Penny Token," and the date 1815. Reverse. In center are the words "Payable by Miles W. White, Halifax, N. S.," surrounded by a circle; all surrounded by the words "Importer of Ironmongery, Hardware, etc."

No. 16. Obverse, head facing the right, surrounded by "Half Penny Token," 1814. Reverse, ship under full sail, surrounded by "For the convenience of trade."

No. 17. Obverse, the same as No. 16. Reverse, ship under full sail, surrounded by "Payable by Carritt & Apoort," Halifax.

No. 18. Obverse, "One Farthing," Payable at W. L. White's, Halifax House, Halifax. Reverse,

"Cheap Dry Goods Store," in center," surrounded by "W. L. Whites, Halifax House, Halifax."

No. 19. Obverse, head of General Broke facing left; above it the word "Broke;" below, Halifax, Nova Scotia." Reverse, seated figure, with the word "Britannia" above, and date 1814 below.

No. 20. Obverse, ship under full sail; above, "Half Penny Token;" below, "Nova Scotia." Reverse, Indian and dog, surrounded by "Starr & Shannon, Halifax," and date 1815.

No. 21. Obverse, the same as No. 20. Reverse, Indian and dog, surrounded by "Commercial Change," and date 1815.

No. 22. Large building surrounded by "Wholesale and Retail Hardware Store," and date 1816. Reverse, two shovels, one sickle, one scythe, and one barrel of nails, surrounded by the words "Halifax" and "Nova Scotia."

No. 23. Obverse, the same as No. 22. Reverse, the same as No. 22, except the words "Payable at W. A. & S. Black's, Halifax, N. S.," surround the tools advertised on the coin.

No. 24. Obverse, a large thistle, surrounded by the motto "Nemo me impune laces sit." Reverse, ship under full sail. Around the ship are the words "Payable at the store of J. B. Brown."

No. 25. Obverse, ship under full sail, surrounded by "Nova Scotia and New Brunswick" under the ship is the word "Success." Reverse, a seated figure, surrounded by "Half Penny Token."

No. 26. Obverse, "Encourage country importers." Reverse, Robert Purvey's Cheap Family Store, Wallace."

No. 27. Obverse, "Ferry Token." Reverse, steamship, surrounded by "Halifax Steamboat Co."

The above coins, with the exception of a few minute varieties, which probably cannot be obtained at any

price, represent the coins of Nova Scotia. We hope this list and description will be of help to some young collector who is striving to make a good collection of the coins of Canada.

E. G. WARD.

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## THE COLLECTOR IN MEXICO.

### PART I.

If there is anyone who supposes that there is lack of appreciation on the part of Mexican scholars of the relics of the early races with which the soil of Mexico abounds, such a one is laboring under a sad mistake. The city of Mexico is a great center of archæological study—greater than is generally known. The archæologist works there under peculiarly favorable auspices. Not only is he upon the most productive ground, so to speak, in the world, with means readily at hand for the pursuit of his studies, but he is under the patronage of a government which, however lax it may be in the payment of its debts, cannot be accused of parsimony in regard to its encouragement of the two great studies, for which its territory furnishes such unbounded facilities—archæology and ethnology. These scholars, therefore, backed by the government, jealously guard every excavation made in the land, and eternal vigilance on their part has been the price of some of the objects now lining the walls of the rooms devoted to "antiquities" in the National Museum.

Still, this is no reason why the private collector should be frightened off from attempting to secure something from Mexico representing the races antedating the Conquest. He would certainly be rewarded by a visit to Mexico, and it is only necessary for me to give some hint as to what he is to do when he gets there, in order to succeed somewhat in his quest for relics of the prehistoric races. There is much to be guarded

against, principally of the nature of deceptions practiced upon novices and upon the unwary. Some of the basest of frauds are practiced by the most innocent-looking natives in the very places where the collector would least expect that a knowledge of the value of prehistoric relics had penetrated. I have seen an ordinary peon glance over his shoulder as if fearful that he was being watched by the curator of the National Museum, and then furtively draw from the folds of his *sarape* a clay image, which would be eagerly bought by a novice for five dollars, under the impression that he was securing a prehistoric relic. Whereas the curator of the Museum, or any experienced collector, would know at a glance that the clay image was a thing of yesterday, and was not worth a dollar. The private collector should know at the outset that objects thus offered are to be regarded with suspicion, for it pays the *peon* far better to sell all he finds to the government than to find a private purchaser for them.

Cigar dealers who have in their stores "Aztec flutes" are also to be avoided. These are grotesque clay whistles which, if not bought too dear, are worth possessing as library ornaments, as illustrations of the Aztec styles of decoration, for they are good copies of antiques. But they are by no means to be received by collectors for what they are not. In short, the government is far too good a customer for any such wares as these claim to be, to seek purchasers elsewhere. So that the collector can only rely upon such articles as he himself digs from the earth. And in this he must exercise great caution. Care must be taken in the selection of a locality. Several localities might be suggested within easy access of the City of Mexico. Of course those where excavations are going on under the control of the curators of the National Museum are to be studiously avoided. The col-

lector must furthermore be content with fragments, and he must not hastily throw anything aside until he has deliberated over it and fully determined its value. Great will be his toil. But his reward is also likely to be great.

As to relics of the different periods succeeding the Conquest, less difficulty will be experienced. Old curiosity shops abound in the City of Mexico. But these are to be approached with caution. They are not now what they were five years ago. The stock has diminished and prices have gone up. Besides that, the dealers have learned chicane. The old junk shops are still the best places. But even there the collector must be alert. He must have a varied knowledge, for the objects of his search will be various. And he will find himself in competition with all the experienced collectors and all the dealers in relics in Mexico. Still, nothing should be said to discourage the attempt. The search is in itself fascinating, and even if unsuccessfully pursued as regards the possession of relics, it will prove instructive. And, besides, "It is better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all," a sentiment which every enthusiastic collector will heartily echo.

ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL.

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## A RICH DISCOVERY.

PART III.

I cleaned off the dirt, and found it was some kind of a chest, and opening it by taking off the rotten plank cover, I saw there were books and manuscript records in it. My shouts to mother soon brought her to the spot. Taking out the books and papers, I passed them up to mother. Under the papers I found another box, and this was heavy and almost all I could lift up on the bank above my head. In tipping it I could hear

the clinking together of the coin, and I was so excited I hardly knew what to do. But I passed up the balance of the contents of the chest: Two short French swords, two curious pistols and several other things. Between mother and I we took the small chest to the house; and I pried off the fastenings and opened the lid. It was gold, and the same kind that I found before, only these were clean and nice. Here are six of them, Mr. H., and will you give me \$3 each for them?" I examined them. They were old French *Louis d'Ors*, worth \$4 or over of United States gold; and I told Harry that I would give him \$4 for every one of them. A happier youngster I never saw. I ordered a horse and carriage and drove immediately out to the plantation. In the presence of the lady and her children I counted out the gold pieces—just 1,343—and I gave Harry a certificate of deposit in the name of his mother for \$5,372. Before sunset we had the money in the bank vaults, and saw Harry start homeward with quite a load of comforts that must have come at a timely moment. They have never seen wanted since, and to-day no better conducted plantation can be found than Harry M.'s, or one better looked after or more profitable. Its years of idleness gave new strength to the soil, and the flourishing crops attest the thoroughness of culture and that a master-hand is guiding all. Others have dug over the old fort until they have nearly obliterated it, but no more *Louis d'Ors* have greeted the eyes of the expectant seekers.

J. G. BRIGHAM.

### INDIAN CARVINGS.

The Chuckawalla mountains form a part of the vast region called the Colorado desert, and are located in the north-eastern part of San Diego county, California.

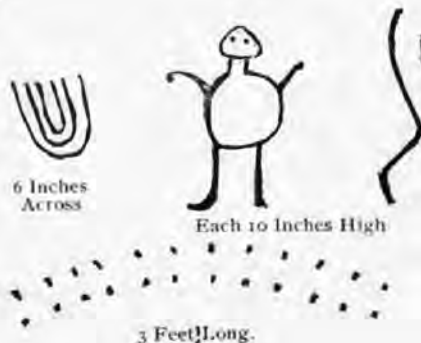
About thirty miles from Salton, a station on the Central Pacific R. R.,

and near the centre of the Pacific Mining District, there is a smoothly worn rock bearing on its nearly perpendicular face various Indian signs. I give below a rough sketch of the figures engraved upon this rock, as I found them June 7th. It is beside an old Indian trail at several natural water reservoirs locally known as the Black Tanks:



These signs were cut into the rock about half an inch, and were two to six or eight inches in height, and all very distinctly cut. Those near the character resembling a large capital E were nearly effaced by the weather and could not be accurately outlined.

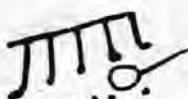
Ten miles from this rock, at Cohn springs, I was informed that a number of rocks were similarly inscribed, with a much greater variety of designs, but I was unable at the time to visit the locality. My companion, Mr. W. F. Hendsch, kindly outlined a few of the characters for me, which I give below:







1 Foot Long



18 Inches Long



The above are signs selected at random from the great variety that he had observed on the rocks. The size is approximately indicated. He had been informed that they were intended to indicate the different localities where water might be obtained in that region, a straight line attached to a circle representing the trail leading to a tank or pool of water, the circle alone standing for a natural water tank or reservoir or for a spring. The figure above given where the straight line is crossed by a winding one was intended to describe a short cut to the water; the trail (straight line), leaving the wash or ravine and going across a divide a number of times, thus lessening the distance to the water, instead of following the natural course of the wash.

C. R. Orcutt.

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## HUMMING BIRDS.

BY S. ESTLE MILLER.

In all the field of oology, there is no group of birds so interesting to the naturalist as the humming bird. Its size, its gorgeous colors and the abundance of different species, have given this small bird a pre-eminent position among the feathered tribe. The continents and islands of America are its home, and no other country can boast of a single species. It may be found all the way from the Arctic regions, of the chilly north, to Patagonia in the south. They are more numerous in the West Indies and Central America than in any other part of the continent, and it is here that the most beautiful are to be found. The tiny

crest of one of these shines like a sparkling crown of colored light, while the colors adorning the breast are equally brilliant.

The species of the humming bird family now number more than three hundred, and through the energy of naturalists, this number is being increased every year. These birds have taken their name from the soft, humming noise made by the rapid motion of their wings. It is claimed by some that this sound differs in different species, and often to such an extent that an observant ear can detect the species by this noise produced in its flight. One of the very common species here in Ohio is the ruby throat, which takes its name from the feathers that encircle its throat and shine with a ruby lustre.

The humming bird arrives here in Ohio about the 5th of May, each year, and usually comes in pairs. They begin their nest-building about the first week in June. Not long ago, when out walking, we found the nest of one of the smallest of these birds. It was about half the size of a hen's egg, and was swung to a twig about the thickness of a knitting-needle. It was made of cotton fibers and the down of certain plants, and was covered with small bits of leaves and soft bark. The eggs, two in number, were white, elliptical in shape, and of nearly the same size at each end.

The naturalist Audubon discovered a very curious habit belonging to these birds, and one that he concluded was resorted to in order to conceal the whereabouts of their nest. It was this:

While watching the nest of one he saw the female bird suddenly leave its station on a neighboring limb and shoot perpendicularly into the air until it was lost from sight. After a few moments of patient waiting, he had the pleasure of seeing it descend and alight directly upon the spot where she had constructed her nest.

## INDIAN MILLS.

It is a well known fact that the Indians raised corn. They certainly had a way to grind or mash it. It is supposed by some that the mortars sometimes found, were used for this purpose; they may have been used in this way, but it is more probable that they were used for pulverizing roots, etc., by pounding with a pestle for medicine. I have found several pieces of stone, with rounded edges, about two inches thick, and worn very smooth. The whole piece had been about thirty-two inches in circumference. The other part was made of stone shaped like a very shallow mortar, and made to fit the buhr loosely, the corn being placed between them, and ground by hand, something after the style of ancient Egyptian grinding. The stone of which the buhr was made was hard and granular, and when two pieces were struck together, like flint, they would "strike fire." This kind of a mill was used by the Catfish, and perhaps also by the Mohawk, Indians in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

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## SOME NOTES ON THE CRAY-FISH

(*Astacus Fluvialis*.)

The cray-fish is sometimes called the fresh water lobster on account of its resemblance to that crustacean.

In the spring, about the middle of March, when the female cray-fish comes forth from its winter quarters, it has attached to the under part of its tail numerous eggs fastened to small filaments; these eggs are of about the size and color of hemp seed.

These it carries about until sometime in May or June, when they hatch; but they still continue to cling to the filaments until they have gained sufficient strength to start out

alone, they are then about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long.

While young they grow more rapidly than when they are more advanced in age, they grow a little more than an inch in the first year.

Speaking from personal observations they grow to be about four inches in length when they have obtained their full growth.

The mouth is situated directly in front of where the large claws join the body, and is marked by a pair of jaws running parallel to each other and pointing forwards.

It sheds its shell every few weeks even to the covering of its eyes, after which it is soft for two or three days, it grows only during this state.

While in this condition it conceals itself beneath weeds and stones, because it is now defenceless.

The shell begins to form and is hardened at the end of about four days, when it regains its old confidence.

The cray-fish has the power of re-producing its limbs, when it has lost one through some accident.

Take it all in all they are very interesting, and there is always something new to be found out about them if they are closely watched and studied.

E. STARKS.

—:o:—

## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

This column is for the use of subscribers only. Exchange notices must be in by the 15th of the current month to insure insertion in following number, and must be written on separate piece of paper. No postal cards noticed.

Wanted—Dana's Manual (complete) of Geology, a good manual of N. A. Ornithology, papers and books relating to West Coast Botany, Lepidoptera and Conchology, Amateur Publications. Send sample copies with offers, also want good minerals. Will exchange western bird skins for the same.

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## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

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## CONTENTS :

The Collector in Mexico.....	25
The Crossbills of Michigan.....	26
Coins in Canada.....	29
A New Florida Bulimulus.....	31
Editorial.....	32
Review Table.....	32
Geology.—A Series.....	33
Exchange Notes.....	33

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VOL. VIII. No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1888.

WHOLE No. 41.

## THE COLLECTOR IN MEXICO.

### PART II.

One bright November day—and bright days are not rare in November in the Mexican capital—the collector set out to delve in the soil upon which one race of men had succeeded another during the last six centuries at least, in search of some relics of an age antedating the European settlement of the country. He went at the invitation of a friend who said "I know a bank"—he could not say "whereon the wild thyme blows, where the ox-lips and the nodding violet grows," but he could and did say, "into whose sides we may dig and find relics of a by-gone time." We accordingly went a short distance beyond the northwestern borders of the present City of Mexico to the neighborhood of an old church known as San Miguel de Nonoalco. Nonoalco is by no means an uncommon geographical name in Mexico. There are several small settlements of the name within the circle of the mountains which shut in the valley of Mexico. It is a suggestive name. It means "the place of the Nahoas," and "the Nahoas" is a name given by some writers to a very early race occupying the land whereon the Mexican now lives. The question at present seems to be, "Who were the Nahoas?" Ethnology is by no means an exact science in Mexico, and having traced the occupants of the country back from the Aztecs to the Toltecs and back from the Toltecs to the Mayas and Quiches, and finding evidences of a race still earlier, the pursuers of ethnic studies seem to have named them the Nahoas and are now devoting their attention to discovering whence they came. Nonoalco evi-

dently at sometime has received that name because it has exhibited proof that it had been occupied by the Nahoas. Here, if anywhere, we thought, would we find the opportunity to disprove what a recent writer has asserted, that no spot remains about the city of Mexico showing a trace of any edifice prior to the Spanish Conquest.

Before reaching the bank where we were to dig, we paused for a time upon a slight mound and collected a large quantity of obsidian chips. Here was evidently a sort of manufactory of the implements of Aztec warfare—the arrows, knives, and more particularly the *maquahuill*—the terrible club studded with spikes of this volcanic glass. We could only find chips on this site of the Aztec armory, though we searched diligently for an arrow-head or a *maquahuill* knife. I found but one good arrow-head of obsidian in Mexico. That I picked up one day on the side of the pyramid of Cholula.

But we were in search of relics of a race long antecedent to the Aztecs, and proceeding on our way we reached a pit in which *adobes* had recently been made. Our attention was at once directed to the perpendicular wall of this pit. There we found two strata of earth the lower somewhat darker than the upper and partially composed of ashes. Mixed with the soil of each stratum were fragments of pottery without number. More widely different than the colors of the soil of these two strata were the characteristics of the pottery fragments found in each. In the lower stratum the fragments represented the crudest period of the potters' art. They gave evidence that the various vessels which they had once composed were of ungrace-

ful shapes, (irregular cones) having rough surfaces as if formed upon gunnysacks or coarse *manta*. Finger marks were visible in some. In color they inclined to terra cotta upon the surfaces, but the baking seemed to have been irregular and between the surfaces they were dark gray. The upper stratum not only displayed a higher grade of workmanship but was capable of subdivision. The work improved as it ascended. The vessels, of which we found fragments, varied in form. Low down they were of the shape of the *olla* still in use in Mexico—that is, spherical, with a large, flat neck. The surface was reddish-brown, and evenly polished. Others higher up were lighter in color, and were cup-shaped and well-made. Nearer the surface of the ground we found specimens of the highest style of Mexican pottery—a great variety of forms, some very graceful, and almost all with glazed surfaces. These have been assigned to a period in which Spanish influences prevailed. Pigments have been applied to the surfaces before glazing—black, white, and dark red—and now and then a fragment was to be found having highly artistic designs, in the Greek style.

What was to be deduced from these strata and their contents? We were of divided opinions. To one of us—deeply impressed with the significance of the name Nonoalco—the place of the Nahoas—this bank spoke of succeeding races—the habitation of the earliest overwhelmed perhaps by an eruption of Popocatepetl, and buried in ashes. The clay of the neighborhood may have furnished such rare facilities for the pursuit of the ceramic art, that the potters of the succeeding races had naturally selected it as their homes. But the other had another theory. As *Atzacotalco* was the slave market of the Aztec capital and *Tlatelolco* was the jewelers' quarter of the city, may not Nonoalco, under some

other name, have been the quarter of the city given up to the potters? It may have been their factory—in which case the different styles of workmanship may have represented the growth of their art—the development of their skill. Or the locality may have been set apart as their market. In which case the different grades of pottery may have represented different localities. Cholula was famed for its fine pottery, and specimens have been found near Cholula resembling some of those discovered at Nonoalco. But whichever theory be true, we spent a delightful day at Nonoalco and came back laden with spoils. Perhaps others would see very little in the fragments we secured, but they certainly represent a period earlier than the Conquest, and perhaps a period antedating the Aztec invasion. Yet this was by no means a "red letter" day for the collector in Mexico. It would be difficult to say which of his days were ruddy-hued. Perhaps one of them was that on which he gathered specimens of sulphur from out of the crater of *Popocatepetl*. Another, doubtless, was when he stood upon the pyramid of Cholula. But of black letter days the collector's calendar may be as full in Mexico as he pleases—quite as full as the Mexican ecclesiastical calendar is of saints' days.

ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL.

—:O:—

## THE CROSSBILLS OF MICHIGAN.

BY R. M. GIBBS, (Scolopax.)

Two species of these singular birds are found in our State, but only one is well-known to nearly all collectors, the white-winged crossbill being a straggler from the north, and only occasionally seen in winter, in company with its more abundant relative, the common red or American crossbill. It may be well in this article to

mention a few facts regarding the white-winged species, as it is but little known to the majority of collectors, and though the notes here presented are mainly upon the common species, it is but proper to embrace both representatives of the genus in this connection.

LOXIA LEUCOPTERA GMEL.

(White-winged crossbill.)

This species is embraced as a Michigan bird by thirteen published lists, in nineteen now before me. It does not appear to have been recognized by the earlier writers, and is not recorded by Sager in his pioneer list of 1839. First listed by Cabot in his list of birds of the upper peninsula in 1850. Most lists give it as "a rare winter visitor," or "an irregular visitor in winter." The writer's notes though taken with great care for a period of over twenty years do not afford any observations of value, beyond a few remarks on flight, feeding and general movements, in which the white-wing so nearly resembles the common crossbill that a separate description is unnecessary.

Nothing that I have so far learned, has ever been discovered of their nesting habits in Michigan, and it is to be doubted if the species ever breed in the State. In northern trips, during which careful notes were taken, not a bird of this kind was ever recorded in the upper peninsula, or even north of our State line, in the British possessions where I have carefully looked for it. Rarely seen in the southern part of the lower peninsula and only during seasons when the following species is common. More often observed while here in single or small numbers in company with the common species, but occasionally seen in small flocks of ten or less in the winter. The species certainly do not appear as early as the red crossbill or remain as late in the spring.

LOXIA CURUIOSTRA MINOR, BREHM  
(American, common or red crossbill)

A common resident in pineries, from 44 degrees north latitude, north, migrating through the southern counties at certain seasons at irregular intervals; often remaining during winter or a portion of the cold weather, and again not seen for several seasons together. One of those peculiarly restless birds which one can never find when wanted, and like the cedar bird in some quarters, as well as many other species, not to be relied upon in their erratic journeys. After a long acquaintance with the red crossbill and a careful study of the species in its habits, as well as investigation of the internal anatomy of many specimens during a number of months of the year. I am still unable to say at what season of the year their nesting occurs. The certainty that the birds were rearing their young in the neighborhood of my researches, was, to me, frequently, almost positive, but the most careful search invariably failed to find the nests.

The red crossbill is abundant north of 45 degrees, and undoubtedly is found resident in the extensive pineries of central and northern Michigan. The species has been observed by me every month in the year at about 43° 35' north latitude, while to the south, as far as the southern boundary, once in every three years, perhaps, the crossbills are seen in greater or less numbers. Sometimes appearing in vast flocks of many hundreds, and again in small detached groups of five to fifty, these birds, always, so far as my observations extend, are gregarious. The flocks as observed in spring, and until June, and in the fall, seasons when they are most noted in the north, are composed of six or seven individuals, quite probably constituting a family, old and young.

These peculiar birds are naturally retired in their habits, preferring

deep quiet pineries, where, at most seasons of the year, when the snow is not too deep, they may be found feeding on the ground among the dead leaves. At these times they may be easily approached, and when disturbed only fly to the lower limbs of the nearer trees, occasionally uttering their odd notes and strangely eyeing with perfect confidence the intruders upon their solitary, solemn domain. The flight of the crossbill is never rapid, but somewhat exceeds in swiftness the usual flight of *fringiline* birds. This description, as in fact all others in this article, equally applies to both representatives of the genus. The undulations, or as we may call them flight waves, of this bird much resemble the peculiar rise and fall of our goldfinch and the nearly allied pine siskin, but are not so marked, while the flight is more vigorous. The flight is heralded, as with *astragalinus* by the notes, and a flock of crossbills can be predicted as readily as an approaching flock of thistlebirds, by one with a practiced ear. The flight is often very high, and frequently the quaint notes are the only evidence of the passage above us of a flock of, probably migrating, crossbills.

The notes are decidedly characteristic, and are unlike any other bird's known to me. The white-winged crossbill has ever been silent when I have met with it, never giving utterance to a sound, and so it is impossible for me to say if their notes resemble the noise made by the red crossbill, the notes of which much resemble the sound *cleep*. This *cleep* is uttered generally three times in succession, but sometimes four times and even five. It can be readily conceived, therefore, that a flock of twenty birds or more easily make enough of noise by their constant "cleeps" to quickly attract a practiced ear.

The food of the common crossbill is much more varied than is generally supposed. My attention was

first called to their omnivorous diet by observing a flock feeding in an old dead pine. The season of the year was midsummer and at a very dry time. The great pine was standing alone, the reason of its being undisturbed by the axe of the merciless woodsman probably arising from the half-dead condition in which it was found. Over twenty crossbills were engaged in prying off the bark and greedily feeding on something found beneath. To satisfy myself of the nature of their repast a large strip of the bark was torn loose, disclosing myriads of the winged or mature forms of ants, and many kinds of small beetles, both in the larval and imago states. The crops of several of the feasting birds were filled to repletion with this insect food.

It was a matter of surprise to me to see how these small birds could tear off large pieces of bark in so rapid a manner, by inserting their peculiarly formed bills between the bark and wood. It is very interesting to watch a crossbill feeding from the cones of a pine. With its powerful beak, which it uses with leverage power by prying, the seeds of the cones are made to drop in a perfect shower. In the winter in cities the birds have been observed to feed on frozen, decayed apples and one was seen acting the scavenger in a barrel filled with refuse.

It is most singular that no one in the State, that it has been the writer's good fortune to meet, has yet learned anything about the nesting habits of this bird. From careful dissections, made in the months of March, April and May, the writer has been unable to ascertain the season of vidification; however, the plumage brighter in May than at earlier periods of the year, would indicate that nesting may take place at a later time.

In reference to the colors changing in the American crossbill, T. M. Brewer in foot notes to the 1852 edition of "Wilson's American Orni-

thology" says: "The fact is, that the young or all crossbills, contrary to the generality of birds, lose their red color as they advance in age, instead of gaining an additional brilliancy of plumage. The figure which our author gives as that of an adult male, represents a young bird of about one year, and his supposed female is a remarkably fine adult male."

It seems strange that the vernal enlargement of organs found changed seasonally in most birds should not be found so in loxia, and the almost convincing assertion of a friend that the crossbills breed in late January and early February is seriously considered.

Our friend is perhaps not so far wrong if we are to accept the testimony of many of our best oological writers. Nuttall says: "They often breed in winter in more temperate countries, as in January and February; and the young fly in March." Dr. Brewer notes a nest taken in Vermont in early March. Notes taken from Mr. Trippe, published in Birds of the Northwest, by Elliott Coues, M. D., mention the appearance of young at a time to suggest that the eggs were laid in April and May. We are still much in doubt of the correct time of the nesting of the crossbills and but very little comparatively, has been written on the subject. Of the nesting habits, Nuttall, one of the first to describe them says: "The nest is situated in the forks of a fir tree; and the eggs, four or five, are of a greenish-gray, with a circle of reddish-brown spots, points and lines, disposed chiefly at the larger end; the lines also often extend over the whole surface of the egg." Dr. Brewer in describing the eggs says: "The eggs are four or five in number, about 0.85 by 0.52 in size, very pale greenish, variously marked in dots and blotches, with different shades of lilac and purplish-brown."

The form of this bird's bill

is very singular, but upon slight investigation and study of the habits of the crossbill it will be seen that the peculiar lapping of the upper mandible with the lower, produces a conformation, not a deformity, admirably adapted to the needs of the bird in opening cones and exploring crevices. The anatomy and configuration of the body is singular. The head is large, the tail short, the body robust, the legs and feet rather weak for the size and weight. Its feet, although not indicating it in their formation, are much used for climbing; the bird is quite scansorial in its habits among the pines, and with its bill used as a third hand sometimes much resembles a parrot in its movements.

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### COINS OF CANADA.

This article will treat of the silver and copper coins of Upper and Lower Canada and their colonies.

#### SILVER COINS.

There are three *very rare* and interesting pieces coined for the French Colonies (Canada) called the 30 sol, 15 sol, silver; and the 3 sol, base silver. The 30 and 15 sols were coined in 1658 and 1670, during the reign of Louis XIV. The 3 sol piece, from 1738 to 1740, under Louis XV. The obverses of the first two bear the portrait of the reigning sovereign, and the third, a crowned L. The next series consist of three pieces, viz:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1-16 of a dollar. These were coined for use in Canada as well as other British colonies. The obverses bear a crowned anchor with their values in Roman numerals both at the right and left of the upper part of the anchor, surrounded by the Latin inscription "Coloniai: Britan Monet:" with date 1822. These pieces are quite scarce and difficult to find. The next series, consisting of 50 cent, 25 cent, 20 cent, 10 cent, 5 cent pieces, are the silver coins in present use. The 5

cent and 10 cent pieces were coined nearly every year from 1858 to the present time. The 20 cent piece was only made in 1858. The 25 cent and 50 cent pieces from 1870 to the present time with a few exceptions. These five pieces bear on their obverses a crowned portrait of Queen Victoria, with "Victoria Dei Gratia Regina" above, and "Canada" below. Their reverses have their values and dates in center, surrounded by a wreath, with a crown above values. These eleven types with their different dates cover the silver coinage of Canada. But there are some minute varieties which the careful student will discover while studying these coins. For instance, the 50 cent, 25 cent, 10 cent and 5 cent pieces of 1872 are found with and without the letter H. These coins form an interesting collection.

#### COPPER COINS.

No. 1 is a 12 denier or 1 sol piece, bearing the dates 1721 and 1722, which was coined for the French Colonies (Canada). There are several varieties which are quite rare. The obverse bears two crowned Ls, surrounded by the Latin motto "Benedictum Sit—Nomen—Domini." The reverse, "Colonies Françoises" 1721 or 1722, and the letter H under date.

No. 2. Obverse, a seated figure of a female with a harp, underneath the date, 1781; above, "North American Token." Reverse, a ship sailing to the right. "Commerce" above.

No. 3. Obverse, a priest blessing some children in charge of a woman; surrounded by "British Settlement Kentucky;" date, 1796. Reverse, "Copper Company of Upper Canada," in center; surrounded by a ring; outside of ring, "One Half Penny."

No. 4. Obverse, Neptune with a four-pronged spear, reclining on the edge of the ocean; date, 1794, and a Latin motto surrounding this figure.

Reverse, the same as No. 3.

Nos. 5 and 6 are two pieces of *very rude* workmanship, bearing the date 1811. Obverses, a poor portrait, facing the left. Reverses, a rough-looking seated figure. They are usually found in very poor condition.

No. 7. Obverse, ship sailing toward the left. "Success to the Commerce of Upper and Lower Canada." Reverse "Sir Isaac Brock. Bart. The Hero of Upper Canada, etc.," 1812.

No. 8. Obverse, the same as No. 7. Reverse, 1816 in center. "Success to Commerce and Peace to the World."

No. 9. Obverse, the same as reverse of No. 8. Reverse, urn on monument, two winged figures putting wreath on urn. A Sir Isaac Brock token. There are several varieties of Nos. 7 and 9.

No. 10. Obverse, same as No. 7. Reverse, "Weir and Larminée, Bankers and Specie Brokers, Montreal, etc."

No. 11. Obverse, a military bust crowned with a wreath of leaves. "Half Penny Token," 1816. Reverse, ship sailing toward the left, in center, "Montreal" above.

No. 12. Obverse, head crowned with leaves, facing the right; "Token," above; below, date, 1820. Reverse, beaver in center, "Northwest Company" above and below.

No. 13. Obverse, a figure of justice blindfolded, holding a sword and a pair of balances; date, 1822. "Leslie & Sons, Toronto and Dundass." Reverse, a plow, facing left, in center, and motto, also, "Token, 2d Currency."

No. 14. A half penny token. Obverse, similar to obverse of No. 13. Reverse, similar to reverse of No. 13.

No. 15. Obverse, a one-masted vessel, under full sail toward left. "Half Penny Token Upper Canada." Reverse, "Commercial Change," 1833; two shovels; one scythe; vise, anvil, etc.

No. 16. Obverse, the same as obverse of No. 15. Reverse, "To Facilitate Trade;" plow, facing right. 1823 and 1833.

No. 17. Obverse, the same as No. 15. Reverse, "Commercial Change;" 1820; two shovels and one anvil.

No. 18. Obverse, the same as reverse of No. 17. Reverse, similar to obverse of No. 15.

No. 19. Obverse, similar to obverse of No. 15. Reverse, the same as reverse of No. 16.

No. 20. Obverse, similar to obverse of No. 15. Reverse, "Commercial Change." 1815. Indian with bow and arrow, and dog.

No. 21. Obverse, similar to obverse of No. 15. Reverse, "Commercial Change," 1821; barrel with words, "Upper Canada" on the side.

No. 22. Hole in center, "Good for one copy," "Evening Globe."

No. 23. Obverse, portrait, "Geo. IV., D. G. Brit; Rex." Reverse, "1-100 Dollar" in center of wreath; outside, "Colonial, 1823."

No. 24. Obverse, the same as obverse of No. 23. Reverse, the same as reverse of No. 23, except "1-50 Dollar" takes the place of "1-100 Dollar."

No. 25. Obverse, steamboat 1821, "Lanzon." Reverse, "Four Pence Token," "Bon pour knit sols."

No. 26. Obverse, "Canada," "1830 and 1841." Reverse, "Half Penny."

No. 27. Obverse, portrait, "Province of Upper Canada." Reverse, seated figure, 1832; "Half Penny Token."

No. 28. Obverse, head of Queen Victoria; "Dominion of Canada" "Province of Quebec." Reverse, "Devins and Bolton; Druggists, Montreal;" "Use Devins' Vegetable Worm Pastilles," July 1st, 1867."

No. 29. Obverse, a still; "Cash paid for all sorts of grain," 1837.

Reverse, barrel, "Brewers, Distillers," etc.; "Thos. and Wm. Molson, Montreal."

No. 30. Obverse, engine; "Montreal and Lachine Railroad Company." Reverse, beaver beside a tree; "Third Class;" Hole through center. ERWIN G. WARD.

Palmer, Mass.

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## A NEW FLORIDA BULIMULUS

*Bulimulus Hemphilli*, U. S., Fig. 449 of Binney's Manual of American Land Shells.

Shell imperforate, very thin, transparent, amber colored and marked by coarse lines of growth; body whorl with six revolving and slightly interrupted brownish-red bands; the lower two being close together and upon the rounded base, spire obtuse, whorls five, slightly convex, the body whorl constituting two-thirds of the entire length of the shell. Suture slight, base uniformly and gracefully rounded. Aperture direct and oval, peristome thin. "Jan and lingual dentition that of nitelinus." (B. Serperastris, Say), Dr. Binney. Length, 19 inches, diameter, 8 inches. Hab. both coasts of South Florida.

Remarks: Mr. Henry Hemphilli, of San Diego, Cal., first found a few dead and badly preserved specimens of this shell in 1884 at Marco, West Coast of Florida. From these Dr. Binney thought them identical with *B. Floridanus*, Pf. See Manual of American Land Shells, 1885. Numerous specimens collected during the past summer by the author and Mr. G. W. Webster and son prove beyond a doubt that this is not identical with the shell figured and described on page 407 of Dr. Binney's Manual. The *B. Hemphilli* is more venticose, not angular at base, imperforate, differs in color, and in fact, there is a general difference.

BERLIN H. WRIGHT.

Lake Helen, Fla.



## EDITORIAL.

A NEW magazine "The Bay State Scientist," is promised to appear soon from Lynn, Mass., under the management of H. M. Downs, former publisher of "Tidings from Nature," and W. S. Beekman, the well-known mineralogist, which is a sufficient guarantee that it will be a good one.

MR. C. P. WILCOMB, the well-known collector who is spending the winter at Visalia, Cal., recently made us a short but pleasant call.

SEVERAL prominent *Philatelists* have promised to write articles for our magazine and we hope to present to our readers some interesting philatelic literature beginning with our next issue

FOR some unknown reason, part four of the series of articles on "*Canadian Wild Birds*," has failed to reach us. We hope, however, to have it ready for our next issue.

A NUMBER of interesting illustrated articles are now on hand, and will soon appear in this magazine, among which we might mention, "Remains of an Extinct People in California," "Rare Coins in the San Francisco Mint," etc.

## REVIEW TABLE.

The 1883 edition of "The American Philatelic Press Directory," published by Geo. H. Richmond, 5 Beek-

man St., New York, is brimfull of useful information for the collector. It contains a list of all the principal Philatelic publications with full information in regard to date of establishment, size, circulation, advertising rates, subscription prices, etc. It also gives a list of Philatelic publications which have suspended publication, followed by a list of names and addresses of prominent Philatelists. Next comes a list of Foreign Philatelic publications and display advertisements of Philatelic dealers and publishers besides much other useful information.

We have received the following catalogues and price lists: Scott Stamp and Coin Co., 721 Broadway, New York. Catalogue of U. S. and Foreign Stamps, Coins, Medals, Stamp Albums, Philatelic and Numismatic publications, Minerals, Confederate Notes, etc., R. W. Mercer, 147 Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio. Price list of Fossils, Curiosities, Indian Relics, Confederate Money, etc., Henry Gremmel, 109 Second St., New York. Catalogue of U. S. and Foreign Stamps, H. F. Washburn, 273 Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass. Price list of U. S. Copper Cents, Curiosities, Relics, etc., Geo. F. Whittemore, 140 Main St., Fitchburg, Mass. Price list of Minerals, H. H. Tammen, 1624 and 1626 Larimer St., Denver, Col. Large illustrated catalogue of Rocky Mountain Minerals Polished Agate, Souvenirs, Indian Relics, Stuffed Animal Heads, etc., H. A. Corhart, Collamer, N. Y. Catalogue of Ornithological Engravings.

## GEOLOGY.—A Series.

Lapides crescunt; vegetabilia crescunt et vivunt; animalia crescunt, vivunt et sentiunt. Stones grow; plants grow and live; animals grow, live and move. As our earth was made in the rough before it had vegetable and animal life upon it, let us take up the study of it from a geological standpoint. As given before, geology is divided into four parts: physiographic, lithological, dynamical, historical. Taking them up in regular order, we have first: "Physiographic Geology. The earth has a circumference of 24,899 miles. Its form that of a sphere, flattened at the poles, making the equatorial diameter 7926 miles, about  $26\frac{1}{2}$  miles greater than the polar. About  $\frac{1}{11}$  of the earth's surface being depressed below the rest and occupied by salt water. The sunken part being called the oceanic basin, and the large land areas between, continental plateaus. The mean depth of the oceanic depression is about 12,000 feet and the mean height of the land nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of this or 1000 feet. The greatest depth reached by soundings south of the Ladrões is 27,450 feet. The greatest height on the land (in Mt. Everest, of the Himalaya's,) is 29,000 feet, the difference in extreme height and depth being 54,450 feet, a distance of a little over 10 miles. The mean height of Europe, Asia and South America, 1130 feet; of Africa probably not much less than 1130 feet; North America, 750; Australia, 500. The mean depth of the great oceans, North Atlantic and North Pacific, 15,000 to 15,500; South Atlantic and South

Pacific, 13 000 feet. There seems to be a very systematic arrangement of the earth's features. The continents have high borders and low centers, and are, therefore, basin-shaped. Thus North America has the Appalachians on the eastern border, the Rockies on the western, and between them the low Mississippi basin. South America in a similar manner has the Andes on the western border, the Brazilian mountains on the east, and other heights along the north, with the low region of the Amazon and La Plata making up a large part of the interior. Another peculiarity is here shown. The highest borders face the largest ocean. In one other feature are the continents singularly alike—they have a triangular outline pointing southward." Many a pleasing half-hour may be spent, on a winter's evening, looking at the general similarity of physical features of the continents.

C. S. MASON.

## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

This column is for the use of subscribers only. Exchange notices must be in by the 15th of the current month to insure insertion in following number, and must be written on separate piece of paper. No postal cards noticed.

I will give you a year's subscription to the "Old Curiosity Shop," without premium, for fifteen Philatelic magazines in good condition, or for five perfect Indian arrow heads labeled with locality.

E. M. HAIGHT,

Box 24,

Riverside, Cal.

Wanted—500,000 U. S. postage, revenue, match and medicine stamps in exchange for foreign stamps.

W. H. VERITY,  
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One large Philatelic paper for every U. S. stamp sent me catalogued at 5 cents each or over, except local or envelope stamps. Not less than 3 accepted.

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Ida Grove, Iowa.

For every philatelic paper in good condition sent me, I will give any one of the following Bird's Eggs:—Crimson House Finch, Turtle Dove, Brewer's Blackbird, White-rumped Shrike, Mocking Bird, Western King-bird, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, California Sea Shells, Acmae Seabra, Acmae Persona, Acmae Spectrum, Chlorostoma funebre, Lottia gigantea. Curiosities:—Alligator tooth, Chinese playing card, Chinese game stone, Japanese paper napkin, or porcupine quill. No less than three papers taken.

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I am breaking up my large collection of Philatelic paper and can supply many good papers. Collectors send list of wants with 2c. stamp for reply.

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A fine piccolo and flageolet combined, German silver keys, etc., cost \$1 at wholesale when new, to exchange for a pair of best climbing irons.

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I will give natural history specimens of all kinds, curiosities, advertising space in this magazine, etc., in exchange for job printing. Send samples and prices of work.

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I will give you any one of the following for every perfect Indian arrow head sent me labeled with locality: Bird's eggs—Cactus wren, Western lark, sparrow, bullock's oriole, tri-colored blackbird, red-shafted flicker. Curiosities—Hawk moth cocoon, silkworm cocoon, skate's egg, two alligator teeth, or three var. California bird wings.

E. M. HAIGHT,  
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Wanted—Dana's Manual (complete) of Geology, a good manual of N. A. Ornithology, papers and books relating to West Coast Botany, Lepidoptera and Conchology, Amateur Publications. Send sample copies with offers, also want good minerals. Will exchange western bird skins for the same.

AURELIUS TODD,  
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Seventy-five assorted Chinese coins for the best offer of bird's eggs in sets, also U. S. and foreign stamps and coins for bird's eggs.

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A. CALDERWOOD, Jr.,  
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Stone Indian relics wanted—I will exchange any organ or sewing machine, violin, new from factory, for first-class Indian relics, or will exchange coins in pennies and half-pennies dated 1794 and upwards; have 150 to exchange.

WM. H. GWI,  
Hamburg, Pa.

Would like to obtain by exchange or purchase, butterflies and moths from Pacific Coast. Specimens from Texas, Arizona and Mexico especially desired.

CHAS. S. MCKNIGHT, M. D.,  
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Steatite, pyrites, magnetic and specular iron ore for any three minerals 2x2.

C. R. NORTH,  
Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

Wanted—A good folding ring insect net, will give L. and F. W. shells, minerals, and western bird skins. Would also like manuals of geology, ornithology, conchology and herpetology.

AURELIUS TODD,  
Elk Head, Or.

A dime of 1800 for a book on taxidermy.

L. J. CARTER,  
Waynesburg, Pa.

Birds eggs to exchange for eggs in sets. Persons having eggs for sale please send their price lists.

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Box 24, Riverside, Cal.

To any one sending me a first-class set of eggs with data or either of the following Nos. (Ridgways Nom.), I will send them by return mail a receipt for compound with full directions for embalming birds, far easier than skinning or stuffing, and will keep them in any climate; having tested it thoroughly for years:

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R. D. GOSS,  
New Sharon, Mahaska Co., Iowa.

For every Philatelic paper in good condition sent me I will give any one of the following: Bird's eggs.—Crimson house finch, turtle dove, Brewer's blackbird, white-rumped shrike, mocking bird, Western kingbird, cliff swallow, barn swallow, California sea shells—Acmaea scabra, Acmaea persona, Acmaea spectrum, Chlorostoma funebrata, Lottia gigantea. Curiosities.—Alligator tooth, Chinese game card, Chinese game stone, Japanese paper napkin, or porcupine quill. No less than five papers taken.

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## CONTENTS:

The Indian Sheli Mounds of California.....	37
Rare Coins.....	39
The Japanese Cobang.....	41
Giants of the Plant Kingdom.....	41
Some American Coins.....	42
Bells from the Mission San Luis Obispo.....	43
The Petrified Forests.....	43
Editorial.....	44
Curious Relics of a Prehistoric Age.....	44
The Southern Cross Pearl.....	45
Ancient American Art.....	45
Confederate State Locals.....	45
Wind Cave, Black Hills.....	46
A Rare Canadian Bird.....	47
Canadian Wild Birds.....	47
Exchange Notes.....	49

**E. M. HAIGHT, Editor and Proprietor.**

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# The ❖ Old ❖ Curiosity ❖ Shop.

VOL. VIII. No. 4.

JANUARY, 1889.

WHOLE NO. 42.

## THE INDIAN SHELL MOUNDS OF CALIFORNIA.

It has almost ceased to be the exception to find that what we consider of little note is held by the outsider to be of much value. Some six or seven months ago Alfred R. Wallace visited San Francisco and California. Wallace, the author of a comprehensive work on the Malayian peninsula, is an archæologist of some repute, and while in this city he showed a decided leaning toward spiritualism, and delivered two or three interesting lectures on that and kindred subjects. He devoted some time to a study of the evidences of prehistoric races found in California, and, putting all his information and generous extracts from Government reports together, has turned out a paper on the "Antiquity of Man in North America," which was published in the *Nineteenth Century* for November.

Without attempting to review the article, it may be said that without much originality it is of value as grouping together a number of facts which prove that California is one of the richest fields in the country for the exploitation of those who believe that the native American lived not only in the paleolithic times, when the glacial period was passing away, but even in the pliocene period, before the flood of ice changed the face of the world. Among the evidences adduced to support this theory are the facts that stone mortars and platters have been found by the hundred in Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Placer, Nevada and Butte counties, imbedded in lava and gravel at vary-

ing depths of from ten to nineteen feet below the surface; that human remains have been found at even greater depths; that the Stanislaus river has cut through a basalt-covered hill to the depth of 1500 feet; that the American and Yuba valleys have been lowered from 800 to 1500 feet, and that these works of erosion must have taken ages in their accomplishment; that the fossil remains show the one-time existence of an animal and vegetable creation entirely different from that now known, and that California abounds in Indian shell mounds.

Upon the latter topic it will be necessary to speak somewhat more fully. The existence and widespread area of these shell heaps are, of course, no new thing, but it is with their application to the uses of paleontological proof and with their local significance that this article has to do. The shell-heaps of the Damariscotta river in Maine, consists almost exclusively of oyster-shells of remarkable size, frequently having a length of eight or ten inches and sometimes reaching twelve or fourteen inches. At the present time oysters are only found in very small numbers and of very small size in that neighborhood, and this is taken as an evidence of the important change in the distribution of a species of mollusk since the heaps were formed—such a change as this being accepted as a certain test of great antiquity. Another proof of the same sort is offered by the enormous shell-heaps on the St. John's river, Florida. These are composed of fresh-water shells which now exist in very small numbers in the river and

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Three feet of fine, thin pottery, beautifully ornamented; neatly made implements of bone, shell, etc., axes, arrow and spear heads of stone; also stone beads.

Two feet of soil, containing a few fragments of pottery.

Four feet of rather good pottery rudely ornamented; primitive implements of bone and shell.

Three feet of rude, heavy pottery, entirely destitute of ornament.

Section of shell heap at Cedar Keys, showing different periods of its formation.

must have extended through very long periods of time. Other shell mounds in Florida have growing on them enormous live oaks from thirteen to twenty-six feet in circumference at five feet from the ground, some of them being estimated to be about 600 years old, they indicating the minimum age possible for the heaps, but not necessarily approaching to their real age.

Complete cross-sections of the extensive shell heaps in the Aleutian isles having been made by Mr. Dall, they were found to consist of a series of distinct layers, each marked by some well-defined characteristic. In the upper layers were found mammalian remains, seal, walrus, bird, fox and dog, together with well-made weapons and instruments. In the next layer below, the dog and fox were absent. In the next there were seal and small cetacea, while the weapons were ruder. Then came a layer in which no mammalian remains whatever were found, but only

fishbones and molluscan shells, with rude knives, lance-heads, etc. Below this again was a bottom deposit consisting entirely of the shells of the echini (sea-urchin), and containing no weapons or tools whatever, except toward the upper surface of the layer, where a few "hammer stones" were found—round pebbles with an indentation on each side for the finger and thumb. Some of the heaps covered five acres, and from a careful estimate founded on experiments and taking the probable numbers of a colony which could have lived on such a spot, Mr. Dall has calculated



Stone pestle and mortar, found in shell heaps in Alameda.

that it would take about 3000 years for the accumulation of the entire series of layers, that is supposing—which is not natural—that they were formed continuously.

Then comes the following passage: "Equally indicative of long occupation and great antiquity is the enormous shell mound at San Pablo, on the Bay of San Francisco, which is nearly a mile long and half a mile wide, and more than twenty feet thick. Numerous Indian skeletons and mummies have been found in it, showing that it had been subsequently used as a place of burial."

Most people are aware that there is a shell mound across the bay, but it is generally associated with a shooting range and a dancing pavilion, while even to those best acquainted with the spot it would certainly be news that the mound was anything as extensive as Mr. Wallace states. It was determined to inves-

tigate the matter, and as the first best step to that end, a visit was paid to the Academy of Sciences. Four amiable people—two ladies, a man and a boy—were found clustered around the stove. To them the extract from the *Nineteenth Century* was read, and they were asked if they could throw any light on the matter. No, they said, they could not, for the academicians had not made any researches in that direction. The existence of shell mounds in California had been spoken of, but no great attention had been paid to that branch of ethnology. They were then asked if the academy possessed any literature on the subject, and again the answer was in the negative. Getting rather desperate by this time, the writer asked if he could be directed to any one who did know anything about the matter, and the reply was made that Theodore Hittell, it was believed, had at some time investigated the matter. Mr. Hittell was thereupon hunted up, the extract once more read, and further information asked for.

"I am inclined to think," said Mr. Hittell, "that Wallace is rather extravagant in his dimensions. I know that there are shell mounds on both sides of the bay, but I never heard of or met any so extensive as the



Section of shell heap near Cape Mendocino, showing periods of construction.

one about which you have just read, nor do I know of any human remains having been found in any of the shell mounds, or kitchen middens—refuse heaps—as I believe they are technically called. Those at least that I have examined, contained nothing of the sort. My examinations, how-

ever, have been of the dilettante order. I remember plying a pick and shovel on some shell mounds at Tomales bay, but the heaps there yielded shells and nothing more, although I don't know what they might have yielded had my work been more thorough. I think it a great pity that some of our local scientists have not devoted themselves to the exploration of our shell mounds, but my tastes lie in history, rather than antiquities. Suppose you see Davidson."

Professor George Davidson was seen and the paragraph read to him.—*S. F. Chronicle*.

[To be continued.]

—:o:—

## RARE COINS.

I.

Among numerous interesting examples of coins and medals of every age and realm, from the crude, imperfect bullet stamped with Chinese characters of an early date, and the rough



lump of metal vaguely pointing to the form of a crescent, also from the Celestial Kingdom, or the rough fragment of brass that

*Pine-Tree Shilling*. needs an interpreter or explanatory catalogue to show it a coin of any description whatever, to the product of the most perfect artistic die of modern civilization, found in the collection belonging to the Society of California Pioneers, including that of the celebrated Dr. Charles Spiers, who made the study and collection of coin his life work and labor of love, and which led him, in the pursuit of his favorite occupation, to visit nearly every country possessed of a metallic currency, his valuable collection, donated to the Society of Pioneers, of which he be-

came a member, together with those previously belonging to them, having been placed for greater safety from fire in a room at the Mint in San Francisco. Among them may be found a digression in form of a pair of fancifully shaped spoons, about four inches long, embellished with leaves lying across the stem-like handle, so dark and discolored by the lapse of time there is no indication of the particular metal of which they are composed. They might be iron or copper, pewter, lead or silver, a prevailing dirt color only covering the chaste form of their graceful design. Referring to the catalogue and consulting a custodian it will be found these precious relics are of pure gold, and are understood to have been taken from the Temple of Solomon, at Jerusalem, having been purchased from a resident of that city. Of course, like all other remains of antiquity this description has to be taken for what it is worth, with some degree of incredulity.

These rare and curious relics are said to have been taken from the temple in the fifth year of the reign of Rehoboam. B. C. 932, when "Shishak, King of Egypt, came up against Jerusalem and took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the King's house."

Another interesting specimen from the Holy Land, in the collection at



*Jewish Shekel.*

ed collector to date from not less than 1,000 years before the Christian era, and it may have existed from a much earlier period, for we read that Abraham, who lived 2,000 years B. C., paid 200 shekels for his burying ground, showing it to be the current coin at that time; and possibly this veritable shekel may have been part of the price paid by the patriarch for his final resting-place; or one of the twenty pieces of silver received by the brethren of Joseph when they sold him to the merchant men going down into Egypt.

Another Oriental treasure, which, at first sight, suggests from its thickness and blackness, a charcoal digestive cracker, is found, on the authority of the collector, to be "a large, thick gold coin of the earliest coinage of the Greeks, said to be in reign of Semiramis, Queen of Babylon and Nineveh. This coin weighs over an ounce and was taken from the earth over forty years ago, near where it is supposed the city of Babylon once stood, and had probably been in the ground, among or in contact with other mineral substance for 1500 years, which caused it to become very dark." The obverse shows a crowned head of the Queen, but the Greek inscription is hardly legible.



*Gold Spoon from Solomon's Temple.*

Among examples of ancient Roman coinage, may be seen a large copper coin of Maximinius, Emperor of Rome, date B. C. 235, and a copper coin of the time of Antoninus Pius, bearing on one side a head and name of that Emperor; on the other a female figure feeding a snake, date B. C. 138.

In the same case appears a fine silver coin of the time of Darius Hystaspis, King of Persia, bearing

the Mint, marked "very rare," is a Jewish shekel, declared by the learn-

on one side a head of the King, and on the other a Persian inscription. Date B. C. 521. Marked "very rare."

E. S. RYDER.

[To be continued.]

—:O:—

### THE JAPANESE COBANG.

That eccentric shaped coin, the Japanese Cobang, to be found among those belonging to the California Society of Pioneers, got together by the well known collector, Dr. Charles Spiers, preserved at the Mint in San Francisco, does not present to the uninitiated eye an appearance of anything valuable; its color resembles



brass more than gold, and its extreme thinness has caused the lettering and ornamentation to be stamped on each side. The coin is two and a-half inches long and one and a-quarter in breadth.

E. S. R.

—:O:—

### GIANTS OF THE PLANT KINGDOM.

BY S. ESTLE MILLER.

Earth and sky constitute the field of man's observation, and here, in every nook and recess from center to circumference, we behold wonders, innumerable as the "sands on the seashore." Here we find the animate and the inanimate marvels, the moving and the stationary. Some haunt the dell, some the forest, some cling to or circle about the mountain peak, some dwell in the "coral groves" of the vast deep, while others sport in the boundless, trackless realms of space.

Out of this infinite number of created things we have selected a few

only, and to treat of this few is the purpose of this dissertation.

Now, if you are a gleaner in the field of nature, if you would like to be introduced to a few of nature's prodigies, take a seat near this table and we will begin our entertainment at once, and by introducing a collection gleaned from the plant kingdom.

We have here bamboos. They are gigantic grasses and attain wonderful growths. In a state of entanglement they form a solid mass, from which dozens of spears arise a foot in diameter and to the height of one hundred and twenty feet.

We have the rattan, a plant that attains a length of twelve hundred feet, and, under favorable circumstances, this great length is reached in a very short period of time. One of these plants reared in a hot-house was seen to grow one foot in twenty-four hours. In the Chinese jungles many of these plants grow three feet in a single day. The grace and beauty of the palms seen in this country, give us but little idea of the grandeur of the largest of these forms. One leaf of the South American palm, *raphia*, would cover the roof of an ordinary building. Many houses are built from the leaves of the talifat palm found in Ceylon; two leaves being sufficient to shelter forty persons.

In Brazil we find many vines that attain a diameter equal to that of a tree. These vines belong to the genus *lianes*, and through the agency of these plants the forests are rendered almost interminable.

In Australia we find the famous gum trees, or *eucalyptus colosseae*. These trees tower five hundred feet above the level of the ground. The first specimen was discovered in a glen of the Warren river. It was a fallen giant of great age, and was completely hollow. The discoverers came upon it while riding through the forest, and, without dismounting, the entire party, fifteen or twenty in number, rode into the gigantic trunk.



Among the giants, remarkable both for their size and shape, we have the bottle trees of Australia. These trees attain a height of seventy feet, and at a distance they resemble huge bottles. At a height of five feet from the ground they often measure thirty-five feet in circumference.

In this same country we find the giant Banyan; one tree alone encloses an area of five acres. On the island of Ceylon we find one that measures nearly one thousand four hundred feet around its branches, while another at Mer-Budda measures a circuit of twice this distance. This latter tree possesses more than three hundred large separate trunks, and three thousand five hundred smaller ones, all connected to the ground in the form of pillars.

The giant of flowers is to be seen on the island of Sumatra. The tuber of this plant is nearly six feet in circumference, and the central Spadix six feet in height. The spathe measures three feet through its center, is bell-shaped and has a crumpled edge tinted a pale green color.

—:O:—

### SOME AMERICAN COINS.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

There is something remarkably curious about the American silver dollar and half dollar of the coinage of 1804. Silver dollars of that year are known to be great rarities, although the fact remains that something like twenty thousand of these dollars were coined. It is a singular fact, however, that not one of them was in circulation. There are two of these very valuable dollars of the 1804 issue in American collections, and they are valued at \$2,000 each. Learned and intelligent numismatists have agreed to their utmost satisfaction that these two dollars were not coined until 1828, although they were struck from the original die of 1804. Although such a procedure is a penal offence, these two

coins were unlawfully and secretly made at the instance of some one high in influence and authority, who desired them as additions for certain coin collections. It has never been exactly learned how the work was accomplished, but there is no doubt it was done. Yet this is not directly to the point, and the point is just this: It is not known, has never been known and probably will never be known why the silver dollar of 1804 was never seen in circulation after leaving the mint. This remains as one of the unsolved mysteries of our glorious government.

A mystery that is even greater, surrounds the silver half dollar of 1804. Of that date and value nearly 160,000 were coined, not one, however, was ever discovered in circulation. The silver quarter dollar of 1804 is numerous enough—in fact they are so plenty that a very fair specimen can be bought for \$2. and the coinage amounts to something less than 7,000. A curious thing has lately been discovered regarding the silver half dollar of 1805, which is not considered a rare coin. The exception is in the case where the half dollar of 1805 has been made by restriking a figure five over the four in an 1804 coin, which shows that the coin was really one of the undiscovered pieces of the 1804 issue, which increases the value of the coin fully ten fold.

Yet the fact remains that no one can tell whatever became of the very large issue of silver half dollars of 1804. No one knows or ever will know. It is quite evident, however, that all of them were not issued from the mint, and this belief that there was some unknown reason for not desiring the coin to circulate, is strengthened by the fact that the mint obliterated the date on the remainder of them by converting them into half dollars of the 1805 issue.

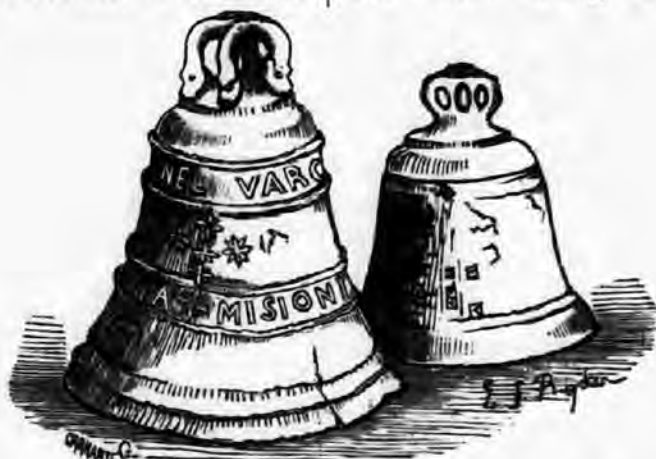
During the year 1805, there were no silver dollars issued from the mint, but nevertheless 321 of them were

coined, and are in the hands of collectors to-day just as they came from the die. No dollars were coined by the Government after that until the year 1836.

—:o:—

### BELLS FROM THE MISSION CHURCH AT SAN LUIS OBISPO.

It is to be hoped that some of the wealthy residents of this State, sufficiently enlightened to take an interest in relics so closely linked with the advent of civilization, will rescue from the foundry furnace those interesting old bells removed from the Mission Church named above, now at a place of business in San Fran-



cisco, where an order has been received for a new bell to replace them. The larger of the two bells is of fine construction and bears the date of 1818; the smaller is much more rude, no date is discernable, but it is not unlikely to have existed prior to the appearance of the Mission padres on the coast. It is intended to remove them to the Mechanic's Fair.

E. S. R.

—:o:—

Oological collectors should be on the lookout for owls and some of the large hawk nests, as they often commence breeding in February.

### THE PETRIFIED FORESTS.

Near the head waters of the Little Colorado river in Arizona, are situated the petrified forests. The area is several miles in extent. The trees are silicified conifera of gigantic size. One has been discovered that measures more than twenty feet at the base, and at a break 100 feet from the base it was ten feet in diameter. Limbs and branches petrified to solid rock, are scattered in every direction; the texture and form of the dead leaves are plainly discernible, resembling much immense redwoods of California. Many fossils of animal species now extinct are found scattered about among these rocky

trunks, solidified to pure magnesian limestone. The heart of some of these fallen monarchs of the forest is a mass of sparkling crystals, while others show sections of the purest quartz. A highly polished section of one of these trees formed the top of a handsomely mounted table which was a conspicuous object in Arizona's exhibit at the New Orleans Exposition. The petrified forest belongs to the carboniferous period, and is evidently a portion of the vast extent of wooded land which once existed in this treeless waste, and which now forms the great coal measures which underlie its surface.

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—:o:—

## CURIOUS RELICS OF A PRE-HISTORIC AGE.

At the White Plains saltworks on the line of the Central Pacific Railroad, beyond Wadsworth, in sinking large pits or wells many fish, perfectly preserved, have been found in the strata of rock salt cut through. The salt field occupies what was once the bottom of a large lake. The fish found are of the pike or pickerel species, and from twelve to sixteen inches in length. No such fish are

now seen in any of our Nevada lakes. The specimens are not petrified, but are preserved in perfect form, flesh and all, as though they had been frozen up in cakes of ice. The salt-works are located near the center of a basin in which was once a lake thirty miles long, by from twelve to fifteen miles in width, and over 300 feet deep in places, as is shown by the ancient water lines on the bordering hills. The fish found imbedded in the layers of rock salt are doubtless thousands of years old. After being exposed to the sun and air for a day or two they become as hard as wood. At the time Jason Baldwin now watchman at the Osbiston shaft in this city, was Superintendent of the White Plains works, he found great numbers of these fish. In a pit eight feet square and about sixteen feet deep, dozens of them were found, there being sometimes five or six in a bunch. It was found that they could even be eaten, but they were not very palatable, and it was necessary to soak them in fresh water for two or three days before attempting to cook them.—*Virginia (Nev.) Enterprise.*

—:O:—

### THE SOUTHERN CROSS PEARL.

The extraordinary pearl known as the "Southern Cross Pearl," is a freak of nature which has not yet been explained. The pearl was found at Roeburn, Western Australia, and consists of nine pearls adhering together in the form of a Latin cross, seven in the shaft and two in the arms, one on each side of the shaft, nearly opposite the second pearl from the top. The pearls are slightly compressed, like peas in a pod, and no trace of any artificial junction can be observed. It has been suggested that a fragment of sea weed may have got into the shell and formed the frame of the construction. The pearls are of fine quality,

though slightly misshapen at parts, and the value of the gem is very high. Its character is unique, and filled the owner—an Irishman named Kelly—with superstitious awe, which led him to secret it for some time.—*Engineering.*

—:O:—

### ANCIENT AMERICAN ART.

A citizen of Wichita, Kan., has an interesting specimen of ancient American art. It is a head cut in Dakota sandstone, and was found on the Saline river in Kansas near some sandstone ledges. The face is nearly all nose, but the eyes, ears, mouth and nostrils are well defined, and also bands running around the top of the head.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—:O:—

The Old Year turns upon his heel,  
And with a low thermometer  
The icy New Year plays;  
The Wheelman, indoors, turns his  
wheel,  
To run up his cyclometer  
Because of slow ways.  
Meanwhile the editor may feel,  
In using this annometer,  
He's shortening the days.  
—*Columbia Calendar.*

—:O:—

### CONFEDERATE STATE LOCALS.

BY FIG.

As all advanced collectors are aware, the local stamps issued by the postmasters of the various cities in the Southern States during the civil war of 1861-65 are of a most interesting kind; they are not only interesting in design, but the history connected with them is fully as interesting as the stamps themselves. New varieties are being discovered almost every year, and some are limited in number to two or three and even one, at least the number found is small and it remains to be discussed

whether there were more issued of some of the scarce varieties. The more common varieties are the ones issued by the postmasters, in the following cities, viz:

Charleston, S. C.	4-5c	†5c	†5c	†5c.
Knoxville, Tenn.	2-5c	†5c		†5c.
Lynchburg, Va.				1-5c.
Memphis, Tenn.	2-2c	5c	†5c.	
Nashville, Tenn.	3-3c	5c	5c.	
Mobile, Ala.		2-2c	5c	5c.
New Orleans, La.	4-2c	2c	5c	5c.
Petersburg, Va.				1-5c.
Baton Rouge, La.				1-5c.

The almost unattainable varieties are as follows:

Athens, Ga.	1-5c.
Columbia, S. C.	3-†5c †5c †5c
Danville, Va.	3-5c †5c †5c.
Fayetteville, Ga.	2-†5c †10c.
Fredericksburg, Va.	2-5c 10c.
Golead, Tex.	2-5c 10c.
Greenville, Ala.	2-5c 10c.
Kingston, Tenn.	2-5c.
Knoxville, Tenn.	2-5c 5c.
Lenon, N. C.	1-5c.
Livingston, Ala.	1-5c.
Macon, Ga.	3-5c 5c 5c.
Madison, Ga.	1-3c.
Marion, Va.	6-2c 3c 5c 10c 15c 20c.
Memphis, Tenn.	1-†5c.
Nashville, Tenn.	1-10c.
New Orleans, La.	1-5c.
Pleasant Shade, Va.	1-5c.
Rheatown, Tenn.	1-5c.
Ringgold, Ga.	1-5c.
Salem, N. C.	2-†5c †5c.
Statesville, N. C.	1†5c.
Tellico Plains, Tenn.	1-5c.
The Plains, Va.	1-†5c.
Tuscumbia, Ala.	1-5c.
Uniontown, Va.	2-5c 10c.

Those marked with a † are envelope stamps, the remainder being adhesive; most of the stamps were of the denomination of 5c., 10c., etc., but a few 2c. and 3c. were issued to prepay papers and package. As there were not many advantages to favor the persons issuing the stamps, and they being wanted as soon as possible, the stamps were generally poorly printed, and many mistakes occurred. It seems almost too bad that these stamps are so very scarce as it is very pleasant to examine into the designs that go to make up the various varieties.

## WIND CAVE, BLACK HILLS.

BY L. W. STILLWELL, DEADWOOD.

"Wind Cave" is located near Hot Springs, Fall River county, Black Hills, D. T. A traveler passing along the road and crossing the shallow depression of what appears to have been an old creek bed, now dry, would not suspect a cave was in that vicinity. Following this dry creek bed a short distance from the wagon road, the explorer comes suddenly upon a hole in the rocky bottom. Only a slender person can enter the opening. A man lets himself down four feet into this opening, crouches and crawls along a narrow passage for thirty-five feet, when he comes to a perpendicular downward turn to the passage. Here he must secure a rope to some point and climb down the rope for twenty-five feet. Within four feet of his landing, he must repeat the process and go down twenty feet; from that landing he must crawl along a decline for twenty feet, and again use a rope to reach a footing twenty-five feet down a natural shaft, but he finds no landing for his feet. He is here suspended over a bottomless pit (no bottom found yet), and must swing himself by oscillation of the rope to one side of the pit. Here he finds himself in a chamber twenty feet in diameter, and from this chamber can go in many directions into subterranean passages. One has been followed one hundred feet, part of the way horizontally, and the balance of the way at an angle of forty-five degrees, downward. When the explorer returns he must be a good climber to ascend the perpendicular heights by the ropes, which he anchored in coming down. Of course he has supplied himself beforehand with plenty of candles or a miner's lantern upon the front of his hat. The rock is a hard limestone, strongly impregnated with iron here and there along the passage leading to the chamber. The chamber and its side passages

are lined with a pure white calcareous incrustations, mammillated and crystallized into beautiful and delicate forms. In cavities of almost any specimen thickly appear crystals standing out like points of cambric needles, and the specimens obtained are truly beautiful. Our party found a small chamber at the side of a passage, from which we obtained a few pounds of quartz, crystallized to resemble both a sponge and honeycomb. The base seemed to be iron and quartz and in a beautiful sparkling form. The evidences to the eye of the explorer all go to determine the conclusion that this so called cave, with its labyrinthine narrow passages was once a hot spring, which, for some unknown cause, ceased to flow. From the "bottomless pit," 135 feet distance from the surface mouth of this cave, one would judge that either the hot water had been belched up from that great well or the bottom of the spring had fallen out through it, or both.

There is a breeze, a circulating current of air, constantly coming out of the mouth of the cove, hence the name Wind cave. Whether there is another end to the main passage, open to the sky, through which comes the circulation of air has not been discovered. The cave and its hot water incrustated deposits are among the wonderful curiosities of this wonderful group of isolated Hills.

—:O:—

#### A RARE CANADIAN BIRD.

The London, Ontario, *Free Press* of December 18, 1888, says: A Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in adult, plumage was shot four miles northeast of this city by Mr. A. Ralph about the middle of November. This is a very rare bird in southern Ontario though common enough in the northwest where it belongs to the numerous host known as "Wabies." There has been a long discussion among leading or-

nithologists concerning this bird, many claiming it to be the young of the Greater Snow Goose, and the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Ornithological Union so decided in 1887, but in a later work Mr. Robert Ridgway, one of the greatest of living ornithologists, has reinstated it as a species, saying in a foot note of his "Manuel" that "it is beyond question a Goose species." Mr. Thomas McIlwraith, in his "Birds of Ontario," does not give this bird a distinct species but describes the young of the Greater Snow Goose as "dull bluish or pale lead color on the head and upper parts of the body." It migrates far north in summer where it breeds, and returns to the Gulf of Mexico in the winter season.

—:O:—

#### CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

IV.

BY WM. L. TELLS.

The White-rumped Butcher Bird.  
(*Lanius Ludovicianus Eixarbitorides*.)

This bird, though not numerous anywhere, yet appears to be found in most of the settled parts of the old Canadian Provinces, and there are few sections of Ontario, in which a pair is not resident during the summer months, or visitant during the migratory periods. It frequents the margins of woods, low shrubberies, and large orchards, but its most favorite haunts are the banks of water courses, where there are a number of thorn bushes, and low evergreens; and though evidently disposed to be solitary, yet if the circumstances are favorable, it prefers to make its home near the residences of mankind, rather than in more secluded situations. Yet, though often found nesting amid the surroundings of human habitations, it evidently does not like the presence of man, nor the sound

of the human voice; and there is no reason why there should be any friendship between the races, for this species, though beneficial in destroying many varieties of insects and small animals, that are injurious to the grain and fruit grower, yet it has also a partiality for the bodies, eggs and young of smaller birds, and will appropriate to its own special use, a young fowl, if the mother is off her guard.

It is amongst the earliest of our returning spring birds to make its appearance in Ontario, when the winter is nearly over, and it is one of the last to leave this country on the approach of Arctic King; indeed, except specimens of each species are compared, it is not easy to decide when the White-rumped leaves and the Northern makes its advent. It nests early, usually in the last week of April, and the young may be able to fly early in June, and if the first nest is robbed, will immediately build again in the same vicinity, and if not much disturbed will generally return to the same place year after year. If, however, the nests are all taken for one season, it may never again return to the same vicinity. It often utters a shrill cry, imitative of the notes of small birds in distress, doubtless with the designs of attracting a weaker species to its neighborhood in order to make it a prey, and when this stratagem fails and it is pressed by hunger it will dart upon or pursue and capture any small species that may come in its way, with all the ferocity and cruelty of a falcon, and then it may be observed flying across a field with its victim either in its beak or claws. At other times when its more common food is abundant, it may be seen gleaning peacefully in the same tree with a number of other small birds, occasionally giving utterance to various snatches of song, and at times, especially in the early season when near its nesting place, its song notes may be heard to a considerable distance from its

perch in the top of some tall tree.

Its principal food is the larger species of insects besides which it will feed on the smaller species of reptiles, animals and birds, and in their season on different kinds of small fruit. It has also the habit of impaling its victims on a thorn, twig or sciver and then pulling them in pieces as it leisurely devours them. From this circumstance it has received the name of Butcher-bird, while that of shrike has been given to it from its shrill cry. But though fierce and cruel in its treatment of other species, no bird can exhibit more affection for its young, or solicitude, if its nest is in danger. The nest of this bird is often placed in the thickest part of a thorn bush, sometimes in an evergreen or other small tree, generally not high off the ground. This is composed of a variety of materials, such as brambles, stalks of dry weeds, strips of bark, rags, wool and feathers. The number of eggs deposited is generally six, though sometimes five and seven constitute the set. These are of a dull white hue mottled over the greater part of the surface with a grayish-brown. This species is nearly nine inches in length. The plumage on the upper parts of the body is a bluish-ash hue; the lower parts, especially the hinder, is pure white, the wings and tail are black and there is a dark band on each side of the head; the bill also is dark, strong and hooked at the point. I have noticed this bird in various parts of central Ontario and in the township of Peel, the home of my boyhood since its early settlement, and I well remember with what horror I regarded the action of the first of this species that I ever saw; for it was in furious pursuance of a poor sparrow, across an open field, and the impression of its character then made upon my mind has never since been wholly erased. It was not, however, until about ten years ago that I became well acquainted with its nesting and general habits, and

collected its eggs. It appears from the reports of various ornithologists that this species is very extensively distributed over the temperate regions of North America.

[ To be continued. ]

—O—

## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

This column is for the use of subscribers only. Exchange notices must be in by the 15th of the current month to insure insertion in following number, and must be written on separate piece of paper. No postal cards noticed.

Volume 1, complete of the Hawkeye Slate Collector and other Philatelic papers for the best offer of Natural History papers, or eggs.

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C. P. STELIS,  
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Wanted—First-class, side-blown bird's eggs, in original sets, with data. I have about 125 varieties of single eggs to exchange. Correspondence solicited.

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T. B. STEWART,  
Island, Pa.

I will exchange well prepared Skins of the Evening, and Pine Grassbeaks, Red Crossbill and other northern birds, for western and southern birds, Minerals and Fossils.

J. N. CLARK,  
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I have a large number of first-class single eggs, to exchange for bird skins, eggs in nest with data, Indian relics, U. S. and foreign coin, U. S. and foreign postage and revenue stamps, Confederate, colonial and continental currency. Send exchange price list and I will mail mine in return.

E. M. HAIGHT,  
Box 24, Riverside, Cal.

I have several 22-caliber revolvers in good condition, to exchange for first-class bird's eggs, also two copper cents of 1877 to exchange for eggs. Send list.

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I will give you a year's subscription to the "OLD CURIOSITY SHOP" for fifteen Philatelic magazines with cover, in good condition, or for five perfect Indian arrow heads labeled with locality.

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[Continued next month]

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[Continued next month.]

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[Continued next month.]

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A  
**JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
 PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
 NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
 BRIC-A-BRAC**



## CONTENTS :

Philately vs. Label Collecting.....	51
The Sparrow Hawk.....	52
On Mounting Stamps.....	52
The Indian Shell Mounds of California.—II.....	53
Rare Coins.—II.....	55
Philatelic Chit-Chat.....	57
Review Table.....	57
Editorial.....	58
The Mourning Warbler in Michigan.....	58
Geology.....	59
Canadian Wild Birds.....	60
Boyhood's Days.....	61
Exchange Notes.....	62

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# The † Old † Curiosity † Shop.

VOL. VIII. No. 5.

FEBRUARY, 1889.

WHOLE NO. 43.

## PHILATELY VS. LABEL COLLECTING.

—  
DON CARLOS.  
—

With the thousands of stamps of regular issue which have been used for postal purposes, since the introduction of postage stamps in 1840, one would think that collectors might find plenty of scope for the employment of all their spare time and money, without resorting to the gathering of labels and manufacturer's trademarks. Many collectors seem to have the idea that every piece of paper bearing a value in dollars or cents, may be designated as a *postage stamp*, and with this view, they gather match and medicine, express, beer and tobacco labels, and expect the long suffering public to call them philatelists. There are eight classes of labels which should be given the "cold shoulder" viz., match, medicine, playing card, cigar, tobacco, snuff, express and beer stamps. Of course if a person wishes to collect them, they have a perfect right to do so, to their hearts' content, but I cannot but think that is time and money wasted. *Philately* is a science and a pursuit which not only gives unalloyed pleasure to its followers, but teaches us history, chronology and the value of observation. Label collecting is simply a mania for the gathering of bits of colored paper. The value of observation may, it is true, be taught by this species of "crankism" to some extent. You may learn to observe that a certain six cent medicine stamp bears the portrait of Dr. Kennedy, or that the Alligator Match Co., is-

sued a stamp with a picture of a "gator" on it, but here the benefit ends. Instead of a portrait gallery of Kings, Princes, Generals, Presidents and Statesmen, you have a collection of men of whom the world never heard, unless through a patent medicine advertisement, quacks who offered medicine to cure any disease under the sun, and who did not even have the honor of being respectable physicians.

Suppose a friend of yours comes to visit you, and you show him your album; he admires the fine colors and the well executed engravings of some of your stamps, and finally points to a medicine stamp bearing the portrait of a distinguished looking man, and asks you what president, or what great man that is. "Oh", you say, that's a portrait of Dr. Surekillum, proprietor of Surekillum's consumption, whooping cough and liver cure. Was it used to pay postage? Oh no I found it on an old medicine bottle and it is only used as an internal revenue label."

Can there be anything more ridiculous than the idea of collecting cigar, snuff, tobacco and beer labels? This branch is surely the lowest of them all. Collectors call these things stamps, whose only value is expressed in the number of ounces of that filthy weed-tobacco, the number of cigars in the box, or the gallons of beer in the barrel. Tobacco tag collecting is one grade higher than this branch. I am surprised that such well-known and intelligent philatelists as Mr. E. D. Sterling and Mr. H. S. Hatcher and others should for a moment entertain the idea of form-



ing a collection of such worthless trash.

Our regular document and revenue stamps can be tolerated, for they represent the Nations' struggles to recover from the evil efforts of the great civil war, and bear the portrait of the "Father of His Country" and were regularly issued by the Government. Locals were used for prepaying for the carriage of mail matter and are entitled to a place in every collection, for they are but slightly removed from *postage stamps*.

If persons wish to form a collection of these classes of revenues, let them do so, by all means, for I believe in the American people enjoying every privilege within the bounds of law and morality, but don't for mercy's sake call it postage stamp collecting; call it labelology and its followers labelologists.

—:O:—

## THE SPARROW HAWK

(TINUNCULUS SPARVERIUS.)

The Sparrow Hawk is one of the earliest birds to emigrate north on the approach of Spring.

It is the handsomest and smallest of all our native birds of prey.

He can be termed a bandit or robber of the air, as (especially in the Fall) his chosen food is smaller birds, but some writers champion his cause by saying that it is only in the Fall that he kills birds for food, but it is clearly a false argument for although he does not eat them he kills small birds in Summer simply for the sake of slaughter. I have seen him do it many times and know whereof I speak. On a ramble in Summer through the woods, it is no uncommon event to see these hawks in companies of from two to ten, holding a noisy meeting in some tall tree, generally a dead one.

Soon after arriving North, he selects his mate and prepares for keeping house, so to term it.

The female is a larger and plainer

looking bird than the male; nevertheless, she is a handsome bird.

In early May they select the site of their future nest and begin to construct it generally in a hollow tree, but I have found their eggs in deserted wood pecker holes and twice in old crows' nests.

The female does most of the nest-building, which consists of a bed of small sticks and twigs covered with moss. The eggs are generally but four in number. But once have I ever found over that; they are a little larger than those of a pigeon, nearly spherical in shape, and vary considerably in color, from a yellowish buff to a pale reddish white with spots of a chocolate color. The shell is thick and quite rough to the touch.

The male assists occasionally at incubation, and at the end of three weeks the young appear and (so it appears) at once begin to eat; being enormous feeders, they grow with astonishing rapidity, so that by the last week in June they are off for themselves.

The old hawks moult in early August and then begin their holidays.

They have but few enemies in nature of which the King Bird is predominant.

A. DINGS.

—:O:—

## ON MOUNTING STAMPS.

BY FIGERO.

A great deal of advice is being constantly thrown out to collectors, and to be in the style, I have taken a subject under this head with the intentions of giving some benefit to those that have not had the experience of older philatelists. I have seen many dealers' stamps put on sheets without a hinge, and as a rule they are always complaining of the careless way in which their sheets are handled by collectors, when they are mainly to blame themselves. I have often seen unused stamps stuck

on sheets and some collector has endeavored to remove one or more when the stamp being thinner than the sheet or book is always damaged by being removed, either by a part having separated from it or it has been peeled from the under side, leaving it very thin and delicate so that they are comparatively worthless. I have also seen whole collections mounted with thick colored hinges and I would not pay half the price for such collections as for those that are properly mounted. Now that I have stated the defects of poor mounts I will try to give a description of a class of mounts, and ways of doing so that should be superior. The proper way to peel off stamps for collections is to remove all parts of superfluous paper substance from back and then to press them perfectly flat as they will crinkle in a very disagreeable way. All stamps wrinkle some, but this should be avoided as much as possible.

A good onion skin hinge is the best thing to use; don't use thick paper if you value your collection. We get very poor hinges in America; much better ones are prepared in France and Germany, being a pure onion skin not imitation as those we use here.

I think I have written enough for collectors to see the error of using poor mounts on their stamps.

—:o:—

## INDIAN SHELL MOUNDS OF CALIFORNIA.

### II.

"That can scarcely be the shell mound at Berkeley," he said at his conclusion, "because there is nothing of that extent there. It must be further up the coast, perhaps in Contra Costa. There are hundreds of these mounds scattered around the bay, at Saucelito, up Richardson's bay, along the estuary in Alameda, down on the San Bruno and San Mateo flats

and even in San Francisco. Some of them have been explored, but I cannot say with what result. I know that Mr. Rodgers cut into one on his estate in Alameda and I believe some relics were discovered, but on the other hand I was told that some mounds near San Mateo had been carted away for manure and nothing found. I question the human remains."

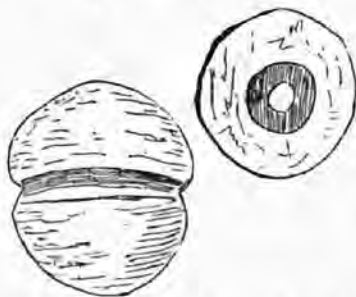
"They have been discovered," said Captain Dickens, joining in the conversation, "I have in fact seen them myself. In assisting in the different surveys," the Captain continued, "I have come across shell mounds almost without number. Some of them up north I have seen opened, and that they have been made places of sepulture there can be no doubt. Generally the bodies were put in without much regard to their disposition, but occasionally they would be found in a sitting posture and placed within an inclosure of large shells. I never, however, made any study of the subject."

"That is just the trouble with us," said Professor Davidson, grimly; "We pay far too little special attention to our antiquities. Others however, appreciate them, and some time ago a Frenchman came out here for some continental museum and carted off something like ten tons of relics from under our very eyes. A number of us have made hap-hazard collections, but there really does not seem to be any attempt made at centralizing them. I should think Bancroft would say something about it, and now that I think of it, Paul Schumacher, of the Coast Survey, devoted a good deal of his time to Californian aboriginal relics, and, I have no doubt, reported fully to the Smithsonian Institute."

To Bancroft first, and in his fourth volume on the "Native Races of the Pacific States," a couple of pages on the subject were found. The information furnished, it will be seen, is cursory, but it is valuable as helping

to settle the location of the big mound under discussion. Bancroft says:

"Only one class of California antiquities remains to be mentioned—the shell mounds. They are probably very numerous, and a thorough examination of their contents could hardly fail to be here, as it has proved in Europe, a source of very important results in ethnological studies. Little or nothing has been done in the way of such an examination, although a few mounds have been opened in excavating for roads or founda-



Sinker and pendent from shell heap at Tomales bay.

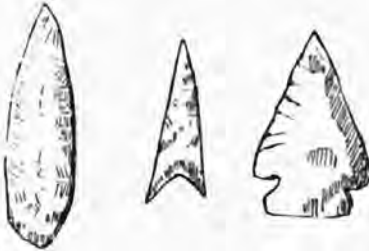
tions of buildings. These few have yielded numerous stone, bone and shell implements and ornaments, together with human remains, as is reported, but the relics have been for the most part lost or scattered, and submitted to no scientific examination and comparison. Dr. Yates sent to Smithsonian Institute in 1869. a collection of relics taken from mounds in Alameda county. This collection included stone pestles, perforators or awls, sinkers, spindles, a soap-stone ladle, stone mortar, pipe-bowls, shell and perforated stone ornaments, and serrated implements of bone.

"A very large shell mound is reported near San Pablo, in Contra Costa county. It is said to be almost a mile long and a half-mile wide, its surface being covered with shrubbery. The shells composing this mound are those of the oyster, clam and mussel, all having been exposed to the action of fire and nearly all broken. Fragments of pottery

made of red clay are found on the surface and near the top. Many smaller shell mounds are reported in the vicinity of San Mateo, and one has been opened in making a road at Sausalito, the latter furnishing many stone relics of which I have no particular description. Quite a number of mounds are known to exist on the peninsula of San Francisco, several being in the vicinity of the silk factory on the San Bruno road. One of them covered an area of two acres, was at least 25 feet deep and from it were taken arrow heads, hammers and other relics. One of these shell mounds near the old Bay View track is being opened by Chinamen in preparation for some building as I write this chapter (1875). One shell mound at Como, Vancouver, covers three acres, and is from two to fourteen feet deep. A skeleton is said to have been found here with a bone knife broken off in one of the bones."

Turning then to Dr. Rau, as reported in the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," much general and special information was found concerning the shell mounds of the world and of California. The shell mounds which first attracted scientific attention were those found on the indented coasts of the Danish islands of Seeland, Funen, Moen and Samsøe. They were formerly supposed to have been deposited by the sea when at a higher level than now. It was noticed, however, that the shell heaps showed no trace of the stratification which always characterizes marine deposits, and that they, instead of inclosing shells of mollusks of every age, contained merely those of full-grown specimens, which, moreover, belonged to a limited number of species not living together under natural conditions. Upon further examination there were found among the shell the broken bones of different species of wild quadrupeds and birds and the remains of fishes; also implements of flint, horn and bone, fragments of a rude kind of pottery,

charcoal and ashes, but no metal whatever. The artificial origin of these accumulations being now established, they were recognized as the amassed remains of the repasts of a population that dwelled in early ages on the shores of the Baltic. The



Flint and obsidian arrow-heads found in shell heaps near San Francisco.

Danes denominate shell heaps of this description *kjoekkenmo-adinger*, a word meaning kitchen refuse, but the term "kitchen middens" is often employed in English, "midden" being a name still used in the north of England to designate a refuse heap.

Artificial shell deposits have also been discovered in other parts of Europe, as, for instance, in Sweden, Norway, England, Scotland and on the coasts of France, both north and south. As may be imagined, these shell mounds are not confined to Europe. They occur along the littoral coasts of America, have been found from West Greenland to Terra del Fuego on one side, and from Alaska to Lower California, on the western seaboard. The shell heaps of this country attracted the attention of the Swedish traveler. Professor Peter Helm, in 1148; then came Lardner Vanuxem in 1840, and then Sir Charles Lyell made extended examinations of the deposits; all these investigations, however, being confined to the Atlantic border. It then became the fashion to examine kitchen middens, and they have been found and dug into in Greenland, New Brunswick, Massachusetts, New York, Maine, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Ten-

nessee, Iowa, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

In 1877, Paul Schumacher turned his attention to the shell heaps and village sites of the coasts of California and Oregon and on the Santa Barbara islands. In view of the many facts presented by the explorer, it would be a rather laborious task to give a resume of his results. Fortunately, however, Mr. Schumacher has published in German a short article, "Observations on the Ruined Aboriginal Villages on the Pacific Coast of North America," from which a few extracts will be freely translated:—*S. F. Chronicle*.

[To be continued.]

—:O:—

## RARE COINS.

II.

A black, deeply corroded mass, about the size of a dollar is described as a Spanish coin that had lain for seventy years in bottom of the sea. If it could speak what a history it would relate of its experience during those seven decades of its submersion! What monsters of the deep had trailed their slimy bodies near its resting place! What wondrous minute creatures had glided past, or rested their tiny fins upon its roughened side! and what a mighty fleet of ships had shadowed where it lay!

The collection includes many interesting specimens of the old British coinage, and some of the present time. Among the former are several silver pennies, one of the time of the Commonwealth, about 225 years old; one of William IV, dated 1836; another of the early part of the reign of Queen Victoria.



East Indies Silver Coin.

There is also a silver shilling with the heads of William III and Mary II, very rare, 1810 years old; and a silver groat of the time of William

the Conqueror, over 1000 years old. The reign of Queen Anne is represented by a silver three-penny coin, dated 1713.

In making this international collection, the Green Isle has not been forgotten; there appears an Irish copper half-penny, bearing on one side a head of King George III, and on the other an Irish harp surmounted by crown in the center, with "Hibernia" and the date, 1805, round the margin.

The land of saints is still better represented by a fine, large, silver crown, showing the destruction of snakes by St. Patrick. The patron saint appears, on one side of the coin, thrusting a spear into a snake, and on the other he is assisted by an Irish boy in the same occupation. It is without date, but from its appearance and the Latin inscription it bears it is supposed to be very ancient and rare.

The Italian States of the church in time of Pope Pius IX is represented by a fine copper coin, having on one side a bust of the Pope with name and title; on the other 4 soldi (4 cents) in the center, and round the margin "Stato Pontificio, 20 Centesimi," date 1868. In perfect condition.

A French silver crown of the time of Louis XVI appears, having a head of that unhappy monarch, thrown back, as if prophetic of the guillotine on which it should be severed from the body.

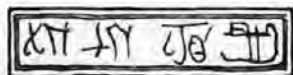
Of curiously eccentric shaped coins besides those already mentioned there are many. One Japanese specimen is described as a gold cobang, value about \$8, two and a half inches long, and one and a quarter wide, with rounded ends. This is so thin it resembles a piece of tinsel. Japanese inscriptions are seen on both sides. In same case appear two Chinese bars, one of gold,



Porcelain coin of China.

the other silver, passing as currency in that country. They might easily be mistaken for cakes of Indian ink we see from the Celestial Kingdom, being precisely the same shape and having Chinese characters all over them, and another variety of coin from China appears in octagon form, composed of porcelain, imprinted with Chinese inscriptions in blue. Marked: "Curious and rare." Value unknown.

Among American coinage a most interesting specimen appears of a New England or pine-tree shilling, being the first silver coin struck on this continent, manufactured by Captain Hull by order of the colonists. It is stated that when the captain's daughter was about being married, her father placed her in a scale and her weight in these, shillings in the other, the coins constituting her dowry. The shilling seems to have been originally a circle, but sundry divergences appear at present from that figure. On one side, "An. Dom" "1652," are seen within a beaded circle, outside which round the margin the name "New England" appears. The reverse shows a pine tree in center of a beaded circle and "in Massachusetts" round the margin. This is declared one of the finest New England shillings, rare and valuable.



Gold bar of China.

In one case appears a full and complete set of United States dollars, fifty-two pieces, one for every year in which any were coined, from 1794 to the present time, all in fine condition, some never having been circulated. In this group is a curious instance of the fancy value attached to an object chiefly for its rarity. The dollar of 1804, which seems as though it had never been in use and presents a fine sharpness in the rendering of the design, being the rarest and most

valuable, has sold at auction five times during the last few years, nearly doubling in price at each successive sale the price previously obtained for it, the final figure reaching the sum of \$1400.—E. S. RYDER.

—:0:—

### PHILATELIC CHIT-CHAT.

A green stamp bearing the value of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  now hails from Trinidad.

Brazil now gives us a new stamp. A 700 ries lilac.

There are now eight varieties of officially sealed stamps, Great Britain having added one to the lot. It is the black sheep of the flock; that is, the color is black.

Captain Cook's portrait adorns the new 4d. centennial stamp issued by New South Wales.

The two bani unpaid letter stamp of Roumania, comes to us in a changed color, having a coat of bright green.

The stamps of Natal are now surcharged (Zululand) in black for that country.

An officially insured letter stamp is now issued by the Columbian republic in black on white.

A new one centavo stamp has been issued by Argentine republic. The stamp bears the portrait of Dr. Sarsfield. Color brown and is perforated.

A black official stamp is announced from Fiji.

Through an advertising company, England has secured a farthing postal card. Part of the back is taken up in advertisements, and yet leaving enough room for all that would be desired to say in business correspondence.

The 25c. venezuela brown is now lithographed and rouletted.

Post cards seem to be increasing in number even faster than the postage stamp. Azores, Canada, Reunion, Faridkot and Dominica, are said to have issued new postal cards lately.

A Brattleboro 5 cent on buff used was bought by the Scott Coin and Stamp Co. at one of the New York sales for \$160.00. OBSERVER.

—:0:—

### REVIEW TABLE.

The Ornithologists and Oologists semi-annual, Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1889, is before us. It contains 48 large pages, and heavy tinted paper covers, and is a model of neatness. The following is a list of contents; Instructions for collecting and preserving birds and eggs, The American Oyster-catcher, Nesting of the Cooper's Hawk, My set of *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*, The Cardinal Grosbeak, Among the Raptors, A peculiar Nesting Site, The Chimney Swift, The Black and White Warbler, The Canada Goose, Notes on some of the Winter Birds of Chester County, Pa., Extinction of our birds, The Night-hawk, The Nashville Warbler, Sea Birds and their Nests, The Common or Sora Rail, The Mocking Bird, The Bells Vireo, Birds of South-east Texas, Brains of Birds, Ten Prize Questions, Editorial, Publishers' Notes, Exchanges and Wants. This unique work contains several engravings and should be in the hands of every lover of birds, and we predict for it a large sale. Price only 35 cents per copy. Orders received here.

Stevens & Co., 69 Dearborn St, Chicago, have favored us with a copy of their neatly printed and finely illustrated catalogue, showing prices which they pay for rare coins. Every person who handles coins should have a copy. Price 10c.

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E. M. HAIGHT,.....Editor and Proprietor.

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1/2 inch.....	.30	.80	1.50	2.15	2.70
1 inch.....	.50	1.35	2.55	3.60	4.50
2 inch.....	.90	2.40	4.60	6.50	8.10
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1/4 page.....	1.65	4.45	8.40	11.85	14.85
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1 page.....	6.00	13.50	25.50	36.00	45.00

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contribution, relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to E. M. HAIGHT, Riverside, Cal.

## FRAUDS.

The following parties are in debt to us, and we are unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests. Names will be taken from this list whenever a settlement is made. A few other names will be added to this list unless accounts are paid.

N. R. CHRISTIE, Beckwith, Calif.

W. C. MERCHANT, San Antonio, Texas.

IRA C. GREENE, Fitchburg, Mass.

PITTSFIELD RUBBER STAMP WORKS, alias W. R. Burbank, Pittsfield, Mass.

## EDITORIAL.

THE Ohio Philatelist is on deck again, after an absence of three months.

WHEN writing to any of our advertisers, please do us a favor by saying that you saw their advertisement in this magazine.

WE would be glad to receive contributions and items of interest from any of our readers.

BE sure and read our prize drawing on back of subscription blank, which we offer to all new subscribers

and all old ones who renew their subscription.

EVERY collector should take advantage of our prize drawing offer, by sending in fifty cents for their subscription at once.

## THE MOURNING WARBLER IN MICHIGAN.

"GEOTHLYPIS PHILADELPHIA"

WILS BRD.

PART I.

A bird with us of peculiar distribution. In certain sections very abundant, while in many quarters it is never seen. Of its many peculiarities, not the least singular are its lines or trends of immigration, in which it is rarely observed south of 40 degrees north latitude, while it is exceedingly abundant in many localities less than ten miles north of that degree, and in many counties it becomes one of the common species of the family, though never well known even in its abundance by the neighborhood, because of its retiring nature.

It is a species which follows in the wake of civilization I think, as it evidently prefers the edges of clearings, where once stood heavy forests. Sager in 1839, did not embrace it in his pioneer state list. Neither did Dr. Miles, 1860, nor Hughes about 1870. Boies in his "Birds of Lower Mich.," gives it as transient. All other writers up to 1880, unite in saying rare.

It first came to my notice in May, 1878, in Ottawa county when three specimens were secured. The following year three of us shot over thirty specimens, all but four being moles, and saw many others. We learned but little of their habits, and did not find a nest although we searched diligently and at the proper season. The birds are shy in the spring, and it requires great patience to secure a series of skins. One might accidentally find a bird within

easy reach, but the chance would be unusual, and generally only the most careful moves and perfect quiet succeed. The females are especially shy, and I do not think I have seen more than four or five all told. The males, from their habit of perching on dead limbs of trees, are more noticeable, and are attractive from their song, by which the collector is generally guided to them. In Montcalm county about 43° 40 north, in 1880, I found this species very abundant, and during my four years sojourn in that partially cleared section, I became quite well acquainted with the musical birds. I think it safe to say with one or two exceptions, this was the most abundant species of the family. I have said that I thought this species influenced by civilization, and by it I meant, in this instance, that the birds followed in the wake of the forest destroyers. Particularly are the birds abundant along the edges of clearings where pines have stood. The pineries, as is well known, are nearly, if not all north of 43° in our State, and bear few if any of these birds rewinter south of the pine belt. No authentic record of capture, except during migration, has occurred south of this parallel in the State, to my knowledge. However, to the north, where the forests are less disturbed, the mourning warbler is not found or if there, are so scarce as not to be seen. A list of birds of the northern part of the State, does not embrace the mourning warbler. It will eventually prove abundant in all of our northern counties, and as soon as the intermediate portions of the State are partially cleared, so that the birds can find their way over favorable territory and extend their range. In 1882, I found this warbler quite common at about 44 degrees 30 minutes north, and 85 degrees 30 minutes west longitude. I feel confident that twenty years ago not a bird of this species could have been found north of 43 degrees and presumably much more recently.

The mourning warbler is, with us, a late arrival, usually, and although he may appear somewhat earlier in the extreme southern parts.—*Scolopay*.

—:0:—  
GEOLOGY.

—  
A SERIES.  
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Lithological Geology. The term *Rock* in geology is applied to all natural formation of rock material, whether solid like sandstone and slates, or loose like sand and gravel. Rocks may be studied simply as rocks, that is with reference to their composition, and collections may be made containing specimens of their various kinds. Again they may be studied as rock-masses spread out over the earth and forming the earth's crust; and with this in view, the condition, structure and arrangement of the great rock-masses, sometimes called terranes, would come up for consideration, therefore under this head are two subjects; 1. Petrology, or the Constitution of Rocks. 2. The Consolidation, Structure and Arrangement of Rock-masses or Terranes. Rocks consist essentially of minerals. The minerals of the common rocks are of four groups. 1. Quartz or Silica and silica dioxides. 2. Silicates or compounds of silicon in the dioxide state with other substances. 3. Carbon. The chief element of charcoal and mineral coal and a constituent of carbonic acid or carbon dioxide. 4. Carbonates, or Compounds of Carbon in the dioxide state, with other substances. 1 Quartz or Silica far exceeds all other species in abundance. The sand and pebbles of the seashore and gravel beds are mostly of quartz. The reason why quartz is so abundant, is that it resists the wearings of the waters better than any other common mineral. For the same reason most sandstones and conglomerates, consist mainly of quartz. The hardness, (on this account it scratches



glass easily) infusibility, insolubility, non action of solids, and absence of cleavage, are the characters that seem to distinguish quartz from the other ingredient of rocks. But while quartz is so refractory, it easily fuses when mixed and heated with potash, soda and lime. Ordinary glass is made by mixing powdered quartz with soda and potash and sometimes lime, and subjecting the mixture to a high heat. Although quartz is one of the original minerals of the earth's crust, and has been derived mostly from the earlier rocks of the globe, part of it has passed through living beings, either plants or animals, and is of organic origin, for some of the lowest species of these kingdoms of life have the power of making by secretion, silicious shells or silicious particles or spicules in their texture.

2. Silicates. Many of the rock-making minerals are silicates or combination of silicon with certain basic elements of oxygen; that is with the constituents of the bases, aluminium, magnesia, lime, potash, soda, oxides of iron and a few others. Pure aluminium is the most important of the above mentioned rocks. It is very hard, infusible and insoluble and therefore adapted to its place as second in importance to silica. When crystallized, it is the hardest of all known substances, excepting the diamond, it being the gem sapphire and the essential ingredient of emery.

The species is called corundum in mineralogy. The silicates, which contain only the constituents of aluminium, are infusible as well as being very hard. The following are the most common. 1. Feldspar. 2. Mica. 3. Chlorite. 4. Hornblende and Pyroxene. 5. Tale Serpentine. 6. The following minerals occur distributed in crystals through many crystalline rocks: Garnet Tourmaline, Cyanite, Analcusite, Stanerolite. 3. Carbon occurs pure among minerals only in the diamond and graphite. It is the chief element in mineral coal, but has combined with

it more or less of hydrogen and oxygen and also some nitrogen. Charcoal, the carbon of the Romans, is nearly all carbon. 1. Diamond, Graphite. 2. Mineral oil, Mineral Coal. 1. Anthracite. 2. Bituminous Coal. Brown Coal. 4. Mineral oil. 3. Carbonic Acid. 4. Carbonates. Compounds containing the elements of carbonic acid or carbon dioxide with those of lime, magnesia, etc. 1. Calcite. 2. Dolomite. 5. Chloride. The only chloride forming rock masses, is Common or Rock Salt. 6. Iron Ores. Iron ores are widely distributed in rocks, and some of them form thick beds. Unlike the minerals mentioned above, they have a specific gravity above 3.5. The most important are 3 oxides, 2 Sulphides and 1 Carbonate, 1 Hematite, 2 Limonite, 3 Magnetite, 4 Pyrite, 5 Lignite.—C. S. Mason.

—:O:—

## CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

BY WM. L. HILLS.

### THE HORNED LARK.

(*Otocoris Alpestris*.)

This bird is, of all Canadian migrants, the first to return to our fields and roads, when mid-winter is over, and the arctic cold begins in some measure to moderate under the genial influence of the returning sun. Usually in the period between the end of January and the middle of February, there is a partial thaw, or a rise in the temperature, and then the arrival of the Horned Lark, may with certainty be looked for, then its cheery notes will be heard, as it flies over the fields, or runs along the public roads in search of food. At this time its chief resources are the grain that may have been accidentally dropped from the farmer's loads, or remains undigested in the offals of domestic animals, or the seeds of

weeds and grasses that protrude above the snow. Sometimes a few of them will have courage enough to approach the farmyard, but they seem to be more at home on the highway, until the spring has fairly opened.

On its first advent, generally one or two specimens are first noticed, but in a few days, although the weather may be very severe, its numbers are sure to have increased, to perhaps two or three pair in each covey, and before the spring has opened, and while but few of our spring birds have yet appeared, it becomes quite abundant. But as the season advances, the greater number of them appear to move further north, and but few of them remain with us during the summer months. But in the autumn their numbers are again increased, evidently by new arrivals from the north; and with the first snow fall, when the snow birds make their appearance, they disappear altogether for about three months. In the summer season this species has been observed by tourists, in great numbers, on the shores of Labrador and the Lower St. Lawrence; and in winter, it is recorded that they are very numerous in Texas, and other Southern States; but they do not appear to nest or migrate further west than Kansas. This species nests very early for the climate of Ontario. I have records of its nest being found in this locality, with eggs undergoing the process of incubation, in the last week of March, when in general the ground was covered deep with snow, and the weather bitterly cold. For nesting purposes, it generally selects a spot in a grass field, off which the snow has drifted, or the side of an incline facing the south, where the snow has thawed. Here it makes a small hollow in the ground, and forms a nest of dry stubble, fine dry grass and hair, in which it deposits from three to five eggs, which are of a dirty white hue, dotted with spots of a greyish color; in size these

average .90 x .65. As soon as the first egg is deposited, incubation begins, both birds taking turns in performing this duty, otherwise when the female is absent in procuring food, the eggs would be destroyed by the severe cold which usually then prevails. It is also probable that the male bird frequently feeds the female on the nest, and when it is disturbed, both parents manifest much solicitude for the safety of their charge.

When incubating, especially in the early season, the bird in charge sits very close, and will not rise off the nest, until almost trodden upon, then as soon as the disturber has passed, the nest is immediately reoccupied by the bird in charge. This species receives the name of Horned Lark, from the fact that the older male birds have a tuft of small, dark feathers, projecting from behind each ear, which, when the bird is standing erect, gives it a rather curious appearance. This bird is no mean songster, and though its notes are neither loud nor much varied, yet when heard, as they often are, emanating from a bank of frozen snow, or a clod in the open field, on a cold wintry day, they have a pleasing effect.

Sometimes, as the spring advances, some of the male birds will occasionally rise to a height of some hundred feet, and for over an hour at a time, will remain nearly stationary, pouring out their simple ditty on expanded wings.

(To be continued.)

—:O:—

## BOYHOOD'S DAYS.

BY SCOLOPAX.

How oft' in days of youth, in years  
long passed,  
When chilling winds waned to the ver-  
nal sun;  
And birds from southern haunts return-  
ing fast  
Proclaimed that dreary winter then was  
gone;  
That I, a youth of that ecstatic hour

When nature opens first to youthful view,  
And turns one by a simple stone or  
flower,  
From tawdry gloss to fields and pastures  
new;  
Then walked in boundless freedom, wood  
and plain,  
And gathered nature's wonders from the  
lea,  
With feelings touched by happiness and  
pain,  
Of thoughts of past and of futurity.

Each flower was then a sudden wonder  
to my eyes,  
Each brook melodiously babbled a new  
found joy;  
The leafy branch which in the zephyrs  
gently sighs  
All, all were rapturous to me when a  
boy.  
And watch'ng, wondering, with keen in-  
terest bent,  
On learning of the mysteries of the wood,  
Unconsciously my spirit underwent  
A change, akin to happy solitude.  
And more to me than ways of city strife,  
And deeper in my heart than schools and  
books,  
Were pleasers of the days of that new  
life  
Spent musingly in fields and sheltered  
nooks.

Oh gentle spring with zephyrs soft and  
low,  
Wafted o'er beds of brightest woodland  
flowers,  
Where birds of silvery tongue are float-  
ing through  
The ever changing, 'fragrant leafy bowers.  
Delightful season of the year; of flower  
and song,  
The time for merry heartedness and love;  
When fleecy clouds in azure float along,  
And poets to woe their muse, then seek  
the grove.  
The muse, which by its double innate  
power  
Gives often lease of life, to love returns,  
A gift of heaven's highest, richest dower,  
And from our baser thoughts our fancy  
turns.

Alone in meditation most profound  
I walked by river's brim, nor cared for  
friend  
To lure me from my thoughts, while all  
around  
The voices of the woods with varying  
cadence blend.  
The sweet toned notes, as pure and fair  
As ever philomela strained, are heard  
From wood thrush, quaint, retiring bird,  
the air

Above is filled with melody from tiny  
throats of warblers poured;  
A wren, diminutive proof of power in  
song,  
Sits near, and sings in bold disdain,  
In rivalry to the humble sparrow's notes,  
Accompanying the river's refrain.  
Again in fancy pleasing I visit darkened  
woods  
At early morn, and hear the scampering  
squirrels run  
About the trunks, and watch their vary-  
ing moods  
Of fun and frolic; the birds of day have  
just begun  
To twitter, and still the owl is lurking  
for his prey;  
The bat wheels fast o'er head in murky  
air,  
A wave of light heralds the approach of  
day,  
And life resumes her sway with morn-  
ings glare;  
The birds burst forth in chorus long and  
loud,  
The hum of tiny insects on the wing  
Is heard, as round the budding flower  
they crowd  
To sip the morning honey dew of spring.  
Or when the burnished sun in dazzling  
radiance high,  
Sends down to earth his rays of fiercest  
wrath  
From heaven's mantling, filmy canopy;  
My route of't lies in deep sequestered  
paths,  
By some cool brook, where wily trout  
low lie;  
Or in the golden waters with their shin-  
ing sides,  
And dash again away from wondering  
eye,  
As gaily o'er its bed the dancing brook-  
let glides.  
Here without pole or net, are passed  
the swiftest hours  
Away from din and worldly cares and  
free from all annoy,  
My memory lives in truest faith among  
the birds and flowers,  
When e're I look with sacred thought  
on pastimes when a boy.

*Kalamazoo, Mich.*

—:O:—

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Box 24,  
Riverside, Cal.

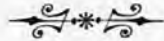
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111, 15, 22, 22, 23a, 28, 35, 39, 39a, 43, 48 to 49b, 51, 52, 53 to 58, 60 to 64, E. S., 68, 70, 70a, 72, 81 to 82a, 93a, 93b, 97 to 98a.

204, 4a, 6 to 7a, 9 to 11a, 14, 17, 26, 31 to 31d, 33, 36 to 38b, 40a, 40b, 42 to 49, 54 to 64, 67, 69 to 83, 87, 89, 93, 96, [299] to

301, 3 to 7, 9 to 11, 12, 14 to 17, 20 to 26, 33, 35 to 38, 51 to 53, 56, 60, 61, 63, 72, 75, 77 to 78b, 82, 85, 87, 88, 90, 95 to 97.

402, 5, 7 to 10, 30 to 33, 34, 36, 36b, 39, 39a, 42, 43, 62 to 65, 69, 70a, 75, 77, 79 to 82, 89 to 98.

507, [512], 516, 22, 25, 52, 55, 58, [61], 69, 70 to 74, [77], to 81.

601, 2, [6], [11], 13, 18, 23, 27, 27a, 34, 36 to 46a, 49, 50, 56, 58, 63 to 69, [71], 73, 80, 85 to 96, 98.

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## CONTENTS:

Geology—III.....	67
The Stamp Company of Uma, or the Result of a Swindle .....	68
Frogs and Toads.....	68
Coins of Canada—II .....	69
Emperor and Postillion .....	70
California Archæology.....	71
Notes of a Rambler.....	73-74
Editorial .....	74
The Mourning Warbler in Michigan—II .....	75
The Gila Monster.....	76
Philatelic Breezes.....	77
The Reprint, a Stamp Dealer's Soliloquy ..	78
The Indian Shell Mounds of California—III.....	78
Exchange Notes.....	80

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VOL. VIII. No. 6.

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*Fragmental rocks.*—These are the most common of rocks. The wear and decomposition of the oldest rocks produced the fragmental material for those of the next age and so on through geological time.

The crystalline rocks are either metamorphic or igneous. *Metamorphic rocks* are those which have been changed into crystalline rocks, and usually without fusion. Architectural marble, mica shist, gneiss and much granite, are examples of metamorphic rocks. *Igneous rocks* are those which have been subjected to extreme heat and come up melted through volcanic vents, or lavas porphyry, etc.

*Calcareous rocks*, so named from the Latin calx. lime, are the lime stones. These, to a great extent, are of organic origin, being made from animal remains, or coral and shells. Some limestones have been made from the accumulation and consolidation of minute shells, called phigopods. These shells being generally no larger than grains of sand, powdering was not neces-

sary. The limestone rocks formed of them hence are not fragmental; chalk is an example. Other calcareous rocks have been deposited from waters holding the material in solution and are therefore of chemical origin. To this belongs the *Travertine* of Tivoli near Rome in Italy, and of Cardiners river in the geyser region of the Yellowstone Park.

*Silician rocks* are those consisting largely of quartz or silica; the name is from the Latin silix, signifying flint, a variety of quartz.

*Hydrous rocks* are those containing water. Porphyritic rocks, those containing distinct crystals of feldspar through the moss, so that when polished, the surface appears spotted with a light colored mineral usually between an eighth of an inch and two inches in length. The red porphyry of Egypt, and the green porphyry of the eastern borders of Greece, much used by the ancients, are typical examples. *Rocks* are massive when there is no tendency to break in slabs or plates, as granite and most conglomerates. *Shistose*, if crystalline when breaking into slabs or plates, owing to the arrangement of the mineral ingredients, as mica or homblende. *Laminated*, when splitting into flagging stones, but not in consequence of a crystalline structure. *Slaty*, when dividing easily into thin even, hand slates or roofing slate. *Shaly*, when dividing easily into thin plates like slate, but the plates irregular and often fragile. Under the head of fragmental rocks, not calcareous, we get the following: 1. Sand and gravel beds. 2. Mud, earth, clay. 3. Sandstone. 4. Conglomerate.



5. Shale. 6. Tufa. Under Metamorphic rock as follows: 1. Granite. 2. Gneiss. 3. Mica Shist. 4. Syenite, Homblende, Gneiss and Shist. 5. Hydromica Shist. 6. Chlorite Shist. 7. Slate, Argillyte, Phyllite. 8. Quartz-rock and Quartzite. 9. Dioryte, Calcareous Rocks. 1. Non-metamorphic common limestone This rock breaks with little or no lustre, if containing fossils it is called fossiliferous limestone, if the fossils are coral, coral limestone, if remains of crinoids, crinoidal limestone, when impure and therefore good for making hydraulic lime (quicklime that will make a cement which set under water) it is called hydraulic limestone. Chalk is a variety of limestone soft enough to be used for marking.

C. S. MASON.

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### THE STAMP COMPANY OF UMA, OR THE RESULT OF A SWINDLE.

—  
BY FIG.  
—

Uma is a little village of about 1,700 inhabitants, situated in the northern part of Germany, on the Metzel river, and is about sixty miles from the great overburdened city of Berlin. The population of Uma is of the ordinary class of German-working people, some busy themselves by agriculture, others work in shops, etc., but there is one family which is altogether of a different type than any other one found in the vicinity. The persons mentioned do not derive their support by the general mode of labor practiced by their neighbors, but have a very different scheme for making money, and that is by stamp dealing, as they term it, but it is properly counterfeit dealing, and nothing more than a mode of swindling. The family consists of a middle aged man, his wife, who is four years younger, and two sons.

Homer and Racoer of the ages of 19 and 17 respectively. These boys, with their father, are engaged in counterfeiting and selling stamps under the assumed title of Tamman, Sons & Co. They print the stamps themselves from steel dyes, and Homer makes the dyes, being very skillful in the art of engraving, so that the productions from his efforts are not readily conceived by those not very well versed in the minute differences between a counterfeit and a genuine stamp. The way they carry on their business is an interesting one and not easily detected by the officials who are constantly on the lookout for such swindles.

They procure large books suitable to hold from 300 to 500 specimens, place in them about one-half counterfeit and the balance of genuine stamps, and after marking their prices above the stamps, ship the book to their agents residing in Berlin. They have several agents, and each one is supplied with new books as fast as he makes returns from those received, sending one back and receiving another the next day. One of their agents, who keeps a store—for nearly all of these agents are merchants—had proven to be the best agent they ever had, was forwarded a very fine book valued at 1,000 marks.

[To be continued]

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### FROGS AND TOADS.

—  
There is much of interest in this class of animals, if they are carefully studied, they spawn in the early spring. Frogs deposite their eggs in a gelatinous mass, with small black spots in it; while toads lay theirs in a single long string, with the black spots about a fourth of an inch apart; these spots are the germs of the future tadpoles.

The eggs swell very much in water, so the spawn of a single frog is about five inches through; they

hatch about the last of April. When the tadpole leaves the egg, it resembles a small fish; its head is very large and it has a long compressed tail.

The young tadpole performs respiration by means of branchiæ or gills like fish, the difference being that the branchiæ of tadpoles hang free from the sides of the neck, while those of fish are under cover, but it does not remain in this state long; in a short time the posterior legs appear at the base of the tail; they are quite well developed before the anterior extremities are noticable, now the tail is slowly absorbed into the body, the branchiæ disappear and their place is taken by lungs, and the "tad" is now changed into a fully developed frog or toad, as the case may be. When in the tadpole state its food chiefly vegetable matter, now it is insects and worms; frogs have teeth only on the upper jaw, toads have none at all.

As they breath by swallowing the air, they may be suffocated by holding the mouth open.

They have a long flabby tongue, which is attached to the front of the mouth on the under jaw with the free end pointing down the throat, just the reverse to the other vertebrates. A toad will watch an insect and not offer to touch till it moves, then quicker than the eye can follow, the toad darts out his tongue—which is covered with a sticky substance—and catching the insect on the end of it throws it down his throat alive. Sometimes when a toad catches a very large insect in this manner it can be seen kicking for sometime after it has been swallowed. Toads are higher in rank than frogs; toads have been known to live thirty-six years, while frogs have reached the age of sixteen years.

Toads were formerly thought by ignorant people to be venomous but there is no truth in that whatever; they have slight protuberances directly behind the eyes, which give

out a milky substance, this is probably the reason they were thought to be poisonous.

They shed their skin frequently; it is a curious operation. They inflate themselves till the skin bursts when they rub it off with their forepaws. When they have it all off they roll it up in a small ball and swallow it.

These are only a few of the wonderful facts of the life history of these curious animals, of which there are over three hundred species.

E STARKS.

—:O:—

## COINS OF CANADA.

### PART II.

No. 31. Obverse, "Bank of Montreal." A side view of the building; dates 1838-39. Reverse, arms or seal, "Bank Token" "One Penny."

No. 32. A half penny token with the same obverse, reverse and dates.

No. 33. Obverse, front view of the bank, "Province of Canada," "Bank of Montreal." Reverse, same as reverse of 31, date 1842, between arms and "One Penny,"

No. 34. Obverse and reverse the same as 33, dates 1842-44.

No. 35. Obverse, full length figure of a man, "Province du bar Canada," "Deux Sous." Reverse, same as 34, date 1837.

No. 36. An "Un Sou." Obverse and reverse the same as 35. This design has been used in both 35 and 36 by the following banks: Bank of Montreal, City Bank, Quebec Bank and Bank du Peuple. These names will be found stamped on the scrolls on reverse.

No. 37. Obverse, St George killing the dragon, "Bank of Upper Canada," dates 1850-52-54-57. Reverse a design of horn of plenty, crossed sword, anchor and hatchet, crown, etc, "Bank Token," "One Penny." The 1854 pieces are found with both plain and crossed fours.

No. 38. A "One-half Penny Token." Obverse and reverse the same as 37.

No. 39. Obverse, same as 35, "Deux Sous." Reverse, a female figure seated on a shield at the foot of a large rock, near the shore, holding a horn of plenty, and pointing to a ship near by, "Quebec Bank Token," 1852, "One Penny."

No. 40. An "Un Sou" piece. Obverse and reverse the same as 39.

No. 41. Obverse, crowned head of Victoria, "Victoria dei Gratia Regina," "Canada." Reverse "One Cent, 1858," surrounded by a curiously made wreath.

No. 42. Obverse an uncrowned head of Victoria, with the same legend as 41. Reverse, "One Cent," and date in center, beaded circles and wreath of leaves outside, dates 1858-59.

No. 43. Obverse, a crowned head of Victoria and same legend as 41. Reverse, the same as 42, dates 1876-81-82, etc.

No. 44. Obverse, head of Victoria "Jeweler, R. Sharpley, Watchmaker, Notre Dame St., Montreal." Reverse, "Importers of Silver-ware Clocks, etc."

No. 45. Obverse, ship, "Commerce," "Token," Reverse; "Francis Mullins & Son," Importers of Ship Chandelry, etc., Montreal.

No. 46. Obverse, scythe, shovel, saw, vise, tea-kettle and knife and fork, Reverse; "J. Shaw & Co." "Importers of Hardware, Upper Town, Quebec."

No. 47. Obverse, two crossed shovels, scythe, vise, anvil, hammer and tongs, Reverse, "F. S. Brown & Co." "Importers of Hardware, Montreal."

ERWIN G. WARD, Palmer, Mass.

## EMPEROR AND POSTILLION.

By Ph. Heinsberger, International Agency, Book, News, Stamp, Importer, New York.

A postal story, but a fact, I wish to relate to the numerous readers of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, in the United States and in foreign countries. On February 2d, the Emperor William II of Germany became thirty years of age. Early in the morning of this day, long before sunrise, there was suddenly heard, in front of the imperial castle, the sound of a "Postal Horn," and the musician played a favorite song of the German people, called in German, "Schier dreissig Jahre bist du alt." (John, thirty years you are to-day) Nobody was to be seen on the street at such an early hour, and the cornetist had plenty time to finish the tune. The musician was an imperial German mail car driver, in full uniform, on account of this national holiday (Emperor's birthday). I mention here, that in Germany, specially in Prussia, the postillion, that is the driver of a mail car, is dressed in a uniform of dark blue (black-blue) cloth, with red borders on the arm and back, and on the shoulder, as well as on the sleeve, is a postal horn of red trimming. On the pants are also red stripes. He wears a cap with red border, and in front of the cap is the imperial German eagle. On Sundays and holidays (mail and packages are delivered in forenoon till 12 o'clock) the driver wears a helmet with the German eagle in front, and the helmet is white plumed. Further he carries on the shoulder a postal horn to signalize his arrival and departure. Such a postillion was the musician, who played in front of the imperial castle. As the man had finished the tune, he left for home, that was to his duty at the post-office, unnoticed as he thought, But the young Emperor had been awakened by the sound of the trumpet, and had listened to the we

known song. Though he could not see the man, he supposed that, as the musical performance was a perfect one, this musician must be a postman. During the day time he sent an order to the postmaster to find out if it was a postillion, who had played, and to send the man at once to him (Emperor). The investigation at the post-office was successful, and in a few days, the musician was found in the person of a young car driver. He was informed by the postmaster to dress in holiday uniform, (uniforms are furnished "gratis" by the government), and to start at once for the imperial castle. The driver soon arrived there, and was at once admitted by the young Emperor. The frightened driver could not speak a word, and the emperor, seeing this, began to laugh, and in friendly words express his thanks for the musical performance at the early hour of his birthday. But suddenly the Emperor changed his tone and strongly asked: "Did you not trespass the postal law, and neglect your duty during the time of the musical performance." The driver hesitated a moment, and answered, "I have made up the lost time already, as I worked some hours longer." This reply, given in the true language of the Berlin people, pleased the Emperor, and he gave the driver a present of \$25. Dismissing him, he said further, "I wish you may improve your musical talent." The happy driver hurried back to the post-office, but hardly arrived there, before he was called to the postmaster, who said to him, "You have trespassed the postal law, which prohibits that a postillion blows his horn, unless on duty." He was fined \$1. for violating this law, as he had played and being in uniform at that time. The mail car driver paid the fine, and murmured the words:

"That fine I had long ready in my pocket before my musical performance, because I know well that in Germany the trespasser of a law will

be punished, without difference, and without regard to person.

The numerous readers of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP will in future be supplied with very interesting articles about foreign mail matters in the "Philatelic Department" of the well known OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

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## CALIFORNIA ARCHÆOLOGY.

### II.

"Do you see anything peculiar about that rock?" asked my companion, as we stopped by a big ledge a few miles out of Temecula, San Diego county. I thought I did, and got out to make a closer examination.

We were at the entrance of a little canyon, cut by winter's rains, and gradually growing into a larger one. It wound away for half a mile or more, growing deeper and deeper, and at the entrance was a rocky ledge, about twenty feet in height, standing out like a gentinel. It was just the kind of rock that one would climb upon to take a view of the country, or have posted a soldier upon in time of war.

As I approached I saw what had attracted my friend's archæological eye. It might have been the result of a blaze against the rock, but a



Skull with flint arrow-head sticking in it.

closer look showed it to be a remarkable example of rock painting in color. It covered a space a foot square, and when the lungus, the

accumulation of ages, had been brushed away, there was the ancient painting in what was evidently three colors—red, brown and black. The former was the most distinct, and when cleansed might have been placed there a week previous.

"That painting," said my companion, "has been there for at least several hundred years and possibly longer. The oldest Indians all say it was here in their ancestors' time, and it very likely dates back to the very earliest period of the history of man's occupation of the country."

The 'painting' looked like a modern compass, as it was made up of lines, shafts and various fantastic figures, all radiating from a common center and colored in various ways.

What the picture actually meant it was difficult to determine; but according to an old Indian it was a "peace sign," and this seemed rational enough. The rock stood at the entrance of a deep canyon in which the natives lived, and all who visited the spot had to pass the rock and would naturally read the illuminated drawing, telling that the dwellers in the canyon were at peace with all mankind.

The painting naturally suggested the presence of a village, and fastening the team I began a systematic search which resulted in some extremely interesting finds.

Within fifty feet of the "painted rock," I came upon a boulder that was conclusive proof that there had been an established settlement of many years' standing. In the surface of the stone were several hollows, perfectly smooth, with almost a polished surface, and large enough to have held a quart of grain. Near by was another and smaller one.

To have made these depressions or holes with such tools as the natives had—rude stones—must have taken a long time, and when we consider that the work was a gradual one, some idea of their age can be assumed. The use of these basins might

be something of an enigma to the stranger, but it is known that they were mortars for grinding acorns, seeds and grain—were, in fact, the mills of these primitive people.

A place having been selected, generally, as in this case, near some running stream, a depression in the rock was taken, and into it grain placed and ground with a rounded



Group of mortars, with skull, to show relative size.

pebble, the gradual use, day by day, wearing out the mortar and shaping the pestle. From the depth of these mortars it is evident that this was the site of a permanent settlement, and that for years the grinding had been going on.

Near here I found a large, flat rock, something like the metate now used by the Mexicans. It weighed perhaps twenty pounds, and scattered about were many pestles or grinding stones that had been thrown aside when the place was deserted. Some of these stones were flat and oval;

others were round, with the grinding surface presenting two distinct planes. One especially must have been used with the greatest care, as the lines were perfect.

At certain places bits of flint were found, showing that they had been flaked off in the arrow-making process. There was a stone about as large as a boy's baseball, and the same shape, with an indentation in one side. It had formed a part of some game, perhaps like our tennpins. A good example was also found upon the Santa Rosa ranch, and another near the town of Murrietta. A better place for these curiosities it would be difficult to find, and every stroll was repaid by some relic.

In a canyon leading down from the Santa Rosa estate, so rich in its grand mountains and varied scenery, was found another series of holes or mortars. The boulder was in a beautiful glen, under large trees, by the side of what in the winter was a rushing stream. A more attractive locality for a village of the kind that probably existed here, it would be difficult to imagine. A little above the big rocks, I came across a number of implements, the object of which I could not determine. One was almost fan-shaped, flat, but not by wear or grinding. It was about eight inches long by three in thickness and literally as heavy as lead, being cut or ground from a peculiar iron stone. This object might have been an ax, and a formidable weapon when bound to a stick or club.

The late Professor Charles Rau, figures one something like it in the report of the Smithsonian archaeological collection, though the one in question is fan-shaped and not polished, as many wedges are.

[ *To be continued.* ]

## NOTES OF A RAMBLER.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

At a recent display of stamp collections made in Vienna, four hundred and fifteen varieties of Persian stamps were displayed.

Stone mortars, throwing a missile weighing twelve pounds, are mentioned as being employed in 757 A. D. and 1132 A. D. Cannons were used by the Chinese at a very early date.

Some years ago a pair of pewees built their nests on the brace under the guards of a steam ferry boat running between Portland and Middletown Sound, the boatmaking trips every ten minutes.

The regular issue of copper cents and half cents began at the National Mint in 1793 and continued until 1857, when the coinage of half cents was entirely discontinued, and a new design and metal for the coinage of the cents finally adopted and introduced.

The topaz is found in Siberia, Saxony, Brazil, and a few have been found in Connecticut. Its colors are yellow, pink, yellowish-pink, orange and white. The largest topaz in the world cost half a million dollars and is in the possession of the Great Mogue of India.

A friend of mine living in Philadelphia reports having found a great crested fly catcher's nest in the hole of a small hollow tree that was lying on the ground. It was the more remarkable as there were plenty of trees with holes in them. This nest contained five eggs, and as usual the snake skin, which is always a part of a fly catcher's nest. It was on an island near Cape May.

*Continued on page 74.*

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

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Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contribution, relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

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## FRAUDS.

The following parties are in debt to us, and we are unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests. Names will be taken from this list whenever a settlement is made. A few other names will be added to this list unless accounts are paid.

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IRA C. GREENE, Fitchburg, Mass.  
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## EDITORIAL.

Do not fail to read our special offers on back of subscription blank.

Publishers of natural history, coin, stamp or curiosity papers, intending discontinuing, can have unexpired subscription and advertising contracts filled by us on exceedingly favorable terms.

We are always glad to send sample copies of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP to those who are interested in the subjects covered by our paper,

and will thank our readers to send us a list of the names and addresses of such.

—:O:—

The OLD CURIOSITY SHOP covers a wide field of subjects, and to make it of further interest to our readers, questions of general interest are solicited, which we will endeavor to answer.

—:O:—

## NOTES OF A RAMBLER.

*Continued from page 73.*

The presence of some recognition of God on American coinage was first suggested to the director of the Mint, 22 years ago, by a foreign missionary who told him that he was perpetually being asked by the Moslems if Americans did not worship the women on their coins, and, if not, why they did not recognize their God.

—:O:—

It is not generally known that there are nine different claims to the discovery of America before Columbus. They are that the Chinese discovered it in the year 499, that the Northmen visited it in the year 1000; that the Arabs cited it in 1125; that the Welch got wind of it in 1170; that the Venetians came to it in 1380; that the Portuguese set foot on it in 1463; that the Poles came here in 1476; that Martin Behaim came in 1433, and then there is another claim made for cousin of Dieppe, date not given.

—:O:—

A curious collection of books is contained in a library near Cassel, in Germany. These books at first might appear to be logs of wood, but each volumn is really a complete history of the tree it represents. The book shows the bark, in which a small place is cut to write the scientific and the common name as a title. One side shows the tree trunk in its

natural state, and the other is polished and varnished. Inside are shown the leaves, fruit, fibre and insect parasites, to which is added a full description of the tree and its products.

—:O:—

## THE MOURNING WARBLER IN MICHIGAN.

"GEOTHELYPIS PHILADELPHIA"  
WILS BRD.

### PART II.

He is so rarely seen during migration that we get but few dates from such observations. Mr. Trombley of Monroe county, the southeastern part of the state, has only recorded three specimens, which were observed in May. My earliest arrival was May 11, 1882, in early season. In 1883 the birds did not arrive till May 20th, although I carefully watched for them. May 13th and 14th are other careful records north of 43°.

The mourning warbler evidently comes with a rush in its vernal migration, although occasionally a single bird is heard a few days in advance of the bulk of the migrating, yellow-vested, black-tied songsters. Never having heard south of its nesting haunts, I cannot say that these birds are not silent on their arrival. It may be that they remain a week with us before opening song. As all the information about these mysteriously migrating birds one can get is while listening to the charming song, it is impossible to say. At all other times they remain concealed, and are only known by their notes.

The song is not unlike that of the house wren's guttural mutterings, when heard issuing from some lot of underbrush or old shed. There are also a few chirps and scoldings, similar to the notes of the Maryland yellow-throat. The song, I think may be best described by the sounds

*chree-dle-de chree-dle-de chree-dle-de chree-dle-dah.* The last notes, *chree-dle-dah*, being much lower than the others. The song is very musical, pleasing and like the song of the winter wren, sounds very mysterious as it is heard issuing from the bushes. Although low in sound, it is still quite penetrating, and can be heard nearly a quarter of a mile on a quiet morning. While singing, the males prefer the dead limb of a tree, rarely a dead log, the upright roots of an overturned tree or even the low dead bushes. Sometimes the birds sing while clinging to the bark of a dead pine in a manner similar to that of the prairie warbler. From these situations it drops to a place of concealment on the slightest sign of alarm, where it remains concealed, or if the underbrush is thick it can be heard singing again fifteen rods or more away, as if in mockery to the baffled and annoyed collector. It is a very suspicious, timid bird, and I do not know of any other species unless it is the winter wren which will cause one the trouble that this will. The birds often perch all of fifty feet from the ground where they can plainly be seen and heard, a peculiarity that is not shared by the closely allied yellow-throat. In only two instances have I observed the mournings in live trees.

The Maryland yellow-throat is nearly always found in moist tracts or in their immediate vicinity, while its cousin evidently prefers higher ground. Most of the specimens that I have taken were near pines and among stumps and bushes, and always with a few exceptions, on sandy or clay soil. I am as yet ignorant regarding their breeding habits, but am quite positive that they conceal their nests among the rubbish and growing bushes incident to a new clearing, and probable on the ground or near it after the manner of the yellow-throat. I have crawled a mile on my hands and knees, and ruefully lacerated hands and face in



thickets of briars, etc., but so far to no purpose. I will close this article by saying that I shall still crawl, and let us hope, with the success that should crown persistency. — *Scopopix*.

—:o:—

## THE GILA MONSTER.

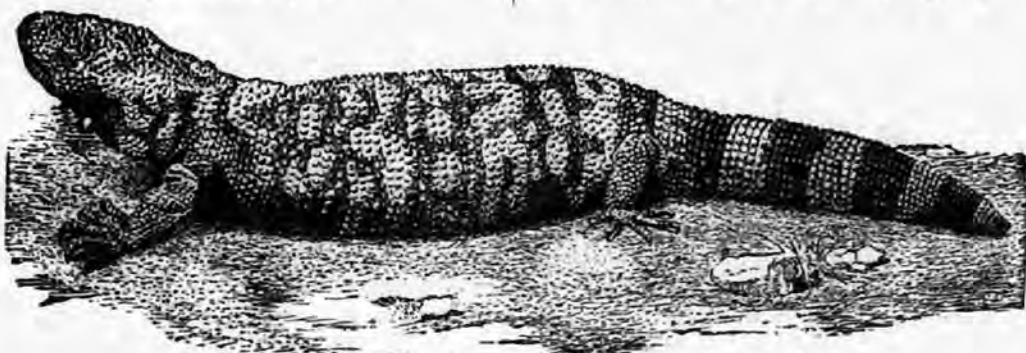
The Gila Monster has excited considerable curiosity and given rise to many incredible stories, so that it may not be amiss to take a closer look at the mysterious object in the light of recently developed facts. The hideous body is in great demand, when stuffed, as an object of curiosity; but very few care to undertake the task, owing to its repulsiveness and reputed poisonous qualities.

and forked. It is the only one of the lizard family that is extremely poisonous.

It is supposed to be a cross between a rattlesnake and a lizard, although in some respects the poison is similar to that of a Cobra.

Some have concluded from its sluggishness that it is harmless, but this is a great mistake. In some cases it is not easily provoked; at other times specimens are found that are extremely irritable. The mouth is large and strong, and often, when enraged, it will attack everything within reach.

The natives capture it by a long sapling with a noose at the end, so that it cannot get nearer to them than three or four feet. They are



GILA MONSTER. Scientific: *Heloderma Horridum*. Mexican: Escupion.

The scientific name for the reptile is *Heloderma Horridum*. In length it varies from 15 to 30 inches, and has a heavy, rounded body which touches the ground when the animal creeps along, unless enraged, when it moves quicker and is more erect. Its coloring is like that of a rattlesnake, black figuring on yellow, the entire body being scaly.

The illustration is the most perfect we have seen produced of this creature.

The Gila Monster has a thick tail, which is of equal diameter throughout, and ending abruptly. The legs are four in number, black, and all of the same length; the mouth is black, with a tongue of the same hue, flat

occasionally brought into town in this way, lunging and spitting, to the terror of the Mexicans and Indians. Those acquainted with its habits, state that its breath is extremely virulent, and from this it receives the native cognomen, Escupion (es-coo-pee-YAWN,) meaning in English, "the spitter." According to the statements of credible authority, science has demonstrated that the natives' fear of its exhalation is well founded.

The matter came up at the late meeting of the College of Physicians at Philadelphia. Doctors Mitchell and Reichart had on hand live, vigorous specimens of the Monster. Dr. Mitchell caused one to attack the

edge of a dish, and some of the saliva was caught in a watch glass. This was first tested. The poison of venomous reptiles is acidulous, but strangely enough, as if to have nothing in common with other reptiles, this was alkaline. A minute quantity was then injected in a live pigeon, which was dead in less than nine minutes, although this poison is very slow. Other experiments were tried which demonstrated its dangerous character. According to these learned doctors, "Rattlesnake poison is a bagatelle in comparison."

The writer has received several authentic testimonials regarding the fearful poison, and will give a case in mind: An acquaintance was prospecting with his partner, several years ago, when the latter found a Gila Monster, which he incautiously handled. The ugly animal immediately made a vicious lunge, but succeeded in inflicting only a seemingly harmless scratch, and the matter was passed as a mere incident. But the victim's health at once began to fail and he soon wasted away until he was hardly more than a bundle of dry bones, when death ended his sufferings. The remaining partner never recovered from the shock, and is very bitter against those who claim that the reptile is harmless.

Not long since, the writer came in possession of a live "Spitter." But it was so vicious that the association was unpleasant. One day a broom was held towards it. Quick as a wink the broom was seized in its powerful jaws and held like a vise. The broom was lifted, but the creature still hung on with its heavy body swinging in the air. We concluded that we hadn't any further use for *Heloderma*, and disposed of it at once.

On the other hand, there are those with equal assurance tell us that the Gila Monster is as harmless as a dog. They say that it has been domesticated and handled, without showing any disposition to fight. Of course

this can all be true without impeaching the testimony of those who have been poisoned, for the proof offered in the latter case is merely negative. It only shows what the saurian has not done, and cannot be taken as evidence against the former grounds.

To conciliate the conflicting opinions some have offered the suggestion that there perhaps exist two species, one venomous and the other not. Others advance the idea that venom is produced when excited, as popularly supposed in the case of the dog.

On this subject Hamilton's resources of Arizona says: "First among these singular curiosities comes the large saurian, commonly called the 'Gila Monster.' It is of the lizard species and sometimes reaches a length of two feet. It is usually of a blackish-red color, covered with scales, and has anything but a prepossessing appearance. It is generally found in the southern portion of the territory and makes its home on the dry barren mesas (flat hills) between the 35th and 32d parallels and between the 111° and 114° longitude. It is not entirely harmless; and when sitting (lying) on a rock with its mouth sending forth a greenish, frothy slime, and puffing like a miniature steam engine, it presents a formidable appearance to the new arrival."

SCIENTIFIC COMPANION.

—:o:—

### PHILATELIC BREEZES.

BY E. P. NEWCOMER.

The interest taken in stamp collecting this winter is said to have exceeded all previous ones, both in the patronage of the dealers and of the various stamp papers. It is a pity this interest dies out so soon upon the approach of the summer months.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS' FIGARO comes out for January as usual,

with a large load of ammunttion for the evil doers?, it thinks. It asks Editor Ane some few questions, and we would like to ask Editor Voute, in the same manner, what good twenty certain paragraphs in the January number of his paper has done philately.

The philatelic Association of Iowa is progressing finely. Already about fourteen have joined. The dues are only one dollar per year and all Iowa collectors should send for an application blank, to A. L. Lawrence, Le Mars, Iowa, Box 1334.

The A. P. A. still continues to grow, and no doubt by the time of the St. Louis convention, they will number one thousand.

The reprint fire is still being kept up by those who heretofore have not had their say. My advice can be placed in three words, "Let Them Alone."

—:O:—

### THE REPRINT, A STAMP DEALER'S SOLOQUY.

BY FIGGERO.

They are dear to my heart says the dealer.

In beauty the're finer than gold;  
They are always demanded by many,  
And the wealth of the scheme ne'er can be told.

I long to make these productions,  
Nice specimens useful and fine,  
By which I rake in the shekels,  
And cause collectors to squander their dimes.

Some collectors are apt to get weary,  
And are going to raise a din;  
It is all O. K. for us dealers,  
But collectors get taken in.

A few are raising trouble,  
Do they understand it then,  
How I can sell rare locals  
Worth \$165.00 for ten?

And nobody can see through it,  
How I sell such dandies so cheap;  
But plates are made very easy,  
And the matter is not very deep.

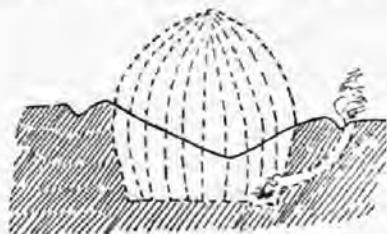
Now things are coming to a crisis,  
And collectors are on my track,  
But one thing I am sure of  
They'll never get anything back.

—:O:—

### THE INDIAN SHELL MOUNDS OF CALIFORNIA.

III.

The shell heaps on this coast mark the sites of former villages of the aborigines. In some places, however, the accumulations of shells were caused by occasional visits to places where edible mollusks are found in large quantities. In such temporary camping grounds, which, as a rule, are unfavorably situated for permanent settlements, the mullusks were extracted from the shells in order to be transported with greater facility to the distant village. By this process, and by the innumerable meals taken for centuries on the spot during such visits, shell beds, often of



Cross view of an early California dug-out hut, found in numbers around shell heaps.

vast extent, were formed. The shells in these temporary camping grounds are always those of the mullusks occurring in the neighborhood. We see, for instance, upon the downs which extend for a distance of twelve miles between Point San Luis and Point Sal, several of such shell beds, composed exclusively of a species of lucina which is found in the neighborhood. At Point Sal on the other hand, where we observed the remains of a permanent settlement, not only the shells of all mullusks found in the neighborhood, but also those of such as occur on the sandbanks near by, together with an

abundance of various sea and land animals, were found.

"The view sometimes expressed, that the shell heaps were built up by the aborigines for burial purposes and were gradually increased by mortuary feasts, etc., is wrong. On the contrary, it is proved beyond doubt that they indicate the places of ancient settlements and are the kitchen refuse heaped up during long periods, and further that they enclose graves only where the ground is rocky and resisted the primitive implements of the natives. We found not only the whole mass of kitchen middens intermingled with fragments of domestic utensils, implements and weapons, but discovered, as evidences of permanent settlements, round depressions, generally still surrounded by a circular embankment, which mark the spots where the huts formerly stood.

"The traces of a village of the aborigines, especially when occurring in grassy or solid ground, remind the observer of a group of enlarged mole-hills sunk in, but having a raised circumference or embankment. The digging into one of these cavities reveals the subterranean part of a hut which reached about four feet below the surface. The floor is recognizable by a harder layer, in the midst of which we find the fireplace and charcoal and ashes. The sides of the huts can sometimes still be traced by the presence of split boards running horizontally and by vertical posts. The superstructure of the hut doubtless corresponded to the form of the embankment, being circular and doubtless terminating conically. On the island of San Nicholas in the Santa Barbara channel, we found that the framework of the huts consisted of colossal whale ribs, which were so placed that owing to their curvature the superstructure assumed a conoidal form and thus bore some resemblance to a beehive. The interior of the hut was generally about ten feet in diameter. Generally the

hearth cavity was placed in the middle, but sometimes it was placed at the side and above it a draft passage worked from below the embankment up to the surface.

"There are indications that much of the work of the former inhabitants was performed in the open air. Thus we find all places where arrow-heads, beads, fishhooks, mortars, etc., were made located between the sites of the huts. As the instruments used in digging the ground consisted at best only of stone it follows that a rocky condition of the ground hindered the laying out of a village and therefore required the deposition of a stratum of a more yielding substance, which was presented in the sand everywhere plentiful on the coast. If, therefore, a natural, easily worked ground was wanting in a locality otherwise favorably situated for a settlement, it became necessary to cover the surface with a layer of sand corresponding to the extent of the village and the depth of the huts. Upon this the latter were built, and the kitchen refuse began to accumulate, gradually forming what are now shell heaps. In these prepared village sites we find the graves always in the artificial sandbanks, or—what is the same—the shell heaps. If, however, the soil is sandy, or otherwise of a yielding character, we have to look for the graves outside of the area of the village. They consist, in the Southern part of California, of a communal excavation, five feet deep, in which the skeletons are placed in narrow compartments, formed of slabs of stone or of whalebones. They generally are deposited in layers, one above the other, lying on the back and having the knees drawn up. To convey an idea of the limited space allowed to the defunct Californian, we will state that a cemetery extending over an area of six hundred square feet inclosed nearly four hundred skeletons.

*S. F. Chronicle.*

## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

This column is for the use of subscribers only. Exchange notices must be in by the 15th of the current month to insure insertion in following number and must be written on separate piece of paper. No postal cards noticed.

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## CONTENTS :

The Red-Headed Woodpecker.....	83
The Stamp Company of Uma, or the Result of a Swindle .....	84
Geology—IV.....	85
The Indian Shell Mounds of California—IV.....	86
California Archæology—II.....	87-89
Editorial.....	88
Coins of Canada—III.....	89
Philately—Past and Present—I.....	90
Confederate Notes.....	92
An Interesting Relic.....	93
A Collecting Trip... ..	93
One Cent Postage (Poem).....	94
Bird Fancies.....	94
Review Table.....	95
Exchange Notes.....	95

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Next month we shall commence a classified *Collectors' Directory* department, and will print names therein under any one department at 5 cents per month, and for each additional department 3 cents per month. Headings of the different departments will be, Birds' Eggs, Bird Skins, Minerals, Shells, Coins, Stamps, Curiosities, Etc.

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# The ❖ Old ❖ Curiosity ❖ Shop.

VOL. VIII.

APRIL, 1889.

No. 7.

## THE RED HEADED WOOD-PECKER.

Probably no one family of our American birds is better known to the ordinary observers of nature than are the woodpeckers, and certainly no one species has been more universally condemned for its supposed depredations than has the subject of this sketch, the red-headed woodpecker, or *malinertes erythrocephalus*. Its great numbers, and its distinctly characteristic plumage of red, black and white, have made it familiar to almost everyone, at least to every boy or girl who loves to roam the fields. In the full grown male bird the head and neck are of a deep scarlet color; the back and wing coverts are black to a steely blue; the rump and lower part of the breast, white; legs and feet, bluish; bill, light blue; and the claws, bluish gray. The iris of the eye is dark brown. An adult bird measures from nine to ten inches in length, and the wings have an extent of about seventeen or eighteen inches. The female differs from the male only in being somewhat smaller, and having the colors much less vividly marked. In the specimen before me, the female lacks entirely the bright red hue of the throat. Many have been led to suppose that the marking of the two sexes is essentially different, but such is not the case. During the first year of growth, the young birds have no red markings, and on this account have often been mistaken for the female. The red-head begins to construct its nest about the middle of May, and builds in the hollows of trees, either

the trunk or the large limbs. No materials are used save in shaping the nest into the proper size, and usually the eggs are placed directly upon the bits of wood pecked out by the bill of the bird. The eggs are six in number, of a pure pearly white color, and the young are generally hatched near the middle of June.

The habits of this bird are peculiarly interesting and amusing. It is said that they will frequently insert their bill into the eggs of other birds, especially those of the pigeons, and then, after sucking them, carefully turn them over in the nest and leave them with the hole on the other side. The red-head is exceedingly fond of fruit, but so dainty is he, and so excellent a judge of it, that only the richest and ripest is good enough for his palate. If you would find the tree of choicest pears or apples, look for the one whose fruit bears witness of the red-headed woodpeckers' work among its branches. Often, when suddenly alarmed at his feast, he strikes his long bill into a fine pear or cherry, and bears it away to some place of security. It is an amusing sight to watch half a dozen of these lively birds, after they have eaten their fill, diving and gambling about the topmost branches of some tree, chasing and playing with each other, and all the time giving utterance to the most vociferous screams. The playfulness of their disposition is nearly as great as that of two young kittens with a ball of yarn to amuse themselves.

In former times the legislatures of many of our states offered bounties for the destruction of the red-heads,

owing to the large quantity of fruit they destroyed; but since later study of their characteristics has revealed the fact that insects and not fruits, are their natural food, this practice has been revoked, and an effort has been made rather to protect them. And indeed common justice demands that such should be the case. It is a well known fact that many of our forests are suffering terrible havoc from the ravages of those little larvæ that live upon the growing fibre just beneath the bark; and when we consider that the stomach of the woodpecker is scarcely ever found empty of insects; when we consider that the peculiar construction of his bill and tongue especially adapts him for the capture of these very larvae, it is impossible either to comprehend or estimate the amount of good even one bird may do in preventing the destruction of our growing timber. It is a fact that these insects form more than two-thirds the entire subsistence of these birds, and it is asserted on good authority that often times they consume more than five hundred at a single meal. Consider then the amount of destruction even one red-head prevents during its life time; and then consider the value of the whole vast number; and the number must indeed be vast, for Mr. Wilson tells us that as many as a hundred have been shot in a single day, and from a single tree. Surely their good works merit something more for them than this wholesale destruction. We ought to give them ungrudgingly what little fruit they wish by way of dessert for their insect bill-of-fare. The heart of every true naturalist will rejoice when the time comes that the merits of each living creature are fully appreciated; every true naturalist should aim to spread such appreciation.

Properly speaking, the red-headed woodpecker is a migratory bird; he inhabits from Canada to the gulf. They make their appearance in New England about the first week in May,

and do not depart until November. The ingenuity which they display in discovering the insects beneath the bark of a tree is something surprising; they determine generally by the outward appearance of the bark, whether any larva is lurking beneath, but when doubtful as to the exact locality, they rattle on the tree with their bills, and their practiced ear soon distinguishes the sound of their prey's hasty retreat to their innermost cell. It is but the work of a moment then for his long barbed tongue to reach them. In spite of the care the red-head takes to protect its young from attack, by placing the nest deep within the cavity of a tree, there are two enemies that will not be thus defied. The first is the large black-snake, and in Wilson's American Ornithology is given an account of a boy's encountering one of these reptiles in his attempt to rob a nest. It was not long after reading this account that I one day found a nest and thought I would see if a snake could not be obtained for my collection. My comrade held his butterfly net over the hole while I rapped on the tree with a stick. We were not a little surprised to see rush out instead of snake or bird, a fine sleek weasel. In the nest were the bodies of four young red-heads, apparently a week or ten day old, and every drop of blood was sucked from their veins. It is sufficient to say that those were the last birds that weasel ever killed, and that he now occupies a corner in the cabinet.

—:O:—  
GEO. F. WHITTEMORE.

—:O:—  
**THE STAMP COMPANY OF  
UMA, OR THE RESULT  
OF A SWINDLE.**

—  
By FIG—II.  
—

He resided at 2 Bourse Street, and was called Herr. Ernst Gundler; he had had the book six weeks, which is two weeks over the time allowed an agent, unless he receives permis-

sion to retain it longer, (which had not been granted to Gundler) excited Homer's suspicions that there must be something wrong, so he resolved to go to Berlin and look into the matter, as he was in need of paper and other supplies, he concluded to start the following day—this being Wednesday—so accordingly on Thursday morning he set out for the depot, it being a short distance, perhaps a quarter of a mile. He reached the depot at about 10 minutes before the Berlin bound train arrived, and while sitting in a seat in one of the rooms in the rear of the depot, he was confronted by a gentleman who looked like an Englishman of about thirty years of age, with dark brown hair and sharp gray eyes. The person at once inquired if he knew of any stamp dealers in the vicinity, at the same time saying he would like to purchase some rare stamps, as he was a philatelist. Homer at once thought he had an excellent chance to secure a goodly sum from the Englishman, and so he stated at once that he had a large quantity of stamps himself and that he made stamp dealing his business, and he invited the gentleman to accompany him to his home where he would show him some rare stamps. The Englishman at once agreed to the proposition, and the two proceeded in the direction of Homer's residence. They talked a great deal about stamp matters, and the Englishman told Homer that he lived in London and had been traveling through Europe on a pleasure trip, at the same time looking out for rare stamps as he was an old collector, having commenced to gather stamps when but sixteen years of age. Their conversation on this subject was drawn to a close by Homer turning an abrupt corner and telling the gentleman that this was the place where he resided. They walked in the yard entering a door in the south side of the house, Homer's brother and father were in the room

placing stamps in their "sale books;" the gentleman was somewhat surprised at seeing so many stamps displayed in books and sheets. He was at once asked what kind of stamps he wanted.

[To be continued.]

—:o:—

## GEOLOGY.

### A SERIES.

#### PART IV.

Many varieties of common limestones are polished and used as marbles, they have black, reddish, yellow, gray and other colors, kinds containing fossil shells are called shell marbles, *Oolite*. A limestone consisting of concretions as small as the roe of fish or smaller, whence the name from the Greek word, egg. *Oolite* or *Oolitic* limestone occurs in all the geological formations, and is forming in modern seas about the Florida keys and other coral reef regions. *Travertine*, *Stalactites* are limestone concretions hanging from the roofs of caverns, *stalagmite* is the same material covering the floor. Both are formed from the calcareous waters that come through the roof and are sometimes called dripstones. A similar deposit from streams or ponds is called *Travertine*. It is sometimes used for building stone. *Petrified beaver* and moss are made by the same kind of waters.

*Metamorphic*, *Crystalline Limestone*, *Architectural* and *Statuary Marble*, limestone having a crystalline texture and consequently glistening in a surface of fracture. A pure white kind of fine grain is used for statuary, and both this and coarser varieties for marble buildings. Under the head of *Tyneous rocks*, we have 1 *Dolerite* subvariety, 1 *Trap*, 2 *Basalt*, 2 *Peridotite*, 3 *Amphigenite*, 4 *Trachyte*, 5 *Felsyte*, 6 *Lava*, 1 *Scoria* is light larva, full of cavities; *pumice* a white or gray feldspathic lava, having the air cells long and slender,



so that it looks as if it were fibrous. 2 Obsidian is volcanic glass, and Pitchstone and Pearlstone are rocks that have a texture between that of stone and glass, what are called microlites are only occasional crystalline grains or stony points scattered through the melted rocks; they are mostly of microscopic detection.

#### CONDITION, STRUCTURE AND ARRANGEMENT OF ROCK MASSES.

Rock masses occur under three conditions. 1. Stratified. 2. The Unstratified. 3. The Vein Form. (1). The Stratified rocks are those which lie in beds or strata. The earth's rocky strata are spread out in beds of vast extent, many of them being thousands of square miles in area and thousands of feet in thickness. It must not be thought that the earth is covered by a regular series of coats of strata, this is far from the truth. Many strata occur in New York that are not found in Ohio and the States west, and many in southern New York that are not in the northern. (2). Unstratified rocks are those which do not lie in layers or beds. (3). Vein Form condition when rocks have been fractured and the fissures thus made have been filled with rock material of any kind, or with metallic over. The fillings are vein form and are called veins. Veins vary much in character, being larger and fuller, or thin as a wafer.

Many veins have banded structures. Many metallic veins are thus banded and have the ores lying in one or more bands, alternating with other stony bands consisting of different minerals or rock material, as quartz, calcite fluorite, etc., called the gangur of the ore. When fissures have been filled with melted rock they are usually called dikes.

Geology has for its study chiefly stratified rocks. Much the larger part of all the facts in geological history are derived from rocks of this

kind, and therefore the various details with regard to their structure and arrangement are of the highest importance.

C. S. MASON.

—:o:—

#### THE INDIAN SHELL MOUNDS OF CALIFORNIA.

IV.

In Oregon the hut of a dead native was used as his grave after it had been burned down, but interment in single graves also took place."

Here the most interesting passages of Mr. Schumacher's report end. Major J. W. Powell at one time examined the shell heaps in the vicinity of San Francisco, and writes of them to Dr. Rau as follows;

"The shores of San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun bays, in California, were formerly occupied by a tribe or number of tribes of Indians, who, to a large extent, subsisted upon shellfish, which still abound in the adjacent waters. The shore lines, following all their indentations, must be several hundred miles in length. In the neighboring hills are many beautiful springs, and whenever such a spring or any small pond of fresh water is found, a mammoth shell-heap, or sometimes a group of them, can be seen, so that altogether many thousands of them still exist, and are now held to be valuable sources of fertilizing material. One of the mounds examined by myself—not the largest that I have seen by any means—was 300 yards in length and eighty yards in width, and a shaft sunk through the shells to the virgin earth below was sixty-two feet in depth. In the heap were found, besides the shells, many bones of mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes, showing that the people had a great variety of animal food. Among the many implements found were stone mortars and pestles, doubtless used for grinding acorns, the adjacent hills being covered with oaks."

Here this article must be brought

to a close, not because the subject is exhausted, because it has really only been entered upon, but because it is believed that the province of a newspaper may reasonably be said to go no further. It is for our local scientists to carry out the work, to collect all the information possible on this interesting subject, to see that the mounds are not all carted away "for fertilizing purposes" without some examination of their contents, and to gather together the antiquities so found and not have them carted off by the ton to European and Eastern museums. There are many most interesting questions to answer. Do these mounds belong to the neolithic age, or are they of much more recent origin? Are the Indians who are still scattered up and down California the descendents of those tribes who



Flint spear-head found in shell heaps in Santa Barbara islands.

formed the shell heaps? How many of such Indian burial grounds are there, and what was the number of the living? What was the life of these people who lived like rabbits in burrows? These are a few of the questions which present themselves to the ordinary reader or writer, and which surely should be exhaustively considered by a leisurely, powerful and rich Academy of Sciences.

*S. F. Chronicle.*

—:0:—

Do not fail to read our special offers on back of subscription blank.

## CALIFORNIA ARCHÆOLOGY.

### II.

With the wedge was found a stone ball half as large as an ordinary baseball, evidently the part of some game. The writer also found several of these objects in the mountains several thousand feet above thesea. The locality where the wedge and other specimens were found was in a spot by the side of a deep canyon. For years the brush had overgrown the place until it was almost an impenetrable scrub. The finding of these few objects upon the surface was suggestive that some little excavation would be well repaid, and an attempt will be made later.

In going over the country from



Fish-hook of abalone shell.

Murrietta to San Jacinto, and so on to Pala, few houses were found in which the stone mortar was not a part of the domestic economy. When questioned as to where they obtained them, the occupants stated that they had found them—exactly where, they did not know. No mortars are made nowadays, all those in use being the work of the aborigines. A mortar is originally a stone rounded, and weighing from 100 to 200 pounds. The largest in the possession of the writer weighs 279 pounds. They are in all kinds of stone, from soapstone and hard rock, to a volcanic, turf-like material. Originally probably pieces of stone were knocked off, until a slight hollow was made, into which corns or acorns were placed and ground with another

*Continued on Page 89.*

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

E. M. HAIGHT.....Editor and Proprietor.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico (with premium)..... 50 cents a year.  
To other Countries in the Postal Union, (with premium)..... 65 cents.  
Single Copies ..... 5 cents.  
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Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contribution, relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamp, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to E. M. HAIGHT, Box 24, Riverside, Cal.

## FRAUDS.

The following parties are in debt to us, and we are unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests. Names will be taken from this list whenever a settlement is made. A few other names will be added to this list unless accounts are paid.

N. R. CHRISTIE, Beckwith, Calif.

W. C. MERCHANT, San Antonio, Texas.

IRA C. GREENE, Fitchburg, Mass.

PITTSFIELD RUBBER STAMP WORKS, alias W. R. Burbank, Pittsfield, Mass.

F. H. CARPENTER, Box 2988, Boston, Mass.

## EDITORIAL.

Publishers of natural history, coin, stamp or curiosity papers, intending discontinuing, can have unexpired subscription and advertising contracts filled by us on exceedingly favorable terms.

We are always glad to send sample copies of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP to those who are interested in the subjects covered by our paper, and will thank our readers to send us a list of the names and addresses of such.

When writing to any of our advertisers, please do us a favor by saying that you saw their advertisement in this magazine.

We would be glad to receive contributions and items of interest from any of our readers.

Be sure and read our prize drawing on back of subscription blank, which we offer to all new subscribers and all old ones who renew their subscription.

Every collector should take advantage of our prize drawing offer, by sending in fifty cents for their subscription at once.

The OLD CURIOSITY SHOP covers a wide field of subjects, and to make it of further interest to our readers, questions of general interest are solicited which we will endeavor to answer.

Nagsbee (solicitously) — "What would be your candid answer to the popular conundrum, "Is marriage a failure?"

Mrs. Nagsbee (getting even) — "My candid opinion? Well—ahem—I've known some failures who were married. But as a rule if he treats her right down good, for instance get some merchant in town to purchase a good Soda Fountain like the one made by Chapman & Co., Madison, Ind., and advertised in the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, and takes her down there and treats her to a good, healthy, mind soothing, blues dispelling, nerve quieting glass of Soda occasionally, instead of preaching prohibition all day, and dropping into the drug store every time he passes it for a dose of medicine out of that black bottle, I think he would speedily cease to be a failure.

The *Universal Philatelic Advertiser and Collectors' Companion*, a magazine with a large circulation, for free distribution is announced to soon appear under the auspices of the Frankford Stamp Co. of Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa.

—:o:—

If you want to prevent your hydrant from overflowing and filling the cellar, don't pay your water tax, take the money and buy a NEW HOME Sewing Machine and the NEW HOME Company will warrant the Machine and guarantee that you will have no water.

—:o:—

We notice that many publishers have a habit of defacing the outside pages of their journals with rubber stamp impressions. This is a bad practice and detracts much from the value and appearance of the papers, and will not induce collectors to subscribe who are in the habit of preserving files for future reference.

—:o:—

## CALIFORNIA ARCHÆOLOGY.

*Continued from Page 87.*

stone, until finally in months and years the stone became a hollow bowl or mortar, with a greater or less hollow, according to age. In the writer's collection some will hold two or three quarts of grain, while others not more than a handfull, and evidently prepared for children to play with, or perhaps for the mixture of paints.

To any one experienced in out-of-door life it is well known that hill tops are often selected as homes, especially if water is at hand. Taking this as a guide among the southern foothills I discovered a large number of these stone vessels. Many stood by the little streams of winter birth and I found not a few buried several feet beneath the surface, carried down by freshets and so covered up. In walking along on the slopes a dark-blue stone would be seen projecting from the soil, and a few moment's

work would reveal the treasure. In some places the writer found these objects just as the owners had left them, the pestle in the mortar and both resting on a rock.

At Pala Mission some few years ago the mortars were very common, numbers of large ones having been kept upon the lawn and used by every one. Several have been taken away and about the old ruin I found large numbers of broken pieces, as if some one in wanton sport had gone about and broken them. In this way some of the finest specimens have been destroyed.

There is not a portion of the Southern California country capable of supporting life where these mementos of a lost race cannot be found. The writer has found them on the tops of high mountains—far up in the canyons of the Sierra Madre range—by the sea, on hill, valley and plain, telling an interesting story of the vast population which once lived here.

[*To be continued.*]

—:o:—

## COINS OF CANADA.

### PART III.

No. 48. Obverse, ship sailing towards the left, reverse, "R.W. Owen, Montreal, Ropery."

No. 49. Obverse, ship sailing toward the left. "For Public Accommodation." Reverse, "Canada," "Half Penny Token."

No. 50. Obverse, two crossed oak leaves, "Commerce." "Bar-Canada." Reverse, "John Roy, Montreal," "Un Sou" in wreath.

No. 51. Obverse, "Lymburner and Brother, Montreal, Gold and Silver Platers, 663 Craig St." Reverse, the same in French as the obverse.

No. 52. Obverse, eagle and shield; on shield and anchor, surrounded by thirteen stars. "T. Duseaman, Butchers, Belleville." Reverse, a

bouquet of flowers. "Agriculture and Commerce," "Bar-Canada."

No. 53. Obverse, a bust facing the right. Reverse, "Commercial Change," small size.

No. 54. Obverse, "Head of Geo. III," crowned with a wreath, facing the right, date 1820. Reverse, Justice seated, and holding a pair of scales in right hand.

No. 55. Obverse, the same as 53. Reverse, "Wellington, Waterloo, 1815."

No. 56. Obverse, ship sailing towards the left. Reverse, the same as reverse of 55.

No. 57. Obverse, the same as obverse of 56. Reverse, the same as reverse of 54.

No. 58. Obverse, the same as obverse of 56. Reverse, "1858" in center.

No. 59. Obverse, the same as obverse of 56. Reverse, Justice seated and holding a pair of scales. "Half Penny Token," 1812."

No. 60. Obverse, the same as 56. Reverse, "Ships, Colonies and Commerce." There are several varieties.

No. 61. Obverse, the same as obverse of 53. Reverse, the same as the reverse of 60.

No. 62. Obverse, a head facing right, crowned with a wreath, surrounded by a large wreath. Reverse, the same as the reverse of 59. There are several varieties

No. 63. Obverse, the same as obverse of 62. Reverse, Justice seated holding scales, 1812, no legend.

No. 64. Obverse, seated female figure, holding a trident and a sprig of leaves, surrounded by a large wreath. Reverse, eagle with spread wings, holding a bundle of arrows in one claw and a sprig of leaves in the other. "Half Penny Token" 1813, 1814.

No. 65. Obverse and reverse similar to 64; date 1815.

No. 66. Obverse, "Head of Geo. III." Reverse, harp, 1820; a brass piece.

No. 67. Obverse, "Head of Wellington, Field Marshal Wellington," Reverse, harp, "Hibernia," 1805.

No. 68. Obverse, head "Genuine British Copper," 1815. Reverse, a seated female figure, "Half Penny."

No. 69. Obverse, beaver, "Maison Jacques Cartier, St. Roch, Quebec." Reverse, "Un centim payable Chez. H. Gagnon and Cie, Rue la Cauronne, St. Roch, Quebec."

ERWIN G. WARD,  
Palmer, Mass.

—:O:—

## PHILATELY—PAST AND PRESENT.

### PART I.

There is hardly a town, city or hamlet in the United States which has not some enthusiast who has a craze for collecting different articles, and who is, perhaps, called a "craik" by the rest of the community. The "mania" is found in many forms and in all stages of virulence. It may be for the collecting of coins, antiquities, postage stamps, Indian relics, paintings, bric-a-brac, or it may be simply a craze for gathering tin tags, buttons or postmarks. Although, of course, some of these hobbies are higher, and more tended to educate the faculties than others, the same delight is experienced by all on the discovery of a rare specimen, and one which the collectors of their acquaintance do not possess. Persons sometimes collect the most useless and common things, as witness the case of a rich Parisian gentleman who spent years in forming a collection of boot and shoe heels, which were properly labeled and displayed with great pride in a handsome plate glass case. But I am running off on a tangent, and the object of this short article is not to eulogize on the pleasures and profits accruing from a collection of any kind, but simply to give a brief history of philately—that grand hobby which is followed by so many

thousands of persons all over the civilized world, not merely boys, but men and women, generals, doctors, politicians, statesmen and even kings are numbered in the ranks of stamp collectors. The most illustrious collector at the present time is probably the king of Rumania, who is an enthusiast on the subject. It was not always thus; but a few years ago what is now a great army was then a straggling few. Then men who were collectors were ashamed to own it to the world, and kept their collections in the privacy of their own room or library.

Then, dealers and publishers were alike unknown, and collections were formed almost entirely through friends who indulged the "crank" in his harmless idiosyncrasy. Over sixty years before postage stamps were invented, John Burke, Receiver General for Dublin, formed a collection of fiscals. While this gentleman cannot, of course, be called a philatelist, there is little doubt that had he lived seventy years later he would have been an ardent stamp collector. When, in May, 1840, Great Britain gave birth to the first postage stamp, no one dreamed that in less than half a century thousands of intelligent people, in nearly every country, on the globe would be begging, buying and paying large sums of money for these same magic bits of paper, after they had become worthless for postal purposes. England's first collector was Mount Brown, a wealthy gentleman of London, and the oldest collector in the United States is probably Mr. John K. Tiffany, president of the American Philatelic Association, whose first collection was begun in 1858. J. Walter Scott is also one of the pioneers, having joined the ranks in 1859. The collectors of these early days, during what might be termed the "dark ages" of philately, had much to contend with, not only from the ridicule of the outside press and public, but with the counterfeiters and rogues among them-

selves. "There are black sheep in every flock," and stamp collecting is no exception by any means. During the first few years it was next to impossible for collectors to buy stamps, with any degree of certainty as to their authenticity, and the counterfeiter's profits were enormous. Philatelists who have begun collecting since 1870, can have but a faint idea of the troubles and ridicule the philatelic patriarchs endured. On January 1, 1862, the first stamp paper appeared. It was published in Liverpool, England, and was called the *Stamp Collectors' Review*. About this time also appeared a catalogue of postage stamps in French, issued by M. Potigurd. J. B. Moens, the well-known dealer, issued his first price list on March 2, 1862. During these first few years when the professional press mentioned philately at all, it was to speak of it with supreme contempt, but *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*, issued on July 26, 1862, contained the first of a series of articles about stamps, which were continued from time to time, and were profusely illustrated. This was the first article of any size pertaining to philately, which was published by a professional newspaper. Philately, or stamp collecting as it was then called, was progressing slowly but surely, and the number of persons fascinated by the hobby was steadily increasing. The fall of 1862 was a memorable one for philately, for during it several new ventures in the stamp line were attempted, among the most notable being the first catalogue of stamps, issued in the English language, which was published by Mount Brown of London; the first American catalogue by A. C. Kline, Philadelphia; and the first stamp album by J. Lallier of Paris. This album had quite a sale and fourteen editions were published in both French and English, the latest appearing in 1876. It was in the fall of 1862, also, that the first illustrated stamp catalogue appeared.

And now was issued the first number of a journal which still survives, and which is by far the oldest stamp paper in the world. I refer to J. B. Moen's *Le Timbre Poste*, which issued its initial number on February 5, 1863. On February 25, Stafford, Smith and Smith of Bath, England, issued the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, the finest and most successful stamp journal ever published. It was neatly printed on fine paper and was continued through twelve volumes, with an aggregate of 2296 pages. The last number appeared in December, 1874. Early in the same year Oppin's famous albums and catalogues were first published. They have now reached their twenty-seventh edition, and have a very large sale. On May 1st the *Liverpool Stamp Advertiser* was published by F. K. Jones, and lived to issue fourteen numbers. Stanley Gibbons, of the now famous firm of Stanley Gibbons & Co., which is known all over the philatelic world, issued his first little price list in 1863. In this year also appeared one of the most valuable works ever issued for philatelists. "*Pemberton's Forged Stamps; how to detect them*" printed by Colston & Son, Edinburgh. Mr. Pemberton was only eighteen years of age when he wrote this work, but it is nevertheless a marvel of exactness. It is now out of print and copies command high prices.

[To be continued.]

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### CONFEDERATE NOTES.

As a general thing collectors of curiosities, coins, etc., devote less time to confederate notes than to any other branch of collecting. But why is this. "Of all classes of paper money that can be procured at a moderate expense, these are the most interesting, both from the multiplicity of design and from their being the principal relics of the greatest of civil wars." A collection can be procured

now for a small amount, and in the end will prove money well spent, for the notes are becoming scarcer and the prices rising accordingly.

On the notes we find the likenesses of the President and other confederate notables; pictures of the capitols of the different States, etc. That we can learn from the notes themselves and the pleasure derived from collecting, will amply repay us for the amount expended.

When the Confederacy was first established, the seat of government was at Montgomery, Alabama, and it was from there that the first notes were issued. These were engraved by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and are more prized than any of the others. When Virginia joined the Confederacy, Richmond was made the capital and remained such till the end of the war. It was from here that the other notes were issued, and two of these were engraved by the National Bank Note Company, and the others by southern firms, Keating & Ball, of Columbus, South Carolina, engraving the majority.

All the issues of 1861 were recalled by the treasury, and canceled by having the signatures cut out. It may have been that all were not returned and consequently not canceled, but all that I have seen, except counterfeits, were canceled.

Let's take the \$2.00 of June 2, 1862, and see what is on it.

First we see that it is on white paper, about  $2\frac{7}{8}$  by  $6\frac{3}{8}$  inches in size. A little to right of the center, we see the "Confederacy killing the Union." "Confederacy and Union" are in the shape of men; "Confederacy" is on top with sword in his hand, and about to strike "Union" who is on the bottom.

On either side of this in frame is 2 with checkered background. In the upper left-hand corner we see a picture of Judah Peter Benjamin, the Secretary of State. Below this is TWO in fancy capitals in frame, and

below this, in plain caps and frame "Receivable in payment of all duties except export duties." By the side of this we see "B. Duncan, Columbia, S. C.," from which we suppose that he was the engraver. Above the 2's on either side the center picture, in plain caps, is "Six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace between the Confederate States and the United States;" and below the center picture, in plain black faced type, "The Confederate States of America," and below this in script "Will pay," and on the same line in shaded caps, "Two dollars," "to bearer" in script. Below this, in another line, we see "No. . . . . Richmond" in shaded caps, "June 2, 1862" in script. In the center of the bottom is 2 in a shield, and on either side is "For Register" and "For Treasurer." In the center of the extreme right is "Fundable in eight per cent stock, or bonds of the Confederate States;" in plain caps in a frame. This is one of the smallest of the notes, the reverse is blank.

C. S. A.

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### AN INTERESTING RELIC.

An advantage of a cultivated mind is to see and appreciate what would be passed unnoticed by another. A botanist will draw fountains at which to refresh his thirsty soul from many an insignificant weed, or plant devoid of beauty; acres of which would not attract an unlettered spectator, except to consider its utility, and others though interested in floriculture, would consider a specimen of no interest whatever.

Again the grandest scenery may be passed by one entirely unimpressed, while the eye accustomed to look for beauty will scan its every detail; and sweeping the whole horizon, the distance, the middle-distance and the foreground, rejoice in every part, delighting in the consummate beauty of the grand united whole. There is in a museum in San Francisco, a

rough-hewn fragment of a discarded shaft, towards seven feet in height, of no particular form, notched and splintered, hacked and whittled; that lying by the roadside would of itself suggest no other idea but material for a possible fire, a resting block for tramps, or a broken fragment of a telegraph pole, but when the enlightened student of his country's history, reads the label tacked upon its roughened side, the unsightly block assumes an interest of historic value, for this "Old Flag Staff," it goes on to say "is from the old fort at Monterey, California, upon which the first American flag was hoisted, July 7, 1846, by a body of 250 sailors, and marines from the United States ship Savannah, Commodore Sloat, and under immediate command of Captain Mervine, presented by Gen. M. Schofield, June 29, 1883." "State Mining Bureau, Cal."

The shattered condition of the fragment before us, accounted for by the fact that many visitors made themselves possessed of a portion of the relic, and rently broken splinters point to the habit being continued. It is of no small interest to the enlightened or patriotic Californian to see the veritable Liberty Pole on which was hoisted the identical banner that transferred his country from semi-barbarism and lethargy, to American enterprise and general opening up to civilization and enlightenment, drawing countless multitudes from every corner of the earth, first to dig for nature's hidden treasure, then to embark in trade and culture of the soil, and lastly a host of cultured families with capital, who with the world before them, seek this genial clime for investment and a home.

E. S. R.

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### A COLLECTING TRIP.

I will tell the readers of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP about my last collecting trip. Although I did not secure very many specimens, owing



chiefly to my limited time, it may be of some interest to the fossil collectors who may chance to read it. In the first place the rocks which I visited were of the Trenton group, and the fossils I obtained were all from the Trenton limestone—a formation which is very plentiful in north-eastern Iowa. I started with a companion at about three o'clock in the afternoon, and, as we were both mounted on good horses, we soon reached the place where our search was to commence—a place about six miles from town. The locality had been but little looked over, and we found fossils in abundance, but they were imbedded in the rocks and we found it difficult to break them out, particularly as we had neglected to bring a chisel. Many times we found traces of trilobites, but no whole ones. Gasteropods were especially numerous, and we secured quite a number of perfect ones. The country people coming along the road by which we were searching, seemed much astonished to see us hammering away at the rocks with such industry, now and then putting one in our bags, and never failed to question us as to what we were doing. When told we were hunting for fossils they seemed puzzled enough, having very likely never heard of such things before. Their looks told as plainly as words that they thought we were lunatics. By the time the sun had nearly set, we had secured some fine specimens, the majority of which were *Murchisonia bellicincta* and *Raphistoma lenticularis*, with a few *Orthoceratites*. As we had quite a ride before us, we thought it best to start without further delay, and so took our leave of one of the richest fossil localities I have ever visited, resolving, however, to pay it another visit when we had more time at our disposal.

F. STEARNS.

—:o:—

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They tell you to lick your own bone.

The time is not far distant they tell us,  
When the people in grand display,  
Will come forth in a brilliant throng  
And usher in the coming day.

—:o:—

## BIRD FANCIES.

Many are the fancies that have sprung up about birds; great in the eyes of the believer in signs, is the responsibility borne by our feathered songsters.

From various sources I have collected the following superstitions, which may prove of interest to the readers of this magazine.

The mourning dove utters its sorrowful note in grieving for a passing soul, and he who sees a dove at the end of a lane, may expect good luck.

The partridges whistle near a human habitation, signifies that in a short time one of the occupants of the house will pass away; but health and happiness await the man who finds the partridge's nest.

Sorrow and misfortune are in store for him who eats the egg of the blue bird, mocking bird or killdee.

It is said that a robin planted the first cedar that ever ornamented the breast of mother earth.

The negroes affirm that every Friday noon the blue-jays leave this earth, that each may carry to the king of the underrealms, a grain of sand.

Should a maiden unexpectedly see

a red bird her lover will appear before the close of the day.

One of the home circle will soon leave the fireside of the family that undertakes to rear a wild bird.

No good follows the killing of a wren, and he who mocks a whip-poor-will, will have his clothing consumed by fire.

In some parts of Asia the quail is supposed to have the power of prophecy, his call being thought to foretell the condition of the coming crops; a full harvest being assured if he calls more than ten times.

The Germans say that the first crow that came out of the ark was white, but that the foul vapors arising from the decaying animals on which he feasted blackened his feathers. Hence, the crow remembering his former fair color, regards his ebony-hued offspring with displeasure, and treats them in a manner unbecoming a parent. In the south, the call of the crow is sometimes said to mean rain.

The various superstitions of sailors concerning birds are too well known to need further comment.

The above facts I have collected from several different articles, and present here in condensed form, for the benefit of the readers of this publication.

GUY W. GREEN.

### REVIEW TABLE.

One of the neatest and most complete premium coin lists we have seen can be had at 10 cents per copy, of the publisher C. W. Stutesman, Bunker Hill, Ind. Besides the list of prices paid for rare gold, silver, nickel, copper and paper moneys, it contains much other useful information in regard to detecting counterfeits, etc.

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## CONTENTS:

Geology—V.....	99
Blue Jay.....	100
Archæological Rambles.....	102
California Archæology—III.....	103
Philately—Past and Present—II.....	105-107
Editorial.....	106
A Successful Hunt.....	108
The Stamp Company of Uma, or the Result of a Swindle—III.....	108
Shanghai Surcharged Stamps.....	109
Commission Bureau.....	110
Exchange Notices.....	110

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# The ♦ Old ♦ Curiosity ♦ Shop.

VOL. VIII.

MAY, 1889.

No. 8.

## GEOLOGY.

### A SERIES.

#### PART V.

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lost their original horizontal position so as to be more or less inclined; and some are even vertical. They are occasionally bent or folded, only the folds are miles or scores of miles in sweep. 1 Outcrop.—Portions or ledges of strata projecting out of ground or in view of the surface. 2 Dip.—The angle of slope of inclined or tilted strata is the direction of the dip. The dip is measured by an instrument called clinometers. 3 Strike.—The horizontal direction at right angles to the dip. 4 Fault.—A vein of metal may suddenly drop several feet or be pushed up for some reason; this a fault. 5 Folds or flexures where the strata fold or bend over each other. The methods used in determining the true order of arrangement. A. In sections of the rocks exposed to view in the sides of valleys or ridges, the order should be directly studied and each stratum traced, as far as possible through all the exposed sections. B. The aspect or composition of the rock may help to determine which strata are identical. C. Fossils afford the best means of determining identity. This is so because of the fact, already mentioned, that the fossils of an epoch are very similar in genera—if not also in species—the world over; and those of different epochs are different in these respects. The geologist, by studying the fossils of the several beds at any locality, learns which kinds are characteristic of each bed, and the order of succession. We now come to Dynamical Geology. That treats of the cause or origin of events in geological history. That is origin of rocks of disturbances of the earth's strata. The

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following agencies are the most important, next to the universal power of gravitation and cohesive and chemical attraction, life, the atmosphere, water and heat. These are subdivided as follows: 1 Life. 2 Chemical action of the atmosphere and water. 3 Mechanical effects of the atmosphere. Mechanical effects of water. 5 Action of heat. 6 Movements in the earth's crust and their consequences, including the folding and uplifting of strata, and the origin of mountains and of the earth's general features. 1 Life. Life has done much geological work by contributing material for the making of rocks, nearly all the limestones of the globe, all the coal, and some siliceous beds, besides portions of rocks of other kinds have been formed out of the stony relics of living species. Both animals and plants have been large sources of the material. The skeletons or stony secretions of animals, after fulfilling the purposes of life, have been turned over to the mineral kingdom to be made into minerals and rocks. Similarly, from vegetable structures have come beds of stone as well as beds of coal. A. Calcareous material or that of which limestones consist came from the following sources. 1 Shells of Mollusks, (a) oyster and clam, (b) other bivalve shells (those of Brachipod Mollusks), (c) univalves (shells of Gasterpod Mollusks) as snails, 2 corals, 3 crinoids, these are the stone lilies, 4 foraminifers or calcareous shells of rhizopods. These shells are mostly very small and yet through their abundance they have been very important in limestone making, in size they are generally between a grain of sand and an eighth of an inch. B. Siliceous material of organic origin is far less abundant than calcareous; for quartz is mostly from mineral sources, 1 animal in origin, (a) the sponges, (b) the radiolarians, 2 vegetable in origin. Minute plants called diatome have silicious shells. They grow so abundant-

ly in both fresh and salt waters that they make thick chalk-like deposits. The flint, chert and jasper, which form nodules and sometimes layers in limestone and other rocks, have been made largely from spicules of sponges or the shells of diatome. C. Phosphatic material, chiefly calcium phosphate. D. Carbonaceous material. The most abundant contribution from the vegetable kingdom to rocks are the beds of mineral coal, coal being made from the woody tissues. E. Aquatic species the largest rock makers. F. Fossilization.

C. S. MASON.

—:O:—

### THE BLUE JAY.

BY WM. L. KELLS.

The blue jay is a large and beautiful bird, but rather noisy, deceptive and marauding. It generally frequents all parts of our woods, but is more partial to the low soft-wood, swampy places, than to the rolling hard-wood timbered lands. When the stormy winds and withering frosts of autumn indicate the near approach of winter, it generally retires into the densest woods, particularly the evergreen swamps, where it is chiefly found during the winter months of the year, although some of them emigrate southward late in the fall, yet many of them remain in Canada throughout the year, enjoying the luxury of our summer and autumn with pleasure, and sustaining the severity of our winter without harm.

The blue jay has no song, but utters a variety of notes; some of which are in mockery and mimic cry of other birds, especially those birds of prey commonly called "Chicken Hawks," but its most common notes resembling the words "pay-up, pay-up," uttered in a loud, harsh and screaming tone, is in our woods at all seasons of the year.

The blue jay is about twelve inches in length, its plumage is a beautiful

blue, mingled with white and ash color, its wings and tail are crossed with bars of black, its neck also is encircled with a ring of black, and its head ornamented with a crest of loose silky plumes which it can erect or depress at pleasure, but it is mostly erected when the bird is excited or angry. The blue jay builds a large nest of brambles and rootlets. The eggs, five or six in number, are of a dull greenish-olive blue, mottled with pale-brown.

The nest is placed in various situations, as in the large roots of fallen trees, on the branches of evergreens, and in the forks of high trees. It is an omnivorous bird and readily devours anything eatable that comes in its way. During the winter it feeds on moss-buds, the seeds of evergreens, and occasionally on grain and nuts. The nuts it often finds in the rough bark of trees and knot holes, where they have been deposited by nut-hatches, squirrels and other small animals. When it has found a large nut, it carries it in its beak to a branch, where it holds it down with one foot, while it breaks it open with its strong bill. It sometimes makes a marauding visit to the barns of the backwoods settlers, where it feeds on grain, and when disturbed, flies off with an ear of grain in its beak; at other times it slyly hunts around until it has discovered a nest of eggs on which it quietly feeds until it is satisfied, then quickly makes away to the woods, chuckling over its success in self-congratulatory tones, or uttered aloud screams of defiance. But, notwithstanding its natural cunning, it is sometimes caught in a trap set to catch squirrels. In the early spring, these birds will often collect in large flocks on the borders of the woods, and feed upon the grain left uncovered by the harrow. At other times parties of them will visit the gardens and orchards; but they meet with little welcome from the farmer and his family, as plunder is well known

to be their object. They will also attack and destroy the eggs and young of all other birds that are too weak to defend their nests; and while thus plundering, they will lift up their heads, and in mocking tones, mimic the distress of the little sufferers; when the work of destruction is complete, they scamper off into the thick woods, or mount to the tree tops, uttering loudly their varied notes, as if exulting on the mischief they had done; but when discovered by the black-bird, robin, king-bird and some other species in the vicinity of their nests, they are soon caused to retreat with precipitation, and disconcerted notes; on the whole, however, the blue jay is a keen-sighted, shy and cunning bird, and it is not always easy for the sportsman to come within gun shot of it, as the smell of powder or the sight of a gun will send it uttering defiant notes, into the tops of the highest trees or the depths of the densest woods; yet it is a social and affectionate bird, and will attempt to defend its eggs and young with boldness and sagacity; but its own nests are often destroyed by hawks, owls and other small animals.

Though this species is abundant in the new settlements, yet as it prefers the wild freedom of its native woods, to scenes of cultivation, and loves not the presence of man, nor the sounds of the woodman's ax, it is yearly driven further into the wilderness by the onward progress of civilization. The blue jay is of all birds the most bitter enemy of the owls of this country.

No sooner has he discovered the retreat of one of them, then he will summon the whole feathered fraternity to his assistance, who, surrounding the glimmering solitaire, and attacking him from all sides, raises such a noise as may be heard half a mile off, the owl meanwhile returning every compliment with a broad guggling stare. The clamor becomes louder, until the owl is at length



forced to betake himself to flight, and is followed by his impudent persecutors, until driven beyond their jurisdiction. The blue jay is not only bold and vociferous, but possesses considerable talent for mimicry, and seems to take great satisfaction in mocking and teasing other birds, particularly the sparrow hawk, imitating his cry whenever he makes his appearance, and squeaking out as if caught.

This soon brings numbers of his tribe around him, who all join in the frolic, darting about the hawk, and feigning the cries of a bird solely wounded.

But this ludicrous farce often ends tragically. The hawk singles out one of the most insolent and provoking, swoops upon him in an unguarded moment, and offers him as a sacrifice to his hunger and resentment. In a moment all is changed; the jay's buffoonery vanishes, and loud and incessant screams proclaim the disaster.

—:O:—

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL RAM- BLES.

BY J. J. ALTON.

The success of a collecting trip often depends upon the beauty of the day. At such a time the collecting fever will lend its owner a helping hand in surmounting the many obstacles that may rise before him, while in the case of bad weather his hopes will be so shattered, and the fever so cooled the trip will surely be failure. Of course this may not be the case with *all*, but with me it has proved only too true. The month of May seems to have been intended for the collector, at least for those in New England, and I selected the last week in which to visit the town of Thompson, Connecticut. The day was as perfect as a northern Connecticut day could possibly be, and as I glanced from the window in the early morning I found the "pre-

vious" bird engaged with the "too previous" worm. Heavy banks of fog hung sleepily over the lake and meadows, the sun was slowly pushing its way upwards, while its warm rays absorbed the thousand glittering dewdrops that hung suspended from the slender blades of grass. First I disposed of a good breakfast, and then in company with my friend struck off to the south across the plain land that lay before us to where the drift, that makes up the plain, drops suddenly to the edge of a marsh. The drift to the west extends farther out, leaving a narrow belt of lowland between the two highlands. Most of the land was under cultivation, and some of the ploughed fields were well washed by recent rains leaving the surface relics exposed. As we stopped to look about us we noticed that the fog hung no longer to the ground but was light and fleecy and fast disappearing before the morning breeze. Away in the distant part of the marsh a post-driver was busily engaged driving those imaginary posts, and giving us a sample of perseverance. (A sample that we tested that day if never again.) Beginning the search we were soon lost in the relics of the past, and the first one to be collected was a finely chipped hunting arrow, the point of which was splintered as though by a heavy blow directly on the point. At the end of the first hour we counted up and found we had nine perfect arrow and one spear head, besides two or three doubtful relics. The material used was white quartz flint and yellow quartzite. From the position of the two fields they must have been ancient battle grounds. Perhaps the two tribes engaged in battle across the low belt between, as a fleet of arrows could easily be sent across, while on the land between I have never found a single arrow, but they were numerous on the slopes down to the very edge. The arrows vary greatly in shape and size; here will

be found the triangular war point hardly half an inch in length while beside it will lay the hunting arrow, notched at the base and some two inches long. The stemmed arrow was quite numerous. Indeed so great was the variety that the various forms seemed to have been shaped more to suit the random fancy of the Indian than for any particular use. Fragments of white quartz were scattered about in great abundance, and what use it could be put to I cannot make out, as but few of the relics were made from that material.

Leaving this we again started for another field which lay over the hills to the west. Here in the muddy bottom of a small pond had been found (years ago) a large soapstone mortar. With visions of relics before us we climbed the rocky cart path that led up to the wooded summit of the hill. The rank foliage of the trees cut off the glare of that too inquisitive sun and gave our scattered thoughts time to settle. Once more we were crossing the fields and at last stopped at the boggy-shore of a lonely looking pond which at its best was but a muddy pool of water. Picking our way along from bog to bog the disturbed members of the frog family abandoned the sunny bog for dark depths of the pool, and a log full of disgusted turtles also "took a tumble," and scuttled away down to the grassy bottom. Now our object was to find (if one existed) the quarry from which soapstone was obtained. Almost the first boulder found was of this material, and many others were also observed, all however *drift boulders*. We soon found that they composed a narrow belt running towards the north. Following this we were soon upon a high rocky ridge with fragments of soapstone lying about; but this time the material was not drift, but the fragments of a now invisible quarry. Upon close examination I found a suspicious looking piece of soapstone, and digging it from the ground it proved to be an

Indian dish, 5 x 7 inches, roughly hollowed. This of course proved that there *was* a quarry—but where? Again we search striking all exposed pieces and at last found one *insitu*. Removing the earth from around it we laid bare the surface of a large soapstone rock, the face of which had been roughly chiseled. In the center was a circular groove leaving the central section in relief. This piece was 14x10 inches. What it was intended for is to me a mystery, but there it is, the ragged chisel marks as perfect as though cut but yesterday. Removing the earth from the base we found two fragments of a bowl that were made to fit perfectly, and still lower down a small slab containing three deep grooves, made by the heavy stroke of a flint gouge, and propelled no doubt by the powerful arm of that dusky quarryman in the Stone Age.

[END.]

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## CALIFORNIA ARCHÆOLOGY.

### PART III.

On a small plateau in the San Gabriel valley, at the mouth of the Willard canyon, at Pasadena, there is the site of an ancient camp. Here, in the olden days, a large number of natives lived and went into the mountains or up the canyons for acorns or nuts. These were ground or beaten in stone vessels of a flat or platter shape. Hundreds of specimens have been found here, and in following the plow of the owner of the ranch, I picked up a flat mortar every few moments. Many of them were damaged or worn out, but their great number showed how old must have been the settlement. Hundreds of mortars were made and worn out here, which must have taken many years. The scrapers were of various kinds; some were round, with considerable polish,

others were flat and oblong, with polish on one side only. None of the stone implements upon this ranch are upon the surface, all being covered to a depth of six inches or a foot—a circumstance which points to their great antiquity.

When the excavations for the Orange Grove avenue reservoir were made in Pasadena, a large number of mortars and pestles were found. The point seemed to be the situation of an old camp and its refuse and household gods were exposed by pick and shovel.

It is evident in a number of cases, that the occupants left the localities suddenly, as good mortars would not be deserted purposely. What the circumstances were, modern man can only conjecture. The town may have been attacked by some powerful enemy and, if not destroyed, the inhabitants may have been so widely scattered that they never returned. In some of the Arizona and New Mexico countries, the lack of water may have caused the desertion of certain localities and the succession of several dry seasons may have produced a like result here.

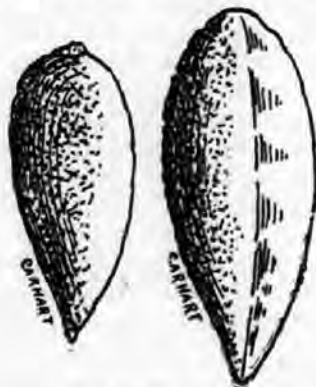
While the inland localities are found to be rich in the implements of this lost race the seashore is far more prolific. Here the natives thronged in summer and the early white travelers to this coast heard of several large towns and cities, especially near Santa Barbara. Hardly a mile of the coast but bears the graves of some of these people; rude mounds, almost obliterated, yet often bearing beads, mortars, bowls and various objects.

In strolling over the great Jones and Baker ranch, now Santa Monica, the writer came upon what was evidently the site of an old town. There were pestles and grinders of all kinds and shapes scattered over the ground. In one heap over twenty were found. The place was made up of two hills, between which was a small or narrow valley-like depression. The

winter rains coursing down this had washed all heavy material from the hilltops, and in the sand a number of interesting objects were picked up.

Here was endless pieces of flint-chip, cut off in making arrow-heads or spears. A knife, or rather a string or deer-thong cutter, was represented by a piece of flint with regular notches in it, over which the cord was pulled back and forth until it was cut or severed. The implement of this kind found by the writer was evidently originally cut or broken in a circle. One figured in the report of the Smithsonian archaeological collections is like a comb with four blunt teeth, the part between the teeth being the cutting edges. Here were flint knives and scrapers of the rudest description, pointing to the belief that they antedated many remains found in other parts of the valley. Shell were found perforated, evidently used as necklaces, strung upon a cord, while curious pendants of shell and slate served as ornaments of some kind.

The most interesting find in this



Granite Plummets.

locality, were two plummets or sinkers, made of a handsome granite and roughly finished. They were symmetrical and attractive, one being three-sided and the other a double conoid form; the lower portion was pointed and the upper left rough for the attachment of asphaltum, to which

in turn, was fastened a cord and the plummet suspended. They may have been used as sinkers or as pendants in weaving or for a variety of purposes.

[To be continued.]

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## PHILATELY—PAST AND PRESENT.

### PART II.

The first organization (if it may be called such) for the meeting of philatelists for the exchange of postage stamps, of which I have any knowledge, was what was called the "Birchin Lane Stamp Exchange." It was established in 1860, in Birchin Lane, London, and was held in the open air. Here the stamp collectors of London congregated every afternoon at four o'clock, for the exchange and their duplicates, and such crowds gathered in the narrow courts, that several policemen were constantly employed in trying to clear a pathway through the mob. J. Walter Scott was a regular attendant of this exchange. France had a similar organization at about the same time, in the Champ Elysies and Luxembourg Gardens, and Germany's "stamp cranks" met at the Briefmarken Bourse in Bremen, Lubeck and Hamburg. This was while dealers were yet unknown. Germany came to the front in 1863 with her first journal, the *Magazine Fine Briefmarken Lammler*. All this time the collectors of America had done little towards the advancement of philately, with the exception of a few price lists issued by the pioneer dealers, but on February 2, 1864, there appeared a small journal, published by that notorious counterfeiter, S. Allen Taylor, from Montreal, Canada. This was the first attempt at philatelic journalism in America, and it was by no means a model one.

The first catalogue of stamps, in Italian, appeared in this year. In

the year 1865, came in quick succession the *Coin and Stamp Journal*, Chicago; *Stamp Collectors' Gazette*, St. John, N. B.; *Stamp Argus*, St. John, N. B.; *CURIOSITY SHOP*, Chicago, and *Winterburn's Stamp Circular*, Cincinnati. These journals soon succumbed, and were of more or less value to stamp collectors. It was now that the name "Philately" was introduced. It was the invention of M. Herpin, a celebrated French collector, and was derived from two Greek words, *philos* (dear or friend) and *atelia* (exemption from tax.) The word was not much used at first, but gradually grew in favor, until in a few years it was in general use.

Early in 1866, F. Trifet, of Boston, began to deal in stamps, and is now the oldest dealer in the United States. It is not my intention to mention the many stamp journals of more or less importance, which appeared from time to time; suffice it to say that new papers appeared with increasing rapidity, and although many died for lack of support, the ranks were quickly filled with new recruits.

In the fall of 1867, the leading stamp journals of America and Great Britain, announced that a five-centavo stamp had recently appeared for Guatemala. It was a very elaborate affair and was finely engraved on steel. The design was a beautiful view of a tranquil harbor in which a vessel rode at anchor. The stamp was perforated and gummed, and was printed by the Homer Lee Bank Note Company, of New York. Immense quantities of this beautiful label were sold to nearly all the large dealers before it was discovered that Guatemala never issued the stamp, which was the invention of an enterprising, if not exactly honest, Boston dealer. This is but one instance of the boldness and audacity of the swindlers of the early days, when philately was in its infancy.

Continued on Page 107.

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

E. M. HAIGHT,.....Editor and Proprietor.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico...25 cents a year.  
To other Countries in the Postal Union...35 cents.  
Single Copies .....3 cents.

## ADVERTISING RATES.

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Per Inch.....\$.25

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" " " 5 00.....	15 "
" " " 10 00.....	20 "
" " " 15 00.....	30 "
" " " 25 00 or more,	50 "

Nothing less than a one-fourth inch advertisement taken.

## TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contribution, relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamp, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to E. M. HAIGHT, Box 24, Riverside, Cal.

## FRAUDS.

The following parties are in debt to us, and we are unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests. Names will be taken from this list whenever a settlement is made. A few other names will be added to this list unless accounts are paid.

N. R. CHRISTIE, Beckwith, Calif.

W. C. MERCHANT, San Antonio, Texas.

IRA C. GREENE, Fitchburg, Mass.

PITTSFIELD RUBBER STAMP WORKS, alias W. R. Burbank, Pittsfield, Mass.

F. H. CARPENTER, Box 2988, Boston, Mass.

## EDITORIAL.

We have received from Mr. E. B. Webster of Cresco, Iowa, a few advance pages of a new work he has in preparation on the preservative method or embalming process of mounting birds, which is a comparatively new branch of taxidermy, and we bespeak for it a hearty welcome.

The *Oologists' Exchange*, formerly published by Dickinson & Durkee of Sharon, Wis., now hails from New York City, under the management of Arthur E. Pettit.

"Will you please give me something to eat?" said a tramp. "We have nothing for you to-day," said the housewife. "I am sorry," said the tramp, "for it will not be convenient for me to call to-morrow." The New Home Sewing Machine Co.'s agents are not like the tramp, for they will make it their business to call to-morrow if you will only drop a hint that you are thinking of buying a New Home Sewing Machine.

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The *Universal Philatelic Advertiser and Collector's Companion* which was announced last month to soon be published, has been postponed until next September, so we are informed by the projectors.

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If you are desirous of increasing your collections by purchases, it will well repay you to carefully peruse our advertising columns, as many bargains are offered therein.

—:O:—

Any one having desirable specimens of any kind they wish to sell at low prices, can do no better than place their specimens in our hands, for disposal through our commission bureau, at almost no expense to themselves. Try it.

—:O:—

When sending us advertisements or articles for publication always write the copy on a separate sheet from your letter, and only on one side of the sheet. Subscribers sending exchange notices will also please bear this in mind.

—:O:—

Bessie—"Ma and pa have been quarreling haven't they?"

Willie—"Yep."

Bessie—"Which one got the worst of it—do you know?"

Willie—"Ma did! I heard pa say 'well I guess I'll have to,' and they went down to the store where Brown has that new soda fountain made by

Chapman & Co., Madison, Ind., that we were reading the advertisement of the other day in the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, and they came back arm in arm 'just too loving.'"

Bessie—"Well they do say that fountain makes delicious soda."

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## PHILATELY—PAST AND PRESENT.

*Continued from Page 105.*

But very few stamps have been counterfeited on steel, however, for the method is altogether too expensive for the average swindler.

On April 1, 1868, that splendid publication, Scotts' *American Journal of Philately* issued its first number, and on February 1, 1870, Durbins' *Philatelic Monthly* appeared for the first time. In the latter part of this year, J. Walter Scott held the first auction sale of stamps in the United States, May 28, 1870, and on August 11, 1873, he held the first one in Europe. Hundreds of incidents of minor importance have, of course, occurred, which I have neither the time nor the space to enumerate, and I have given only the greatest events in the early history of philately.

In 1876, the Berlin Postal Museum was established, and a stamp collection begun, which now numbers over eight thousand specimens. On December 20, 1884, the Chicago Stamp Collectors' Union was organized and is the oldest philatelic society now extant. On July 23, 1885, the Denver Stamp Collectors' League held its first meeting, and on September 14, 1885, the Grand American Philatelic Association was organized in New York.

It will be useless to go further and note the events and incidents which have taken place since 1885, for they are known to all. The American Philatelic Association now numbers over seven hundred members;

the Canadian Philatelic Association has nearly two hundred and the Philatelic Society of America has something like one hundred enrolled. These are the three National organizations. Nearly every large city has a local society; many being branches of the A. P. A. There are now regularly published in America, alone, about forty publications issuing from four to fifty pages, monthly, devoted to philately. The number of dealers is over three hundred, of course some being small, while others have thousands of dollars invested, and do an enormous business. Auction sales are of frequent occurrence and the amounts received from each are immense, considering the quality of the goods sold. Fifteen hundred dollars is often received from the sale of some old collection. The past winter has been the most prosperous for philately for years, and dealers report enormous sales, despite the croaking of some old philatelic "fossils" who say philately is on the decline. The days are passed when the professional press spoke of our hobby with ridicule as "child's play." It is now recognized as being on the same level as numismatics, which has long been considered a science. Clergymen and teachers indorse it, for it is geography and history combined.

I believe, give a bright boy an album and plenty of stamps and at the end of the year he will know more of these two branches than if he had studied them at school. Ah, what do not these tiny stamps show? Portraits of the greatest men the world has ever known—rulers, generals, doctors, statesmen and presidents, all depicted on postage stamps in the greatest profusion, and generally of the finest degree of workmanship. They mark the rise and fall of nations, many of the great events in the world's history, and the wonderful progress of civilization. Philately is a science when followed in the proper way. The

small boy with a packet of continentals, a bottle of mucilage and an old copy-book for an album, is not a philatelist. He has to pass through an apprenticeship in stamp collecting before he can lay claim to that title.

I have already encroached to much on your time, kind reader, and space will not permit me to write more. In conclusion, let me say that if you are not already a stamp collector, begin a collection at once. The pleasure and profit derived from it will more than compensate you for your time and money spent.

[THE END.]

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### A SUCCESSFUL HUNT.

One day my friend, Mr. John Willis and myself made a visit to the old creek, where we have been in the habit of going a long time past, to see if we could not find some curios. We wandered along patiently, but to no great findings, only occasionally picking up a red or grey stone. After all our trudging and wandering, we did not get tired of our hunt, on account of the charming scenery and beautiful day. We enjoyed ourselves talking about stamps and noted stamp cranks. As we were walking along, we happened to stop at a certain place, where a large rock broke loose aside of the stream, and viewing it, I suddenly noticed an arrow sticking out from under one side of the rock. To be sure, I did not leave it sticking there; but as it happened I took a stick and proceed farther under the rock; and what do you think I found? Twenty-four arrows, one celt and two of the finest of axes. After this successful find, we forgot all about stamps and the beautiful scenery. We now talked about the Indians and gave our opinions as to how those Indian relics came there. Mr. Willis' opinion was that there be an Indian grave near by, and must

mine did not vary much from his. So we concluded that there was an Indian grave near there, and that we would dig around it some fine day. By this time we were near our home, which ended the curious time.

S. M. MYERS.

—:o:—

### THE STAMP COMPANY OF UMA, OR THE RESULT OF A SWINDEE.

BY FIG—III.

He replied that early issues of Mauritius, New South Wales, United States and Canada stamps were especially desired. Homer procured a large book from a shelf close by, and the gentleman was shown stamps of Mauritius, from 1847 to 1861 almost every variety, also United States early issues, high values, used, unused, etc., etc. The consequence was that the gentleman made some large purchases amounting to about 300 marks or \$75. He produced the money which he handed to Homer and then stated he would start for Berlin on the next train.

As Homer had been detained by the Englishman he also stated that he was going to Berlin, and so the two started off together toward the depot. took the same seat in the car, and started chatting on philatelic matters till they arrived at the great depot in Berlin, where the pair separated, the gentleman assuring the young man that he was much pleased with his purchase and would no doubt give him another call. Homer left the Englishman and hastened to the place where the German had his store and whom he had entrusted with the book. He went to the place, and stepping to the door laid his hand on the latch, and was somewhat surprised to find the door securely locked; he took a peep in at a window in the side of the building and found that everything looked just

as natural as it did at the time he first made a visit to the place. He thought but little of the matter, and went off concluding the man had gone away and would return in the course of a few days, when he would again pay him a visit.

The German's residence was not in the vicinity, and Homer did not want to spend so much time as would be necessary to visit his house, as he had a good deal of business to perform before he went back to Uma, and it was then getting late, so he accordingly started for a paper manufactory to get a supply of paper, and after going there he went to a place where he could buy the kinds of ink used in his business, and so on till he had the necessary amount of supplies he needed; he glanced at his watch and found he had fifteen minutes to go to the depot to take the 5 o'clock train for Uma. He started at a rapid walk thinking over in his mind why the German agent had been absent from his store that day, and also what a bonanza he had made out of the English nobleman. He was just entering the large doorway of the depot as a man in uniform stepped up to him and in a surly harsh voice commanded him to halt. Homer was so startled at this sudden entreaty that he dropped two of his bundles, and realizing his position at a glance, he was just about to make a jump backward when the officer made a dash at him.

[To be continued.]

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## SHANGHAI SURCHARGED STAMPS.

BY PH. HEINSBERGER.

The city of Shanghai, China, is one of those Chinese ports open to foreign trade, according to an agreement between China and the foreign powers. The traffic is in the hands of England, Germany, France, Portugal and a few American merchants. Shanghai is the second principal

port in China. (First is Hongkong).

In Shanghai are post-offices of Hongkong, Japan, Germany, France, which forward all mail matter going to foreign countries. The post-office of China at Shanghai forwards only interior Chinese mail matters. The foreign post-offices sell their own postage stamps. These stamps, known to collectors as so-called "Shanghai stamps," are only "Local stamps," issued by the municipality of the foreign tax-payers. The postmaster of the Shanghai local post-office certainly is a stamp "Amature," who likes to surcharge. The local stamps of Shanghai have amid the "Dragoon," the arms of China. On top are the initials "L. P. O." (Local P. O.) At the bottom of the stamps is the value, and on both sides is a Chinese inscription. The local postmaster must, like that useful friend in need, "surcharge!" Numerous readers of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, look here. Surcharged Shanghai stamps of 1873, blue surcharge; 1874 black surcharge; 1876, 1877, 1879, 1880, 1885, 1886, blue surcharge. But the year 1888 brought lots more surcharged stamps of Shanghai, colors as many as the rainbow. Look here reader, what we philatelists got in 1888 "Daisies!" Surcharges, head up and head down. Vide, 1888. Twenty cash on 40 cash brown, in "two" designs, (1.) surcharge in a frame, (2.) surcharge without a frame. (Some fun.) This surcharge was stopped within one day, because the "smart" local postmaster had found out, after long trial, that—now what—this surcharge was not "showy" enough!!! The mill keeps running! Twenty cash was surcharged in blue on 80 cash redish-orange. Further, 40 cash blue surcharge, on 100 cash yellow. Some weeks were passing, and again the surcharge mill is in operation. Surcharge is in demand! The "smart" postmaster again had "after long trial," found out that it would look better—reader, listen—to use a



"red" surcharge color, and 40 cash on 100 cash yellow was manufactured!!! By an "accident" (?), some of the surcharges were made "head down" (pure accident!) These are "curiosities" and cost more money. My representative at Shanghai informs me, that the local stamps of Shanghai are made in London, England, and that these numerous surcharges were only made during a "temporary" exhaust of the regular Shanghai local stamps. What a good excuse for the local postmaster! A costly play at the expense of stamp collectors, if they will fill up the blank spaces of all surcharged Shanghai local stamps "Philatelia" may bless the stamp fraternity for the "surcharges" during the year 1889!!!

I have just received from my correspondent the following postal statistics about the local post-office at Shanghai during the year 1888:

The local post-office delivered within the limits of the foreign settlement (about 7,000 people), the number of 774,155 pieces of mail matter. Shanghai local postage stamps were sold to the amount of \$4,000. The number of subscribers (merchants) for the delivery of mail, and purchase of all postal matters, was 119. The local post office is under the supervision and control of the "municipality" of the foreign settlement at Shanghai.

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### COMMISSION BUREAU.

Below are given the rules by which our *Commission Bureau* will be governed:

1. No specimens will be advertised that are priced beyond a fair valuation, and of course the lower the price the better the prospect for a successful sale.

2. All specimens sent us must be prepaid, and be accompanied by a full list of all the specimens must be

prepaid, and be accompanied by a full list of all the specimens sent. All risks to be taken by the owners.

3. The expense of mailing specimens must be borne by the owners, and an additional charge of ten per cent. will be made on all specimens sold.

4. After freely advertising the specimens, such as remain unsold will be carefully packed and re-mailed to the owners, at their expense and risk.

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The following specimens have been placed in our hands to be sold on commission. All specimens will be carefully packed and sent prepaid, (unless otherwise stated), to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico, at purchaser's risk on receipt of price. Terms, cash in advance.

### FIRST-CLASS SKINS.

Albino Cal. Towhee, each . . . \$2.00  
Bridled Weasel, " . . . 1.25

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### EXCHANGE NOTICES.

105 Philatelic and curiosity magazines to exchange for birds' eggs, Indian relics or sea shells. Send exchange list and I will return list of mag. lines.

WALTER HORNBACK,

Silver Cliff, Colo.

Have 125 tobacco tags will exchange for best offer of stamp papers. Offer accepted, answered.

C. F. CASE,

Weymouth, Ohio.

A. Manhattan, open-face, stem-winding watch and a pair of No. 11 all clamp ice skates, for violin, bow and instruction book.

P. L. MASON,

P. O. Box 5,

Mt. Holly, N. J.

Sea shells of all varieties, corals, minerals, flintlock guns and pistols, South Sea Island spears, antique furniture and china to exchange for old issues of U. S. Postage and Revenue stamps and collections of stamps.

Address,

S. JACOB,

Newport, R. I.

I will give one fine, perfect arrow-head, for every two Philatelic papers sent me, consisting of no less than eight pages, size of OLD CURIOSITY SHOP. Less than five lots not taken. Must be in good condition.

W. F. CASE,

Box 33, Medina, O.

Will exchange first-class eggs, single or in sets and bird skins, for glass eyes for birds. Write what sizes you have and color.

T. D. HURD,

Riverside, Cal.

200 novels for others, 500 stamp papers for others; stamp papers, minerals and curiosities for stamps. An international stamp album for stamps. My stamp photo for any other persons.

JAMES C. JOY,

La Hoyt, Iowa.

Indian soapstone pottery (fragments,) net-sinks, hammer stones, scrapers, one bayonet sheath and other relics from Antietam, a few rare Confederate bills, and curiosities for Indian relics, coins, and curiosities; western relics preferred Correspondence solicited.

T. B. STEWART,  
Island, Va.

I will exchange Confederate notes, fossils, minerals, Indian spear heads, arrow heads of all kinds, sea star fish, sea urchins, ancient pottery fragment, one grooved axe, for petrified crystallized wood, azules, trillities, old U. S. copper cents, book on Indian relics, or papers of same, Herkimer Co. crys., sea shells, corals, sea fans. WILL T. MILLER,  
Parkersburg W. Va., 1021 Avery St.

I will exchange for medals, war envelopes or foreign coins, 2 Indian hammer stones and a lot of Indian arrow heads.

JAS. R. BOYD,  
Antreville, S. C.

Wanted a D or E. flageolet, with not less than four keys; must be in first-class order.

Offer in exchange, first-class sets with data, or bird skins of southern California.

THEO. D. HURD,  
Riverside, Cal.

A few good Philatelic papers to exchange for eggs, single or in sets. Vol. IX Golden Days, for best offer in Natural History papers.

EDW. L. KITTREDGE,  
Milford, N. H.

One fine specimen "petrified moss," for 10 cents worth of stamps. Catalogue by Scott.

C. F. CASE,  
Weymouth, Ohio.

Wanted:—Old issues U. S. postage stamps, also envelope stamps, department, match medicine, revenue stamps, "in exchange" for stamps of Europe, Asia, South America. Address consignments to

PH. HEINSBERGER,  
9 First Avenue, N. Y.

A 1c U. S. 1857 unused catalogue; 10c for every 3 special delivery stamps, 1885 issue or for every 25 3c vermilion, 1887 issue U. S. Also a few rare U. S. and foreign stamps to exchange for special deliveries and 3c reds. Correspondence solicited.

PERCIVAL PARRISH, A. P. H.  
Box 202, Newport, R. I.

*Chialotites* (cross-shaped crystals) for other crystals or for ten cents in stamps. Send specimens with full data and I will send *Chialotite* in return, varying size and quality of specimen by value of crystal received.

A. B. MORRELL,  
Lancaster, Mass.

I will give an Egyptian official stamp for any of the following:—100 square cut envelopes, 50 3, 4, 5, and 10 cent stamps present issue, 10 department stamps, 25 revenue stamps, 3 special delivery stamps or every match, medicine and playing card stamps.

W. H. VERITY,  
Luther, Mich.

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## CONTENTS:

California Archæology—IV.....	115
Chats About Counterfeits—Part I.....	116
Queer Bird Notes.....	117
Geology—V.....	118
The Stamp Company of Uma, or the Result of a Swindle—IV.....	119
Aerolites.....	119
Figgero's Notes.....	120
The Dodo.....	121
Editorial.....	122
Chalmers and the Right Shall Win.....	123
Allanite.....	123
A Plea for Geology.....	123
Review Table.....	124
Exchange Notices.....	124

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**5,472 VILLAGE NEWSPAPERS**, in which advertisements are inserted for \$42.15 a line and appear in the whole lot—one-half of all the American Weeklies Book sent to any address for **THIRTY CENTS.**



# The ❖ Old ❖ Curiosity ❖ Shop.

VOL. VIII.

JUNE, 1880.

No. 9.

## CALIFORNIA ARCHÆOLOGY.

### PART IV

A locality like this may be looked upon, just as the houses of San Francisco might if deserted and then visited several hundred years after. The domestic articles and the thousand and one things would be of absorbing interest to the archaeologist. So these bits of shell, old flint knives and scrapers are the household goods of the early Californians, telling the story of their lives and methods as perfectly as if it had been written in a book; they are the stone leaves in the history of the time.

A curious ornament found here was a circular plate of slate, the edges worn away by cutting or rubbing with threads. This was possibly worn on the forehead, after the fashion now in vogue by many native indians. In a little valley below this ancient village site, was the remains of an ancient lake. Grass had grown over it, and at the present time it is rarely, except in unusually wet seasons, filled with water. In the center was a large flat scraping or grinding stone similar to that used to-day, and a number of old and broken metates.

In the canyons near here, many mortars have been found, and at the salt works, near the Redonda Beach Company a large shell mound stands, a monument to its unknown makers, and as much of a mystery as the old Newport mill.

These Shell mounds are found in various sections. I have opened them in Florida, finding bones and

pottery, and one of the most interesting was in the State of Maine, about ten miles up a small river. It was made up entirely of oyster shells,



*Flint string cutter.*

covered two acres and was from twenty to thirty feet high. Large trees were growing from it, and its age could not be determined.

The interesting point in regard to this mound is, that not a living oyster is found in Maine to-day. One might imagine that the natives had exhausted the supply in making the mound.

The Redonda Beach mound is the result of bringing vast quantities of shells to a village site year after year and throwing them aside. By excavating many interesting articles are found, telling the story of the makers.

Some idea of the number of persons who lived on these shores four hundred years ago can be imagined, when it is known that the agents of the Smithsonian Institute, under Dr. Yarrow, unearthed in their investigations the remains of over ten thousand natives. Several tons of material were obtained, consisting of mortars, pestles and implements of all kinds.

*(To be continued.)*

**RUBBER STAMP** with your name in fancy type, 25 visiting cards and INDIA INK to mark linen, only 25 cents. (stamp.) Book of 2000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay.

THALMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY,  
BALTIMORE, MD.

Coin, Stamps, Eggs, Etc.

**32-PAGED CATALOGUE FOR STAMP.**

W. F. GREANY,

827 Brannan Street, San Francisco, Cal

**ATTENTION!**

Collectors and Dealers.

A FIRST-CLASS RUBBER STAMP, 1 TO 5 LINES with ink and pads in a neat box only 33 cents. This is not a cheap, good-for-nothing stamp, but is good in all respects. Other makers are charging \$1 or the same.

AGENTS WANTED.

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**Confederate Notes,  
STATE AND BANK BILLS.**

2 Var. Notes and List 5 Cents.

Selections Sent on Approval.

**CRESCENT NOTE CO.,  
TALBOTTON, GA.**

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Published for the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association.

Also the official organ Y. O. A., filled with interesting matter to all.

ONLY 25 CENTS PER YEAR.

SEND SAMPLE COPY FREE

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O. P. HAUCER & CO.,

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For Sale—INDIAN RELICS

Minerals, Fossils, Sea Shells, Old Arms, Confederate and State Bank Notes, Autographs, Stamps, Curiosities, etc. Illustrated Catalogue, 8 cents post-paid. B. W. Mercer, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati, O.

**WOOD ENGRAVING**, Electrotyping, etc. Prices low. H. A. CARHART, Colamer, N. Y.

? ? ? ? ?

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW**

1,001 Important things you never knew or thought of about the human body and its curious organs, How life is perpetuated, health saved, disease induced, How to avoid pitfalls of ignorance and indiscretion, How to apply Home-Cure to all forms of illness, How to cure Croup, Old Eyes, Eruptive, Phthisis, etc., How to mate, be happy in marriage, have prize babies

SEND FOR **FREE RED, WHITE, BLUE PAMPHLETS**  
Murray Hill Pub. Co., 129 E. 26th St., New York.



**JOB PRINTING.**

100 White Envelopes, size 5, 40 cents. 100, size 6, 45 cents. 100 double thick Manila, 35 cents. 100 Note Heads, 45 cents. All post-paid. Lower prices on larger quantities. Send stamp for price lists any kind of small printing. HOWARD H. BROWN, Old Budge, New Jersey.

**TO ADVERTISERS!**

For a check for \$20 we will print ten-line advertisement in One Million issues of leading American Newspapers and complete the work within ten days. This is at the rate of only one-fifth of a cent a line, for 1,000 Circulation! The advertisement will appear in but a single issue of any paper, and consequently will be placed before One Million different newspaper purchasers, or FIVE MILLION READERS. If it is true, as is sometimes stated, that every newspaper is looked at by five persons on an average, Ten lines will accommodate about 75 words. Address with copy of Adv. and check, or send 30 cents for Book of 256 pages. GEO. P. ROWELL & CO., 10 SPRUCE ST., NEW YORK.

We have just issued a new edition of our Book called "Newspaper Advertising." It has 256 pages, and among its contents may be named the following Lists and Catalogues of Newspapers:—

DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN NEW YORK CITY, with their Advertising Rates.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN CITIES HAVING more than 150,000 population, omitting all but the best.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN CITIES HAVING more than 100,000 population, omitting all but the best.

A SMALL LIST OF NEWSPAPERS in which to advertise every section of the country; being a choice selection made up with great care, guided by long experience.

ONE NEWSPAPER IN A STATE. The best one for an advertiser to use if he will use but one.

BARGAINS IN ADVERTISING IN DAILY Newspapers in many principal cities and towns, a List which offers peculiar inducements to some advertisers.

LARGEST CIRCULATIONS. A complete list of all American papers issuing regularly more than 25,000 copies.

THE BEST LIST OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, covering every town of over 5,000 population and every important county seat.

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*(To be continued.)*

## CHATS ABOUT COUNTERFEITS.

### PART I—SOME BOGUS STAMPS.

DON CARLOS.

Since S. Allen Taylor departed for parts unknown, and Elmir A. Dresser became an honest(?) man, counterfeits have not troubled our philatelists to any great extent. There is still however, quite a quantity imported from the old country, which are mixed with genuine stamps and sold by a few dealers whose greed for philatelists lucre exceeds their conscience. During what might be termed "dark ages" of philately the country was flooded with imitations of nearly all the rare stamps and the counterfeiter's purse grew fat with all his ill-gotten wealth, for our science was then in its infancy, and collectors were of a younger and more verdant class, while the papers were few and far between. At the present time, however, philatelists are more enlightened and with our hundreds of dealers and our literature, counterfeits must be very finely executed and backed by a solid train of *apparent* facts to deceive the argus-eyed publishers and dealers of the day.

Nearly all counterfeits are printed either from wood cuts or lithographs; but a few have been engraved on copper and even steel. The latter method is much too costly for the average counterfeiter and is seldom used, in fact the only forgery I have ever heard of was the famous steel-engraved Guatemala. This was over twenty years ago and directly after the stamp papers had announced that the Republic of Guatemala would issue a series of stamps, which were even then in preparation in Paris. An enterprising dealer in Boston, (probably our ex-sunday school superintendent Taylor) was struck with a scheme which, although fraudulent, cannot but command the admi-

ration by the skillful manner in which it was perpetrated. In the fall of 1867, the leading stamp journals of America and Great Britain chronicled a five-centavo stamp for Guatemala, which had just appeared. The new comer was very elaborate in design and was superbly engraved on steel. The design was a beautiful view of a tranquil harbor, in which a ship of the fifteenth century rode at anchor. The charming stamp was neatly perforated and gummed and was the work of Homer Lee & Co., of New York, who now have the contract for the manufacture of our postal cards, under the name of the Homer Lee Bank Note Co. The swindle was one of the most successful ever perpetrated on the long suffering philatelic public and immense quantities of the beautiful label were disposed of to nearly all the principal dealers.

It does seem that the collectors of "ye olden tyme" had much to contend with, for scarcely had the Guatemalan stamp been disposed of to good advantage—to the makers at least—than a stamp appeared which was purported to be the first issue of Paraguay. This was two years before the real issue of that country appeared, but the connoisseurs of the scheme inserted "official decrees" in the journals, signed by a native "Don" who sported the title of "Director of Posts" with head-quarters at Ascension, authorizing the emission of a five reals stamp. This, of course, established the authenticity of the imposters to the satisfaction of the public, and the stamp was duly chronicled by philatelic papers far and wide as the first issue of Paraguay. The label bore as a design a steamship, and greatly resembled the stamps of Suez Canal. The fraud was not discovered until quantities of the stamps were disposed of, and it would probably would not have been discovered then had not Mr. Washburn, U. S. Minister to Panama returned to his home in this country

and denounced the whole transaction as a clever swindle. The Don who was called 'Director of Posts' was a mythical being, and his pretended office existed only on paper.

Many other noted impositions have been worked on collectors from time to time during the past, and for a time succeeded in deceiving the public, but "murder will out" and the frauds were sure to be discovered sooner or latter. Among the most glaring attempts at swindling was the manufacture of the stamps which it is claimed was issued by Utah in 1852. The label was in the form of an octagon and bore a portrait of Brigham Young, the Mormon President. It was printed in dull-blue, from a poor wood cut and was claimed to be for use in franking letters from one part of the Great Salt Lake Valley to another and to Salt Lake City. I hardly think the originator of this label issued it as a money-making scheme, for the fraud was altogether too transparent, but more likely as a joke on philatelists.

The local stamps of Hamburg were issued by an engraver of that city who sent them to America for sale. They commanded high prices at first and became so rare that *they* were counterfeited. Not one of these so-called "postage stamps" has, or ever had one iota of value in Hamburg to anyone excepting collectors and yet the fraud was not discovered for years and until within a short time ago the principal albums contained spaces for them.

Among the most fanciful designs and most successful swindles may be mentioned the Preslau and Dresden express stamps, the "Blockade Postage," the Bolivia one-half, one, two and four reals black, which were called "Interior" stamps, the Charleston S. C. Confederate local with a picture of Fort Sumpter, the five c. pale blue of Magdalena, the Cundinamarca, which was the production of Dr. Michelson, the Danish Consul at Bogota, the "Rio de Oro"

stamps, the "Leitmeritz Express" stamps and hosts of others equally infamous.

The Holte locals thrived for several years and were first issued in 1868 and their worthlessness was not discovered until 1879, when the French Timbrological Society of Paris sifted the matter and made the astounding discovery that there was no town by the name of Holte in Denmark, and that the whole concern was a clever swindle which originated in the fertile brain of a German dealer.

*To be continued.*

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### QUEER BIRD-NOTES.

Orinthologists sometimes think they know all there is to know about the personal traits and domestic affairs of our more common birds, when there are many interesting facts about them which are yet to be learned.

One day last spring, while listening to the birds in my grounds, I heard a curious noise, which came from among a dense growth of trees. It was much like the sharp cry of the ground squirrel, and, unable to find out its originator, I set him down to be some arboreal mammal. I heard the odd sound repeated on many different occasions afterward, but it seemed as deceptive as the voice of a ventriloquist, so that I was never to exactly locate it.

While out in the live oak woods of our peninsula lately, I solved the mystery. I was engaged in seeking out the nest of a pair of scolding titmice (*parus inornatus*), when a California jay (*aphelocoma Californica*), flew into the oak (where I afterward found the nest of the titmice), and screamed at me in his harsh way as though he too had a nest somewhere near. I had almost forgotten about him and his grievance when I heard a familiar sound. It was the old enigmatical cry of my supposed squirrel. In a moment I



was able to unquestionably ascribe it to the angry jay. A dismal croak from another tree I am sure was a companion jay, and I think this species, with the California shrike and a few other familiar birds, should be held responsible for many uncanny noises (we will not say songs) usually attributed to some "strange bird." When off on a trip into the Sierra Nevada mountains this year, I had a not very pleasant experience with a relative of *aphelocoma californica*. I was tramping through a solitary region, "egg-hunting," and as I passed under a towering pine, suddenly from right above my head came a noise about as unearthly as I ever heard. Well, for the moment I confess I was scared, but a good deal more disgusted when I found it was — what do you suppose? A mean, o'd blue-fronted jay (or his evil spirit), who had been just waiting there, probably, to frighten me out of a year's growth. I have no more sympathy for jays. H. R. TAYLOR.  
*Alameda, Cal.*

— :o; —  
**GEOLOGY.**

—  
A SERIES.

—  
PART V.

- 2 Geographical distribution of massive life. 1 General distribution in the ocean. Recent investigations have shown that living species not only inhabit the border regions, but also extend widely and abundantly over a large part of the ocean's depths. Fishes, crabs and other crustaceans, sea worms, echini star fishes, crinoids and corals are abundant. To depths of 10,000 to 13,000 and some 18,000 feet crustaceans of large size, allied to shrimps, many of them with good eyes have been found at all depths, to 3,900 fathoms, and large crabs with perfect eyes at 1,709 fathoms. (2) Causes limiting distribution are two—1, heat, and 2, light. Because of these causes ani-

mals do not penetrate to farther depths. Those that do go the farthest in depth are blind and also unusually large. The blindness is evidence of darkness, and the large eyes of adaptation to the very feeble light. (3) Peat formations. Peat is the accumulation of half decomposed vegetable matter formed in wet or swampy places. Peat is useful for fuel and also as a fertilizer. (4) Coralleefs. In tropical countries corals grow in vast plantations about moist oceanic islands and along the shores of continents.

The corals have much resemblance to vegetation in their forms and modes of growth; and the animals are so like flowers in shape and bright colors that they are often called flower animals. The limestone beds, made from corals and shells, are not a result of growth alone, as in the case of the deposit formed from microscopic organism. Corals and shells, unaided, could only make an open mass full of large holes, and not a solid rock. There must be sand or fine fragments at hand, such as the waters can and do constantly make in such regions, in order to fill up the interstices. Protective effects. Slopes are protected from erosion through a covering of turf; sand-hills from the wind by tufts of grass and other vegetation; shores in many places from the surf by a growth of long sea weeds. Farther, forests keep a vast amount of moisture in the wet ground beneath them, which is gradually supplied to the streams as from a reservoir; whereas, if cut away, the rain fills the ditches and drains and is carried off and the supply of moisture is cut off, greatly to the detriment of vegetation. Destructive effects. Rocks, when jointed or fissured or laminated, are torn asunder and often upturned by the growth of seed in a crevice, and the subsequent enlargement of the root and stem—trunks sometimes growing to a diameter of several feet and as gradually opening the crevice

and thus displacing great masses. Boring animals cause destruction in various ways. The mole, mouse and some other animals tunnel embankments, and open a channel for the exit of confined waters, which rapidly enlarges. Many of us have caught crayfish, muskrats and other animals of like kinds, and we know that they are highly destructive to the banks that protect our fields and meadows that lie along a river or creek. The levees of the Mississippi are thus tunnelled by craw-fish, occasioning floods and devastations.

C. S. MASON.

—:o:—  
**THE STAMP COMPANY OF  
 UMA, OR THE RESULT  
 OF A SWINDLE.**

By FIG—IV.

I seizing him by the collar, gave him a grip with his strong hand and then requested the young man to go along with him without resistance and there would be no serious trouble. The young gennan was completely cowed; he went along very meekly, all the time wondering what could possibly be the meaning of these strange proceedings. He was taken to Havere street station, locked up to await his trial, for it was thought the swindle he had committed on the Englishman that had brought him there. The Englishman was in reality nothing else than a German detective who had been watching the German agent at 2 Bourse street, and had accumulated enough evidence from him to form a plan for the arrest of the party at Uma, who were at the bottom of the whole affair. Officers were dispatched to secure the father of Homer and his brother, and they too were brought to Berlin under arrest, and locked up to await their trial. They were kept there two weeks, when one day the officer appeared and ushered them out of the jail, helped them in a wagon, and they were tak-

en to the court room. Their trial came off in the forenoon, and it lasted but a short time. As there were no witnesses to uphold the swindlers, and as there were plenty of witnesses against them, they were completely trapped. The judge's decision was given on the afternoon of the following day, and it was at once pronounced to the prisoners. The German agent was given one year and six months, Homer and his brother each seven years, and their father ten years in the prison at Berlin. The family felt doomed, but they stood it, as well they might, and the books that were scattered through the city, as well as those at home, with all the counterfeit stamps, were confiscated, and the great stamp swindle was brought to a close.

The swindling trio are now serving out their time in prison, and if they are all alive when their time expires, they will probably never occasion another swindle through the medium of counterfeit stamps.

—:o:—  
**AEROLITES.**

Every year between six and seven hundred meteoric showers take place over the surface of our earth, bringing down at least five thousand separate aerolites. Sometimes one or two single masses fall, and sometimes a shower of three thousand or more stones is distributed over a surface of several acres, or even miles, and sometimes dust alone falls.

Kepler originated the idea that there were more comets and smaller bodies flying about in space than fishes in the ocean. La Place's theory was that they were thrown to the earth by the volcanoes in the moon. Chemists have since proven that aerolites are not of volcanic origin.

It has been stated that aerolites travel between eighteen and twenty-one miles per second. Pliny mentions an aerolite which fell in 467, B. C., which was the size of a wagon,

The Chinese chronicle a large aerolite which fell long before our era. In Aigle, France, on April 26, 1803, a small immovable cloud was seen, out of which, during explosions, lasting five to six minutes, a number of stones fell on a surface two miles long. On Nov. 14, 1856, an American vessel, 240 miles south of Jara, experienced a shower of stones the size of shot.

It is certain that falls of stones were just as frequent in former centuries as they are now, only the records are lacking. Twenty specimens were collected in 1871 by the Swedish Arctic expedition, now in the royal academy of Stockholm, the largest of which weighs twenty-five tons. The next in size has been presented to the Museum of Copenhagen, and weighs ten tons. One weighing five tons can be found in the British Museum. An aerolite weighing 1,635 pounds, which fell in Texas in 1808, is preserved in Yale College. "The Smithsonian Institute possesses a very remarkable annular specimen discovered about 1700, in Mexico, which, according to an Indian tradition, fell there about two hundred years before, during a shower of stones; its weight is 4,000 pounds."

Aerolites, in passing through our atmosphere, undergo some change, as they always take fire in the upper regions, and arrive at the ground quite hot.

Aerolites are of two principal kinds, the stony aerolite and the metallic aerolite. The specific gravity of stony aerolites is 3.5 to 3.8, while that of the metallic is 6.5 to 8. The substances which have been found in different specimens are: Phosphorus, silicon, aluminum, cobalt, manganese, tin, copper, titanium, magnesium, chromium, arsenic, calcium, potassium, sodium, sulphur, carbon, nitrogen, chlorine and hydrogen.

Many scientists believe that the existence of vegetable and animal

life on our planet may be accounted for by aerolites having brought the first organized germs hither.

EDWARD P. NEWCOMER.

—:0:—

### FIGGERO'S NOTES.

James B. Smith, the local editor of the Springfield, Mass., *Republican*, was accidentally shot and killed by his brother-in-law, Mr. W. F. Sturtevant, having mistook him for a burglar. Mr. Smith was an ardent philatelist, and we have lost a valued worker in philately.

The 1872 issue of Guatamala revenues used for postage are exceedingly scarce in used condition.

The stamps of the State of Canca, U. S. of Columbia, described in Vol. 2, No. 2 of *American Journal of Philately*, are being put on the market. We would rather have better evidence of their authenticity than given at present before we purchase any.

The latest is the B. & O. Coun. River telegraph stamps. We have been offered these labels from several sources, but are unable to find anything wrong with them. We are of the opinion that they were in use to frank the letters of this company, and if so, they are as worthy of support as the rest of the telegraph stamps.

Durben & Hanes' new catalogue is the best edition of an American catalogue ever put before the story-collecting fraternity. They are to be congratulated on the fineness of the work.

F. J. Stanton and J. R. Hooper announce a new catalogue in the shape of a complete work on the revenue stamps of Canada. The first edition will be out some time within the next two months.

We hear McLean's directory is out. Not having seen a copy, we are unable to review it.

An A. P. A. book was recently stolen from one of the members. We are unable to learn who or where. We lost some stamps through the affair—or rather, we had some sheets in the book, which will be paid for by the trustees of the association.

Mr. W. L. R. Tilton, of Prairie Depot, Ohio, announced a new paper to appear by 1st of August.

Mr. Corwin is the champion kicker, so-called, but if a few more of the members of the A. P. A. were as able to kick as he is, there would be less of this monotonous non-appointment to vacancy business. We made a deposit with the purchasing agent, Mr. Cuno, early in January last, and have received no stamp up to date. We are of the opinion that a little kicking under such circumstances would be lawful according to human nature at least.

Ph. Heinsberger, handler of "Vola-puck", sheet music, Dutch directories, etc., wishes to inform the numerous readers of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP in this and foreign countries, that he writes articles on any subject at fair estimates, if publishers will put a half-column advertisement at the head of the article free gratis.

—:O:—

### THE DODO.

(*Didus Brevipennis*.)

Next to the fabled roc, the dodo is probably the most interesting of the extinct species of the feathered race. When alive it inhabited the islands of the Southwest Indian Ocean,—principally Mauritius, Madagascar, and Bourbon. The last known specimen died over two hundred years ago.

It is described by Brande, as having been one of the largest of birds, yet the most uncouth and unwieldy of the whole. It had only four or five short feathers in place of wings,

and a bunch of curly feathers instead of a tail.

In general appearance, it somewhat resembled a mammoth goose, with an enormous bill.

It was first discovered by the Portuguese in 1499, on the Mauritius, but it was not heard of again until nearly a century later, when it was seen by some Dutch.

Owing to the relentless annihilation of it by the hunters, and its own incapability of flight, it rapidly passed away, until in less than two centuries after having been discovered by civilized men, the last of the dodos passed quietly from earth.

Its eggs are among the rarest of all known things, there being but one whole one in the world, and is possessed by the Spanish crown.

I have a piece of a dodo's egg-shell, which was given me by a sailor uncle of mine, who got it while in Madagascar.

The piece which I have is two and one-half and one and three-fourth inches and one-eighth of an inch thick. It presents scarcely any curve; so that a whole egg must be exceedingly large. The appearance of the eggshell is somewhat like a large ostrich egg. It is flesh colored both inside and out. The outside is rough like an orange peel, while the inside is smooth.

Collectors having relatives in any of the Southwest Indian Isles, will do well to notify them to obtain all the relics of this curious bird, that is possible.

FREDERICK G. HILLMAN.

—:O:—

Advertisers are requested to give us a trial; our rates are low, circulation at least one thousand copies each issue, and goes to new parties each month, as we keep a classified directory of all parties to whom sample copies are sent, and do not send sample copies to the same person more than twice a year, and special pains are taken to obtain only fresh addresses from reliable sources.

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

E. M. HAIGHT.....Editor and Proprietor.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico...25 cents a year.  
To other Countries in the Postal Union....35 cents.  
Single Copies .....3 cents.

## ADVERTISING RATES.

Per 1/4 inch.....\$ .08 Per 1/2 inch.....\$ .15  
Per Inch.....\$ .25

Subject to the following discounts:

On orders for \$1 00.....	5 per cent.
" " " 3 00.....	10 "
" " " 5 00.....	15 "
" " " 10 00.....	20 "
" " " 15 00.....	30 "
" " " 25 00 or more, 50 "	

Nothing less than a one-fourth inch advertisement taken.

## TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contribution, relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to E. M. HAIGHT, Box 24, Riverside, Cal.

Entered at the Post Office at Riverside, Calif., as second-class matter.

## FRAUDS.

The following parties are in debt to us, and we are unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests. Names will be taken from this list whenever a settlement is made. A few other names will be added to this list unless accounts are paid.

N. R. CHRISTIE, Box 394, Modesto, Calif.

W. C. MERCHANT, San Antonio, Texas.

IRA C. GREENE, Fitchburg, Mass.

PITTSFIELD RUBBER STAMP WORKS, alias W. R. Burbank, Pittsfield, Mass.

F. H. CARPENTER, Box 2988, Boston, Mass.

WILBUR W. THOMAS, 114 Nassau St., New York City.

## EDITORIAL.

We should judge that the Badger State Philatelist is a favorite with advertisers, as it contains more of such matter than most of the journals of its size.

Three different parties have sent us their subscriptions, paying for two years in advance, which shows pretty conclusively that they have the utmost confidence in our staying

Several interesting articles were crowded out of this issue, owing to lack of space, but will appear in the near future.

qualities and realize that the subscription price of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is liable to be advanced at any time.

First pop the question and then question the Pop and see if he will give a LIGHT RUNNING NEW HOME Sewing Machine with the girl.

Our advertising patronage is steadily on the increase, and several who sent us trial advertisements, have now contracted for space on long time, which is pretty good evidence that they were well repaid.

Both collectors and dealers should have their name and address in our classified directory. The expense is trifling, and we are sure you will be well repaid for the small outlay.

We wish to exchange with every natural history, coin, stamp and curiosity paper published, and publishers will please look to it, that we are on their exchange list, as we shall discontinue sending our magazine to those who fail to reciprocate.

You can materially assist us in our efforts to popularize those branches of science which our magazine represents, by showing the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP to your friends, and we will be glad to mail sample copies to any address that you may send us.

W. H. Foote, Pittsfield, Mass., publisher of the *Orn. and Ool. Semi-Annual*, has sent us a few proof sheets of Vol. 1, No. 2, of the above work. The engraved cover presents a neat and attractive appearance, and the reading matter is of

unusual excellence, many prominent Ornithologists and Oologists being contributors. We are informed that the work is nearly completed and will soon be ready for delivery.

—:O:—

### CHALMERS AND THE RIGHT SHALL WIN.

BY FIGERO.

The Chalmers cause is upheld  
By men of rank and note,  
The other side 'tis well known,  
Do bogus colors float.

Lies and Hill combine together  
To inscribe the lines of fame,  
Which has thoroughly been proved  
They will never long remain.

That sense and truth can carry,  
The day against the foe,  
Is proof enough that Hill  
Will never Chalmers overthrow.

And the matter will soon be settled,  
As it ever shall remain;  
Chalmers to the front forever,  
Hill, behind shall still remain.

—:O:—

### ALLANITE.

#### A New Locality for a Rare Mineral.

[Read before the Santa Barbara Society of Natural History by Dr. Lorenzo G. Yates, F. L. S.]

This mineral was named after Mr. T. Allan, who discovered it among mineral specimens taken from East Greenland to Scotland by Mr. Giesecke. It has since been reported as occurring in one locality in Norway; two localities in Pennsylvania, East Bradford and Bethlehem; at Franklin, N. J.; some few other localities furnish varieties; Santa Barbara county now claims the distinction of furnishing a new locality.

This mineral is a combination of some of the rarer metals, cerium, Lanthanum, iddymium and sometimes yttrium and traces of glucinum, silica, alumina, lime and iron being always present; magnesium and water in nearly all the published analyses, and occasionally manganese, soda and copper. It is quite

varied in its composition and appearance, and although neither beautiful to the eye nor of commercial value, it is very interesting to mineralogists, and adds one more species to the list of minerals of California.

Santa Barbara, Cal., May 15th, 1889.

—:O:—

### A PLEA FOR GEOLOGY.

I have often wondered why it is that there are not more collectors of fossils. It seems to me the most interesting branch of collecting. I have tried stamps, tags, post-marks, and almost every other article which is dear to the collector's heart, but each have been thrown successively aside, and I turn with renewed interest to my fossils. Geology seems to me a grand science. I never tire of looking over my specimens one by one, wondering of the past history of each, and of the history of the world in the age in which they lived. How I would like to go back to the time when they were living creatures, see the many forms of invertebrates of the earlier ages, the trilobites and the huge orthoceratites; the beautiful crinoids and the huge palms and ferns of the Carboniferous age, rearing their tops far above all other vegetation; the monstrous reptiles of Mesozoic time; and the huge beasts, many times larger than at the present time, roaming the earth in search of food. But they all lie buried in the rocks, above which so many tread without any idea of the treasures beneath and by the study of which they might determine the past history of our earth. If we collect these remains simply because they are curious, it would be an interesting work, but when we add the study of them to the collecting, it makes the interest intense. I advise all who are looking about for some profitable and interesting way to spend spare time, to begin the study of geology and the collecting of fossils.

FRED R. STEARNS.

April 15, 1889.

## REVIEW TABLE.

"Preservative Taxidermy" is the title of a neat little work just received from the author, E. B. Webster, of Cresco, Iowa. It gives plain, concise directions for preparing and mounting birds by the preservative method, and will doubtless be hailed with delight by those who find the old method of mounting birds from the skin, tedious and unsatisfactory. A chapter is also devoted to the method employed in skinning a bird, and preparing it for the cabinet.

McLeans Stamp Collectors' Guide has at last reached us, and it is the best work of its kind that has ever been published, and is well worth the small price of thirty cents asked for it. It contains the addresses of over 2 000 collectors in the U. S. and Canada, intersper-ed with the advertisements of nearly 200 dealers and publishers, a dictionary of philatlic terms, a list of philatelic frauds, a list of American philatelic societies, a revised list of current American Philatelic periodicals, and about twenty-four pages are filled with interesting and instructive articles, written by prominent Philatelists, which altogether fill 100 pages. No philatelist can afford to be without a copy.

The following parties will please accept thanks for price lists received: F. M. Kinne, Knoxville, Iowa; P. C. Jones, Box 475, Belleville, Ont., Canada; J. V. F. Straus, 87 Second St., Cleveland, Ohio; F. P. Vincent, Lock, Box 28, Chaltan, N. Y.; Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr., 411 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.; W. W. Jewett, 504 Congress St., Portland, Me.; C. E. Curtiss, Sawens, Genesese Co., N. Y.; F. R. Stearns, Elkader, Iowa.

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Below are given the rules by

which our *Commission Bureau* will be governed:

1. No specimens will be advertised that are priced beyond a fair valuation, and of course the lower the price the better the prospect for a successful sale.

2. All specimens sent us must be prepaid, and be accompanied by a full list of all the specimens. All risks to be taken by the owners.

3. The expense of mailing specimens must be borne by the owners, and an additional charge of ten per cent. will be made on all specimens sold.

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Agent and depot for the "OLD CURIOSITY SHOP."

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

A  
 JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
 PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
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## CONTENTS:

Geology—VII.....	131
Coins of Canada.—IV.....	131
Chats About Counterfeits—Part II.....	133
Does a Bird Die a Natural Death?.....	134
Things to be Gained by a Proper Study of Philately.....	134
California Archaeology—V.....	135
The Migration of Birds.....	136
Editorial.....	137
Review Table.....	137
Fine Specimens Free.....	137
Among our Advertisers.....	138
Gems and Precious Stones.....	138
Valuable Receipts.....	139
Receipts for Making Masses of Crystals, Beautiful Ornaments, etc.....	140

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**E. M. HAIGHT, Editor and Proprietor.**

BOX 24, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

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# The † Old † Curiosity † Shop.

VOL. VIII.

JULY, 1889.

No. 10.

## GEOLOGY.

### A SERIES.

#### PART VII

Geological work of a destructive kind is carried forward in a quiet way through the chemical action of the constituents of the earth's atmosphere and waters, preparing thus for the rougher mechanical work of these agents, and the same processes have their formative effects.

The following are some of the mechanical effects connected with the movements of the atmosphere.

1. Transportation of sand, dust, etc. The streets of most cities, as well as the roads of the country in the dry summer day, afford examples of the drift of dust by the winds. The dust is borne most abundantly in the direction of the prevalent winds and may in course of time make deep beds. The moving sands of a desert or sea coast afford the more important examples of this kind of action. Dust is sometimes carried hundreds of miles by storm winds.

2. Additions to land by means of drift sands.

3. Destructive effects of drift sands—dunes.

4. Abrasion, sand scratches. The sands carried by winds when passing over rocks sometimes wear them smooth or cover the surfaces with scratches and furrows. Ridges and bluffs have been deeply worn, or eroded and shaped by this agency.

5. Wind as transporters of moisture.

4th. Water. 1. Fresh water, or those of rivers and lakes. 2. The ocean and with it the larger lakes.

3. Frozen waters or glaciers and icebergs.

1st. Fresh waters. 1. Erosion; sources of streams; drainage areas.

2. Erosion; valley making. Erosion or wear and transportation are consequences of motion. The rain-drop makes an impression where it falls. The rill and rivulet carry off light sand and deepen their beds as may be seen on any sand bank or by many a road side. 3. Methods of erosion. Erosion is carried forward mainly by the following methods: *a* By the friction or strokes of the flowing waters. *b* By the abrading action of transported earth and stones. *c* Aid from decomposition and solution. 4. Cascades. A cascade usually occurs on a rapid stream where in the course of it there is a hard bed of rock overlying a soft one. The hard one resists wear while the soft one yields easily, thus a plunge begins which increases in force as it increases in extent. At Niagara Falls eighty feet of shale underlie eighty feet of hard limestone. Rills and rivulets made by a shower of rain along road sides or sand banks often illustrate also this feature of great mountain streams.

C. S. MASON.

## COINS OF CANADA.

### PART IV.

No. 70. Obverse, a monogram R.H. surrounded by a wreath. Reverse, a ship sailing towards the right, surrounded by a circle. "One penny token, 1814."

No. 71. Obverse and reverse the same as No. 70 "Half Penny Token, 1814."



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No. 72. A farthing, obverse and reverse the same as No. 70.

No. 73. Obverse, a seated figure facing the left, with right hand uplifted and holding in the left an English flag and a shield. Reverse, a ship sailing towards the right, "Trade and Commerce."

No. 74. Obverse, a man threshing "No Labor No Bread." Reverse, a man plowing with two pairs of oxen, "Speed the Plow," "Half Penny Token," several varieties.

No. 75. Obverse, a man with uplifted club, surrounded by a wreath. Reverse, "Pure Copper Preferable to Paper."

No. 76. Obverse, a bust of George III, facing the right, crowned with a wreath, dated 1812. Reverse, a seated figure, facing left, "One Penny Token."

No. 77. Obverse, the same as obverse of 76, except the date is omitted. Reverse, the same as reverse of 76, dated 1812-13.

No. 78. Obverse, a bust facing the left, "Pure Copper Preferable to Paper." Reverse, a seated figure facing the left, "Trade and Navigation, 1838."

No. 79. Obverse "One Penny Token," "Pure Copper Preferable to Paper." Reverse, the same as the reverse of 78, dated 1812-13-14.

No. 80. "A Half Penny Token" Obverse and reverse the same as 79, dated 1812-13.

No. 81. Obverse, the same as 80. Reverse, a ship sailing toward the right, "Trade and Navigation" dates 1812-13.

No. 82. Obverse, the same as the obverse of 80. Reverse, a ship sailing toward the left, "For General Accommodation."

No. 83. Obverse, a ship, "Ships, Colonies and Commerce, 1815." Reverse, "One Half Penny Token," brass.

No. 84. Obverse, the same as obverse of 83. Reverse, "For Public Accommodation," brass.

No. 85. Obverse, a bust facing left, "British Copper." Reverse, a seated figure facing the right, "To Facilitate Trade," date 1825.

No. 86. Obverse, a military bust facing the right. Reverse, the same as 85.

No. 87. Obverse, a seated figure facing the left holding a harp by the right side, "One Half Penny Token" date 1820. Reverse, ship sailing toward the left, "Trade and Navigation," brass.

No. 88. Obverse, a bust facing the left, "The Illustrious Wellington." Reverse, a harp, "Waterloo Half Penny" 1816.

No. 89. Obverse, a bust facing the right, "Marquis Wellington" date 1813. Reverse a seated figure facing the left, "Commerce."

No. 90. Obverse, a military bust facing the left, "Wellington" "Half Penny Token." Reverse, a seated figure with a trident facing the left in a wreath, date 1814; several varieties.

No. 91. Obverse, a military bust, facing left, "Field Marshal Wellington." Reverse a seated figure with trident, facing the left, "Half Penny Token."

No. 92. Obverse the same as the obverse of 91. Reverse. a seated figure facing the left, with and without a trident, a ship in distance, "Half Penny Token."

No. 93. Obverse, the same as the obverse of 91. Reverse, similar to the reverse of 92, date 1813.

No. 94. Obverse, a military bust, facing the right, "Victoria Nobis Est." Reverse the same as reverse of 92.

No. 95. Obverse, a military bust facing the left, surrounded by names of battle-fields. Reverse, Cossack on horse-back, "Cossack Penny Token."

No. 96. Obverse similar to the obverse of 95. Reverse, a seated figure facing left, and holding a trident, "One Penny Token," date 1813.

No. 97. Obverse, military bust of Wellington, surrounded by an inscription, etc. Reverse, a list and dates of battles, etc.

No. 98. Obverse, the same as the obverse of 97. Reverse similar to reverse of 97.

No. 99. Obverse, the same as the obverse of 97. Reverse, the same as the reverse of 97.

The last twelve coins and the two in my preceding article, making fourteen coins are all Wellington pieces which make quite an interesting series. ERWIN G. WARD.

—:O:—

## CHATS ABOUT COUNTERFEITS.

—

### PART II—SOME BOGUS STAMPS.

—

*Don Carlos.*

S. Allan Taylor's able lieutenant, W. E. Skinner, of Lynn, Mass., is responsible for the appearance of the 1870 3 cent blue, in 1885. With the aid of chemicals he changed the color of a large quantity of the 3 cent green, and cautiously worked them off on collector's as rarities.

The Prince of Swindles, however, was the St. Louis 20 cent provisional which was not detected for years, deceiving alike the tyro and the most experienced philatelist. The 20 cent is simply the 5 cent stamp with the "5" erased by chemicals and the "20" inserted in its place *with pen and ink*. There are three known specimens of this stamp and the numerals are different on each, this, alone, being sufficient proof of their true character. The 5 cent is worth only thirty dollars, while the bogus 20 cent was sold at seventy-five. Consequently the enterprising swindler made a handsome profit from his rascality. Everyone has heard of U. S. bank notes being raised in value, from \$15 to \$50, etc., and this is on exactly the same principle. There was also a 2 cent stamp added to the set,

but it was of almost entirely different design, the only similarity being in the fact that both bore the coat of arms of Missouri, and in this they differed considerably. The imitation was type set, while the originals were from copper engravings.

The 1867 issue of Argentine Republic has been extensively counterfeited and a few so-called respectable dealers still offer the vile trash for sale as genuine. The Alsace and Lorraine inverted net work stamps are government counterfeits, the only difference between them and ordinary forgeries being that the former were made by the government in *imitation* of an obsolete issue and the latter are made by private individuals.

There are counterfeits of the stamps of Sandwich Islands, Roumania, Venezuela, Lubeck, Paden, Ionion Islands, Bavaria, Sardinia, Stellaland, Servia, 1868, and others now in circulation, and in some future issue I may give descriptions and accounts of them, but for this time I intend to devote the space only to the more celebrated swindlers.

The provisional stamps of the confederacy offered a rich field for the wily counterfeiter in the "balmy days of yore," and that class of gentry were not slow in recognizing the fact. The stamps of the Confederate States being generally either type set or printed from wood cuts were easily forged, and, added to the fact that at the time counterfeits were most numerous, but very little was known about them, it is but little wonder that the early collectors found philately a "hard road to travel," even though it was a very pleasant one. Several stamps appeared from imaginary towns in the southern States, existing only on paper and in the brains of the originators, which were never south of Mason and Dixon's line. As all confederate locals are rare, the counterfeiters found the business immensely profitable, if not honorable.

[To be continued.]

## DOES A BIRD DIE A NATURAL DEATH?

It is the opinion of some naturalists that birds never die what is called a natural death, but come to their end by some murderous or accidental means; yet I have found sparrows and vireos in the fields and woods dead or dying, that bore no marks of violence; and I remember that once in my childhood a red bird fell down in the yard exhausted, and was brought in by the girl; its bright scarlet image is indelibly stamped upon my recollection. It is not known that birds have any distempers like the domestic fowls, but I saw a sparrow one day quite disabled by some curious malady, that suggested a disease that sometimes attacks poultry, one eye was nearly put out by a scrofulous-looking sore, and on the last joint of one wing there was a large tumorous or fungus growth that crippled the bird completely.

On another occasion I picked up one that appeared well but could not keep its center of gravity when in flight, and so fell to the ground. One reason why dead birds and animals are so rarely found is, that on approach of death their instinct prompts them to creep away in some hole or under some cover where they would be least liable to fall a prey to their natural enemies. It is doubtful if any of the game birds, like the pigeon and grouse ever die of old age, or the semi-game birds, like the bobolink or "century-living" crow; but in what other form can death overtake the humming bird, or even the swift and the barn swallow? Such are true birds of the air; they may be occasionally at sea during their migrations, but, so far as I know, they are not preyed upon by other species.

**CENTENARIAN BIRDS**—It may not be generally known that the eagle, raven and parrot are each centenarians.

An eagle kept in Vienna died after a confinement of 114 years; and in an ancient oak still known as the raven tree, the same pair of ravens, as believed to have fixed their residence for a series of more than ninety years, swans upon the river Thames, about whose age there can be no mistake, since they are annually marked by the Vintners' Company, under whose keeping they have been for five centuries, have been known to survive 150 years and more. The melody of the dying swan is mythological. Upon approach of death the bird quits the water, sits down upon the bank, lays its head upon the sand, expands its wings a trifle and expires, uttering no sound.

—:o:—

## THINGS TO BE GAINED BY A PROPER STUDY OF PHILATELY.

A great many people seem to think that time devoted to philately is wasted, and to such I propose to prove the contrary, and at the same time offer something that may aid to encourage the collector.

In the first place I claim that philately is a help in at least ten useful things, viz: Geography, history, biography, arithmetic, foreign languages, grammar, cultivates a taste for art, helps one in the distinction of colors, promotes a quick observation, and stimulates the memory.

For instance take the 1885, five cent, green, of the Congo Free State, suppose a collector had just been given one, he would first look to see to what country it belonged. Upon learning which, he would, (at least we would suppose he would) after placing it in his album, take a new atlas and look for Congo Free State. This he would find to be a country of Central Africa, and now if he were a model philatelist he would look into its history.

Upon so doing he would find that it was founded by Leopold II, of Belgium, who organized the Congo International Association, and employed Henry M. Stanley to aid in settling and exploring the colony. Then he would naturally take an interest in both King Leopold and Mr. Stanley, and would read about them.

Returning to the stamp again he would notice that it read "5 centimes," this would lead to investigation as to the relative value of a centime to the currency of his own country, thereby gaining important mathematical knowledge.

Then by taking any stamp on which is printed a language other than our own, we can easily gain some knowledge of foreign language. While in reading of stamps we are constantly coming in contact with words by which we may increase our own vocabulary. Again what true philatelist can help admiring the splendid engraving on some stamps, and thereby cultivating a taste for art.

Then there are the colors which one has to learn, such as mauve, claret, buff, etc., which, together with all the various tints and shades, comprises a branch of education in which a great many people are very deficient.

Philately also teaches one to see quickly and thoroughly, as in the observance of water marks, small or large perforations, and in the detection of counterfeits; and is also a great help to the memory, for a stamp once seen and well looked at, generally remains in ones mind always.

Of course there are many other advantages to be gained by wide awake collectors if they make a proper study of their stamps, and not merely paste them into a book without a second thought, for that would be a waste of time indeed.

FREDERICK G. HILLMAN.

## CALIFORNIA ARCHÆOLOGY.

### PART V.

These people were navigators, a fact shown by the presence of remains upon Santa Catalina and other Islands from thirty to fifty miles off shore. Here some of the most interesting finds have been made: Musical instruments, flutes, whistles ingeniously devised of bones of birds, needles of bone, awls, pearl-shell ornaments, weapons of bone and stone, fish-hooks with barbs upon the outside, marvelously clumsy yet probably all sufficient for the pre-historic barracouta of these shores.

Thousands of tons of material still lies buried beneath California soil, and taken with the adjacent portions of Arizona and New Mexico is one of the most interesting fields for investigation on the American continent. We have evidences everywhere of a vast and numerous pre-historic occupation—people who were well advanced in certain rude arts; but they have past away so completely that almost nothing is known of them. The questions, who were they, and where did they come from, are of extreme interest.

Some years ago through the courtesy of Professor A. S. Bickmore, the eminent East Indian traveler,



*Musical instruments found in graves at Santa Catalina.*

now Director of the museum of Nat-

ural History, in New York, I was allowed to examine a map which was suggested of the possibilities of the origin of early Californians. It was a map of the Pacific Ocean, showing the various currents, and here and there ranging from Japan to off San Diego and farther to the south, were red marks, each of which designated the spot where a Japanese or Chinese junk or vessel had been picked up. Blown off from their own shores, and possibly wrecked, they had been brought over to the American Coast and so swept down. In this way California may have been populated with Asiatic stock, and that it is possible there is little or no doubt. The effect upon these people or their descendants on the arrival of the whites has been marked. It has taken but a few years, comparatively speaking, to wipe the majority of them out of existence. The half-breeds Spanish and Indian, may represent their descendants, and occasionally up in the mountains or down by Pachanga is found a pure-blooded Indian, but concerning the people who once inhabited the country they are profoundly ignorant. The study of man in California is one of the greatest interest, and it is to be regretted that so few of our institutions have preserved specimens of his handiwork in the dark days of the Stone Age of the State. C. F. HOLDER.

## THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS

BY RO. L. CLUTTER.

It is a well-known fact that many species of birds leave the resorts in which they have spent the season and go to places which better suit their temperament, returning regularly with the change of seasons.

Why they do this has never been satisfactorily explained. The scarcity of food in rigorous climates is without doubt one of the main factors in the solution, but it is by no means the only one.

The physical necessity of having a uniform temperature has been advanced by some naturalists, but the birds of many migratory species remain in the regions of their nativity without any apparent inconvenience.

Greater freedom from molestation rearing their broods has been suggested as a third factor; if this were so then all southern birds would go north and northern ones go south.

That some birds return year after year has been proved by tying pieces of colored silk to their legs, but this cannot be truthfully said of many species.

The most southern limits of one kind of species may also be the most northern limits of others, so that the species may be regarded as a resident, though the birds are migratory.

The males of some of the different families, in going northward, precede the females by two or three weeks, while the sexes associate in going southward.

It has not been discovered whether any of the northern birds go as far as the equator, though many of the species are known not to pass the Gulf States, while others go we know not where—the martins, swallows, and others of that species leave earliest in the fall, and are followed more slowly by others, which live chiefly on seeds, while some never leave us.

Large districts are gradually depopulated of certain species, while in others they are greatly multiplied. After awhile the former places are revisited by the species that had become nearly or quite extinct, while the latter lose their abundance.

Birds may come and go, but whence they come or whither they go is a matter of conjecture.

One morning the trees in the Capitol Square in the heart of Richmond, Va., were filled with crows.

Not a crow was heard nor a movement seen, they seemed to be awaiting further instructions. After some time several new-comers glided

(Concluded on Page 138)

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

E. M. HAIGHT,..... Editor and Proprietor.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico... 25 cents a year.  
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The following parties are in debt to us, and we are unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests. Names will be taken from this list whenever a settlement is made. A few other names will be added to this list unless accounts are paid.

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## EDITORIAL.

Mr. A. B. Farnham, Benning, D. C., has favored us with a package containing fragments of ancient pottery, found in Maryland and District of Columbia. Any one desiring to obtain some of these interesting relics should read his notice which appears in the exchanges.

We owe our subscribers an apology for the late appearance of our magazine, but unforeseen and unavoidable delays have been encountered and rather than to issue a double number to gain time, we will be behind for a little while, but hope to gradually catch up and come out regularly the first of the month.

—:O:—

## REVIEW TABLE.

Vol. 1 No. 2 of the *Ornithologists and Oologists' Semi-Annual*, has reached us. No. 1 was a great success, but No. 2 is a decided improvement on the first, and Mr. W. H. Foote, the publisher, is to be congratulated on bringing out so worthy a publication. Every true lover of ornithology and oology will be well repaid for the small investment, by sending for a copy. Orders received here. Prices, popular edition twenty-five cents; best edition thirty-five cents.

—:O:—

The following parties will please accept thanks for price lists received: James Biddle, 616 Smithfield street, Pittsburg, Pa.; Edward M. Ruben, St. Kongensgade 27, Copenhagen, K. Denmark; P. C. Jones, Belleville, Ontario, Canada; F. M. Kinne, Knoxville, Iowa; Mulford Jenkins, Rensselaerville, Albany Co. N. Y.; Charles M. Breeder, 332 Market street, Bethlehem, Pa.; Crescent Note Co., Tolbottom, Ga.; Rev. C. M. Griffith, Niobrara, Neb.

—:O:—

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#### AMONG OUR ADVERTISERS.

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Good rubber stamps are an indispensable necessity nowadays, and such can be had of R. W. Ford, who has executed some fine work for us in this line.

Our farmers who are going to make molasses this season and have new machinery to buy, should begin to look around them, finding where the best and cheapest can be had. We refer our farm readers to the well-known house of Chapman & Co., Madison, Ind., who manufacture a full line of these goods. They make the best, cheapest and simplest self-skimming evaporator we know of. Their advertisement will be found elsewhere in this paper. If interested send for their catalogue.

W. F. Greany is one of the old standbys and carries a stock of most everything needed by a collector, and his prices are reasonable.

The Thalman Manufacturing Co., make a first-class rubber stamp, as we know from experience, having had considerable work promptly and satisfactorily executed by them.

#### THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS,

(Concluded from Page 136.)

among them treading their way through the flock, when suddenly the teeming thousands rose simultaneously and departed as mysteriously as they had come.

#### GEMS AND PRECIOUS STONES.

BY J. M. CARTER.

##### PART I.

The term *gem*, which is given to jewels and other valuable stones, means in archæology, engraved stones of the precious kinds, and even small engraved portions of hard and natural rocks which have been worn as jewels.

As a general rule the ancients did not engrave such stones as the diamond, ruby and sapphire, being satisfied with those of less hardness and value. The sardonyx, a variety of the onyx, having different colors,

reddish yellow or orange, predominating, was much prized by them, and was in particular use for cameos. Another stone used by them was the agate, the variegations of which are sometimes beautifully disposed, representing plants, trees, rivers, clouds, etc. The agate was the second stone in the third row of the breastplate of the Jewish high priest.

Several varieties of the emerald are mentioned by the ancients, as the Bactrian, or Scythian, supposed to be a green ruby. Many remarkable stories are told of this gem, which has been found only with engravings of a later period. One, sent by a king of Babylon to a king of Egypt, was said to be four cubits long and three in width; and an obelisk, forty cubits in height, in the length of Jupiter, is reported to have been made out of four emeralds, while Theophrastus mentions an emerald column of great size in the Temple of Hercules at Tyre. It was also used by gem-engravers to "refresh" the sight, or inlaid in the eyes of statues, as in the Lions at Cypress, erected to Hermias.

Besides these there were many others, some of which are described under the same name. In the selection of stones for engraving, the gem-engravers adapted the material to the subject, Bacchanalian subjects being often engraved on amethysts, marine on beryls, martial on carnelian sards and red jasper, rural on green jasper, and celestial on chalcedony. Superstitious virtues were also attributed to different varieties of gem; thus, amethyst was said to protect from the influence of wine, and jasper was particularly recommended for amulets, being considered a charm against scorpions and spiders.

The art of engraving precious stones was comparatively unknown till the time of the Ptolemies. An exception is a signet of yellow jasper, engraved with the name and titles of Amenophis II., who reigned about 1450 years before Christ. This sig-

net is now in the British Museum. In design the oldest gems are of cylindrical shape from one to two inches long and half an inch thick, with a hole bored through for a cord to tie around the wrist. Among the Greeks the earliest instance of an engraved gem is the emerald ring of Polycrates, who lived 740 years before Christ. At a later period Ptolemy V., presented his portrait engraved on an emerald to Lucullus and Cleopatra had a gem on which, was engraved a picture of Bacchus. The style of engraving at this period is fine and noble; the subjects are generally heroic, but busts and portraits of divine, regal, and historical persons appear.

—:O:—

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—:O:—

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Below are given the rules by which our *Commission Bureau* will be governed:

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2. All specimens sent us must be prepaid, and be accompanied by a full list of all the specimens sent. All risks to be taken by the owners.

3. The expense of mailing specimens must be borne by the owners, and an additional charge of ten per cent. will be made on all specimens sold.

4. After freely advertising the specimens, such as remain unsold will be carefully packed and re-mailed to the owners, at their expense and risk.

—:O:—

The following specimens have been placed in our hands to be sold on commission. All specimens will be carefully packed and sent prepaid, (unless otherwise stated), to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico, at purchaser's risk on receipt of price. Term, cash in advance.

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them in your home for 2 months and shown them to those who may have called, they become your own property. Those who write at once can be sure of receiving the **Watch and Samples.** We pay all express, freight, etc. Address **Stinson & Co., Box 812, Portland, Maine.**

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Address, R. A. WALLACE,  
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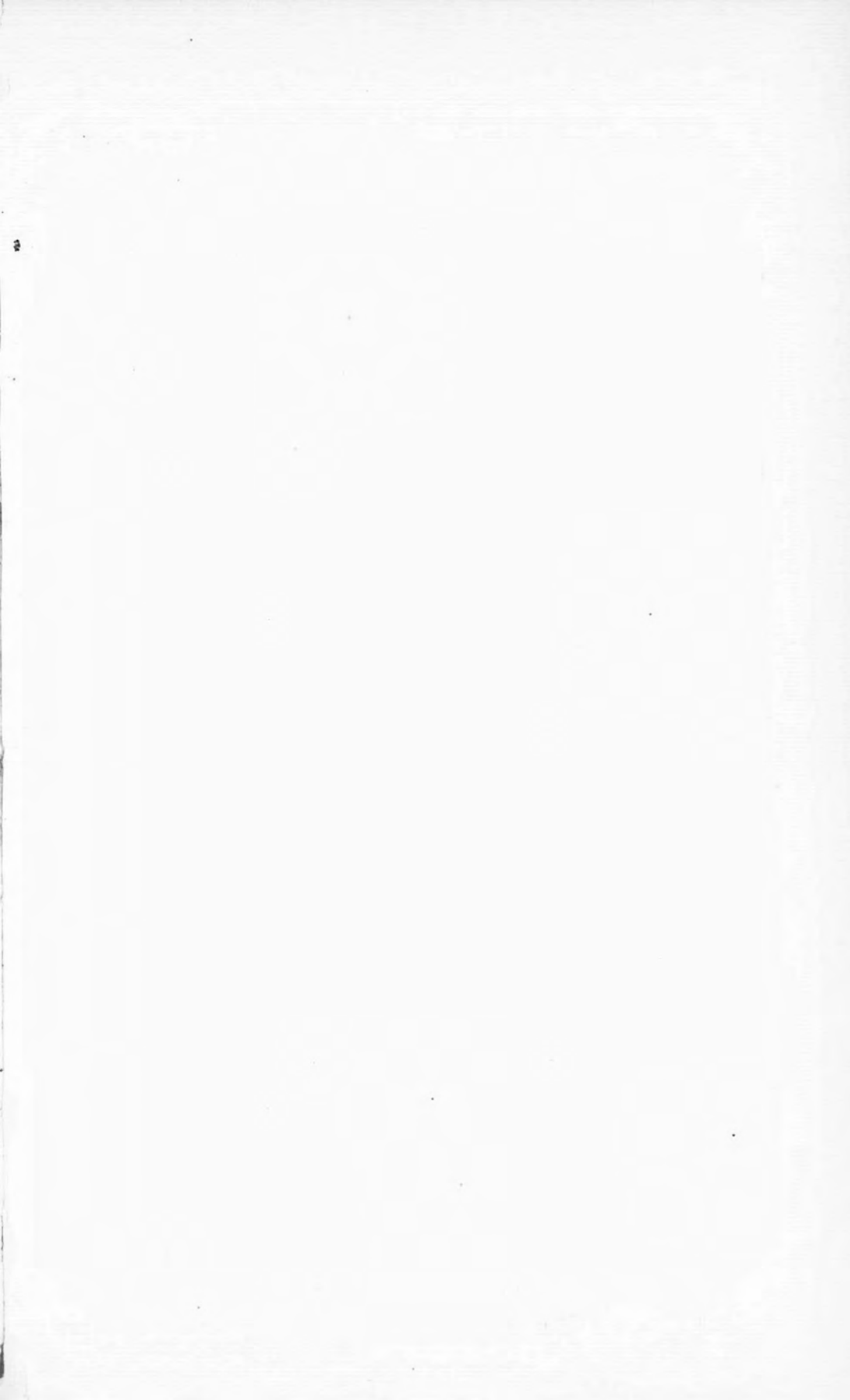
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Call for Cards, Catalogues, and Banners. Free exhibition of the NEW HOME at your own home.

THE Stolen Boy "Charlie," \$1. Mustang Bill, 25 cents. Greely's Exploration, 25 cents. All are handsomely illustrated.

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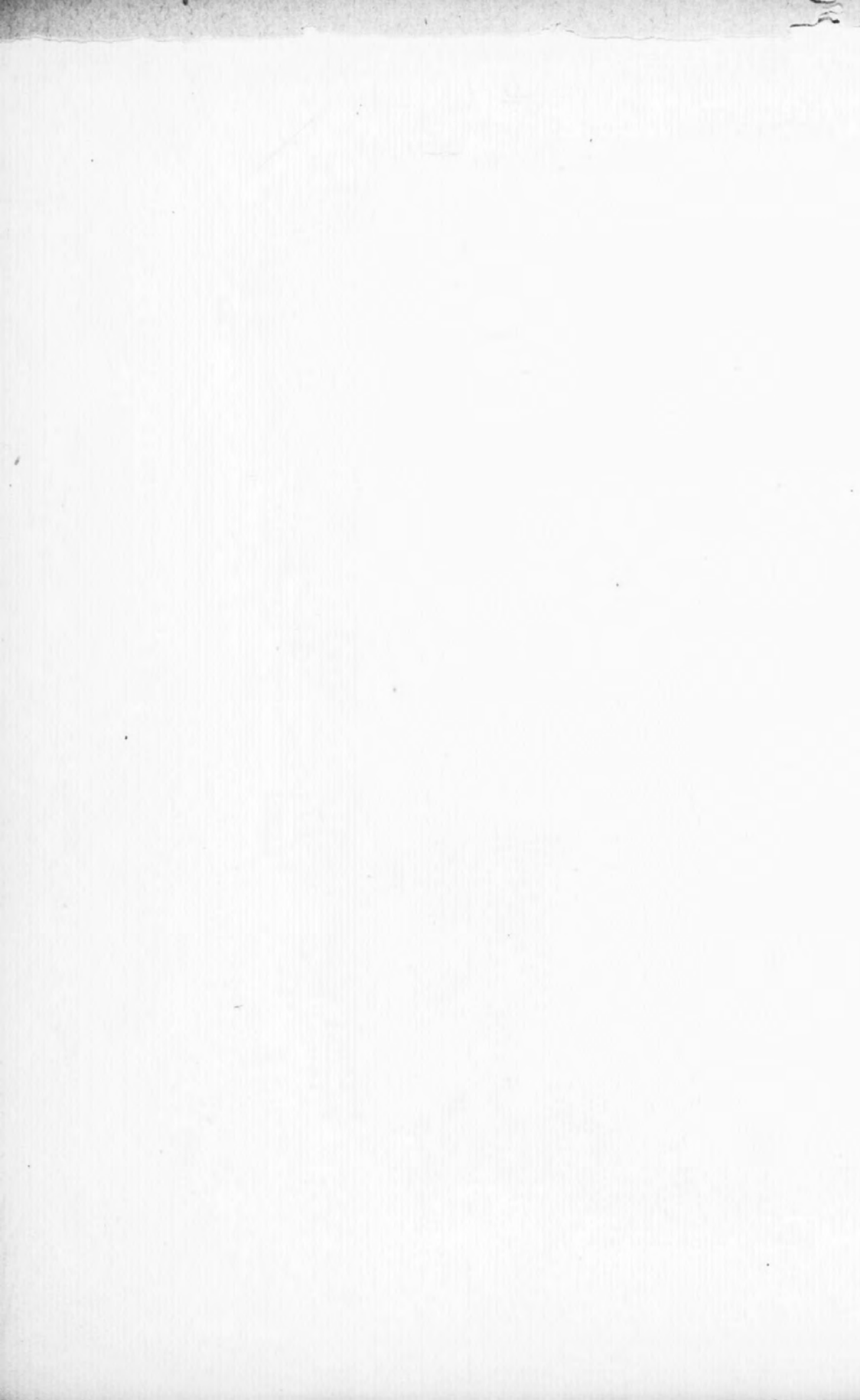






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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

VOL. VII.

MARCH, 1888.

No. 36.

### *Easter is Coming.*

"Easter is coming!" the flower king said,  
As through his dominion he passed,  
Where the haughty and gay,  
With the humble and sweet,  
Were cunningly mingled and massed.

And each tender plant was thrilled to the heart  
As the Spring life went joyfully through,  
While they made themselves ready  
To give of their bloom  
For the morn that was coming anew.

"O, Easter is coming!" sweet flowers, heavy  
souls,  
Your buds will be lost in your bloom,  
And the one who like Christ,  
Has gone down to the grave,  
Like Him shall arise from the tomb.

### *Easter.*

Whatever we escape, none of us escapes fully and always the dark shadow of the death-angel's wing. There is a pretty little Hindoo tale of a woman who went hither and thither with her dead babe in her arms, crying to the neighbors to help her:

"Something to heal my darling's hurt!" she cried,  
"Girl, thou art mad," was all that each replied,  
But one, "Thy cure with Buddha doth abide."

Still holding the dead child against her heart,  
She found the prophet and made known her  
smart.

"Buddha, canst cure him with thy wondrous art?"

"A grain of mustard seed," the sage replied,  
"Found where none other young has ever died,  
Will cure the pain you carry in your side."

Alas! though she wandered east and west she could not find the magic seed. Everywhere death had been before her. So she was fain to learn patience. The universal fate must be borne. Patient endurance was the highest lesson philosophy could teach. From experience, hope is the higher lesson which we learn in the school of our beloved Lord. As one by one the dear, the good, the beautiful vanish from our sight, and go where we can no longer hear their voices or touch their hands, our hearts ache indeed, but they do not break. Our darlings are with Jesus. They are safe. We can wait to see them again. We can even wait with more courage and more serenity for our reunion with the lost brother or sister or friend, whose ship has crossed the deep river of death and touched the bright shore of heaven, than for some one who lingers across the visible continent, or wanders on the other side of the Atlantic.

Our precious ones who are with Jesus can never more be hurt, or vexed, or blighted with sickness, or agonized with suspense. We miss them. We are lonely without them. We wonder that the world can go on when they are not in it; and yet all our grief is as golden as the clouds that curtain the descending sun.

And so we may all keep Easter. Whatever be our portion we may put on white robes and eat joyful bread, and adorn ourselves as for a feast. Let every house have its Easter lilies and every heart its Easter anthems. Let us gather the little ones in our dwellings, and read to them the sweet chapters which tell how Christ arose, and how gently He dealt with His friends after He had arisen. Let us go to the graves of our dead in sacred and devout thankfulness. Let us be far more thoughtful, tender and patient with the living than we have been, putting on charity, laying aside malice, and devoting ourselves to making those about us happy. It is a false religion which contents itself with rhapsodies, and bears no fruit in right living. The manliest men, the loveliest women, are those who have most of Christ's spirit in their lives, and who spend their days in blessing their kind.

### *The Bridal Veil.*

In early ages among the Jews, Pagans and Christians, the practice of crowning both bride and bridegroom with chaplets of flowers was almost universal. Among the Anglo-Saxons a chaplet of myrtle was kept in the church for this purpose. The origin of the veil is lost in obscurity. Jeaffreson thinks it may be ascribed to the Hebrew ceremony, or to the East, where veils have been worn from time immemorial, or to the yellow veil, which was worn by the Roman brides. It has not always been looked upon as an indispensable adjunct to the bride in this country.

Napoleon at twenty-five commanded the army of Italy. At thirty he was not only one of the most illustrious Generals of all time, but one of the great law-givers of the world. At forty-six he saw Waterloo.

### *Great Young Men.*

Charles James Fox was in Parliament at nineteen.

The great Cromwell left the University of Cambridge at eighteen.

John Bright was never at any school a day after he was fifteen years old.

Gladstone was in Parliament at twenty-two, and at twenty-four was Lord of the Treasury.

Lord Bacon graduated at Cambridge when sixteen, and was called to the bar at twenty-one.

Peel was in Parliament at twenty-one, and Palmerston was Lord of the Admiralty at twenty-three.

Henry Clay was in the Senate of the United States at twenty-nine, contrary to the Constitution.

Gustavus Adolphus ascended the throne at sixteen; before he was thirty-four he was one of the greatest rulers of Europe.

Judge Story was at Harvard at fifteen, in Congress at twenty-nine, and Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States at thirty-two.

Martin Luther had become largely distinguished at twenty-four, and at fifty-six had reached the topmost round of his world-wide fame.

Conde conducted a memorable campaign at seventeen, and at twenty-two he and Turenne also were of the most illustrious men of their times.

Webster was in college at fifteen, gave earnest of his great future before he was twenty-five, and at thirty he was the peer of the ablest man in Congress.

William H. Seward commenced the practice of law at twenty-one, and at thirty-one was President of a State Convention, and at thirty-seven Governor of New York.

Washington was a distinguished Colonel in the army at twenty-two, early in public affairs, commander of the forces at forty-three and President at fifty-seven.

Maurice of Saxony died at thirty-two, conceded to have been one of the profoundest statesmen and one of the ablest Generals which Christendom had seen.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

EDITORIAL.

The following, signed by the former editor of this magazine, and dated March 7, 1888, explains itself:

The undersigned, this day has sold to C. R. Orcutt all right, title and interest in the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP monthly magazine.

[SIGNED] WILL M. CLEMENS.

The publisher will hereafter be editor also, and takes this opportunity to request the cooperation of all coin, stamp or curiosity collectors. Contributions, especially on natural history subjects, numismatics and philately, will be heartily welcomed.

Dealers—send for advertising rates.

*Numismatic Notes.*

A fresh coin from nature's mint is penny-royal.

A rare combination is dollars and sense.

The first coinage of silver at Rome was in B. C. 294.

Coin was first used in Britain in B. C. 25.

There are twenty seven varieties of the Pine Tree and eleven of the Oak Tree shilling known to collectors.

Charles II, issued half-pennies and farthings, which for the first time bore the figure of Britannia, modeled from the King's cousin, Francis Stuart, remarkable for the beauty of her figure.

Copper coins were used in Sweden about A. D. 1690 that weighed three pounds and a quarter each. Fifty years earlier Queen Christina made them to weigh twenty-five pounds each, mere "lumps of copper." It was said that rich people were constrained to keep such "hunks of money" in their cellars to prevent their weight from breaking down the house. They were justly termed *mummi singulares* (remarkable coins).

*Antique Bronzes.*

A discovery of antique bronzes at Angleur, near Liege, France, is said to have brought to light specimens as valuable as those found at Pompeii. There were twenty or more of these unearthed by a bricklayer, among which were two small statues of women, one of a young man, two fawns, three bearded Mercuries, two tiger heads, and other objects. It is thought that the objects must have formed part of some monumental fountain and the statuettes were brought from Italy.

*A Glance at Books.*

"Cosmic Emotion," also, "The Teaching of Science," by Prof. William Kingdon Clifford, F. R. S., published by J. Fitzgerald, 24 East Fourth Street, New York. Price ten cents, post free.

Among the writings of the late Prof. Clifford, the essay on "Cosmic Emotion" holds a foremost place. It is a study of "the sum of things," the universe as it affects the mind and the imagination of the poet. Like every department of knowledge and every field of human endeavor, Poesy has necessarily undergone the influence of the scientific spirit. Is the fire of poetic inspiration quenched in our time by the advance of science and the diffusion of knowledge? Or is the Universe as Science presents it an object that alone can call forth the highest and deepest emotion? The question is one that could not have occurred in earlier times. It is strictly one of this 19th century. And no one so fitted to treat it as Prof. Clifford.

*How Fine Flowers are Grown.*

All the fine flowers seen at exhibitions are obtained by the plants being "disbudded," as the method is technically known. The expert florists instruct amateurs, who select special kinds from the cut flower tables that they must not be disappointed at finding them half the size when they flower, unless they pinch off all the buds but one on each shoot just as soon as the buds can be seen.—*New York Mail and Express.*

*A New Silk Worm.*

The government of the State of Yucatan, Mexico, is making experiments on a new species of silk, produced by a wild silk worm, which is closely allied to the domestic silk worm. The silk on the cocoons is elastic and of excellent quality, though rather uncertain in color, varying from white to pale brown, but one difficulty is that it is covered with a gum which is very difficult to dissolve.

*Oat Meal and Beef Tea.*

A physician finds a preparation of oat meal and beef tea useful in giving strength to weak patients. To make it, take two tablespoonsful of fine oat meal and make it perfectly smooth in two spoonfuls of cold water; pour into this a pint of strong beef tea; boil it eight minutes; keep stirring all the time; it should be very smooth; if lumpy pass through a sieve.

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## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

### Prayer.

Go when the morning shineth,  
Go when the moon is bright,  
Go when the eve declineth,  
Go in the hush of night;

Go with pure mind and feeling,  
Fling earthly thoughts away,  
And in thy chamber kneeling,  
Do thou in secret pray.

Pray for those who love thee—  
All who are loved by thee;  
Pray for those who hate thee,  
If any such there be.

When for thyself in meekness,  
A blessing humbly claim,  
And link with each petition  
Thy great Redeemer's name;

Or, if 'tis e'er denied thee  
In solitude to pray,  
Should holy thoughts come o'er thee  
When friends are round thy way.

E'en then the silent breathing  
Of thy spirit raised above,  
Will reach His throne of glory,  
Who is mercy, truth and love.

The tomb is empty; so ere long shall be  
The tombs of all who in our Christ repose;  
They died with Him who died upon the tree,  
They live and rise with Him who died and  
rose.

### Samples of False Economy.

It is false economy to do part of to-morrow's work to-day; living cheaply so that you can dress well; going to law about anything you can compromise; to employ a botch because he doesn't charge much; sitting in the twilight doing nothing in order to save oil; buying things you don't want because they are cheap; marrying your daughter to an adventurer so as to have her off your hands; to take your money out of the bank and invest it in a wildcat scheme; taking your boy from school and allowing him to grow up in ignorance for the sake of the \$2 a week he can earn.—*Philadelphia Call.*

### Photographing of Paintings.

Several colors will not photograph—that is, they come out in the negative white or blank—and the photographing of paintings for reproduction or engraving is, therefore, an art. Science has, however, enabled the transfer of the lines in these colors by the medium of tinted glasses between the camera and painting, which retards the travel of the light rays, so that the lines in certain colors are secured and the work reproduced in a plate for engraving.—*New York Times.*

### Washing Vegetables.

Housekeepers make a great mistake when they allow their vegetables to be washed at all until just ready to put on to cook.

## Collectors, Agents, Men, Women, Boys, Girls and Everybody,

we will insert your name and address in our large name Directory, which goes whirling all over the UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND ALL PARTS OF EUROPE to Advertisers, Publishers, Dealers, Traders, Jobbers, Inventors, Scientists, Manufacturers, etc., etc., and in return you will receive, free of all cost, for years to come, Thousands of Samples, Papers, Magazines, Circulars, Works of Art, Cards, Novelties, Souvenirs, Books, Letters, Curiosities, etc. In this way you may find an article, book or paper, that you have long wanted, but did not know where it could be found. Also an agency may be opened worth THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR. As often as anything new comes up you will be at once remembered, as our lists of names are world-renowned and kept by all firms with the greatest care. You will be kept posted from time to time with no outlay to yourself for paper, envelopes or postage stamps. WE WERE THE SOLE INVENTORS OF THIS MEDIUM, AND ESTABLISHED IT IN 1880, AND TO-DAY WE ARE THE ONLY FIRM IN EXISTENCE WHO DARES POSITIVELY GUARANTEE 500 PARCELS OF MAIL TO EACH NAME INSERTED, AND TO THE NAME FOR EACH TIME IT IS INSERTED IN A NEW ISSUE. Other firms do not know the great method by which we so readily gain this great abundance of mail, and dare not guarantee, as they cannot get the mail to back them. Do not pay attention to others who advertise to do what they cannot fulfill.

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

VOL. VII.

APRIL, 1888.

No. 37.

## *A Novel Idea.*

It was in the fall of 1884 that I conceived the idea of becoming a Philalelist, or in more simple words, a collector of Postage Stamps. I was then 17 years of age. In the town in which I lived was another boy of about my own age, or perhaps a trifle younger, who, on seeing my stamp album and collection, declared he would follow suit and begin at once. I told him where he could get an album with 800 varieties neatly hinged in it very cheap. He sent for the album at once, and in a few days it arrived. Fred declared it was just the thing for a beginner. Its cost was only \$5.00, and it was worth by all means \$10.00. One day, nearly three months later, I was invited to make him a visit and look at his collection, which had increased to nearly three thousand varieties. The next day, which was Thursday, I was on hand at 10 A. M., and ready to make Fred a visit. With his invitation, which was persocal of course, he requested me to bring my album and w. + stamps I had to exchange. It will take a Saratoga trunk to hold all of my stamps, I replied; but I will bring what I can with convenience. How many have you to exchange? I asked of Fred. I do not know, he replied; a few thousand at least. As I said before, I was at his house at 10 A. M., and was duly admitted. Guess what I found? Fred looking as sad as if he had swallowed a knife, instead of losing his temper. He was moving his foot backwards and forwards on the carpet with steady even strokes, and around his ankle was tied a clothes-line, which led from it to a hole in the door and then disappeared through it; and all this time he was busy writing, and reading occasionally from a large book near at hand. As soon as I had removed my wraps and had seated myself, I asked Fred what was the matter. 'Matter enough,' he replied. 'This morning mother had to wash, and of course I must help her run that patent washing-machine, so I constructed this apparatus. The rope leads to the handle of the washing-machine, which works backwards and forward from a vertical to a horizontal position, and thence back to

an angle of 45 degrees. I have constructed a weight on the other end of the rope, and that pulls the handle in an opposite direction from us. I find that it works well, although it makes my feet ache some, and I often change the rope from one leg to the other.' At this point his mother called and reminded him that the washing was done. He then gathered up the rope, coiled it and put it away. He soon returned to the library where he had been at work. 'I have just received a new album for my little brother,' Fred said, upon entering. 'I also received fifteen varieties of rare stamps, which went with the album, and I find a rare Br. Guiana stamp among them, probably placed among the rest by mistake. It is the one-cent Brown 1862 issue of Adhesives, and it is catalogued by Scott at \$2.50 in the forty-seventh edition of his Standard Stamp Catalogue. The album is the Imperial, and cost 75 cents. The firm I received it from is the Globe Stamp Company, of St. Louis, Mo.," said Fred. What? The Globe Stamp Company, of St. Louis?' I said. 'That company is compose of a set of frauds,' I continued; 'and it is a wonder that you received a reply at all. Here is a copy of the Stamp Collector, which exposes them and their doings.' 'Is all that true you tell me?' said Fred. 'I have a three dollar order on their book at present and I have wondered why I have not received a reply before now. Last month I sent for a complete set of Venezuela Revenues.' 'That is money thrown away,' I replied, preparing to take my departure, as it was getting late. On my way home I meditated on Fred's novel idea and his singular loss. I soon came to the conclusion that everybody in this world cannot be trusted.

W. L. BABCOCK.

Eden, N. Y.

"The case is precisely the same with the science of human thought and philosophy, as with external life and daily experience. Nothing is more highly estimated in society, business or politics than an active and consistent character.—*Schlegel.*

## *One Step at a Time.*

I stood at the foot of a Swiss mountain which towered up from the foot of the Vispbach Valley to the height of ten thousand feet. It looked like a tremendous pull to the top. But I said to myself, 'Oh, it will require but a step at a time!' Before sunset I stood on the summit enjoying the magnificent view of the peaks around me, and right opposite to me flashed the icy crown of Weisshorn, which Prof Tyndall was the first man to discover, by taking one step at a time. Every boy who would master a difficult study, every youth who hopes to get on in the world, must keep this motto in mind. When the famous Arago was a school boy he got discouraged over mathematics. But one day he found on the waste leaf of the cover of his text book a short letter from D'Alembert to a youth discouraged like himself. The advice that D'Alembert gave was, 'Go on, sir; go on.' 'That sentence,' said Arago, 'was my best teacher in mathematics.' He did go on steadily until he became the leading mathematician of his day, by going one step at a time. It was by such steady steps that Joseph made his way up from being an ill-used lad until he became the noble ruler of Egypt. If all of Joseph's trials and temptation had come on him at once they might have crushed him; but they came one at a time, and God helped him every time to conquest. Just as certainly will He help you if you ask Him by prayer.—*Dr. Cuyler.*

## *Begin.*

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow," was doubtless repeated by children, who, if now living, would be centenarians. It is but to begin and continue in the right direction and the accomplishment of a purpose is secure, of which the following item is an evidence in point:

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*Spring.*

It is now the 21st of March, when they say in dear New England that Spring has really made its advent; but not a wild flower is yet to be seen in Vermont. Even on May Day we may recall that many a year the sweet poetess, the late Mrs. Francis Sargent Osgood, might say in her May Day song:

"Can this be May, can this be May?  
We have not found a flower to-day."

But here in San Diego, on my table, are a handful of wild flowers picked at random in March; among them are a wild pea, *Lathyrus splendens*, of a lovely rose pink, and the rich, dark purple *Phacelia*, *Phacelia Parryi*, which is a five-lobed poi monopetalous flower, with attractive white anthers, and a row of white spots in the center that give it a speaking character like the pansy. Indeed, I know of no wild flower in California that looks as much as though it would answer you if you spoke to it as if you expected a response.

Then there are the starry pink and white alliums, reminding one of a delicate orchid; they are fine and trim as though they had not grown in the dusty field, but had been manufactured from spun glass or of wax, tinted with the blushes of Aurora; and all these flowers are set off in their beauty by a background of graceful ferns, not yet in fruit. The California silver fern is particularly lovely, a vivid green upon one side and fresh white upon the other, the contrast making it as attractive as a brilliant flower and quite unique. Then there is a tender maiden hair fern in all its pliant grace and suppleness suggesting the lines of the old song, "Bright Alfaretta; Adown the blue Junieta." E. E.

Lord Byron, England's great poet, born in the year 1788, and dying at an early age, counted by years, in Greece in 1824, still remains young. Young in the memories of those who read his first lines. It is said that the house where he was born is still standing, and that his centennial was not much celebrated in England, though not forgotten in Greece.

*The Fleeting Hours.*

Passing events will soon be history, and our present future will soon be looked back upon as the past. I was led to these reflections by a chance glance at my diary, where I had recorded an event long looked forward to as in the far distant future; and now behold! it is one of the things of the past. And thus I now realize that to the aged the days of their youth, their future prospects so bright and hopeful are now but things of the past, and yet to the participants it seems but a little while ago, and their past was their future. Oh, we cannot hold the winds in our fingers, neither delay the flight of time; but one thing we can do—make use of the present, make such use of it that when recorded with the past, it shall leave to us all, pleasant memories. E. E.

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VII 38

## CONTENTS:

	PAGE.
A Wonderful Coast.....	33
Clearing Land in San Diego County.....	35
The Stamps of Switzerland.....	36
The Green Turtle.....	37
Flavor of Pork.....	37
Advertising.....	37
Nate Chauncey's Luck.....	38
Among the Magazines.....	38
Newspapers in 1888.....	38
How to Carve a Fowl.....	38
Giants Among Small Things.....	39
Epoch of the Mastodon in North America.....	40
Opuntia Fruit as an Article of Food.....	40
A Vegetable Garden the Year Round.....	41
A Few Words About Trees of British Columbia.....	42
Editorial.....	43
The 1779 Cent.....	43
The Republic of Salvador.....	44

	PAGE.
Editorial.....	45
A Glance at Books.....	45
Changes in the Color of Grapes Grown in Northwestern Mexico.....	46
The Deer of Southern Lower California.....	46
Poetry—"None of Our Business".....	47
The Lime Kiln Club on Health.....	47
Don't Whine.....	47
Conversation.....	47
A Beautiful Sentiment.....	47
A Good Motto.....	47
A Practical way of Doing Good.....	47
Humming Birds.....	48
One Step at a Time.....	48
Begin.....	48
An Anthem Accurately Described.....	48
Squibs.....	48

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP. CALIFORNIA.

MAY, 1888.

VII 38

## CONTENTS:

PAGE.	PAGE.
A Wonderful Coast..... 33	Editorial..... 45
Clearing Land in San Diego County..... 35	A Glance at Books..... 45
The Stamps of Switzerland..... 36	Changes in the Color of Grapes Grown in Northwestern Mexico..... 46
The Green Turtle..... 37	The Deer of Southern Lower California..... 46
Flavor of Pork..... 37	Poetry—"None of Our Business"..... 47
Advertising..... 37	The Lime Kiln Club on Health..... 47
Nate Chauncey's Luck..... 38	Don't Whine..... 47
Among the Magazines..... 38	Conversation..... 47
Newspapers in 1888..... 38	A Beautiful Sentiment..... 47
How to Carve a Fowl..... 38	A Good Motto..... 47
Giants Among Small Things..... 39	A Practical way of Doing Good..... 47
Epoch of the Mastodon in North America..... 40	Humming Birds..... 48
Opuntia Fruit as an Article of Food..... 40	One Step at a Time..... 48
A Vegetable Garden the Year Round..... 41	Begin..... 48
A Few Words About Trees of British Columbia..... 42	An Anthem Accurately Described..... 48
Editorial..... 43	Squibs..... 48
The 1779 Cent..... 43	
The Republic of Salvador..... 44	

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It has been the earnest endeavor of the author to give this much needed information in the present work; and in order to do so he has spared no pains, having for this purpose procured the finest prepared colors known to modern art, including those of all the best manufacturers, as Winsor & Newton, George Rowney & Co., and Ackermann, of London, England; Dr. Fr. Schoenfeld & Co., Dusseldorf; Chenel, Burgeois, Binant, and Lefranc, of Paris; Osborne of Philadelphia, and others. He has, besides, consulted all the authorities accessible to him.

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VOL. VII.

MAY, 1888.

No. 38.

## *A Wonderful Coast.*

If you wish to see a strange coast, laughing and bright, green and grand, wild and mountainous, take a sailing vessel and proceed slowly southward of San Juan del Sur, or, still better, if you have time and money hire a party of men and plunge yourself in the wilderness of the west coast of Costa Rica, the fifth of the Central American republics. You will see scenery never to be forgotten as long as you live; you will probably experience accidents and thrilling adventures and perhaps endanger your life, but after all, what is our life? It is sometimes worth while to risk it.

Mighty and magnificent stretches the wild coast of Costa Rica, one unbroken chain of mountains high and low, gloomy and radiant, regular and fantastic—a combination of the most marvelous beauty and imposing grandeur. And all this region covered with tropical forests of giant trees and parasitic plants, fresh and stupendous—a regular virgin, bewildering forest of the south.

Man likes company. Yet if you are tired of life and misfortune, in your heart you will always prefer a desert to a city—a solitude to the noise and turmoil of civilization. For in a forest you are alone; for company you have a magnificent nature; for a bed your traveling blanket; for a cover a dense foliage of leaves or the blue canopy of heaven, and if the freshness of youth has not altogether left you and your heart is yet unspoiled, you will in every step discover new beauties in a tropical forest and you will worship the Almighty who created this grand nature, with sincerity in your soul and with mist in your eyes.

It is very hard traveling in a Central American forest, and you have to move slowly, step by step. Sometimes during a day you cannot go further than a couple of miles from the point of starting, sometimes even less. You have to cut your way through the dense foliage, and besides to look after wild animals and dangerous snakes—for the Costa Rica forest, with all beauties has also its dangers. Cougars reign here in undisturbed possession of the land, and rattlesnake, coral and scorpion are too abundant to be comfortable. Besides all lagoons, creeks and rivers are full of alligators, which grow here and multiply with a rapidity unknown in any other country in the wide world.

The woods are full of birds of brilliant plumage, from noisy macaw to small and beautiful paroquet. The wild turkey also is abundant, and the magnificent curassow hoeco is to be met with everywhere. This remarkable bird could be domesticated very easily, and it would be a great addition to our poultry yards, for its flesh is a morsel for the gods. In the last century it was introduced into Holland and into France, where it seemed perfectly acclimated, but the stock was lost amidst the subsequent wars which followed the French revolution. Curassow is a gallinaceous bird, and very large—sometimes even larger than a turkey. Its head is adorned with a crest of feathers, curled forward. There are two species of this magnificent bird in Costa Rica, the black and the brown. I brought some with

me to California, and I sent a few to Europe and they became perfectly tame and domestic in their habits. They could be introduced easily into British Columbia.

The Costa Rican forest is a paradise for peccaries and coatis. Peccary—or chanchó del monte, as it is called by the natives—resembles very much a hog, but it is smaller, with a narrow white collar which surrounds the neck. It is a dangerous animal, for if you kill one the whole herd will attack you and make good use of their sharp tusks. Once, near the Gulf of Dulce, I killed a leader of a herd of peccaries, and I saved myself from the infuriated animals by climbing a tree. Yet, even then I was not safe, for the peccaries surrounded the tree and kept me in that uncomfortable position for seven hours, until my companions came to the rescue and dispersed the herd. The flesh of a peccary resembles that of a hog, but tastes rather sweetish.

Coati, or coati-mondi, resembles a racoon, but has a long tail and a very long snout, which is a sort of flexible proboscis. It can climb trees with great agility, looking for insects. They are often domesticated in Costa Rica, and although very amusing, they are rather treacherous.

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There is nowhere on the Spanish-American coast from San Diego to Cape Horn such an amount of deep bays and excellent anchorages as on the west coast of Costa Rica—Salinas, Culebra, Elena, Murcielago, Potrero Grande, Coto Brazilito, Juanilla, Uvita and many others. Such are the names of some of the bays, many of them unknown to the outside world and only discovered by the expeditions of which I was a member. These bays are deserted and silent; there are no cities on their shores, and no commerce; nobody lives in their vicinity, and where the water ends there begins a wilderness, inhabited only by wild animals and occasionally by Indians.

But in the midway between the northern and southern extremity of the republic stretches a magnificent sheet of water, dotted, like the Gulf of Fonseca, with many islands. It is the great Gulf of Nicoya, an inland sea, the center of all western commerce of Costa Rica. Here we behold a long, sandy neck of land, the largest maritime city on the coast of Central America—the harbor of Punta Arenas.

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wealth of the republic—the cities of Cartago, Alajuela, Heredia and the capital, San Jose, being the principal markets in the interior.

Puntarenas is not a beautiful town, though the life here is very pleasant. With the exception of Leon, the Costa Rican harbor is the gayest place on the coast of Central America. The money is easily gained here and easily spent; besides the Costa Ricans never keep any money, and consequently never get rich. They enjoy life as long as they can, never thinking what will be to-morrow. They work it is true, but what they gain during the week they spend on Saturday and Sunday. They begin dancing on Saturday evening and end it on Monday morning, with the exception of a couple of hours on Sunday, when they go to church. Fandango is the favorite dance of poor and rich, of high and low, and the marimba the principal musical instrument. They love music passionately, and they express always in song their love and despair, their joy and sorrow. At night a gay cabellero takes his guitar and goes under the window of the house where his lady-love lives. He begins then to play and to sing, imploring his goddess to show herself and to give him a few words of consolation. Of course he usually gets what he wants, and very often is even allowed to kiss a small white hand, or he gets a flower from the lady he loves, or even a cigar! The ardent lover is then satisfied and he goes home like a conquering hero.

The young ladies of Costa Rica, especially those of Spanish origin, are like their sisters of other republics, very pretty, often beautiful. They have the most magnificent black liquid eyes, and remarkably small feet and hands. Their complexion is very fair, though they spoil it often by using too much rouge and poudre. At the age of twelve they are often married, at twenty-five they are grandmothers, and at thirty they are counted already as "the old ladies," though there are many exceptions when the ladies preserve their beauty to a very old age.

The ladies seldom dress after the European fashion, but preserve their old and beautiful Spanish mantillas. The black lace and *crepe* play also an important part in their dress. The ladies of good families very seldom show themselves on the streets, except when they go to church; besides the young *senoritas* never go alone, but always in company with an elderly matron or *duena*. They flirt, however, whenever they can, but they are true to their lovers, and make excellent wives and mothers.

South of Puntarenas there are no villages or cities until we meet the great Gulf of Dulce. This immensely deep body of water forms the southern boundary of Costa Rica, for a little further beyond the Burica point Central America ends, and begins, politically speaking, South America.

On the shores of the Gulf of Dulce, on the very verge of the tropical forest, there dwell a few families, forming the community of Santo Domingo. I lived with them five weeks, and a curious life it was. Scarcely anybody ever visits this remote corner, and the inhabitants do not know anything about the outside world. Only occasionally they send a boat to Chiriqui, in the United States of Columbia, to bring thither hides and to fetch back what is necessary. There is no school and no church in Santo Domingo, and with the exception of "jefe politico," nobody can read or write. But, dance they can, and

even here they have their marimba and their fandango. They are hospitable, primitive, and sometimes very *naive*. Seeing me collecting plants and insects, they took me for a physician and never could I persuade them that I did not know anything about medicine. Another time I was sketching and their "jefe politico," who heard something about photography, told them that I could take their pictures. Of course everybody wanted to have one, and in vain I tried to persuade that sketching and photographing were two different things altogether. They would not believe me. Finally, in despair, I sketched the portrait of the "jefe politico," but in such an ugly and unflattering manner that the inhabitants were terror-stricken and did not wish any more pictures. As for the "jefe politico," I am sorry to say that he never could forgive me, for he prided himself to be the handsomest man in the village, a regular Don Juan of Santo Domingo.

East from the Gulf of Dulce, in a wild and unknown territory, dwells a curious tribe of Indians, the Talamancas. They are fierce and warlike and only nominally christians. The Spaniards never could conquer them, and they are even now an independent tribe. They live in so-called "palengues," large adobe buildings, which contain many families. In fact, their system of community is remarkably similar to that of the Zunis in Arizona.

In the northern extremity of Costa Rica, near the Lake of Nicaragua, are to be found Guatusos, the only white tribe of Indians in America. Of course, they are not white in our sense, yet they are remarkably fair as compared with other Indians. They live only in dense forests on the banks of the rivers, and never expose themselves to the rays of the sun—a fact which accounts for the fairness of their skin.

Costa Rica has more white inhabitants than any other republic of Central America, the total population not exceeding 300,000. Independent since 1821, Costa Rica formed from 1824-39 a part of the Central American confederation. The president is elected for four years. He is assisted by two vice-presidents who are elected annually by the congress. The congressmen are elected for four years, but one-half retire every two years.

The Andes of Costa Rica are much higher and more stupendous than those of Nicaragua. They form an immense plateau in the interior, with mighty peaks and volcanoes, and terrific ravines and arroyos. They would be terrible in their gigantic dimensions if they were not so radiant and green. The freshness of nature takes the gloomy aspect from them and covers the Cordillera with a veil of grandeur and beauty. The most prominent peaks are—the mighty but regular Orosi, the fantastic Turialba, and the terrible volcano of Irazu, whose immense cone hangs like the sword of Damocles over the fair city of Cartago.—*M. Lopatecki.*

An industrial journal gives the following valuable information: A one-inch shaft running one hundred revolutions per minute will transmit one horse-power; a one-inch shaft will stand the force of fifty pounds at the end of a crank one foot long. A one-inch belt running eight hundred feet per minute will transmit one horse-power. A one-inch wrought iron rod will support seven thousand pounds, and a two-inch rod four times as much.

*Clearing Land in San Diego County.*

EDITOR OF THE SAN DIEGO MAGAZINE:—We promised to tell the *Semi-Tropical Planter* how we cleared the land of sumac, but think it better to tell the SAN DIEGO MAGAZINE how we did not clear the land of this "cumberer of the ground."

The old method of cutting off and burning the tops, leaving the roots to sprout is too slovenly. While grain does very well in a wet season, the shoots must be cut each year. Indians and Chinamen grub too slowly. Our nearest neighbor removes the soil from one side, introduces a crowbar on the other side and raises the whole plant, root and branch. It looked very easy, (our neighbor is very strong) it was expeditious; we were so much pleased, a crowbar was procured with the determination of clearing 40 acres in five days.

The next morning bright and early, the ground being soft, we proceeded to work, concluding to try a small root. The soil was removed from one side, the crowbar placed in position, and with very little effort the roots were raised. The same process was tried upon another with the same result. We were elated; it was just fun, as the boys say; after raising two others, concluded to try one of the "old settlers," which appeared upon the surface. About three feet long by one foot wide, a foot of soil was removed from the lower side; the root was found to be larger than anticipated. We dug deeper and deeper till we thought with the bar it could certainly be raised, but the united efforts of the bar and our whole muscular force failed to start the obstacle.

We were now warm; we dug more soil away; felt that we had a back; again used the bar; could not move it; took away more soil—was hot—sweat oozing from every pore—pryed again with the bar, then dug more soil; kept digging and prying, with no better success. Completely exhausted, wished all the sumac in the bottom of the ocean. If there had been any one near accustomed to "cuss words," we fear we should have been tempted to have hired him to use a few. Our neighbor came over the next morning, with the spade cut off a small root here and there, and with the crowbar pryed the whole plant up, just as easily as though it were child's play.

In the future we shall use the old slovenly mode, waiting for an Edison to invent a more expeditious plan. In the meantime, unless we wish the land for vines or trees, the sumac will continue to grow, no matter if the frost cuts it down or if fire consumes its branches, the next season it will be as vigorous as ever; and if some of the shoots are taken out the others will make fair stovewood. It has been our mainstay the past season, the branches making a quicker and hotter fire, although not lasting as long as the roots.

To the newcomer the manner of clearing off the ordinary brush may not be amiss. My neighbor on the east uses a "masher." What a pity that the city street corner "masher" could not be put to such a purpose! The "masher" is made of two-inch plank, about six feet long by six feet wide, put together like the old style cellar steps, and shod with hoop iron. The steps slant from the horses; place a seat on the upper side near the center, hitch the horses by rope or chain, jump aboard, drive over the brush, and from ten to twelve acres can be

made ready for burning in a day. This is rather better than the railroad iron bar, and affords a seat for the driver.

A word of caution to the new settler during the dry season, which is the time the brush is burned more easily than earlier in the season. The uncontrollable fires are a terror to all the old settlers, and will be to all new comers. Too much precaution cannot be taken, besides a heavy fine to the one who starts the fire, the damage to others cannot be compensated. Sometimes a spark from a pipe, the end of a cigar or the match lighting the cigar has started fires which raged violently. Last season two were thus started on the Heights, which took the combined effort of all hands here to keep under control, all of which could have been avoided if the person smoking had used more care.

The outside of the tract to be burned should be raked clean of brush and dry grass, throwing the whole towards the center of the tract, till 50 to 100 feet have been cleared all around the piece, over which we have never heard of fire jumping. Before the ground gets too hard if ten to twelve feet wide is plowed around fences, houses, or stacks of grain, it will prevent the spread of a fire. Better perhaps to plow now and keep the space clear of weeds by cultivation.

The subject is of so much importance that when the dry season begins words of caution should be given by every paper in the county and throughout the whole State.

From my lofty seat, surrounded with flowers of every hue, I look down in the Cajon valley and see the mowers laying the barley low for hay. On the other side the click of the machine is heard cutting the wild oats from the rounded adobe hills of Spring valley. These hills have grown crops of oats as long as any one can remember, and this year's crop will be as large as any preceding. The wonder is that no plow has ever turned the soil and no man's hand ever sowed the seed. When the wild oats are cut early stock of all kinds like it; but if too ripe the oats rattle off from the stalk, and are so full of hard beards as to injure the mouths of many horses. While adjoining lands are covered with sumac, buckwheat and brush of all kinds, acres upon acres of wild oats wave their graceful heads to the passing breeze, where no brush of any kind has ever been seen; and to-day these fields are as beautiful as the great wheat fields of New York State were forty years ago.

El Cajon Heights, April, 1888.

GEO. C. SWAN.

Dr. W. H. Dallinger, F. R. S., says that "the researches of science are physical." The observable finite contents of space and time are the subject of its analysis. Existence, not the cause of existence; succession, not the reason of succession; method not the origin of method, are the subjects of physical research. A primordial cause cannot be the subject of experiment, nor the object of demonstration. It must forever transcend the most delicate physical reaction, the profoundest analysis, and the last link in the keenest logic. Absolute knowledge concerning it can only be the prerogative of itself.

M. P. Ledebor asserts that the magnetic properties of iron are unaffected up to a temperature of 1100 degrees F., beyond which they are rapidly lost, becoming scarcely perceptible at 1350 degrees. They return in the same way as the metals cool.

*The Stamps of Switzerland.*

BY J. WHITTEMORE HALSEY.

Switzerland is a federal republic, composed of twenty two Cantons, or small States. For the Cantonal Administrations of Zurich, four queer stamps were issued in 1843, homely in design, but any collector of to-day is considered fortunate if he possesses a genuine specimen. There were two values—4r. black and 6r. black—and these were also issued with horizontal lines in red, making the four varieties. The design is briefly detailed as follows:

A large numeral in the center-ground, worked by numerous lines—above, in narrow label or oblong "Zurich;" below, in same, "Local Taxe," and along the sides, various grace lines representing leaves.

Later, in 1849, a new stamp, of an entirely different design, was issued, and I will endeavor to roughly describe it to you. A cross, in oval of black, formed the center; while just below was a slim, curved post-horn, under which was the following inscription, "Rtspost poste locale;" in upper left hand and lower right hand corners, a letter "r," and in the other two the figures "2½." The central design was suspended by a few cords, and the whole with the exception of the corner inscription, seemed to be in a shield. This was the last issued by that city.

## GENEVA.

The above city issued six different stamps, more than any of the other Cantons. Geneva is the metropolis of Switzerland, and its jewelry has a world-wide reputation.

In 1843 appeared the queerest of all the Cantonal stamps, and at a glance one would take it for an unsevered pair of stamps; but on closer examination the design appears to me to be as follows: Two squares, separated by a single vertical line above, in long oblong, the inscription: "10 Post Cantonal Cent." The design, of each of the squares are, as near as I can see, alike in every particular. The design is odd, and I will endeavor to give a description of it. A shield, crossed at the top by an unrolled strip on which is inscribed "tene bras," and "cr." near each end, above is what might be intended to represent the sun. A little to one side and inclining, are the words: "Poste Genève." Below, the shield is, "Post local," and at sides, "5c."

The shield itself is divided in half; on the observer's left is griffon, with outstretched wing and groundworked with dots. It is not unlike the emblem of Lubeck. On the observer's right is the standard emblem of Bremen, that of a key groundworked by vertical lines. This completes the design.

In 1845 the same design was used, and the color changed to yellow-green. In 1847 a variety of the same design was issued, and in 1849-50 the variety appeared on white paper and dark green. The envelope stamp is the same as the last, adhesive. These Cantons are exceedingly rare, and it is in only large or valuable collections they are seen, and are seldom (if ever) offered for sale at public auctions. It would be advisable, if any collector possesses any, to "hold on to them," as the saying is.

## BASLE.

The most beautiful design of any of the Swiss Cantons is by far that issued by the above city in 1845.

The design is as follows: A dove represented as flying and

carrying a letter, is the central design. It is surrounded by a double-lined shield in whose lower half are the words, "Stadt post Basel." In the left lower corner is the figure, "2½," in the right lower corner "rp." A few lines at the top and the ground-work outside the shield completes the design.

## VAUD.

This State issued, in 1849-50, two very beautiful stamps, of the following design: A cross, inclosed in a circle, formed the center-piece; above, in label, "Poste local," and below, the numeral value. Under the center-piece was the post-horn and a profusion of gracefully represented leaves branching outward and reaching almost to the margin of the stamp, completed the design. There were two values, namely 4ct. and 5ct. These, like the rest, are rare and interesting.

## NEUFCHATEL.

This is the last of the stamp-issuing Cantons, and it issued but one stamp as late as 1851. It is of a somewhat elaborate design, with the cross in the center, surrounded by two bracks; above is "Foste locale," and below, "5 centimes." The ground-work consists of numerous interlacing lines, which makes the center-piece appear quite prominent.

I have finished with the Swiss Cantons. It has been my endeavor to furnish the collector with a description of each, and when they were issued, together with a little information about them. If a single reader has profited by anything I have here given, I will consider myself doubly repaid for my work. Now let us take up the general issues of the Federal Administration.

In 1850 a set of four stamps were issued, with a design that bears so much similarity to the one described under the last Cantonal State that it would be practically a waste of time to give a minute description. The two last values, 5r. and 10r., are printed in three colors, the 5r. in blue, red and white, and the 10r. in yellow, red and white.

In 1852 the same design was used, but heavily outlined and a new value, 15r. in red, issued—of which there were three varieties.

An entirely new design made its appearance in 1854, and from thence to 1862 different values were added, making in all seven varieties, of the following values: 2r., 5r., 10r., 15r., 20r., 40r. and 1 franc. These designs, nearly all are quite familiar with; but supposing some are yet in ignorance, I will burden you for one short minute with a description:

A female figure, seated and upholding a spear with her right hand, while her left arm rested on a shield, on which a cross is engraved; above, in oblong, is the word "Franco;" below, in the same, is the numeral of value, and the word, "Rappeu;" at the sides is also the numeral of value, and "centimes," inclosed in oblong. A small star in each of the corners completes the design.

From 1862 to 1882, or about twenty years, this design, or rather the design with the wording changed somewhat, was used, and four new values, 25f., 30f., 50f. and 60c., were added to the set, which, when complete, is very beautiful.

In 1882 a new set, six in number, was issued, of a new design. A cross in center, the value in a shield below; above, in curved label, "Helvetia," and above that, in fine type, the word "franco;" at the sides, also in equally fine print, was also the same; the border consisted of a number of squares. The

values of this set were 2f., 3c., 5c., 10c., 12c. and 15c.

In this same year also appeared the most beautiful set Switzerland has ever issued. A female figure, standing with her hand resting on a shield, and carrying a spear, forms the center-piece; a frame encloses it, in which are numerous stars and the word "Helvetia." The value is in the two upper corners, and also at the base in large type. Branching from thence are two strips, on which are the word "franco;" this completes the design. The values are 20c. orange, 25c. green, 40c. gray, 50c. and 1f. pink. These were the last adhesive issued.

The Unpaid Letter stamps are peculiar, and great difficulty is experienced by the young collector in ascertaining under which country they belong. The design consisted of a numeral, surcharged in black in the center, surrounding which is a circle inclosing twenty-two stars, or one for each Cantonal State; outside is a square, in each angle of which is a small design. This completes the pattern, and it can be easily seen why young collectors are ignorant for some time of their nationality. In 1883 they appeared printed in green and carmine, and make a very beautiful lot.

Envelope stamps were first issued in 1867-8; the design of the first set of four varieties is quite beautiful; it represents a bird, flying; below is a shield with a cross as a central piece, around which are entwined leaves; the value is below in quite large type, and around the outward margins at each side are eleven stars; a circle inclosing the whole completes the design. The values and colors are 5c. brown, 10c. rose, 25c. green and 30c. blue.

In 1871 two more envelope stamps were issued, the numeral in center with cross above; "centimes" below—a wreath incloses them, and below, in unrolled strip, was 20. 3. 71. A small post-horn in each corner completed the design.

The Newspaper Band Stamps are six in number; the design consists of a large numeral of value in the center; above, in shield, is a cross; the groundwork is what is called a Greek border; and twenty-two stars complete the design, which is inclosed in an oval frame.

### *The Green Turtle.*



The best known of all the turtles is the celebrated Green Turtle (*Chelonia viridis*), so called from the green color of its fat. This useful animal is found in the seas and on the shores of both continents, and

is most plentiful about the island of Ascension and the Antilles, where it is subject to incessant persecution for the sake of its flesh. The shell of this reptile is of very little use and of small value, but the flesh is remarkably rich and well-flavored, and the green fat has long enjoyed a world-wide and fully deserved reputation.

The eggs of the turtle are thought as great delicacies as its flesh. It is while the female is visiting the shore for the purpose of depositing her eggs that she is usually captured, as these sea-loving reptiles care little for the shore except for this purpose.

[The above illustration and notes on this interesting species are from Wood's Popular Natural History.—EDITOR.]

### *Flavor of Pork.*

There is, as far as we know, no distinctive flavor possessed by any breed of swine to the exclusion of other less favored breeds; and well may we say, without fear of contradiction, that our pork is exactly what we make it; and as the wheat-fed product of Dakota is superior to the corn-fed pork of the Mississippi valley, that is superior to the slop-fed village porker; and it becomes an established fact that we can produce pork of whatever flavor we desire. The canvas-back, that feeds upon the wild celery along the creeks, rivers and bay, just north of Baltimore, have long been prized above all other ducks, simply because of the peculiar and delicate flavor given them from the celery upon which they feed; and only a short time since we had the pleasure of assisting to pick the bones of a capon that had been fattened upon wheat, rice and celery. Of all roasts that I have enjoyed since I first partook of canvas-backs in dear old Kent county, Maryland, it was the best. I was immediately transported in imagination, as never before, to the ideal of the gourmand, as prepared by "Aunt Chloë," for "Massa Frank," the torment of "Old Chloë." Long since she has been called to her fathers; but I never partake of a delicious dish that kind thoughts of the kind-hearted old darkey do not steal over me. Whether it was the large celery marsh or Aunt Chloë's skill in the "art profound" that produced the entire effect, I shall not attempt to say; but will only say "she did not live in vain."

Whilst the meat of the black breeds are much firmer than that of their white kinsmen, all can be equally improved by greater care in the selection of their food; and in no State could a finer variety of pork be produced than could be in California with the refuse of your many fruits and berries. The flesh of the hog could be so modified that it would be unrecognizable by any but the expert. Let us of the East and West, move in the matter and convert our much abused porker into a delicate morsel for the palate of the epicure.

Brilliant, Ohio.

TRIXIE.

### *Advertising.*

Southern California is at present being extensively advertised by the Eastern press in a way objected to by the press of this section. Yet, it is a most effective way, and one which will prove of vast benefit to the Pacific Coast. It tends to discourage a class of unenterprising, shiftless fellows, who will henceforth stay in their grandfather's tracks, and congratulating themselves on not having been "took in" by the California "boom." This is in itself a blessing to California. We do not want that class of inhabitants; but we have to thank representatives of that class for this gratuitous advertising of our State.

Statements made in favor of Southern California have been widely published, and these statements are strongly backed by truth—by facts which any enterprising stranger can easily verify. Statements intended to injure our prospects are backed either by utter falsehoods or half-truths. The rapid development and building-up of Southern California has been the direct result of the first, backed by the truth. This development of our remarkable natural resources will continue as an indirect result, in part, from the statements backed by falsehoods and half-truths in the reaction sure to follow, by the energetic learning the whole truth for themselves.

NATE CHAUNCEY'S LUCK.

Nate Chauncey was the son of a country merchant, well-to-do in this world's goods. He was an intelligent boy, and the pride of his parents. At the time I am writing he is about sixteen years of age. Soon after Nate's fifteenth birthday his mother fell sick and died. Her death completely prostrated the aged father, who was never himself again. When the estate was settled, and his father's affairs looked up, they were found in a bad condition. After all debts were paid Nate found he had his aged father to support. The dwelling-house was sold for a few thousand, that being all that was left of the property of Silas Chauucey; and a small cottage was purchased in the suburbs of Mobile.

Nate was one day looking over a newspaper when he came across this singular advertisement:

For every one million postage stamps, I will board, clothe and educate an orphan until old enough to support itself. Also for every one million postage stamps sent me, I will find a home for either an old lady or gentleman, in either New York, Cincinnati or London, and pay all expenses, etc., etc.

Stettin, Germany.

IGNEZ.

Nate was astonished, and perused the advertisement over several times before he could collect his thoughts. He would now find a home for his father, he thought and it would be comparatively easy. Nate's father, when in business, was in the habit of sending and receiving large numbers of letters, and had saved them all. Nate knew it, and immediately betook himself to the garret. He then commenced to search for stamps. By night he had found nearly three thousand, which consisted of a good many different kinds. Among them was one on a slip of thin paper about two and a half inches long by nearly an inch in width, and on it these words were printed, "James M. Buchanan, 5 Cents." Now Nate had never seen one like that before, and he thought it was a queer stamp; but he put it among the rest and put them away for that day. The next day he planned to go to the neighbors and ask to look over all old letters, etc. That day he found many stamps; many that he had never seen before. The next day was Sunday, and while he was reading the *Sunday World* he read of a great postage stamp swindle by a dealer in Stettin, Germany. That was the place to which he was to send the stamps; but now he was thankful that he had not found any more stamps than he had, and that he had not sent them. The next day while at school he told his singular experience to the boys and the teacher. Now the teacher happened to be a stamp collector. He offered to buy Nate's stamps, and promised to come over to look at them and make him an offer. The short and tall of it was that he found numbers of rare stamps among them, and being honest, he told Nate what they were worth. Nate lost no time in telling his father of his good luck, and before another new moon Nate had a bank account of \$2,000 and a promise of more from the teacher as soon as the remainder of the stamps were sold.

W. L. BABCOCK.

During the first three months of 1888, Book Chat has indexed 524 new American and English works, reviewed 124 new books, indexed 3,627 magazine articles contained in 799 periodicals, and noted 145 French, 115 German, 34 Spanish and 52 Italian books.—Brentano's Publishers, 5 Union Square, N. Y.

Among the Magazines.

Mr. George Kennan will tell in the *May Century* how he came to go to Siberia on the *Century* expedition. Mr. Kennan had spent some time in Siberia already in connection with the overland telegraph scheme, and in the summer of 1884 he made a preliminary excursion to St. Petersburg and Moscow for the purpose of collecting material, and ascertaining whether or not obstacles were likely to be thrown in his way by the Russian Government. He returned in October, fully satisfied that his scheme was a practical one. He therefore sailed from New York to Liverpool in May, 1885. He says: "All my prepossessions were favorable to the Russian Government and unfavorable to the Russian Revolutionists." He adds that this "partly explains the friendly attitude toward me which was taken by the Russian Government, the permission which was given me to inspect prisons and mines, and the comparative immunity from arrest, detention and imprisonment which I enjoyed, even when my movements and associations were such as justly to render me an object of suspicion to the local Siberian authorities."

John Burroughs writes in his usual entertaining way of 'Hasty Conclusions in Science,' in *The Chautauquan* for May. The May issue of *The Chautauquan* contains an outline of the work to be done at Chautauqua in the coming summer. It is an attractive and strong outlook. At least one new department of promise will be introduced, the Chautauqua School of the English Bible. The 'Teachers' Retreat and the College of Liberal arts are strongly manned; the list of lecturers for both July and August fairly bristle with great names; and the entertainments and music include a large variety to meet both popular and classic taste. The good judgment, the fine culture and the popular 'touch' which have always characterized the arrangement of the Chautauqua programs are fully shown again this year.

Newspapers in 1888.

From the edition of George P. Rowell & Co.'s 'American Newspaper Directory,' published April 2d (its twentieth year), it appears that the Newspapers and Periodicals of all kinds issued in the United States and Canada, now number 16,310; showing a gain of 890 during the last twelve months, and of 7,136 in ten years.

The publishers of the Directory assert that the impression that when the proprietor of a newspaper undertakes to state what has been his exact circulation, he does not generally tell the truth is an erroneous one; and they conspicuously offer a reward of \$100 for every instance in their book for this year, where it can be shown that the detailed report received from a publisher was untrue.

How to Carve a Fowl.

The Arabs know how to carve a fowl without having the bird migrate all over the table and finally land in the lap of one of the diners, says a traveler. Five Arabs seat themselves around a large bowl of rice surmounted by a fowl. Two seize the wings with their fingers, and two the legs, and simultaneously tearing these off, leave the carcass to the fifth. It must be a bad omen to have six men at the table when the fowl is carved in this fashion—that is, bad for the sixth man, if he is fond of fowl.—*California Cackler.*



*Giants Among Small Things.*

Were we to write of the geological predecessors of the existing species, volumes would be required to produce anything like an adequate description. Two examples from the past, however, will be better than none, and may induce the reader to delve more deeply into the mysteries of that fascinating science, Geology.

The lobster of the present era, as commonly seen, does not exceed five pounds in weight, and is oftener less; though when arrived at full maturity their weight is about ten pounds. But going back countless ages to the early Devonian era, we behold what may truly be termed a prince of lobsters. This giant crustacean, which is called *Pterygotus*, attained the length of six feet and was two feet in breadth. Its antennæ were armed with powerful claws, and in many ways did it possess double advantage over its modern congener. It possessed two pair of eyes—a large pair on the front of its head and a smaller pair on the top. For perfect mastication it was provided with four pair of great serrated jaws. On each side was a powerful paddle, enabling it to swiftly pursue its prey; while if attacked by any predaceous superior, it could, by striking the water with its broad tail, retreat with the rapidity of an arrow.

The Triassic period furnishes another example in a species of frog, which sometimes attained a size tully equal to an ox. No complete remains of the *Labyrinthodon*, as it is called, have been found, but enough to fully establish its character. The mouth was furnished with numerous rows of small but closely set teeth, and from this fact it derives its name.

Conchology is not supposed to be replete with gigantic specimens, but in the archipelago of the Molucca Islands such specimens are by no means rare. Here the *Tridacna*, sometimes weighing five hundred pounds, fasten themselves to the rocks and can only be cut loose with an axe. Their thick shells, five feet long, are used by the natives as bath tubs, ready cut and polished by nature.

Another mollusc of prodigious size is the cuttle-fish. One seen near the Canary Islands had a spread of arms of twenty feet, and weighed over four thousand pounds.

A variety of sponge, known as Neptune's Cup, grows on the submarine rock, from three to six feet high. Their small stock and wide top, symmetrically hollowed out, is an almost exact representation of a colossal drinking goblet.

The marvelous delicacy of organization and still more marvelous intelligence of insects has always been a cause of wonder and a source of admiration, and in this class also, we find extremes of strength and size. One species, the Goliath of Drury, is much larger than many kinds of our more common birds, which it would pitilessly strangle and devour, were it in his power to capture them. This entomological monster is, from the extremity of the abdomen to that of the mandible, four inches long, and is one-half as broad, and armed with its strong bony coat of mail, it well deserves its name. The *Mormolyce*, though measuring three and one-fourth inches in length, is not a powerful insect, and its source of protection lies in the resemblance of its green wings to the leaf of the plants among which it lives. The antennæ are nearly three inches long, making its extreme length about six inches,

A species of butterfly exists in South America, the body of which is as large as that of a robin and its velvet wings, ornamented with the most gaudy coloring, extend a foot across.

Many spiders of the tropical world have a body three inches long and the circle of their legs six inches in diameter; and one species on the Amazon is five inches long. Some of these giant spiders are extremely active and will attack small birds and strangle them in their nests. One species quite numerous in Columbia, sometimes fasten on the neck of chickens and pigeons, seizing them by the throat and killing them instantly. Others of these spiders obtain their prey by weaving webs so strong that the large butterflies and small birds, even, become helpless victims. Though in the temperate zone spiders are of repulsive appearance, numbers of those of the tropical world are radiant with the shine and metallic lustre of many and varied colors.

In the botanical world the leaves and flowers of plants generally attract us by their symmetry and regularity of outline, or the beauty and harmony of their color and their delicate but pleasant perfume. But if we transport ourselves again to the Amazon we find there the leaves of the *Victoria regia*, which display themselves upon the surface like immense plains of verdure. These leaves are nearly circular and from eighteen to twenty-five feet in circumference. The upper surface is of a uniform and beautiful green; thus, when seen from a distance, presenting the appearance of floating tables covered with velvet. The frame work of these leaves is so strong that a child can float on them, and they are nightly used as a cool resting place by the many aquatic birds of that region.

The leaf of the great talipot palm which grows in India is so large that under its vast cover forty persons can shelter themselves. The leaf of this tree is sometimes fixed to the ceilings of museums of natural history, one leaf covering it completely.

The flower of the remarkable *Victoria regia*, the leaf of which has been referred to, was long considered the largest in the world. These brilliant rose and white blossoms often measure a yard in circuit and emanate a pleasing fragrance.

But the flower of the gigantic *Rafflesia Arnoldi* is a perfect monster of vegetation and leaves all others far behind. On account of its mammoth proportions, botanists for a long time refused to believe the existence of such a flower, and it was not until a specimen was sent to London and there examined that all doubts were dissipated. The flower is composed of a fleshy mass weighing from twelve to fifteen pounds. "Its border, the circuit of which is not less than ten feet, shows five lobes, forming a gaping excavation capable of holding a dozen pints." Its odor is unpleasant, having a carrion-like smell. In Sumatra and Java, where it is found, the natives almost make a divinity of it and clothe it with a supernatural power.

But while the ignorant savage of the mighty works of nature creates a divinity, the naturalist recognizes in them the manifestation of an omnipotent Creator, whose works and wonders are everywhere displayed to the observing mind.—*Chas. D. Pendell.*

*Epoch of the Mastodon in North America.*

The most interesting of the animals that have recently, (in a geological sense), become extinct, is probably the American Mastodon, (*Mastodon gigantes*) which, in connection with the Mammoth, or fossil Elephant, (*Elephas primigenius*) appears to have attained a great numerical development upon this continent at about the close of the Pleistocene, or the commencement of the Post-tertiary epoch. Geologists are enabled to determine with certainty the age at which these colossal herbivorous animals existed in this country, from the circumstance that their bones are found in a partially petrified or sub-fossil state, in superficial deposits, lying above the drift formation, as for example in peat-bogs or the mud and marl deposits of existing ponds and lakes, the origin of which, it seems, cannot extend far back of the introduction of man upon this continent. Some have thought that the mastodons and mammoths did not become entirely extinct in this country until after the advent of man, and find a support for their opinion in various traditions of the North American Indians, which represent their ancestors as warring against certain colossal animals, which are described as tree-eaters, and as never lying down, but leaning against a tree when they slept. Sir Charles Lyell, however, after a review of all the facts in the case, has arrived at the opinion that the period of the extinction of the mastodon, although geologically modern, must have been many thousand years ago. Judging from the distribution of their bones, the mastodons appear to have existed most numerous in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, and from thence to have roamed as far to the northeast as New York and New England. Their remains, however, have been but rarely found in New England, and it has been conjectured that the Hudson river may have acted as a barrier to their migrations. The mammoth, or fossil elephant, appears to have roamed over the same territories contemporaneously with the mastodon, but in much smaller numbers. In the Western States the bones of these animals are found most commonly in the low places around the salt-lick spots, that are still frequented by deer and other wild animals that come to lick up the saline waters. At one such locality in Kentucky, known as the "Big Bone Lick," about twenty miles southwest from Cincinnati, it is estimated that the bones of 100 mastodons and 20 mammoths have been dug up, together with the bones of the megaloryx, buffalo, deer and other animals. The most complete skeletons of the mastodon have, however, been found in swamps and peat-bogs, in which the animals were probably accidentally mired and suffocated. The finest and largest skeleton in existence was discovered by some laborers engaged in digging marl from a swamp in Newburg, N. J., in the summer of 1845. It occupied a standing position, with the head raised and turned to one side, and the tusks thrown upwards the position natural to a quadruped when sinking in the mire. In the place where the stomach lay, and partially enclosed by the ribs, there were found about seven bushels of vegetable matter—i. e., bruised and chopped twigs and leaves—which, without doubt, represented the food last eaten by the animal. Some of these twigs, subjected to microscopical examination, proved to be those of a coniferous tree, probably the white cedar. This skeleton was purchased by the late Dr.

John C. Warren, of Boston, and is now preserved in that city. Its dimensions are as follows: Length, twenty-five feet; height, twelve feet; length of tusks, ten feet. The total weight of the bones is 2,000 pounds, and so slightly changed are they that they still retain a large proportion of their animal matter. In some instances there have been found in connection with the skeletons of the American mastodon, tufts of hair of a dun-brown color, varying in length from two to seven inches—thus indicating that the animal, like the Siberian mammoth, might have been fitted to endure a climate considerably colder than that in which the present elephant lives. G. D. STORY.

Cartersville, Mo.

*Opuntia Fruit as an Article of Food,*

One of the most attractive fruits in the markets of Mexico, and one that is always in demand is the fruit of the *Opuntia*, or *Tuna*, as it is known to the Mexicans. Both the foreign and native inhabitants consume it, and with many it forms the principal article of food for months in the year.

The seeds of some of the choicest varieties sold in the markets of Mexico were obtained and are now being grown by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for distribution in localities suited to their cultivation. The *Tuna* of the Mexicans must not be confounded with the *Opuntias* found in Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California, the fruit of which is not utilized.

What is known as the cactus belt of Mexico furnishes many very fine species of *Opuntia* adapted to cultivation. When brought together, and each variety receives a name, as other cultivated fruits are distinguished, they will severally be sold and esteemed for their respective merits. Then especial growers of this cactus will appear and new varieties be produced by cross-fertilization and other means as in our northern fruits.

The potato and tomato when first introduced were little valued because their qualities were unknown; now the world would not care to do without them. When man utilizes the *Opuntia* then that fruit will be prized wherever known.

## CULTIVATION.

Scarcely a plant known to man requires so little care in its cultivation as the cactus. It will grow in nearly any soil, but best in light sandy or gravelly combinations. The *Opuntia* reaches the greatest perfection on the table-lands of Mexico, where owners of estates have assured me that they have realized beyond all expenses \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 annually from the sales of this fruit and its products.

The *Opuntia* takes root readily when a piece of a plant is laid on the ground, or a little soil may be thrown on the top of a joint, so easily is it cultivated. It will stand considerable cold, and drought does not effect it beyond causing the plant to wilt at times, from which it quickly recovers. The dryness during the most protracted drought seems to increase the sweetness of the fruit.

Give the *Opuntia* one-tenth of the care in its cultivation that the peach requires and it will repay you with a delicious fruit that lasts for a much longer period for market; one better for shipment; one with good keeping qualities. No insects to molest it, no dangers from frost, as it blossoms after the time of frost, and protected from thieves by its spines, you can enjoy

its fruit unmolested. There are some who dislike all forms of cactus because of their spines, and consider them useless, but this is a mistake. All cactuses are useful to animals and birds and may be utilized by man, and the spines simply prevent their rapid destruction by animals that would greedily devour these succulent growths were they not protected.

#### REMOVING THE SPINES.

When the fruit of the *Opuntia* is ripe the fine spines upon their surface are readily removed by taking a bunch of grass or any other suitable thing and switching the fruit, thus removing easily the downy spines, which if not removed would cause a little pain for a short time in handling the fruit. I have seen persons born among the *Tunas* catch the fruit suddenly near the summit and wrench them off with their fingers apparently without suffering any evil consequences. If the spines are not removed at gathering the fruit will have to be wiped before the rinds are removed to prevent pain to the operator.

#### GATHERING THE FRUIT.

There are three methods resorted to in gathering *Opuntia* fruit: one, with the hands; second, by wooden tongs; third, with a knife. The first method can only be resorted to when the plants are low, or in gathering from the lower branches of a tall plant. By taking hold of the fruit with the fingers and giving it a sudden twist it is at once detached. This is no doubt the best method of gathering for market, as there is less bruising, and if the spines were previously removed can be at once packed for market or the "jackets" removed for immediate use. The second method of gathering the fruit by means of wooden tongs is, so far as the writer knows, only resorted to by Indians, who gather for their own consumption.

The knife in the hands of an experienced gatherer can be made to detach a great quantity of fruit in a day. It is much used along the table-lands of Mexico on the great estates where the *Opuntia* grows to perfection; and the fruit by various means rendered profitable to the owners. The blade of the knife is made of steel and is inserted into the split end of a long strong stick, the length of which enables the gatherer of *Tunas* to reach with the knife blade the joints bearing ripe fruit. The plants are often eight to fifteen feet high. The fruit is arranged around the outer rim of the joints, so, when the gatherer brings the knife blade to the joint he separates by a quick turn that part bearing the fruit, and as quickly thrusting the blade into the severed part, brings it to the ground, when the fruit is soon denuded of its fine spines and removed. Plants present an odd appearance after the terminal joints have been thus removed, but suffer no injury and the fragments readily take root and form new plants.

#### REMOVING THE SKINS FROM THE FRUIT.

It is surprising what a quantity of fruit can be deprived of skins and prepared for the palate by one pair of experienced hands. A thin slice is removed from each end of the fruit; a slit is then made through the peeling along the length of the fruit. The fingers press downward quickly the separated skin leaving the pulpy fruit exposed in a tempting manner. Thus prepared the fruit is one of the sweetest, most nutritious and refreshing of fruits, mealy and juicy, most agreeable for the warmer seasons of the year in the United States. Especially is this fruit adapted for the breakfast-table, when the languid

body needs something to aid digestion. If kept as cool as a watermelon it will prove far more agreeable than that fruit, being of a similar flavor with that of the strawberry added, and it is healthier, more nutritious and longer in season than the watermelon.

This fruit is to be found in the Mexican markets in abundance, and very cheap five months in the year, and is consumed by all classes and conditions of people. Venders are to be seen along all the roads. Along the Mexican Central Railroad the earliest *Tuna* is ripe in June and the latest varieties disappear in November, and you are offered them in small dishes, with the epidermis removed, a thorn from the mesquit tree to carry the tempting morsels to the mouth.

This fruit is finding its way all along the frontier of the United States, and this winter I saw some fine fruit on a stand in Jacksonville, Fla., for sale.

Americans and foreigners consume this fruit with equal avidity with the Mexican and praise the flavor. When as well known in this country as in Mexico it will be utilized to the fullest degree.

DR. EDWARD PALMER.

### *A Vegetable Garden the Year Round.*

A gentleman, having had a fine mansion about completed, asked some friends of his to spend a few hours and come to see his place. After a hearty repast, they walked out to see the surroundings. Their friend had a fine home, on a commanding eminence, with a grand, extensive scenery before them. The grounds around this fine house were bare, and a little farther off, in a hollow, or as some call it, a gulch, was the modest house or cottage of a neat, thrifty mechanic, whose building, though not near so pretentious, had a neat and varied vegetable garden—although it was winter-time in Southern California. He had fine beds of asparagus, cauliflower, red or pickling and Erfurt, also sugar-loaf cabbage, celery, lettuce, beets (which, with the red cabbage, formed a contrast with the green), onions, parsley, peas in flower and all stages, potatoes, rhubarb or pie-plant, which takes the place of the small fruits, as gooseberry or blackberry (being tart), turnip, all of which are hardy, unlike corn, beans, melons, okra, etc., while the tomatoes, until this winter, has been a perennial in this locality. But such is the endless variety that may be grown, month after month, except, perhaps, it is not well to sow the two hottest months; but with plenty of water for irrigating, may be successfully done. But this hard working man managed to have plenty of nice fresh vegetables on his table. What can be nicer than one's own peas, and plenty of them?—good fresh pulled are healthier and better in summer than the heavier diets or meats, especially of cattle fed on wild feed—as home or artificial fed cattle are richer in nitrogenous matters. But I am digressing from my subject.

The wife and children did the weeding and watering of this neat, well stocked vegetable garden, besides a neat well filled floral garden, of which the permanent flowers and flowering shrubs we may mention in our next; also a list of the vegetables that man got in, and garden work of each month in general, in an abstract way; also fruit culture.

M. J. O'BYRNE.

(From the West American Scientist.)

*A Few Words About Trees of British Columbia.*

The great island of Vancouver, the largest isle on the west coast of America, surrounded by many satellites of smaller order, especially in the Strait of Georgia, and the mainland of the province, compare favorably in respect of forests, to any State, province or county either in North America or in Europe. This great and magnificent province of British Columbia, now brought in communication with eastern parts of the Dominion through the Canadian Pacific Railway, contains such a variety of plants from the magnificent Douglas fir to the modest cowslips that the future botanist of British Columbia, will find here a most luxuriant field of study for his whole branch of science.

The short account of some of the trees and other plants given here is written with the purpose that the numerous readers of the "West American Scientist" may form an idea about the magnitude of botanical life in this remote province. The writer of these lines is but a short time in British Columbia, consequently the account of plants will be found to be very deficient; still the author will endeavor to collect as many facts as possible, either from his own observations or from those of other competent persons, or from facts gathered from the Government Department of Agriculture. As the author has no competent manual under his hands, he trusts, therefore, to his memory for the Latin nomenclature of trees; consequently, shall any mistakes be found, he hopes that they will be excused by the readers, for *errare humanum est*.

In the province of British Columbia the coniferæ are to be found in great profusion. Between them the first place belongs to the *Douglas Spruce*, sometimes called Douglas fir, Douglas pine, and Oregon pine (*Abies Douglasii*) or (*Pseudotsuga Douglasii*), a magnificent tree, often over 250 feet high and 30 feet in circumference, and whose bark is sometimes nine or ten inches in thickness. This tree grows very rapidly, and is distinguished by the woodman into two kinds, yellow and red. The first has a reddish-yellow, knotty heart, and is less durable than the red one. *Pseudotsuga Douglasii* grows mostly in the southern parts of the province, also on the mainland coast and on Vancouver Island, but is not to be found on Queen Charlotte Islands.

*Menzies' or Western Spruce* (*Picea Sitchensis* or *Abies Menziesii*), very similar to the *Abies Douglasii*, grows chiefly on the coast, and is found also in the Gold and Selkirk ranges. The wood is white, and the tree grows to a very large size.

The *Western Hemlock* or *Hemlock Spruce* (*Psuga Mertensiana* or *Pinus Canadensis*) occurs on the coast, also on Fraser river and the Selkirk and Gold ranges. On Queen Charlotte Islands it reaches the height of 200 feet. Its timber splits obliquely, and decays in the atmosphere, but the bark is very valuable for tanning.

*Engelmann's Spruce* (*Picea* or *Abies Engelmanni*) occurs in the eastern and interior parts of the province, and forms dense forests in the mountains to the level of nearly 4,000 feet in elevation. The tree is very tall and straight, and the wood durable.

The *Great Silver* or *Western White Fir* (*Abies* or *Picea Grandis*) clings to the coast, but reappears also in the southeast of the province. It is a large tree, but the wood is soft. *Abies* or *Picea Amabilis*, a species most resembling it, grows in the

valley of the Fraser river, and on Silver Mountain, Yale. This tree is in some cases confounded with *Abies Subalpina* or *Mountain Balsam*.

The *Mountain Balsam* (*Abies Subalpina*) is found in the interior of northwest America, in the Gold and Selkirk ranges, in the Rocky Mountains, and in the northern portion of the interior plateau; sometimes in localities nearly reaching 4,000 feet in elevation.

The *Mountain Weymouth* or *Western White Pine* (*Pinus monticola*, and occasionally *Pinus strobus*, var. *monticola*) is found in Columbia River region, and also in the interior of Vancouver Island. It makes excellent masts, and its wood resembles that of the eastern white pine.

The so-called *White-barked Pine* (*Pinus albicantis*) is a small tree, and grows in very great elevation. Not always distinguished from this species is *Pinus flexilis* or the Rocky Mountain Pine.

The *Yellow Pine*, sometimes called "red", and "pitch pine," is *Pinus ponderosa*, var. *scopulorum*. It is a magnificent tree, remarkable for the heaviness of its timber. Its bark is reddish-brown, and half the shaft branchless. It is found in the dry regions of the mainland, and on the slopes up to 3,000 feet.

The *Scrub Pine* (*Pinus contorta*) is a coast tree, and grows on sandy dunes and rocky points. The "interior" variety of this tree, the so-called *Black Pine* (*Pinus Murrayana*) extends further north than any other pine; it covers great areas of poor soil, and sometimes is found on the hills over 3,500 feet high. In the interior of British Columbia the trees are 100 feet in height, but their diameter is only about two feet.

The *Western Cedar*, also called "red" or "giant" cedar, (*Thuja gigantea*) abounds on the Columbia river, on the Gold and Selkirk ranges, along the coast, and also in the northern interior. It is a stupendous tree, sometimes 150 feet high and 15 feet thick, but generally hollow. The wood is reddish-yellow, and splits easily into plank, and is used for shingles. The Indians use it for canoes, and out of its fiber they weave their blankets.

The *Yellow Cypress*, commonly called yellow cedar, (*Thuja excelsa*) grows principally on the coast, also in the interior of Vancouver Island and on the west coast of Queen Charlotte Islands. It is of a pale-yellow tint, and has a strong resinous smell, so that the voracious toredo will not attack it. It is used for ornamental purposes, and also for boats, and the Indians use it for making their carved totem-stick.

The *Red American Larch* or *Western Tamarack* (*Larix occidentalis*) is a noble tree, and its timber is highly valued. It occurs on the interior, on the Gold and Selkirk ranges, and in the Rocky Mountains.

The *Mountain Larch* (*Larix Lyallii*) grows in the Cascade and Rocky Mountains, and forms the last belt of timber above 7,000 feet high. There is a third species of larch in British Columbia. It is the *Black Larch* (*Larix Americana*) which grows in the Rocky Mountains, in the Peace River region. It is a very small tree. The *Juniper*, or *Western Red Cedar*, (*Juniperus occidentalis*) abounds in the Columbia Valley, on the east coast of Vancouver Island, and also along the shores of the lakes in the interior. The *Common Juniper* (*Juniperus communis*, var. *Alpina*) is found from the Rocky to the summit of the Selkirk Mountains.

Among other trees, valuable as hardwood, the most important is probably the Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), found on Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, and also on the mainland coast up to 55°. It is a magnificent tree, and grows to a very large size. The *Vine Maple* (*Acer circinatum*) yields strong, white wood, suitable for helves. It is very common in the valley of the Fraser River, on the west coast and on Vancouver Island. The *Torrey* (*Acer glabrum*) grows chiefly on the west side of the Rocky Mountains, about the sources of the Columbia, and on Vancouver Island. The *Yew* (*Taxus brevifolia*) occurs on Vancouver Island, in the vicinity of Fraser River, and sparingly on Queen Charlotte Islands. The wood is tough and of a beautiful rose color. The *Alder* is abundant everywhere in the province. The *Western* or *Red Alder* (*Alnus rubra*) is a large tree in the valley of the Fraser River, and in the coast ranges and islands. The *Mountain Alder* (*Alnus rhombifolia*) is common in the southeast of the province. The *Common Alder* (*Alnus incana*, var. *Virescens*) in the Rocky Mountains, and the *Green Alder* (*Alnus viridis*) in the northern districts of the province. The *Crab* or *Wild Apple* (*Pirus rivularis*) occurs in the valley of the Fraser, on the coast and on Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands. Its wood takes a good polish. From the Birch family we find the *Western Birch* (*Betula occidentalis*) very common in the Columbia Valley. The *Dwarf Birch* (*Betula glandulosa*) a small shrub, abundant all over the mainland; and the *Canoe Birch* (*Betula papyrifera*) which grows on Vancouver Island and in the region of the Fraser and Peace rivers. It is used by the Indians for baskets, boxes, canoes, etc.

Except a few small trees, a mile and a half above Yale, on the Fraser, the only *oak* in the province is the Western White Oak (*Quercus carryana*), which is found on Vancouver Island, chiefly in its southeastern part. It is sometimes 70 feet high and three feet in diameter, though many of the trees are scrubby. The *Westering Flowering Dogwood* (*Cornus nuttallii*) is very common in the neighborhood of Yale and around Victoria, Vancouver Island. *Cornus pubescens* is abundant also at Victoria and in the Fraser River valley. The wood of the dogwood, or dogberry as it is sometimes called, is used for inlaying and ornamental work. The *Arbutus* or *Madrona* (*Arbutus menziesii*), sometimes 50 feet high and 20 inches in diameter, is chiefly found on Vancouver Island and neighboring isles; in the vicinity of Victoria, on the Esquimalt road, arbutus is very common. It is a beautiful tree, with evergreen leaves and reddish bark. The *Bearberry* (*Arbutus* or *Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) is a small trailing and evergreen shrub, growing in dry and rocky places, chiefly in the northwest of the province. The berries are mealy and form a principal part of the food of bears, grouse and prairie chickens. *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* grows in dry and rocky localities of southern British Columbia and on Vancouver Island.

From the *Poplar* family, the *American aspen* or *Tremulus poplar* (*Populus tremuloides*) abounds in the interior, and also in the north. It reaches sometimes a thickness of two feet. The other varieties of poplar in British Columbia are commonly called the cottonwood. *Populus trichocarpa* is common in Columbia and Fraser River valleys. *Populus monilifera* and *Populus balsamifera* are to be found in the northern and

northeastern parts of the province, and also in the valley of the Lower Fraser.

Herewith I conclude this article on some of the trees in British Columbia. It is only a general outline I give to the readers of the "West American Scientist," though in some future time I intend to furnish a careful description of all plants, if possible, which are to be found in this magnificent province.

M. LOPATECKI.

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### Editorial.

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The inauguration of Horace Davis as president of the University of California took place on March 23rd, 1888, in the Harmon Gymnasium. We acknowledge an invitation to be present—received after the occurrence.

Dr. Edward Palmer, of the Smithsonian Institution, contributes two interesting articles to this issue, which will well repay a reading. We have also to thank him for some seeds of *Cucurbita ficifolia*, *Buche*, from Mexico, where it is much cultivated for its fruit, and is known as the *cidra cayote* or *chidra cayote*. It bears a fruit about a foot in length, somewhat resembling a watermelon in appearance, with a hard outer shell, the contents of a white, fibrous character. It keeps for many months without decay, and one of the finest preserves is made from the inner fibrous portion. Any one desiring to test this new vegetable in this vicinity can obtain a few seeds of the editor for trial, the results of the trial to be reported to this magazine.

From the same source we have a few seeds of *Cæsalpinea pubcherrima*, from Batopilá, Mexico, where it is a native. It is described as one of the showiest and easiest cultivated of the plants of that region, and is grown in many gardens in Mexico.

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### The 1779 Cent.

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This cent is deemed by numismatologists as being very rare and valuable; fine specimens of which will command a greater premium than those of the cent of 1793, in the same condition of preservation, to which, from their extreme scarcity, much value is attached. The number of this coin issued amounted to 904,585—no insignificant sum. Their scarcity, however, is attributed to a shipment to the coast of Africa, by a Salem, Mass., firm, of several hundred thousand, on an order from that country, where, being punched with holes, they were bartered away, probably to the chief—certainly not to the negroes—and subsequently used as ornaments by the natives, being suspended from the neck by a string, and showing to what good account so slightly valuable a thing as a copper cent may be applied by the sagacity of our countrymen. Of the few of these cents to be found, it is very difficult to procure perfect specimens. The copper of which they were composed was rendered very inferior by too much alloy, which gave them a very rough and uneven surface—perhaps the result of the copper being burnt in smelting.

The great value of these cents among numismatologists has led to an attempt at counterfeiting them by altering those issued in 1798 by means of acid or the graver—the former being the more successful. Both are readily exposed by the use of a glass.

*The Republic of Salvador.*

Duly a little over thirty miles south of San Jose de Guatemala begins the Republic of Salvador, the smallest, though the second in point of population of the countries of Central America. The little republic is, indeed the most densely populated country in both Americas, with exception, perhaps, of some of the lesser Antilles, for the Salvadorian Republic contains only an area of a little over 7,000 English square miles, while the number of inhabitants is nearly 800,000.

Salvador was always regarded as a very rich country, and before the conquest was called by the natives "Cuscatlan," or the land of abundance. The country was already at that period very densely populated, and its inhabitants are warlike and fierce. They defended their independence in such a spirit that it required all the energy of such a man as Pedro Alvarado to conquer and to bring them under the Spanish dominion.

Nowadays, though Salvador suffered and suffers still from constant wars and insurrection, the country is fairly prosperous, well governed and the best educated republic of Central America. Agriculture is extensively and successfully practiced, and the export of the products of the country is augmenting every year.

As I leave the shores of Guatemala and approach those of Salvador I remark the difference of both countries. The coast of Guatemala is low and sandy with the mighty chain of the Andes far in the interior; that of Salvador is high and rocky and of volcanic origin. There is no sandy beach here, but the hills descend to the water edge and form a steep fantastic shore, not barren and wild, but green and covered with a crown of the most exquisite trees and parasitic plants.

The first harbor I meet on the coast of Salvador is Acajutla. It is a considerable town as the export place of the north-western part of the republic. It is connected by railway with the city of Sonsonatte, further in the interior, one of the most important places in the republic.

Acajutla looks half like a city and half like an Indian village. The houses as usual are low, but the streets are paved. But what a pavement! I believe that even the streets of San Francisco have a better pavement than those of Acajutla. It is a torment for the poor barefooted Indians to walk on those streets, and even those who use shoes or boots are very anxious to avoid them.

The houses of Acajutla, and especially outside the town proper, form a very curious sight. They are constructed of bamboo or rather coyoles branches and are protected by enormous and very high fences. But those fences are neither of wood, nor of stone or wire, but of cactus. The cactus and especially the giant cardon grows here to an enormous size and very rapidly. Planted around the house in a short time it will grow to a considerable height and will form a most magnificent and durable fence. No animal and no snake can force such a formidable fence and the inmates of the house can rest secure. Sometimes the giant cardon reaches the stupendous height of 60 feet, and when this is the case, you cannot see the house, but only a green and high palisade of tall and prickly cacti.

From Acajutla to La Libertad the shore of Salvador is known under the name of Costa del Balsamo, or Balsam

Coast. It is a magnificent part of the republic, green and fresh, fragrant from the odor of numerous gorgeous flowers, watered by many mountainous creeks, covered with numerous haciendas and fincas. The hills, not too high or too steep, run in soft undulations to the shore, while toward the east they become higher and higher until they meet the principal chain of the Andes. The Balsam Coast itself produces indigo, sugar, cotton, tobacco, coffee and maize, and is of extreme fertility. But the glory of the coast is the famous balsam, known as "Balsam of Peru," which is produced in the woods of this coast in such quantities that over 30,000 pounds are annually exported.

Speaking about balsam, I must mention that under this term we understand now the balsams of Peru and of Tolu. Both balsams have a very fragrant odor and they are used in confectionery, in perfumery and especially in medicine. The two balsams mentioned are very similar to each other in their properties and both are produced by trees of the genus *Myroxylon* or *Myrospermum* of the *Leguminosæ*, *Myrospermum peruiferum*, commonly called the *Quinquino*, grows in abundance in Central America, and chiefly from this beautiful tree is prepared the celebrated balsam of the coast of Salvador. *Myrospermum toluiferum* is a very similar species to the former, but grows mostly on the banks of the Magdalena river and in the mountains of Venezuela and New Granada. The mountains of Tolu gave the name to this balsam.

At the end of Costa del Balsamo we meet the fair town of La Libertad, the second harbor on the coast of Salvador. The scenery around the town is magnificent; in fact the prettiest on the coast, for just behind the harbor begin the hills, covered with the most costly woods and with magnificent fruit-bearing trees of the tropics. The cool stream, the river Chillama, runs close to the town; and on its banks the luxuriant vegetation reigns in its supernatural beauty. Over the houses of the town tower the high cocoanut trees laden with fruit, and close to them lingers the graceful curica, papaya, ceiba, henisaro, mata-palo, guayago del monte, guisoyol, mahogany and nispero form dense groups; feathery, delicate leaves of banana and plaintains shine with the color of purest emerald under the glowing sun, and the tall columnar cardon cactus shoots like an arrow towards the blue sky.

The town of La Libertad is a small, delightful place, composed of low adobe houses, surrounded by luxuriant gardens. It is the harbor of San Salvador, the capital of the Republic, and all merchandise destined to that place has to go through La Libertad. The coach runs from the harbor to the capital, which is situated further in the mountains, on a high volcanic plateau.

San Salvador is now a fine and well-built city, though it has none of its former splendor. In 1854 it was a magnificent city, with many churches, palaces and splendid buildings, but on the night of April 16th, of that year, it was completely destroyed by one of those terrific earthquakes which are so frequent in Central America. The city was rebuilt and was again partly destroyed in 1873. It remains, however, always the seat of government and the capital of the republic.

The inhabitants of San Salvador pride themselves on being the most polished and the most cultured in Central America. They read a good deal and study much, and are, without

question, better posted on all social and political questions than are their neighbors of Honduras or Guatemala. The ladies study also a little and willingly discuss all known to them, or unknown questions with anybody who happens to come in their way. With strangers they are free, bold and very anxious to know what the ladies in other countries do, how they dress and how they spend their time. The Salvadorian ladies flirt little more than their sisters in other Spanish-American republics, and are very anxious to marry early. In fact, it is regarded as a disgrace if the lady does not marry. The Salvadorian ladies compare favorably with their sisters in Guatemala or Nicaragua. They are affectionate; generous, but quick-tempered; brilliant, but superficial; vain and vacillating; courageous in the highest degree, but capricious. They like the song and dance, but not so much as the ladies of Leon.

South of La Libertad the coast is very rocky and steep, and contains no harbors until we reach the beautiful gulf of Fonseca. In that magnificent expanse of water Salvador possesses the old Spanish town and harbor of La Union.

La Union has a suffocating climate, for the harbor is landlocked and the fresh sea breeze has no show here. It is burning hot everywhere and you breathe the air of a furnace. Had Charles Dickens been in La Union he would never have described Marseilles as he did in 'Little Dorrit,' for Marseilles compared with La Union would have been an arctic place. Here in La Union everything is hot; the wind, if there is any, the staring dusty streets, the sandy beach, and even the water within the harbor. Scarcely anybody walks on the streets at daytime; everybody who can remains at home smoking a cigar and swinging in a large, comfortable hammock, for the hammock in this *tierra caliente* takes the place of a bed and even very often of a chair.

La Union is a considerable but a very lazy and lifeless place. Only when a fair takes place—and this happens a few times every year—the inhabitants lose their lethargy and are as gay and frivolous as the inhabitants of Leon and Puntarenas. They sing and dance then and make love like veritable children of the sun.

The Andes of Salvador form a highly volcanic central range with no less than sixteen volcanic peaks from four to eight thousand feet high. The volcano Isalco near Acajutla is always in eruption, and the traveler can constantly see the fire and smoke, and hear the roar of ejected lava. Salvador possesses also many lakes and rivers, as for instance the lakes Guija and Llopango and the rivers Lempel and San Miguel. There are many considerable cities and towns in the interior, and among others are Sosonatte, Santa Ana and San Miguel. The richness of the country consists mainly of the products I mentioned before, and especially of tobacco, the best in Central America. The mineral wealth is not great, although there are some silver and iron mines near Santa Ana and Tabanco.

The government of the republic is carried on by a president, vice-president and two ministers. The legislature consists of two chambers, an upper one of twelve senators and a lower of twenty-four representatives. The standing army is only 1,000 men, though in case of necessity everybody is called to arms. In the last struggle with Guatemala (1885) Salvador in a short space of a few days had an army of 12,000 men, and what an army it was the battle of Chalchnapa has shown.—*M. Lopatecki.*

### Editorial.

A few years before the "boom" in Southern California we remember the enterprise of Chaffey Bros. in founding the town of Ontario, in San Bernardino county, where the corner-stone of the Chaffey Agricultural College was laid March 17th, 1883. The California Press Association, at its meeting on the plains of Ontario at that time, adopted the following resolution unanimously:

"Resolved, That for the generous and liberal hospitality this day extended, we hereby extend our hearty appreciation, and close with the sentiment that we may be spared to return to this spot five years from this date and find, instead of an uninhabited plain, a colony of handsome women and gallant men, living in comfortable homes, beneath their own vine and fig tree, basking in the sunshine of a golden prosperity."

In accordance with the hope above expressed, the Ontario Land and Improvement Company issued invitations March 10th to the Press of California to celebrate with them the fifth anniversary of the colony of Ontario. The engineers' railroad strike prevented our accepting the invitation received; but we are pleased to note that the day was pleasantly passed by the many who were able to be present.

THE inauguration of the National City Water Works was fittingly commemorated the 19th of April at National City. Speeches were made by prominent citizens of National City and San Diego, reviewing the history of the construction of these works from commencement to completion, and two bands furnished music for the occasion. An exhibit was made of fruits grown on the lands embraced within the area now reached by more than sixty miles of water mains, which are supplied from a reservoir containing an area of nearly 700 acres. The enterprise has absorbed about one million dollars, and its completion marks an era in the progressive development of San Diego county, of which we may well be proud. A model of the great dam at Sweetwater cañon was exhibited, with banks of beautiful roses lined with green grass, the water flowing over the miniature dam upon a bed of lilies. A finer display of roses could not have been asked for. Oranges and lemons were in lavish abundance, and apples and large, luscious strawberries appeared in the exhibit. Quantities of callas, geraniums and palm leaves completed the floral decorations. We can congratulate our sister city on her climate, soil and water—especially on her *agua dulce*; and hope she may soon have occasion to congratulate San Diego on an equally bountiful supply of pure mountain water from our great flume.

### A Glance at Books.

*Community Homes the right way, and the best way for all to live.* 108 pp.; price 25 cents; A. Longley, 2 N. 4th street, St. Louis, Mo.

This book gives an explanation of the principles, organization and practical details of community homes, with common property, united labor, mutual support and equal rights to all, so as to secure much greater comfort and enjoyment to all the members than can possibly be obtained in the ordinary separate way of living.

*Changes in the Color of Grapes Grown in Northwestern Mexico.*

BY DR. EDWARD PALMER.

The village of San Jose de Guaymas is nine miles north of Guaymas proper. At the village are numerous gardens, which supply the city of Guaymas with fruit and vegetables. As there is no certainty when rain will fall, or the amount, the cultivators have recourse to wells. The soil has more the appearance of that found about old dry river beds than anything else, and one unacquainted with its quality would decide it was worthless; but with water and heat, many of the finest varieties of grapes are grown—not surpassed in size of bunches or flavor of fruit by the grapes of California.

Some kinds of grapes, known in other localities by their distinctive colors, are here so modified or entirely wanting in their natural color as to be unrecognizable.

FLAMING TOKAY.

Here this beautiful grape belies its name, for it gradually and variously changes its color until the fifth year, when the original color is an exception, and a greenish white is the new hue taken on. Sometimes all the bunches of a vine are of that color; on another vine a bunch may have a few berries with a slight tinge; then another with three or four together nearly as deeply tinged as the original. Then a large bunch may have a number of berries very slightly shaded, or there may be here or there one tinged; while several bunches on the same vine are not the least tinged. In fact, some entire vines, the fruit of which will be a greenish white, and would not be taken for what it really is.

OLD MISSION GRAPE.

This grape is remarkable for its eccentricity of coloration. On the same vine and bunch, the berries may be of every shade of reddish black or purple to greenish white. On some vines all bunches will be nearly of the original color, while the bunches on another vine may be purely greenish white; or a vine will have a bunch or two variable in color.

BLACK PRINCE.

This well known black grape is seldom seen here in his genuine black dress, but in every shade of black or brownish black—or with the slightest tinge of those colors, or not at all colored, being more like the Sweetwater in hue, yet perfectly ripe. There are vines that grow side by side with the changeable ones, yet their fruit are not the least affected in color; for instance, the Sweetwater, Malvadeir, the Rhine-wine grape and a large one from the coast of Africa. Some of these, are as dark as their color, naturally, as the grapes before mentioned, that change color so variably, yet are not the least altered in hue; while the others last mentioned, some being white or nearly so, have no dark color infused through the berries.

Why should the berries of certain dark-colored grapes be deprived of their usual color, and others, that are light in color, not have any dark shades added to them? Yet they grow in precisely the same soil and climate, and are watered alike.

We acknowledge a complimentary to the Tenth Annual Floral and Citrus Exhibition of the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society.

*The Deer of Southern Lower California.*

Judge Caton, in his excellent work, "The Antelope and Deer of America," Second Edition, year 1881, page 337, says: "The mule deer in the Rocky Mountains is four times as large as in Lower California, which difference is also supplemented by the fact that the change in the antler is quite as great, for, on all of the small variety the antler has ceased to be bifurcated, but presents a spike like that of the yearling deer of the north; or if ever bifurcated, that feature is as rare as on the first antlers of the better developed variety of the north, and yet I do not hesitate to rank them in the same species, from their exact similitude in all other respects, according to the reliable information received of them."

On page 119, he refers to it as "a remarkable variety of the Mule Deer, found by Mr. John Xantus, as I am informed by Professor Baird, one of the most reliable collectors of the Smithsonian Institute, who forwarded several specimens to Washington, from Cape St. Lucas, Lower California. With all the other indicia of the Mule Deer, they are very diminutive in size, and have spike antlers about six inches in length." "I have not been able to learn that this diminutive mule deer has been met with except in the lower part of the peninsula, and the extent of its habitat there is as yet uncertain."

I have no doubt that the specimens Xantus forwarded to the Smithsonian were yearling males, which are generally known as "Spike Bucks," though I have not seen those specimens. There is but one species of deer in the Cape region, and that is a fine large animal, quite equal in size to the Mule Deer of the Rocky Mountains, and the males have antlers as perfect, as profusely branched, and not materially different from the antlers of the deer of California, of corresponding ages.

I saw more than a hundred pairs of antlers in various parts of the Cape region, and of these but one pair deserves special mention. The unusual pair, were from a "Capon,"—so the hunter who had them said. They were vertical, thick, angular, very rough and in velvet. One prong was twelve inches long, the other three inches longer.

It is well known that these unfortunates rarely or never have perfect antlers, consequently these exceptional antlers signify nothing.

The Mexican hunters, of whom I inquired concerning the deer of the country, invariably told me there were "tres classes" (three kinds) of males, which they distinguished by the antlers, and I supposed they said there were three species of deer there; but after I became convinced from much observation that there was but one species of deer in this part of the peninsula, I asked how many classes of females there were. "Uno, no mas, Senor" (one, no more) was the invariable reply.

I saw a skin at Miraflores, in possession of Senor Vidal Collins, which must have been taken from a deer that would have weighed over three hundred pounds, live weight, if in good condition; and I shot a buck in the Victoria mountains, which probably weighed two hundred and fifty—so heavy, in fact, that Dr. H. ten Kate, myself and Francisco Amador, the guide, had much difficulty in dragging it, with united effort, up the cañon about one hundred yards.

L. BELDING.

March 6th, 1888.



*"NONE OF OUR BUSINESS."*

[A little girl was heard to finish her evening prayer with these words: "And I saw a poor little girl on the street to day, cold and barefooted, but it's none of our business, is it, God?"]

None of our business! wandering and sinful,  
All through the streets of the city they go,  
Hungry and homeless in the wild weather—  
None of our business? Dare we say so?

None of our business! children's wan faces,  
Haggard and old with their suffering and sin.  
(Hold fast your darlings on tender, warm bosoms,  
Sorrow without, but the home-light within.)

What does it matter that some other woman  
Some common mother, in bitter despair,  
Wails in a garret, or sits in a cellar,  
Too broken-hearted for weeping or prayer?

None of our business! sinfull and fallen,  
How they may jostle us close on the street!  
Hold back your garments! Scorn! they are used  
to it;  
Pass on the other side lest you should meet,

None of our business! on, then, the music,  
On with the feasting, though hearts break for-  
lorn;  
Somebody's hungry, somebody's freezing,  
Somebody's soul will be lost ere the morn.

Somebody's dying (on with the dancing!)  
One for earth's pottage is selling his soul;  
One for a bauble has bartered his birthright,  
Selling his all for a pitiful dole.

Ah! but One goeth abroad on the mountains,  
Over lone deserts, with burning deep sands,  
Seeking the lost ones (it is His business!)  
Bruised though his feet are, and torn though  
His hands.

Thorn-crowned His head and His soul sorrow-  
stricken  
(Saving men's souls at such infinite cost),  
Broken His heart for the grief of the nations,  
It is His business saving the lost.

—Lend a Hand.

*The Lime Kiln Club on Health.*

The Fourteenth Assistant Agriculturist of the Agricultural Department forwarded a communication in which he inquired what particular law of "hyjean" the Lime Kiln Club followed to preserve its general health. If it had any particular rules laid down, or programme mapped out, the Government would like to have them.

"De seckretary will answer dat we ar' simply guided by common sense," replied the president. "We wash our feet occashunally. We take a dip in the rain bar'l when it ar' not too cold weather. We hand our green melons ober de fence to de nayburs. When it snows in July we put on our obercoats, an' when the daisies blossom in January we lay aside our red flannel shirts. We neither stuff nor starv. If dis gov'ment wants to be healthy let it pour lager beer into a rat hole an' cold water down its froat—eat less sweet-cake an' drink mo' buttermilk—sleep mo' hours an' do less poker playin'—*Detroit Free Press.*

*Don't Whine.*

Don't be whining about not having a fair chance. Throw a sensible man out of a window, he'll fall on his feet and ask the nearest way to his work. The more you have to begin with, the less you will have in the end. Money you earn yourself is much brighter than any you can get out of dead men's bags. A scant breakfast in the morning of life whets the appetite for a feast later in the day. He who has tasted a sour apple will have the more relish for a sweet one. Your present want will make prosperity all the sweeter. Eighteen pence has set up many a peddler in the business, and he has turned it over until he has kept his carriage. As for the place you are cast in, don't find fault with that; you need not be a horse because you were born in a stable. If a bull tossed a man of mettle sky high he would drop down in a good place. A hard-working young man with his wits about him will make money while others will do nothing but lose it.

Who loves his work and knows how to spare,  
May live and flourish anywhere.

As to a little trouble, who expects to find cherries without stones or roses without thorns? Who would win must learn to bear. Idleness lies in bed sick of the mulli-grubs, while industry finds health and wealth. The dog in the kennel barks at fleas, the hunting dog does not even know that they are there. Laziness waits till the river is dry and never gets to market. "Try" swims in and makes all the trade. "Can't do it" would not eat the bread set before him, but "Try" made meat out of mushrooms.—*John Plowman.*

*Conversation.*

Many years ago the famous and faithful Hannah More said: "In private we must watch our thoughts, and in society we must watch our words. And a higher authority, Psalm 50, verse 23, 'to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God.' And Paul said to the Phillippians: 'Only let your conversation be as it becomes the Gospel of Christ.' And in Proverbs we are told: 'A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.' Also, 'A word spoken in due season, how good it is.'"

*A Beautiful Sentiment.*

"I expect to pass through this life but once; if, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to my fellow human beings, let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

*A Good Motto.*

For the home and the boys, first, last and all the time.

What shall be done with the Saloon? is the question of the day. Various are the answers. Regulate it, tax it, license it, prohibit it, are the answers that come from everywhere. All have been tried. It is found that regulation does not regulate, and that tax and license encourage the saloon by making it a monopoly. Prohibition in places has done much good. Against prohibition the cry is raised, "It doesn't prohibit." Why? Because officers do not enforce the law. But they are improving in this respect in many localities, and all over our broad land the people are arousing themselves. They are beginning to realize that the deadliest foe the home has is the saloon. "The saloon must go" is the watchword. The fight is on. Voters, councils, assemblies and congress must take sides, and that soon, either for the home and the boys, or for the saloon. We are the boys and home, first, last and all the time.—*From the Pacific Beach Magazine, San Diego.*

*A Practical Way of Doing Good.*

How often we forget that he that "wineth souls is wise." A body of students from Edinburgh University resolved upon evangelistic work, hired a house in the worst part of the Scotch capital and took up their residence there. At first the people were sullen and suspicious. They did not want any psalm-singing and preaching. But the students had a different plan; they went quietly about their own affairs, living simply, yet showing their neighbors a higher grade of comfort and cleanliness. When there was sickness in the vicinity some of the students who were studying medicine offered their services. Gradually this band of earnest young Christians won their way to the hearts of these rough, abandoned people. Not a word was said about religion all this time. The brave fellows lived the love of Christ instead of talking about it. In the end they converted hundreds. There's a philosophy in this plan which young people can understand. In doing philanthropic work remember those Edinburgh students.—*Our Youth.*

"I send you my son C. O. D. with privilege of examination," wrote a business man to the principal of a well-known preparatory school. "If not satisfactory, return at my expense." Six days later the young man came back.

*Humming Birds.*

There is no group of birds so interesting to the collector as the humming-bird, it being the smallest in size, the most gorgeously beautiful in color, and almost the most abundant in species of any single family of birds. They are found only on the continent and islands of America, and are found all the way from the Arctic regions in the north to Patagonia in the south, but are most abundant in Central America.

There are over three hundred known species, and new ones are being discovered every year. They are called humming-birds on account of the buzzing sound which they produce with their wings. Wood says: 'So characteristic is this humming sound that it is not precisely the same in any two species, and in many instances is so very decided in its tone that a practiced and observant ear can often detect the species of a humming-bird by the sound which it produces in flight.' One of the common species in North America is the ruby-throated humming-bird, so called on account of the 'glowing metallic feathers that blaze with ruby lustre upon its throat.' They arrive in Ohio about the 10th of May, and usually come in pairs. About the first week in June they commence to build their nest, which is composed of a soft down taken from the stems of the fern. They usually cover the outside of the nest with lichens, thus giving it the appearance of a mossy knot; so much so that I have spent nearly an hour looking for a nest after I had discovered by the actions of the bird which tree it was in. Another fact is that of sixteen nests found in this vicinity in the past three years, all were found south of the main part of the tree. The eggs are two in number, white and nearly elliptical in shape, being of about equal sizes at both ends.

Mr. Webber discovered a curious habit connected with their nesting. He frequently observed, while watching for their nests, that the ruby-throats, after leaving their station, shot suddenly and perpendicularly in the air until they become invisible. At last he had the pleasure of seeing the female fall as from the sky upon the spot where she had built her nest, so that this curious habit of ascending and descending seems to be used by the bird for the purpose of concealing the precise position of her nest.—*E. E. Hayns.*

*One Step at a Time.*

I stood at the foot of a Swiss mountain which towered up from the foot of the Vispbach Valley to the height of ten thousand feet. It looked like a tremendous pull to the top. But I said to myself, 'Oh, it will require but a step at a time!' Before sunset I stood on the summit enjoying the magnificent view of the peaks around me, and right opposite to me flashed the icy crown of Weisshorn, which Prof Tyndall was the first man to discover, by taking one step at a time. Every boy who would master a difficult study, every youth who hopes to get on in the world, must keep this motto in mind. When the famous Arago was a school boy he got discouraged over mathematics. But one day he found on the waste leaf of the cover of his text book a short letter from D'Alembert to a youth discouraged like himself. The advice that D'Alembert gave was, 'Go on, sir; go on.' 'That sentence,' said Arago, 'was my best teacher in mathematics.' He did go on steadily until he became the leading mathematician of his day, by going one step at a time. It was by such steady steps that Joseph made his way up from being an ill-used lad until he became the noble ruler of Egypt. If all of Joseph's trials and temptation had come on him at once they might have crushed him; but they came one at a time, and God helped him every time to conquest. Just as certainly will He help you if you ask Him by prayer.—*Dr. Cuyler.*

*Begin.*

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow," was doubtless repeated by children, who, if now living, would be centenarians. It is but to begin and continue in the right direction and the accomplishment of a purpose is secure, of which the following item is an evidence in point:

"The Bibliotheque Royale in Paris is said to have been founded in 1340. It started with only twenty books, and has become one of the best European collections. It is especially rich in old manuscripts."

"The case is precisely the same with the science of human thought and philosophy, as with external life and daily experience. Nothing is more highly estimated in society, business or politics than an active and consistent character.—*Schlegel.*

*An Anthem Accurately Described,*

A correspondent who is obliged to listen every Sunday to a "hanthem," which he denominates all Greek to him, thinks the following description of that familiar part of the service, which might mean so much, and which too often counts for little, good enough to be reprinted. It is from the *Troy Times*:

Speaking of anthems reminds me of the story of two old British sailors, who were talking over shore experience. One had been to a cathedral, and had heard some very fine music, and was descanting particularly upon an anthem which gave him much pleasure. His shipmate listened for awhile, and then said, "I say, Bill, what's an anthem?" "What?" replied Bill, "do you mean to say you don't know what a hanthem is?" "Not me." "Well, then, I'll tell yer. If I was to say to yer, 'Ere, Bill, give me that 'andspike,' that wouldn't be a hanthem. But was I to say, 'Bill — Bill — Bill — giv — giv — giv — giv me, giv me that — Bill, giv me, give me that hand, giv me that hand, handspike, spike — spike — Bill, giv — giv me that — that hand — handspike, hand — handspike, spike, spike, spike, ah — men, ah — men; Bill, giv methathandspike, spike, ah — men!' Why, that would be a hanthem."

*SQUIBS.*

"It's no use to feel of me wrist, docther," said Pat when the physician began to take his pulse, "the pain is not there, sir; it's in my head entoirely."

Many a weary youth, sitting in his solitary room at midnight, and driving a big needle through a button with the back of a jack-knife, is wondering whether he will be doing his own sewing in 1889.

A young man in Louisville, Ky., who smoked forty cigarettes a day, has just been declared an idiot by the courts. The interesting question of whether the being an idiot made him smoke the cigarettes or smoking them made him an idiot, was not positively determined by the jury. Perhaps it does not need to be.

*Home.*

Happier far than thou,  
With the laurel on thy brow,  
She who makes the humblest hearth,  
Lovely but to one on earth.

—*Mrs. Hemans.*

'Have communion with few,  
Be intimate with One,  
Deal justly by all,  
And speak evil of none.'

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*Humming Birds.*

There is no group of birds so interesting to the collector as the humming-bird, it being the smallest in size, the most gorgeously beautiful in color, and almost the most abundant in species of any single family of birds. They are found only on the continent and islands of America, and are found all the way from the Arctic regions in the north to Patagonia in the south, but are most abundant in Central America.

There are over three hundred known species, and new ones are being discovered every year. They are called humming-birds on account of the buzzing sound which they produce with their wings. Wood says: "So characteristic is this humming sound that it is not precisely the same in any two species, and in many instances is so very decided in its tone that a practiced and observant ear can often detect the species of a humming-bird by the sound which it produces in flight." One of the common species in North America is the ruby-throated humming-bird, so called on account of the glowing metallic feathers that blaze with ruby lustre upon its throat. They arrive in Ohio about the 10th of May, and usually come in pairs. About the first week in June they commence to build their nest, which is composed of a soft down taken from the stems of the fern. They usually cover the outside of the nest with lichens, thus giving it the appearance of a mossy knot; so much so that I have spent nearly an hour looking for a nest after I had discovered by the actions of the bird which tree it was in. Another fact is that of sixteen nests found in this vicinity in the past three years, all were found south of the main part of the tree. The eggs are two in number, white and nearly elliptical in shape, being of about equal sizes at both ends.

Mr. Webber discovered a curious habit connected with their nesting. He frequently observed, while watching for their nests, that the ruby-throats, after leaving their station, shot suddenly and perpendicularly in the air until they become invisible. At last he had the pleasure of seeing the female fall as from the sky upon the spot where she had built her nest, so that this curious habit of ascending and descending seems to be used by the bird for the purpose of concealing the precise position of her nest.—*E. E. Hoyns.*

*One Step at a Time.*

I stood at the foot of a Swiss mountain which towered up from the foot of the Vispbach Valley to the height of ten thousand feet. It looked like a tremendous pull to the top. But I said to myself, "Oh, it will require but a step at a time." Before sunset I stood on the summit enjoying the magnificent view of the peaks around me, and right opposite to me flashed the icy crown of Weisshorn, which Prof. Tyndall was the first man to discover, by taking one step at a time. Every boy who would master a difficult study, every youth who hopes to get on in the world, must keep this motto in mind. When the famous Arago was a school boy he got discouraged over mathematics. But one day he found on the waste leaf of the cover of his text book a short letter from D'Alembert to a youth discouraged like himself. The advice that D'Alembert gave was, "Go on, sir; go on." "That sentence," said Arago, "was my best teacher in mathematics." He did go on steadily until he became the leading mathematician of his day, by going one step at a time. It was by such steady steps that Joseph made his way up from being an ill-used lad until he became the noble ruler of Egypt. If all of Joseph's trials and temptation had come on him at once they might have crushed him; but they came one at a time, and God helped him every time to conquest. Just as certainly will He help you if you ask Him by prayer.—*Dr. Cuyler.*

*Begin.*

"All oaks from little acorns grow," was doubtless repeated by children, who, if now living, would be centenarians. It is but to begin and continue in the right direction and the accomplishment of a purpose is secure, of which the following item is an evidence in point:

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*An Anthem Accurately Described.*

A correspondent who is obliged to listen every Sunday to a "hanthem," which he denominates all Greek to him, thinks the following description of that familiar part of the service, which might mean so much, and which too often counts for little, good enough to be reprinted. It is from the *Troy Times*:

Speaking of anthems reminds me of the story of two old British sailors, who were talking over shore experience. One had been to a cathedral, and had heard some very fine music, and was descanting particularly upon an anthem which gave him much pleasure. His shipmate listened for awhile, and then said, "I say, Bill, what's an anthem?" "What?" replied Bill, "do you mean to say you don't know what a hanthem is?" "Not me." "Well, then, I'll tell yer. If I was to say to yer, 'Ere, Bill, give me that handspike,' that wouldn't be a hanthem. But was I to say, 'Bill—Bill—Bill—giv—giv—giv—giv me, giv me that—Bill, giv me, giv me that hand, giv me that hand, handspike, spake—spake—Bill, giv—giv me that—that hand—handspike, hand—handspike, spake, spake, spake, ah—men, ah—men: Bill, giv methathandspike, spake, ah—men.' Why, that would be a hanthem."

*SQUITS.*

"It's no use to feel of me wrist, docther," said Pat when the physician began to take his pulse, "the pain is not there, sir; it's in my head entoirely."

Many a weary youth, sitting in his solitary room at midnight, and driving a big needle through a button with the back of a jack-knife, is wondering whether he will be doing his own sewing in 1889.

A young man in Louisville, Ky., who smoked forty cigarettes a day, has just been declared an idiot by the courts. The interesting question of whether the being an idiot made him smoke the cigarettes or smoking them made him an idiot, was not positively determined by the jury. Perhaps it does not need to be.

*Home.*

Happier far than thou,  
With the laurel on thy brow,  
She who makes the humblest hearth,  
Lovely but to me on earth.  
—*Mrs. Hemans.*

Have communion with few,  
Be intimate with One,  
Deal justly by all,  
And speak evil of none.

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## CONTENTS:

Geology—VIII .....	151
Chats About Counterfeits—Part III .....	152
Words for the Collector .....	153
Philately .....	154
Gems and Precious Stones .....	156
Some Colorado Birds .....	156
Editorial .....	158
Conchology .....	159
General Notes .....	159
Exchange Notices .....	160

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



## CONTENTS:

Geology—VIII .....	151
Chats About Counterfeits—Part III.....	152
Words for the Collector.....	153
Philately.....	154
Gems and Precious Stones.....	156
Some Colorado Birds.....	156
Editorial.....	158
Conchology.....	159
General Notes.....	159
Exchange Notices.....	160

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**E. M. HAIGHT, Editor and Proprietor.**

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# The ❖ Old ❖ Curiosity ❖ Shop.

VOL. VIII.

AUGUST, 1889.

No. 11.

## GEOLOGY.

### A SERIES.

#### PART VIII.

Transportation by rivers and distribution of material.

1. That material which is worn out of the earth by erosive action has been transported somewhere by the same waters. Part is carried to the sea into which the river empties and is distributed for the most part along the shores, filling estuaries or bays, or making deltas and extending the bounds of the land; thus the mountains are ever on the move seaward, and this continent is losing annually in mean height and gaining in width or extent of dry land.

2. Transporting power of water. The transporting power of running water is very great when the flow is rapid; large stones and masses of rocks are torn up and moved onward by the mountain torrent. It has been estimated that current of four miles an hour will carry stones two and one-half inches in diameter; of two miles pebbles 0.6; of two-thirds of a mile, fine sand about .064 inch in diameter; of one-third of a mile, fine earth or clay, the particles .016 in diameter, the mean diameter of the largest transportable particles varying as the square of velocity.

3. The amount of transported material varies with the size and currents of the rivers and the kind of country through which they flow. The Mississippi carries annually to the Gulf of Mexico, on good authority, 812,500,000,000 pounds of silt, equal to a mass one square mile in area and 241 ft. deep, and its bottom

waters push on enough more to make the 241 ft. 268 ft.

4. The alluvial or fluvial formations cover a large part of a continent, since rivers or smaller streams are almost everywhere at work, they are made up of layers of pebbles or gravel, and of earth, silt or clay, especially of these finer materials, logs, leaves, shells and bones occur in them; but these are rare.

Subterranean waters. A part of the waters that fall on the earth's surface, on its mountains as well as its plains, sink into the ground and into the rocks beneath wherever there are openings or crevices, and thus becomes subterranean, the porous sandstone allowing water to easily pass through and collecting in large reservoirs. Thus come springs, subterranean streams, large and small, and copious out-flows beneath the sea level along coasts. The waters easily erode limestone because they contain carbonic acid, and gradually eating it away make those large underground caverns as the Mammoth Cave. The length of the caverns in this limestone in Kentucky (a rock 200 to 1,000 ft. thick) is estimated by Prof. Shaler at 100,000 miles. 2. Artesian wells are thus formed when strata are inclined and water descends along one of the layers between others that are sufficiently close to confine it, the pressure increases with the descent so that the water will rise through a boring made down to it and sometimes in a high jet. They were called artesian because being first made in Artois, France. 3. Land slides are of different kinds; the sliding of the surface earth, or gravel,



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of a hill down to the plain below, may be caused by the waters of a severe storm wetting the material deeply and giving it greater weight, besides loosening its attachment to the more solid mass below. 2. The sliding down a declivity to the plain below of the upper layers of a rock formation may happen when the upper layers rest on a clayey or sandy layer and the latter becomes very wet and greatly softened by the waters. The upper layer slides down on the softened bed. The ocean in relation to mechanical work in geology is mostly confined to its coasts and to soundings. The salt-ness of the ocean gives it a density of 1.0245 to 1.0278 that of pure fresh being 1. A cubic foot weighs sixty-four pounds. Waves. The force in the oceanic waves is a constant force. Year in and year out with ceaseless energy they break and beat against the coast, gathering sand, pebbles and gravel, with a grinding action it wears the hardest of rock. Tidal currents. The out-flowing current from bays or that connected with the ebbing tide, is deeper in its action and has therefore more excavating and more transporting power than the in-flowing or in-coming tide. The latter moves in as a great swelling wave and fills the bays much above their natural level. But the out-flowing current begins along the bottom before the tide is fully in and when the tide changes it adds to the strong current already in progress.

:o:

## CHATS ABOUT COUNTERFEITS.

### PART III—SOME BOGUS STAMPS.

#### *Don Carlos.*

The "Connell" stamp was successfully forged by a Mr. Greenslade of Toronto, in 1880. This gentleman carried on a large business in the *Mail* building, but he departed from the paths of virtue and had a bogus "Connell" engraved by a firm in

Toronto. The imitations are so finely executed that there is no way, to my knowledge, that they can be distinguished from the genuine. The P. O. department got wind of Greenslade's crooked transaction, and he was forced to "take French leave" of the fair city of Toronto, carrying but a few of his specimens with him. The remainder, with the plates, dies, etc., were seized by the authorities and destroyed. There is but little doubt, however, that some of the "Connells" in collections are of the Greenslade manufacture, and not worth the paper they are printed on.

In the spring of 1883, a prominent English stamp journal stated that a part of Bolivia, S. A., had seceded and established an independent republic with the name Capacua, and would shortly issue stamps of the values 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 centavos. The publisher of the paper which contained this startling announcement, never intended to make money from the affair, and the whole concern was simple intended as a joke. A wily counterfeiter, however who was always on the alert for a chance to turn a dishonest penny, manufactured a series of stamps of the values announced, and succeeded in disposing of a quantity before the history of the affair became known. So much for a publisher's foolish joke.

United States locals have been extensively counterfeited, and aside from the "110 varieties for 25c.," there are some dangerous forgeries. George Hussy was the most skillful and successful counterfeiter of this particular branch. He was once proprietor of Hussy's *Post*, and from 1864 to '70, dealt extensively in all kinds of postage stamps, selling many that were genuine; but so kind-hearted was this estimable gentleman that when his stock of certain rare varieties would become exhausted, he resorted to his friend, Thos. Wood, of 41 Fulton street, New York, who would kindly prepare dies from which

the festive George printed his own stamps, and in inhaustable quantities, rather than disappoint his customers. A great many of the finest imitations of rare locals owe their existence to this man. A. C. Kline, who published *Kline's Manual* in Philadelphia was also a successful swindler. S. Allan Taylor also contributed his share to the bogus locals in existence, but they were generally printed from wood cuts and consequently, poor imitations. His most paying enterprise in this line was the "floating" of the stamps of "Bancroft's Express," which was an entirely fictitious concern.

A philatelist, now prominent in New York, and a well-known contributor to stamp journals, was the author of the "Berford Locals," which appeared in the early part of 1874. He was the editor of a paper devoted to philately, and he began by giving his readers considerable news regarding the discovery of the "Berford" stamp, a new local, by himself. He claimed to hold all the remaining stamps of this company, and he contrived to make large sales to many prominent dealers. For a while all went well, but the denouncement came at last. In September, 1874, *The Timbrophilist* denounced the Berford stamps as an invention of Mr. ———'s and challenged him for a reply, which he never gave and by his silence proclaimed his own guilt.

Next month I shall continue this series of articles by endeavoring to show how bogus stamps may be detected and will give an expose of the various methods used by counterfeiters.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## WORDS FOR THE COLLECTOR

BY S. ESTLE MILLER.

The devotees of the collecting mania are increasing in numbers yearly, and the time is not far dis-

tant when the army of collectors will be vast indeed. Few are the intelligent persons that do not have a box, drawer or cabinet of relics and curios, and those who have not should have, for I assure all that collecting is profitable, pleasurable, and best of all, instructive. Our collection is not yet a large one, but is one that has given a great deal of pleasure, profit and instruction.

The person who collects earnestly and systematically, is sure to reap a rich reward. I have invariably found that the time and money put into a collection of stamps or curiosities are well spent. Either collection will increase in value with each succeeding year, and each will be a fountain from which may be drawn an immeasurable amount of solid enjoyment.

If you have begun to form a collection, let the good work go on. If you have not yet begun, you should begin now. Put it off for a few years and many articles will be beyond your reach. Things that are now purchasable for a few cents will then be worth dollars.

But it should not be put off for another reason. About each relic and each curiosity there clings a world of information. That knowledge is valuable, and the sooner that knowledge you possess the better for you. In this life we should leave no stone unturned whereby we may be benefitted. All things were constructed for man's good. It is man's duty then to go as far into all things as the powers of finite mind will permit.

Another reason against delay. The old and the quaint invariably bring pleasure to the beholder. Whatever then brings pleasure, lightens life burdens, or ameliorates our condition, should be propagated and nourished.

'We should make life pleasant down here below,'

Said the jolly old pedagogue long ago.

The collector should be a special ist. Few have the time and money to devote to all branches of collecting. If you endeavor to carry along everything, something must be neglected altogether, or all things partly. One thing at a time and that thing well done, should be the motto of every collector. This motto should be adopted first of all.

A few words about increasing the size and value of your collection. This may readily be done by appropriating money derived from the sale of your duplicates, or by exchanging your duplicates for any desirable specimens. Nearly all stamp and curiosity papers have exchange departments. Use these departments, freely and you are sure to be benefited thereby, and will thus be the means of benefiting others. Most of all, do not forget to explore your own neighborhood, if you would gather relics that others have no chance of obtaining. A little labor and patience will bring to light many quaint and rare articles. Such things will require no outlay of money, and will be valuable accessions to your cabinet. In addition to these, many other plans may be (and should be) used for increasing size and value of your collection. An inventive mind will be continually reaching out in different directions, and using different methods. The collector should be wide awake and enthusiastic, and ready to intercept bargains as they come. He must learn to "take time by the forelock" and hornets by their wings. Activity, seasoned with precaution, will soon place you in the front ranks of the army and give you a position among the leaders.

—:O:—

*Scalaria angulosa*, Say. Several fine specimens of this shell were found by Mr. Smith at Anglesea on the coast of New Jersey. This species is not common at this locality.

JOHN FORD.

## PHILATELY.

All communications for this department should be addressed to the Editor, at Ida Grove, Iowa. All philatelic publications sent will be carefully reviewed.

In taking charge of this department, I do not think it would be out of place to say a few words.

I do not propose to give in these columns any "heavy" matter, but I will aim to give news, notes, etc., that cannot fail to interest the beginner in philately, and we hope, the advanced philatelist as well.

Any notes, etc., that would interest collectors, would be thankfully received and should be sent to me as above.

I trust that philately shall gain many recruits by this department, and that those who are philatelists already, will become more active.

It is reported upon reliable authority, that James G. Blaine is an ardent stamp collector.

George Henderson has now full control of the *Q. C. P.* The July issue is very good. Beginning with the next number the paper will contain correspondence from leading philatelists giving the "news" of the locality in which they reside. We do not think Mr. N. F. Seebeck of New York will quite enjoy the July number, but what Mr. Henderson is true, and the *Combine* should be boycotted if possible.

Several philatelists have nearly gone wild over the idea of issuing a *Standard* catalogue. They do not take into account the amount of labor and money, that has been expended in making catalogues what they are. The philatelist of the United States can be proud of our *Standard* catalogues, which are ahead of those of any other country. Complying a catalogue is no small matter, and those who are so enthusiastic over it should first consider the elephant they have on their hands. Do not think that I do not believe in improving catalogues, for I do, but I think



we should give just praise to those who have brought catalogues where they are and have spent time, energy and money in that direction.

We are informed that the *U. S. Philatelist* is not dead and will shortly be issued; containing thirty-two pages. The west is in need of more papers, and we are glad to know of the *U. S. Philatelist's* resurrection. Success to you Bro. Scott.

A manual, entitled the *Stamp Collectors' Vest Pocket Dictionary and Guide*, will shortly be issued from Portland, Me., by Jewett & Lyons. The manual will contain a reference list of philatelic words, terms, inscriptions, watermarks, etc. We understand that 1000 copies will be issued and will be circulated gratis among active philatelists.

The *Rhode Island Philatelist* is a very neat publication and is filled with interesting matter. They are following after the *Collectors' Ledger* in the manner of giving premiums.

We do not know of any amateur papers giving so much philatelic matter in twelve numbers as the *Clipper*, published by Wells M. Cook, Mendota, Ill. Mr. Cook is an enthusiastic philatelist and lets his light shine.

We clip the following from the *Stamp Collectors' Journal*, (Eng.): "There are more ways than one of killing a cat. When the late President Solomon, of Hayti was overthrown and the new government assumed office, they found an exceptionally large stock of stamps bearing the hated head of the disposed Chief of State. To burn the stamps would have been a sad waste of money, and to allow them to circulate would be to perpetuate the fame of an over-thrown ruler. In this dilemma, the Post Master General hit upon a plan of using the stamps and at the same time of insulting the memory of the fallen President. He

issued an edict declaring that 'Solomon' stamps would still be used, but that in every case Haytians must affix them to their letters 'the wrong side up.' He also announced that in all instances in which stamps were found stuck on letters with ex-President Solomon's head in its normal condition, a fee of double postage would be charged. In this way the stock of reserve stamps is being worked off in the most satisfactory manner."

Great Britain up to 1884, issued 31,302,000,000 postage stamps. It is estimated that these would cover 3,762 square miles, and placed end to end would reach the moon and back.

A stamp forger by the name of Placido De Torres, has just been sentenced at Bremen to seven months imprisonment, and ordered to pay a fine of twelve hundred marks. He had sold stamps principally to German and English dealers, and over 41,280 counterfeited stamps were found in his possession.

The *Collectors' Ledger* has suspended. The March number was the last issued. We understand that the *N. Y. Philatelist* is its successor.

The draft of the Constitution of the Philatelic Association of Iowa has been circulated. The exchange department is in fine working order and the association is booming.

An English firm has offered the British government a neat sum for the privilege of advertising on the back of their postage stamps. This is quite a novel idea. We are informed that Queensland is the only country whose stamps are thus adorned.

Mr. E. S. Schloss, of London, has formulated a plan for insuring stamps in transit, when exchanging, etc. This scheme is a good one and should be noticed with favor. The International Philatelic Union is about to adopt the method.

## GEMS AND PRECIOUS STONES.

BY J. M. CARTER.

### PART II.

*Camei*, the Italian for cameo are gems cut in relief, and appeared first during the Roman Empire. This term is applied only to engravings on stone of two or more layers, as the onyx, etc., and is different from the relief-gems cut out of stones of one color. Ancient *camei* are of the greatest rarity; the most remarkable known are those in the Vienna collection, supposed to represent the apotheosis of Augustus, on which are Augustus, Jupiter and Rome enthroned—the earth, ocean, abundance, Germanicus, victory, a triumphal car, and German captives. Another in St. Petersburg measures a foot long, and another in the Marlborough collection is eight and a half inches inches wide and six high.

In the sixteenth century Matteo del Nassaro, who worked for Francis I., engraved the crucifixion on heliotrope or the blood-stone, so that the red spots seemed drops of blood flowing from the wounds of Christ. Jacomoda Trezzo is said to have been the first to engrave on the diamond in 1864—an honor which is disputed, however, by Birago, both artists having been in the service of Philip II., of Spain, and Birago having engraved a portrait of Don Carlos and the arms of Spain on this gem.

The passion for collecting gems as works of art began with Lorenza de Medici, who formed the Florentine collection, and had his name cut on the his gems. The large *camei* of the European collections appear to have been brought by the crusaders from the east. The French collection dates from Charles IX., and is very rich in gems of all kinds. That of Berlin, containing the united cabinets of the Elector of Bradenburg, and the Morgraf of Anspoch consists of near-

ly five thousand stones. The Vienna collection, though much smaller, is renowned for its large *camei*. The British Museum contains some fine stones, and the private collection of the Duke of Devonshire comprises more than five thousand gems and *camei*, including some of the finest known.

Let us return now to some precious stones not strictly classed with the above. The sapphire, excelled only by the diamond is regarded as a variety of corundum, and is transparent and brilliant, sometimes white, but more frequently exhibiting exquisite color. The blue variety is true sapphire, the red being the Oriental Ruby of lapidaries, and is supposed to be the carbuncle mentioned by Pliny. The sapphire was another of the stones in the breast-plate of the high priest, while among the Greeks it was sacred to Jupiter. One variety has a pinkish or bluish opalescence, and a peculiar play of light. Another has in the center a star of six bright rays.

Another beautiful stone is the opal, the finest kinds of which are known as Oriental opals, and exhibit a beautiful play of brilliant colors, owing to minute fissures which refract the rays of light. It is much prized for the setting in rings, brooches, etc. The imperial cabinet of Vienna contains the finest opal now known. It is five inches by two and a half. The finest opals are found in Hungary, and also in some parts of South America and Mexico.

—:O:—

## SOME COLORADO BIRDS.

BLACK BILLED MAGPIE.

(*Pica Rusticula Hudsonica*).

Persons tarrying in Colorado even for a short time we presume have seen more or less of this saucy bird with the long tail, and many are the amusing anecdotes thereof that the tourist or the camper might tell.

The mountains are the favorite re-

sort of the magpie, and no hill, valley or ranch seems complete unless the discordant prattle of our "Colorado parrot" can be heard at any hour. I have been awakened at unreasonable hours of the night by their call, and on the clear moonlight nights, which are a feature of Colorado's phenomena, they hold on all sides loud rehearsal of their "Chinese melody."

During the breeding season, and in few numbers, these birds venture out on the plains; but the mountains are their home the year round, summer and winter alike, only in the latter season they move about, and congratulate in large numbers.

Habits and food similar to the common crow, but in cunning and prowess I consider them superior to their cousins. Bold and daring, yet very wary; living wholly upon decayed and refuse animal matter, with their sense of smell highly developed they are somewhat in their way a benefit to mankind.

The song which is always the same though not unpleasant, is very monotonous as a steady diet, yet as from the longcrested jay when very near and unobserved I have heard a very low, plaintive and beautiful song, but never heard one sing that way except in their wild and natural element.

When taken young they make great pets and are easily domesticated. Several instances are on record where they have been taught to talk by splitting their tongue (I would not vouch for this myself however.)

In general appearance the magpie is very striking especially on the wing, they are of a lustrous black with green, purple and violet iridescence on the tail and wings. Large spots of white stand out on the body and wings, and the tail, which is larger than the body 12 inches or more, and of fantastic shape, stands straight out behind.

The nest is a very large structure made out of the coarsest of sticks and lined inside with fine roots all firmly bound together with adobe. Always rooted over and with two doorways on opposite sides, while sitting on the nest, his lordship's long tail can be seen pointing out one doorway, but he must "exit" out the other.

These immense nests can be seen from great distances and are placed at all heights from six feet in the saplin to 40 feet in the large pine tree. In a single black pine whose branches spread over an immense area. I have seen four inhabited nests. During the breeding season they are quite retired and not noisy when their nest is approached and eggs taken. Eggs vary from 5 to 9 in number the usual and most common number 7—but I have taken as high as 11 in different stages of incubation from a single nest. They are of pale greenish or occasionally a dull yellowish white ground, very thickly spotted with brown of various shades, more particularly around the larger end, size 1:20x.90 to 1:40x1.00.

Some authorities have stated that they never build in a pine tree; this is incorrect, as over three-fourths of the nests built here are in pine trees. The same nest answers year in and year out.

The breeding season is early. On the plains they breed at least a month earlier than in the mountains, and fresh eggs can be taken the latter part of April.

On the whole, the magpie is a very good citizen; he goes along about his business, does not pick on smaller birds; is on good terms with all domestic animals, and rids the earth of a great deal of decaying animal matter.

If he should leave us and join his yellow-billed brother in California we would miss him very much and could forgive his numerous trick and deceit-

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E. M. HAIGHT.....Editor and Proprietor.

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## FRAUDS.

The following parties are in debt to us, and we are  
unable to obtain a settlement after repeated requests.  
Names will be taken from this list whenever a settle-  
ment is made. A few other names will be added to  
this list unless accounts are paid.

N. R. CHRISTIE, Box 394, Modesto, Calif.

W. C. MERCHANT, San Antonio, Texas.

IRA C. GREENE, Fitchburg, Mass.

PITTSFIELD RUBBER STAMP WORKS, alias W.  
R. Burtank, Pittsfield, Mass.

F. H. CARPENTER, Box 2986, Boston, Mass.

WILBUR W. THOMAS, 114 Nassau St., New York  
City.

## EDITORIAL.

We have received from Alonzo Chamberlain, Corona, N. J., a copy of the "Teacher's and Pupil's Guide to Music" 8 pages. Price, 30 cts. It is a curiosity of music typography, besides being eminently practical, and useful to teachers and students of music.

We are indebted to the following for parties price lists received: Henry Gremmel, 85 Nassau st., New York City; R. W. Mercer, 147 Central ave., Cincinnati, Ohio; M. Jenkins, 110 State st., Albany, N. Y.; and Geo. F. Heath, Monroe, Mich.

—:O:—

Never speak unless you have something to say, but always say something when you speak, and always stop when you done. Say the NEW HOME Sewing Machine is the best, and stop, for it cannot be proved otherwise. See advertisement elsewhere.

—:O:—

If you are going to make up your sorghum this season don't wait 'till making up time to buy your mill and evaporator, but commence looking around now. Send to the different manufacturers for their catalogues and then select the best. The old firm of Chapman & Co., Madison, Ind., advertised elsewhere in this paper, who have been manufacturing these goods for thirty-one years, will be found perfectly reliable, and we recommend them to our readers.

—:O:—

With this issue our philatelic and conchology departments commence under the editorship of well-known specialists. Other departments will be placed in charge of competent persons soon as the proper arrangements can be made. The value of our magazine will be greatly enhanced by this arrangement, and we trust our readers will appreciate our efforts.

—:O:—

## SOME COLORADO BIRDS.

(Concluded from Page 157.)

ul ways. yet at the same time we hope the "yellow-bill" will not come here, for we have enough of them now.—  
*Sunny South Oologist.*

[To be continued.]

## CONCHOLGY.

F. C. BAKER, EDITOR.

All communications for this department should be addressed to the Editor at the Academy of Natural Sciences Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

A person wishing to enter upon the study of the mollusca should, first of all procure for himself (or herself) a suitable cabinet of drawers. An old thread case will do very well for the smaller species and a few large bureau drawers will answer quite well for the larger ones. For those who wish a more expensive cabinet I will say that a first-class thirteen-drawer cabinet, made from pine and stained, can be procured of any carpenter for the sum of \$25.00. After procuring your cabinet, I would suggest that a number of paper trays be obtained, as they are the handiest to keep the specimens in. They can be bought at any box factory for about one dollar per hundred. Sizes should be selected of which the following are samples:  $3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $3 \times 3$ ,  $3 \times 6$  and  $6 \times 6$ .

Having procured both cabinet and trays, you are now ready to commence your collection.

Procure a bottle and visit the nearest pond or river and search along the banks.\* You will doubtless find a number of specimens; transfer them to your collecting bottle, and upon reaching home clean them in the following manner: Dip each specimen in boiling water for a few seconds and then with the point of a pin extract the animal by reversing the shell. Place the specimens upon a piece of blotting paper to dry. You are now ready to place them in your cabinet. The next and most important point is to label them, which may be done after the manner shown in the accompanying cut.

MONOCERASLUGUBRE, SOWB.

SAN DIEGO, CAL.

F. C. BAKER, COLL.

6-14-8.8

Delicate shells, like *Spirulas* and *Ianthinas*, and others, should be placed upon cotton to prevent their being broken. Small species like *Pupa* and *Vertigo* should be kept in glass test tubes.

A careful perusal of the foregoing will, I think, enable the student to enter successfully upon the study of the mollusca, and let me say, kind reader, that no more noble subject exists than the science of conchology.

\*A full and complete article upon collecting will soon appear in this department.

—:O:—

## GENERAL NOTES.

New localities. During my visit to East Florida, this last winter, I noted the following new forms peculiar to our northern fauna:

*Bulla solitaria*, Say, Micco.

*Utriculus canaliculatus*, Say, Indian River, 2 fms.

*Cylichna oryza*, Totten, Indian River, 2 fms.

*Turbouella interrupta*, Totten, Indian River, 3 fms.

*Zontes arborea*, Say, Sanford.

" *indentatus*, Gould, Sanford.

*Strobila labyrinthica*, Say, Sanford.

*Pupa rupicola*, Say, Micco.

*Vertigo ovata*, Say, Micco.

*Nucula proxima*, Say, Indian River.

*Genma gemma*, Totten, Indian River.

Genus *Fulger*. It is a curious fact that of the five species belonging to the genus *Fulger*, Montf, four are to be found in Florida, viz:—*F. Carica*, Gmel and var. *eliceans*, Mont., *bervesus*, Sim., *pyrum* Dillw., and *canaliculatus*, Sim. F. B. BAKER.

*Pomus depressus*, Say, is to be found in great quantities in the cypress swamps of East Florida.

F. C. BAKER.

*Limax* eaten by Salamanders. In the stomach of a specimen of the abundant little red Salamander. *Plethodonery thronotus* (Green) Bd., dissected by Mr. Witmer Stone at the Academy of Sciences, numerous *Limax campustres*, Binn., were found. A. PILSBRY.

Distributions of *Vertigo ovata*, Gould. This little species seems to be common to both northern and southern fauna. I have taken it in the following localities: Limerick, Warren and Johnston, R. I.; Sanford and Micco, Florida.

F. C. BAKER.

A valuable contribution to conchology. We have just received the report on the mollusca of the "Blake" dredgings, pt. II, *Gastropoda* and *Scaphopoda*, by W. H. Dall, (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. xvii, 8vo. pp. 492, 31 plates), and do not hesitate to say, constitutes the most important single contribution to American malacology ever made. Nearly 500 species, and forty-three divisions of higher value are described as new. There is considerable space devoted to the anatomy of the several forms. F. C. BAKER.

—:O:—

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## CONTENTS:

Parts of a Univalve Shell.....	1
Philately.....	2
American Coinage.....	4
Editorial.....	5
Remarkable Rivers.....	6
English Sparrow Plague.....	6
Geology—IX.....	7
Advertisements.....	8

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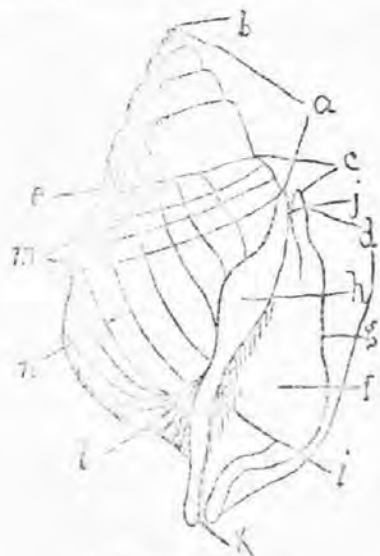
VOL. IX.

JANUARY, 1890.

NO. 1.

## Parts of a Univalve Shell.

IN studying a shell the student should hold it as shown in the cut, with the *apex* upward and *canal* downward. The aperture would then (in most cases) be on the right side. In explaining the different parts, I shall commence with the *apex* and continue to the *canal*, naming and explaining each part in consecutive order,



### THE SHELL.

*a. The spire*—This consists of all the earlier whorls, from the *apex* (*b*) to the *penultimate* whorl (*c*).

*b. The apex*—Is the utmost end or tip of the *spire*.

*c. The penultimate whorl*—Is the last whorl but one from the *body whorl* (*d*).

*d. The body whorl*—Is the last whorl, and contains the *aperture*.

*e. The suture*—Is the depression

which is seen at the junction of, or line of union between the whorls.

*f. The aperture*—Is that part of the shell which is occupied by the animal. Oftentimes called the mouth.

*g. The outer lip*—Is that part of the *aperture* toward your *right* hand.

*h. The inner lip*—Is that part of the *aperture* toward your *left* hand. This is usually grown to the axis of the shell and is therefore not distinguishable in most specimens.

*i. The columella*—Is that part of the shell which borders *inner lip* upon the left hand side of the *aperture*.

*j. Posterior canal*—Is that slit or notch which is situated at the end of the *aperture* nearest the *spire*.

*k. Anterior canal*—Is a notch which extends from lower part of the *aperture*. Often called the *snout*.

*l. Umbilicus*—Is a chink, or hole, situated just in the lower left hand side of the *columella*.

In many shells the *umbilicus* is quite prominent, whilst in others it is hardly noticeable or wholly wanting. It is wide and deep in many of the *Helices*.

*m. Spiral lines*—Are those lines or threads which run spirally around the shell, parallel with the sutures, from the *apex* to the edge of the outer lip.

*n. Lines of Growth*—These are lines running *down* the shell from suture to suture, and on the *body whorl*, from the suture to *anterior canal*. Oftentimes the animal pauses in his growth for a considerable time before building another whorl, and while resting it spends

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Santa Ana, Cal.

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

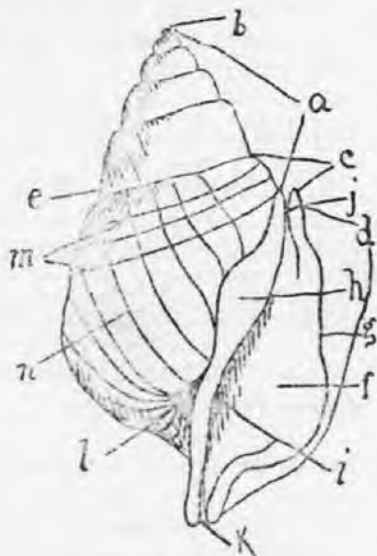
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its time in thickening the outer lip. Oftentimes the ridge formed will be beautifully frilled, as in *Murex*, or simply thickened as in *Noluta*; sometimes an edge like row of sharks' teeth will be formed. Not unfrequently a tooth or horn of considerable length is formed, as in *Cerostoma* and *Monoceros*.

The elongated part of the animal upon which he crawls is called the *foot*. At the end nearest the shell we see the two *tentacles*, attached to the head; the *eyes* attached to the end of the *tentacles*. Between the two *tentacles* is a projecting tube called the *siphon*, through which the animal receives its food. Attached to the posterior part of the foot is a round or oval shaped object called the *operculum*. When the animal retreats into its shell, it draws the *operculum* after it, thus closing the *aperture* completely against all intruders. Many mollusks are not provided with an *operculum*. In the *Helicidae*, and many other land shells, it is replaced by a thin film, called the *epiphragm*.

A considerable portion of the animal never leaves the shell, and is, in fact, grown to the inner whorls.

- Carnivorous* Flesh eating.  
*Cordate* Heart shaped.  
*Corrugated* Ridged or furrowed.  
*Dextral* Right-handed.  
*Epidermis* The outer coating or skin.  
*Fusiform* Shaped like a spindle.  
*Globose* Globe shaped.  
*Peristome* Rim of the aperture.  
*Reticulations* Like net-work.  
*Spheroidal* Shaped like a sphere.  
*Sinistral* Left-handed.  
*Sinus* An inward curve.  
*Stricie* Lines running parallel.  
 The inner and outer lips are often

modified or characterized by certain points.

The outer lip may be nodulous (i. e. with numerous raised knobs) or striated upon the inside. The columeller, or inner lip, is often modified by the presence of plications, or it may be nodulous.

The solar pattern of shells is most beautiful and varied; specimens of the same species often showing a remarkable degree of coloration. Especially is it noticeable in the Family *Neritidae*. This diversity of coloration has given rise to a multitude of species, many of which are entirely worthless. A single species of the Genus *Mertina* has fifty synonyms.

## PHILATELY.

E. P. NEWCOMER, - EDITOR.

*All communications for this Department should be addressed to the Editor at Ida Grove, Iowa. All Philatelic publications sent will be carefully reviewed.*

THE Ohio Philatelic Association now numbers 22 members.

I WAS speaking with a business man the other day on the subject of Philately and was quite surprised to learn that he had never heard of stamp collecting before. The following questions were asked me and I answered them to the best of my ability.

"What is the object in collecting?"

"Who follow the pursuit?"

"Where do you obtain your specimens?"

"Are not your specimens valueless?"

After I was through explaining to him the merits of stamp collecting I picked up a copy of the *Philatelic Journal of America* for January

and told him to glance through it. "You don't mean to tell me this large publication is just devoted to stamps?" "Certainly," said I, "just glance through it." He stated that he did not have time now but would be pleased to read every word in it if I could lend it to him. I lent him the magazine, and the next day met Mr. B— and he told me he was nearly converted to Philately, and that evening he desired me to go to his home and help him look over some old U. S. stamps, and tell him the value of them. Of course I consented and a very pleasant evening was spent, and some rare U. S. stamps were found. Mr. B— is now an earnest collector and owns a collection of about 5,000 varieties. He is one of the most enthusiastic philatelists I know of, and twelve other persons have fallen into the ranks of philately by his efforts. "Let your light shine."

THE *Ohio Philatelist* has been discontinued.

WE learn from reliable authorities that the "lapped" postal card which was to have been issued ere this is a "fake." The authorities at Washington say none were intended to be issued, at least, until the supply of those on hand become exhausted.

THE son of the Duchess de Galliera probably has the finest collection of stamps in the world. It has cost him more than \$350,000 and it fills three hundred volumes.

MORE than one hundred and thirty four tons of magazine and newspaper matter pass from the New York post-office in one day.

FOUR hundred and seven varieties of Native India stamps have been issued.

THE smallest stamps that have ever been issued are the unpaid letter stamps of Guadeloupe, issued from 1877 to 1879.

MONSIEUR J. LALLIER of Paris, France, published the first stamp album, in 1862.

SPECIALTY collecting has become nearly generally adopted by this time. A good plan,—good enough until some philatelist brings out some better idea.

ONE of the most disgusting things that collectors have to contend with is the habit some dealers have of sending out sheets unsolicited and not enclosing postage. I generally take stamps off the sheets to more than cover the postage and return them; and they do not try it the second time.

THERE is a duty of thirty per cent on postage stamps entering Canada.

STUDYING the designs of stamps has been to me a most interesting pastime. Newfoundland is a striking illustration of what I mean. The general commerce of the island—the fishing business is faithfully portrayed by the schooner on the thirteen and the codfish on the two cent. The seal adorns the five cent and the Newfoundland dog, the new one-half cent. Canada, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chili, Nova Scotia and many other countries use designs illustrating some product, emblem or occupation of their country.

**AMERICAN COINAGE.**

THE act which established the first United States mint was passed on March 3, 1791. The corner-stone of the building was laid in a plot of ground in Seventh street, Philadelphia, in July, 1792, and work began late in the same year under David Rittenhouse, whom Washington had appointed director. It is recorded that the first purchase of metal for coinage consisted of six pounds of old copper. The earliest coinage that can be called American was ordered by the Virginia company, and was minted in the Bermudas in 1612. But then and for long afterwards the standard currency of Virginia was tobacco. In 1615, however, the Virginia Assembly, after reciting that it "had maturely weighed and considered how advantageous a quoin would be to this colony, and the great wants and miseries which do daily happen unto it by the sole dependency upon tobacco, provided for the issue of copper coins of the denominations of two-pence, threepence, sixpence and ninepence. But the law bore no fruit. Seven years later, in May, 1652, the General Court of Massachusetts passed an order which created a "mint howse" at Boston, and which directed the coinage of "12 pence, 6 pence and 3 pence pieces which shall be for forme flatt, and stamped on the one side with N. E., and on the other side with XIIId., VIId. and IIIId., according to the value of each peece." This mint produced the "oak tree shillings" and the "pine-tree shillings," which are now worth from \$3 to \$4; and it continued its operations for 34 years. During the reign of William and Mary, copper

coins were struck in England for Carolina and New England; and for Maryland, Lord Baltimore caused silver shillings, sixpences and fourpences to be coined in London. In 1785, Connecticut and Vermont established mints of their own for the striking of copper coins—none of which are, however, of great scarcity; and New Jersey followed in 1786. The rarest pieces of a date previous to 1793 are (with the exception of the oak-tree and the pine-tree shillings) the New York "Excelsior" cent of 1783—worth perhaps \$3.50 if in fine state; though these prices are much lower than what are generally exacted by dealers. The "Fugios," or "sundial cents," which have already been alluded to as having been struck by James Jarvis, bore devices which have been copied from earlier State coins. The original mint, in Seventh street, Philadelphia, was removed in 1831 to more commodious premises in Chestnut street, where it still is. Until 1835 this was the only mint in the United States, but in that year branches were established at New Orleans, Charlotte, N. C., and Dahlongs, Ga., and in 1854 another branch was opened in San Francisco, and the coinage of each is denoted by an initial letter which appears upon the face of the coin. Philadelphia, as the parent mint, uses no initial. All Jarvis' coins bear the date 1787; but none of them were actually coined before the 30th of September, 1788; and it is known that he had not finished his contract in 1790. It should be added that within each of thirteen links that appear upon three curious coins is the name of one of the original States of the Union.



# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

B. MACDONALD, - - - EDITOR.  
A. MACDONALD, - - - MANAGER.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico... 25 cents a year.  
To other Countries in the Postal Union... 35 cents.  
Single Copies... 3 cents.

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## TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contribution, relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to Collector Publishing Company, 2219 Scott St., San Francisco, Cal.

Entered at the Post Office at San Francisco, Calif., as second-class matter.

WITH this number the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP changes hands. Mr. Haight has been compelled to give up the paper on account of his ill health. We know that all collectors mourn his loss as an editor and we hope that we will hear from him often, and that he will continue to take an interest in the paper that he has raised to such a standard.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP has reached its ninth volume!

MR. E. B. WEBSTER, publisher

of the *Hawkeye Ornithologist and Collector* of Oresco, Iowa, informs us that his job office and museum were destroyed by the recent fire at that place, but we are pleased to note that he may continue his paper in the future, and all claims presented now will be honored then. Mr. Webster has our heart-felt sympathy on his misfortune.

OUR subscription price will in all probability be advanced to 50 cents a year soon, and our advertising rates will also be advanced.

MR. W. S. BEEKMAN of W. Medford, Mass., will conduct the mineralogical department of this paper hereafter.

OWING to the lack of space and delay caused by this paper changing hands, we publish no exchange column this month. All those desiring exchange notices next month must send them in before the 25th of February. All exchange notices turned over to us by Mr. Haight will not be published on account of the long time they have been standing; new notices must be sent in to insure insertion in next issue.

COLLECTORS and advertisers will please take notice that the *International Collector* has consolidated with the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP and subscribers to this paper will receive copies of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

THE lateness of the current issue of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is due to the sickness of its printer. In future we shall endeavor to have the paper out on time.

## REMARKABLE RIVERS.

### *The Earth and its Wonders.*

**A**MONG the world's many natural curiosities are several rivers, each of which has some positively unique characteristic. In Algeria, for instance, there is a small stream which the chemistry of nature has converted into true ink. It is formed by the junction of two small rivulets, one of which is very strongly impregnated with iron, while the other running through a large peat marsh, imbibes a deal of gallic acid. Letters have been written with this compound.

In Columbia, there is a river so exceedingly sour to the taste that it has been very appropriately termed the Rio de Vinagre, or Vinegar River. The bitterness of the water is caused by an admixture of sulphuric acid. A very curious river is the Webbe Shebeyli, of East Africa, a deep and rapid stream abounding in fish and crocodiles. Though it flows for hundreds of miles through fertile lands, the immense volume of water never reaches the sea. A little north of the equator, the river loses itself in a desert region a few miles from the Indian Ocean.

A still more remarkable river, though a great deal smaller, is situated in the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. It flows a distance of 300 feet beneath the earth's surface, between banks about 30 feet apart and in a volume of water 40 feet deep. Rolling on for about a quarter of a mile it disappears in a bank of fine sand, veiled in both its coming and its going as the mystery of life itself. The river Lys on its entrance into Belgium dashes abruptly

over a precipice and is lost to sight for nearly half a mile. The river Dromme, in Normandy, on nearing the sea, plunges into a hole 39 feet wide, known as the Pit of Souey, from which it never reappears, except in the form of new springs, which are supposed to arise from the lost waters.

### English Sparrow Plague.

**NOTWITHING** the crusade against the ubiquitous sparrow, carried on year after year, both in the old country, in America and in these colonies, says the *Auckland Weekly News*, the number of birds does not appear to get any less. It has been said, indeed, that the rabbit pest sinks into insignificance compared with the ravages of the sparrow in some places.

In the latitude of New York and southward it hatches, as a rule, five or six broods in a season, with from four to six young in a brood. Assuming the average annual product of a pair to be twenty-four young, of which half are females and half males; and assuming further, for the sake of computation, that all live, together with their offspring, it will be seen that in ten years the progeny of a single pair would be 275,716,938,098.

It appears that the sparrow nuisance in South Australia has become so great that the industry of raisin-making is threatened with disaster. Unless something can be soon done to check the pest, it will be altogether unprofitable to grow grapes. In some quarters it is stated that it will soon be necessary to have about a dozen men to keep the sparrows off a tolerably-sized vineyard.

## GEOLOGY.

## A SERIES.

## PART IX.

SAND BANKS or Reefs usually consist of coarse or firm sand and earthy detritus, but may include pebbles or stones when the currents are strong. The material constituting them is derived from the land through the wearing and transporting action either of the waves and currents, or of rivers. The accumulations may increase under wave action in shallow water, until they approach or rise above low tide level, and then they form sand banks.

FROZEN WATER. The effects of ice and snow are conveniently considered under three heads. 1.—The ice of lakes and rivers. 2.—Glaciers. 3.—Icebergs. The ice of lakes and rivers forms about stones along their shores; the ice seems as a float to the stones which may fall thereon from an overhanging bluff, and in times of high water or floods, it may carry its burden high up the shores. Large accumulations of boulders are sometimes made by this means on shores far above the ordinary level of the waters.

Glaciers are ice streams, or rivers in which the moving material is frozen instead of liquid water, like large rivers. They ordinarily have their sources in high mountains and descend along the valleys, but (1) the mountains are such as take snow from the clouds instead of rain, because of their elevation, and (2) they must be high and extensive enough to take annually a large supply of snow from the clouds, so that the snow may accumulate to a great depth; and (3)

the region must be one of sufficient precipitation. As with rivers, their movement is dependent on gravity or the weight of the material, but the average rate of motion instead of being several miles an hour is generally in summer but 10 to 18 inches a day or a mile in 18 to 20 years. 12 inches a day corresponds to a mile in  $14\frac{1}{2}$  years, the rate is half less in winter than in summer. The height of the snow line is about 8000 feet on the north side and 8,800 feet on the south side of the Alps and the glacier descends 4,500 to 5,300 feet below this line.

The ice resists the melting heat of summer because of its mass, like the ice in an ice-house. Scattered over its surface are immense tracts called *crevasses*. The mass of frozen material is very like water as it rolls over itself or moves in all directions. Glaciers become laden with stones and earth falling from the heights above, or coming down in crushing avalanches of snow and stones. The stones and earth make a band along either border of a glacier, and such a band is called a moraine.

Some of the masses of rock carried by glaciers are of immense size, one is mentioned containing over 200,000 cubic feet which is equivalent to a building 100 feet long, 50 feet wide and 40 feet high. The erosive or wearing power of glaciers is enormous, containing sand, stones and grit, and pushed on with irresistible force from behind and the weight of the mass from above the glaciers' path is easily marked over hard granite rocks as well as over the soft ground.

(To be continued.)

—C. S. MASON.

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*Correspondence invited.*

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**CRYSTALS CRYSTALS**

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and Clear.*

12 Fine and large.....	\$ .60
12 Good.....	.50
12 Fair.....	.25
25 Mixed.....	.25

These are all single crystals. Fine arrow points from Ohio, New York, Michigan and the Southern States.

Doz. Assorted..... \$ .40

Doz. Best..... .60

25 stamps and curio paper..... .15

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Sample Crystal for 2-cent stamp.

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PRICE, \$100.00.

*Will take part cash and the rest in a good watch. References exchanged.*

C. S. MASON,

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A \$20 A Day Man!



**A VOICE** from Ohio. Here is a portrait of Mr. Garrison, of Salem, Ohio. He writes "Was at work on a farm for \$20 a month; I now have an agency for E. C. Allen & Co's albums and publications and often make \$20 a day" (Signed) **W. H. GARRISON**

William Kline, Harrisburg, Pa., writes: "I have never known anything to sell like your album. Yesterday I took orders enough to pay me over \$25." W. J. Elmore, Bangor, Me., writes: "I take an order for your album at almost every house I visit. My profit is often as much as \$20 for a single day's work."

Others are doing quite as well; they have not space to give extracts from their letters. Every one who takes hold of this grand business piles up grand profits. **Shall we start YOU in this business, reader?** Write to us and learn all about it for yourself. We are starting many; we will start you if you don't delay until another gets ahead of you in your part of the country. If you take hold you will be able to pick up gold fast. **Send** On account of a forced manufacturer's sale **125,000 ten dollar Photograph Albums** are to be sold to the people for \$2 each. Bound in Royal Crimson Silk Velvet Plush, Charming decorated inside. Handsomest albums in the world. Largest Size. Greatest bargains ever known. Agents wanted. Liberal terms. Big money for agents. Any one can become a successful agent. Sells itself on sight—little or no talking necessary. Wherever shown, every one wants to purchase. Agents take thousands of orders with rapidity never before known. Great profits await every worker. Agents are making fortunes. Ladies make as much as men. You, reader, can do as well as any one. Full information and terms **free**, to those who write for same, with particulars and terms for our Family Bibles, Books and Periodicals. After you know all, should you conclude to go no further, why no harm is done. Address **E. C. ALLEN & CO., N. AUGUSTA, MAINE.**

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A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
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NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. IX.

FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1890.

No. 2.

## CONTENTS:

The Amateur Naturalist.....	9
Numismatics.....	10
Philately.....	11
The Carolina Wren.....	12
Editorial.....	13
E. F. Gambs On Reprints.....	14
Exchange Notices.....	15
Advertisements.....	16

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No. 2.

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By J. F. ELSOM.

### PART I.

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Among the larger birds and animals we may preserve two objects: one the skeleton that will preserve the form, number and position of the various bones; the other the stuffed skin that will enable us to preserve the natural external features. The preparation of each is really a study of itself; for proficiency, years of patient toil and research are required, but for the purpose of initial study anyone of ordinary tact and ingenuity can soon learn to put up fair work.

For all animals larger than a full-grown cat or domestic fowl the easiest and best plan is to provide a box that will easily admit the animal to be skeletonized. This box is to be liberally perforated with small holes, say a thirty-second of an inch hole to every square inch of surface. Now, if the skin is to be stuffed, remove it carefully without cutting into the bone, carefully cutting away the tail bones, inserting a stick cut to the form of the bone into the cavity

to prevent distortion. The skin having been treated as described further on, the carcass is placed in the box and the whole weighted down below the surface of some sluggish stream, where the action of the water will soon separate all the flesh from the bones, carrying the former away, leaving the skeleton intact as placed in the box.

For the larger animals, first remove all the fleshy, muscular parts; a blunt knife and pair of small scissors are all the tools needed, being careful not to cut too deep into the grisly portions about the joints, neck, etc. Now slowly macerate the specimen in pure soft water, a little caustic potash added will assist very much, but do not add too much for fear of injuring the bones. The jar or tub containing the specimen should be kept in some moderately warm room, and the solution changed every day at least. At each change scrape with a blunt piece of shell or the finger nail, brushing briskly with a stiff brush (an old tooth brush is just the thing) until all is removed. Those to which any fleshy matter adheres place back in the solution; the others as fast as cleaned and carefully wiped off are laid away. When all have been treated in this way, take very fine sand or emery paper and thoroughly polish each piece, finishing off with a clean chamois skin. For all small specimens, burying in an ant hill is the easiest and best way. These industrious little insects will soon remove and carry away the last vestige of flesh, leaving the naked skeleton, sometimes finely polished

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by their exudations and running over it.

When the skeleton has been prepared by any of the three foregoing methods, care being taken not to place any more than one animal in the same place, thoroughly mix the bones, take your physiology and learn the name of each individual one, beginning with the spinal column; with quadrupeds this runs from the base of the skull to the tip end of the tail; take a brass wire and "string" the vertebræ in proper order, now with a small drill called a "fiddle-bow drill," that can be purchased for a few cents—the best ones are home made—make a hole wherever one bone joins another, put in a small brass staple or eye, clinch or turn on the other side, treat the mate in the same manner, connect the staples or eyes, and so on until every bone, however small, is hanging in its proper place. Make all the joints fairly light. On the two highest portions of the animal, when standing, drill a small hole, screw in a screw eye, hang up and you have an articulated skeleton just as nice as you can make it.

You have already become thoroughly familiar with the physical structure of the animal, and, when the skin is ready and stuffed, have as good history as can be written.

With the skin, thoroughly wash with soap and water the fleshy side, guarding against soiling the fur or plumage. If you purpose using the skin and skeleton of the same animal (with some birds this is very hard to do, and we would not advise the amateur to attempt it, especially at first), it will be necessary to supply the bones which keep the body erect. This may be easily done by means of stiff wire,

or wood, the latter being preferable when the form of the protuberances, toes, and the like are to be preserved.

(To be continued.)

## NUMISMATICS.

THE Science of Coins and Medals is as old as antiquity itself.

There is probably no other branch of collecting so ancient and honorable, or that has received the attention of the student in all ages as that of Coin Collecting.

When the first collection was made can never be known, but that the ancients indulged in this delightful study and pastime there is little doubt; but it was during the middle ages, when the mists of darkness that had hung over the world so long began to clear away before the lights of advancing civilization in long darkened Europe, that the collecting and treasuring of "these types of active and extinct civilization," was vigorously prosecuted, opening up as they did to the student of history the true records of the past, "more historic than written history."

Since that time this study has been carried on so assiduously that whole gaps in the histories of Greece, Rome and contemporary nations, have been filled in with authentic history; and even in these late days, within the half century, we have learned of new and unknown to us nations, powerful in their day, all by the finding and study of their coins.

If we could but imagine a pestilence of disease, war or famine, that would in a short space of time blot out a large portion of the people on our planet, and those remaining lapse into a semi-civilized state to

remain for centuries, we might have some idea of the state of things during the Middle Ages.

Further: let us imagine, the lights of civilization gradually dawn upon the world. Learning is revived, with all its attending benefits in train. The coins found everywhere so abundantly, whose value unrecognized before, save as a means of ornamentation, begin to tell strange stories of ages past to the enthusiastic student.

They tell him of the United States, a people numerous and intelligent, judging from their many coins and works of art left behind; a country over a century old from its series of dates; they tell him also of numerous semi-independent colonies that earlier were tributary to other powerful nations beyond the sea, etc., etc.

The authentic history revealed by these coins is compared with the legendary history and finally the whole fabric is woven and built up to make the whole structure, grand and true.

This I agree is fanciful, but the world has passed through a similar period or epoch and why may it not again? Who knows but that the coin bearing the inscription, "United States of America, In God we trust," passing current to-day, may tell as wonderful a story twenty three hundred years hence as that coin in your hand of Macedonia bearing the name of Alexander or Philip tells us to-day?

If there are "sermons in stones," what eloquence and learning must there be stored up in these bits of metal that we treasure up and guard so carefully.

If they could only talk what strange stories would they tell.

Where was the metal obtained? How separated from the dross? In what manner and by whom struck? Who hast had thee in their palm? What service rendered, joy brought, sorrow produced? What dynasties survived, what monuments and things of man seen fall?

And if such has been thy glorious history we will renounce and tenderly guard thee thou mute token of the great past, and when time shall be no more with us, and we be gathered to the dust, we will hand thee on and others will care and guard thee for another quarter of a millenium, for our dust is but mortal, and thou dost seem almost immortal.

—GEO. F. HEATH.

## PHILATELY.

MAURICE V. SAMUELS, - EDITOR.

*All communications for this Department should be addressed to the Editor at 1624 Octavia Street, San Francisco, Cal. All Philatelic publications sent will be carefully reviewed.*

It is to be regretted that it has become necessary to lower the standard of the *American Philatelist*. The last numbers are certainly not as good as earlier issues. Can not something be done to raise the funds necessary for the support of the best of American stamp journals?

It is amusing to hear the complaints of certain San Francisco dealers against collectors sending East for stamps. At first it seemed to me unfair for some of us to ignore good western stock but when I came to investigate the cause I soon changed my mind. Our California dealers while anxious to secure our custom

do not take the trouble to oblige us by furnishing stamp supplies. If we want any good catalogue we must write East for one. Scott's is the only price-list in this city, Perforation guages are nowhere obtainable, Philatelic publications of whatever character cannot be supplied and Scott's is the only album to be bought here. Such a state of affairs must not continue. We can compel the dealers here to carry philatelic goods in stock even though the profit is not so great on them. Let us send East for every stamp we need until all the standard publications are on sale in this city, and if we stand together in this matter we will succeed. Then let us return our patronage to California dealers.

THE Exchange Department of the Philatelic Society of America is now in working order. The blank sheets used are very neat. Mr. C. D. Reimers, Rock Island, Ill. is Superintendent.

It is, perhaps, not known, that Mr. McGinty is a stamp collector—or rather he was before he went to his last visit. Mr. D. McGinty had a fine collection of "bargain" stamps. His widow having resolved to sell them to liquidate Daniel's tailor bill, our American dealers are extensively advertising Coreas, Sedangs, etc., under the esteemed deceased's name. *Pace Requiescat!*

MR. REIMERS has severed his connection with the *Western Philatelist*, school duties, etc., being on the ascendant. The paper thereby loses an able member of its staff.

MARCH has welcomed Mr. Sellschopp back to Frisco. He was much missed during his long stay abroad. But he has not missed it, for his magnificent collection is no longer his greatest treasure. Our friend, Mr. Sellschopp no longer keeps "Bachelors' Hall."

PEACE must not be made with the Reprint in order that we may the better wage war against the Surcharge. When we have totally exterminated the former let us unite against the latter. But let us not be overcome by both while endeavoring to combat the two at once.

## THE CAROLINA WREN.

*Thryothorus ludovicianus.*

THE Carolina or Mocking Wren is indeed a remarkable singer, and as its name implies has the power of mimicking several of our most beautiful singers. It is one of the largest and loudest of wrens, and its never ceasing song rings in the air. It often whistles like the Grossbeak, though its note is much softer and sweeter than the Cardinal's. It is quite common in Arkansas and prefers a nesting site near some human dwelling, (sometimes building in the porch or wood-house), though I find it nesting in the lonely parts of the forest. While descending some deep ravine one is awakened by those clear musical notes which tell him their nest is near. If very close the male will flit from limb to limb, now scolding, now singing little ditties, as if by threats and music he could coax the intruder to leave.

The nests here are composed

(Continued on page 14.)



# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

B. MACDONALD, - - - EDITOR  
A. MACDONALD, - - - MANAGER.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico... 25 cents a year.  
To other Countries in the Postal Union... 35 cents.  
Single Copies ..... 3 cents.

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" " " 3 00 .....	10 "
" " " 5 00.....	15 "
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## TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contributions relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to Collector Publishing Company, 2219 Scott St., San Francisco, Cal.

We owe an apology to our readers for our late appearance, but circumstances have caused unavoidable delays that have necessitated our heading this issue February-March. We regret very much that we had to take this step and hope that in the future we shall always be on time.

We thank our patrons for the hearty reception we have received since we have taken charge of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP. We have received 189 requests for sample copies in the last month, and every day brings us subscriptions, some days as many as five.

COMMENCING with this month we take charge of the *Eureka Philatelist*.

WE have heard that the *Western Philatelist* has been discontinued; we are sorry that such a promising paper and one of our best papers in the Philatelic line should "go under" when we all had such great hopes of it. Nevertheless, it will appear in four page form until fall in the interests of the Western Philatelic Union.

THE *Moral and Scientific Companion* has a new heading which is a great improvement on their old one.

*Ye Boodle Philatelist* is as bright and breezy as ever.

The *Southern Philatelist* is still on the rise.

NEBRASKA is commencing to dabble in Philatelic matters headed by the *Nebraska Philatelist*.

THE *American Stamp Journal* has added four new pages.

VOUTE in the *Stamp Collectors' Figaro* for January has pitched into the Calman gang again—"poor Calman!"

THE *Rhode Island Philatelist* is one of the best papers we receive.

THE *Progressive Philatelist*, the new magazine from Wisconsin, is a very neat paper and altogether is gotten up in fine style.

THE April and May numbers of this paper will be issued in quick succession.

nearly entirely of greenish colored moss and a few decayed leaves, lined with small roots, bark and grasses. The top is generally covered over. They are not partial as to a nesting place but generally select some hole or cavity, though I have known one to place its nest on a mantelpiece in a vacant house with no protection. Another built on a shelf in a porch where people were passing every hour in the day. On June 27, 1888, a nest was found in a hole in a cliff. The rock is sandstone of peculiar formation, full of waves, rings and streaks. Between these streaks it is softer and the hand of time has worn this away, leaving cavities and openings very suitable for the habitation of the smaller animals and birds. Another nest was found placed in a hollow tree overhanging a pool of water some ten feet below.

The eggs of this species are large, pinkish white and covered with different shades of brown, but most thickly at the larger end. The number laid is usually five or six the first brood, and three or four the second. Average size, about .75 by .63.

The Carolina Wren is a beautiful and active bird, being of a reddish brown on back and tail, gradually fading into tawny below. A white superciliary line reaches to the back of the head. The wings are short and the tail is barred with light and dark brown.

Length 6; Wings  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; Tail  $2\frac{1}{4}$ .

Hab.: Eastern U. S., generally South; N. to New York and Kansas. Professor Jordan says this wren is not migratory, yet it becomes very scarce here during winter and probably goes to a more favorable location.

—C. E. PLEAS.

## E. F. GAMBS ON REPRINTS.

*To the Hon. Members of Congress:*

THE petitioners being true Philatelists, or collectors of Postage Stamps, desire to have enacted a law forbidding the reprinting of United States Stamps, Stamped envelopes and Postal Cards, and we would most respectfully state as a reason for such that the collecting of stamps is to us an interesting as well as amusing pursuit and that original U. S. Stamps which are now highly prized by us, if again reprinted would destroy the present rarity and lessen the interest to a large degree in our collections, many of such collections having cost years of research, besides thousands of dollars. Also, it lessens the value of such stamps. For example: the original Franklin 1c. blue on pink, Carrier stamps formerly brought as high as \$40 each, but when reprints of said specimen were issued in 1874 to 1878 (or thereabouts) thousands of them were brought into circulation, and the stamps could be had from any stamp dealer at prices ranging from 3 to 10c. each.

A government with a surplus of over 400,000,000, should not for perhaps a few hundred per annum (which may not cover the expense) convert an interesting and instructive study, into the collection of almost worthless re-issues, which is all that reprints can be called.

For such reasons we desire all dies and plates used for making stamps or stamped envelopes be destroyed after an issue is withdrawn from the public use, and we most respectfully petition your honorable body to take steps for the destruction of all dies formerly in use, (from 1847 to 18—

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## EXCHANGE NOTICES.

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### NOTICES LIMITED TO 24 WORDS.

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This column is free for the use of subscribers only. Notices which are indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers, will not be admitted to these columns. When it is desired that a notice appear in more than one issue, a separate copy must be sent for each time. Always write notices on a separate sheet from your letter. No postal cards noticed.

A 58 in. Expert Columbia Bicycle in good condition. Full ball bearings. Dropped handle bars and half enameled. A good collection of mounted insects in glass front cases. (Collected in Ohio and Michigan). A good Printing Press and outfit, size of chase, 3 by 4. Will exchange in lot or singly for gems suitable for mounting. Confederate notes and coins. Rare coins and autographs. A guitar, Indian and Mound Builders relics or a good bookcase. C. S. Mason, 331 10th St., Toledo, Ohio.

A large package of Oregon tree Moss, for every stamp sent, at 10 cents, or over. C. F. Case, Salem, Oregon. (Formerly of Weymouth, O.)

Canadian Stamps and Coins to exchange for U. S. cents or half-cents. Send List and I will send mine. J. Consby, Owen Sound, Ontario.

I have a number of books and papers in good condition to exchange for eggs in sets. First Class, with data. Address J. S. Griffing, Cutchogue, Long Island, N. Y.

5 10 cent novels for every one of the following sent me. 100, 3 or 4 cent, red; 7, Special Delivery; 2, 90 cent; 10, 30 ct.; 125, 5 cent; or 1000 mixed, U. S. Stamps S. Barr, 54 Somerset St., New Brunswick, N. J.

Wanted, the address of every coin-collector and small dealer, in exchange for price-list. All answered. M. Jenkins, Rensselaerville, N. Y.

60 Philatelic Papers. \$1.00 worth of Novels. Dozen Star Fish. Pair of Ice Skates, all clamp, No. 10½, for Indian Arrow-heads or other Indian Relics. Phillip A. Gannon, Plaintsville, Conn.

I have a quantity of scarce stamps, which I will exchange for U. S. Fractional Currency, Colonial and Continental notes, Confederate bills and coins, Ten Revenue stamps for every Philatelic

or Curiosity paper, no less than 5 taken. Geo. McNicol, 376 Gloucester Street, Ottawa, Can.

Wanted: Self inking Printing Press, Type, etc. In exchange will give California Curiosities and Birds' Eggs in wholesale quantity. Chas. Turton, 1240 Flower St., Los Angeles, Calif.

Sea Curiosities and minerals to exchange for Indian relics or relics of the mound builders, crystals and geodes. Rollin T. Toms, Stamford, Conn. (Cove Mills.)

First class skins of Oregon Junco, Chestnut backed and Oregon Chickadee and others to exchange for other skins or birds' eggs with data. Clyde L. Keller, 196 State St., Salem, Oregon.

Fine Minerals, Curiosities and Confederate money for Indian and Mound Builders Relics, Curiosities and Birds' Eggs. Fred H. Banks, Stamford, Conn.

Novels to exchange for Philatelic papers. Three different unused Foreign stamps for each covered paper sent me. P. F. O'Keefe, Steubenville, Ohio.

---

WHILE calling at the office of E. F. Gambs the other day, we had the pleasure of forming the acquaintance of Mr. C. A. Bean of Honolulu who possesses the finest collection on the Island. Among specimens shown we were agreeably surprised to find the very rare Missionary first issue Hawaiian stamps for which he was offered \$200 apiece.

---

THE English Post Office does all the express business in Great Britain, carries parcels at an average cost of eleven cents each and makes a profit of \$2,250,000 a year.

---

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---

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- Collectors' Review*, Vol. II., Nos. 1,  
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Vol. III. \$\$.05
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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS.  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. IX.

APRIL, 1890.

No. 3.

## CONTENTS:

First Studies of Minerals.....	17
Conchology.....	18
Geological Mysteries.....	18
Philately.....	19
Mountain Plover.....	20
Editorial.....	21
\$50 Reward.....	22
The Stamp Boom.....	22
Geology.....	23
Advertisements.....	24

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**A**RIZONA Curiosity Discoveries Illustrated—*Scientific Companion*, Florence, Arizona, 25c. a year. Ads. 1c. a word. Specimen free.

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*A Monthly Philatelic Magazine. Eight pages and cover. Always Filled with interesting articles.*

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A four or eight page and cover monthly devoted to philately. Adv. rates 25c. an inch. A box has been filled with 390 stamps. Everyone sending 10c. for a year subscription has a guess. The one guessing nearest to the value will receive the stamps.

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*A 58 in. Expert*

## \* Columbia Bicycle \*

*dropped handle bars, ball bearings and half enameled.*

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**PRICE, \$75.00.**

*Will take half cash and the rest in trade. References exchanged.*

*Gypsum Crystals 40 and 50c. a doz.*

C. S. MASON,

331 Tenth Street, Toledo, Ohio.

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

VOL. IX.

APRIL, 1890.

No. 3.

## FIRST STUDIES OF MINERALS.

BY W. S. BEEKMAN.

THE interest in the consideration of facts about minerals seems to be very rapidly increasing. The attention given to these facts by teachers of educational studies has of late greatly increased the desires for advancement in this direction. There are many of the readers of this little magazine that seem to desire a little guide in this study and it is for this purpose that we shall offer the following suggestions in a few consecutive numbers, from this date.

We are familiar with rocks, stones, pebbles, and minerals. Just what reasons we have for discriminating between these bodies I think but very few of us can explicitly state.

We call pebbles small stones and stones small rocks. Rocks we conceive to be of all sizes and shapes. They may all verge into minerals or mineral characteristics, if they look at all metallic or unusual. Thus, you can perceive the confused ideas that are commonly entertained in regard to rocks and minerals.

A mineral is a solid body, usually capable of having a definite geometrical form, which form is entirely composed of one homogeneous mass. So we see a thing to be a mineral, must be simply capable of assuming the solid condition and

then this condition is further modified by the general requirement of this solid body to take a definite structure or crystalline form. On applying these principles to the average rock we find that the rule can not be carried out to its full extent. The solid condition is easily seen, although not always. It is still more difficult to find a regular geometrical form. And the isolation of these instances gives these rocks the unusual appearances, so, unconsciously we are apt to speak of them as minerals. So also are the cases of homogeneity only here and there met with. What we generally see is a mixture of forms and materials. A rock is said to be a mixture of mineral aggregates. This then makes nearly every thing commonly met with a rock. We also notice that the size has nothing whatever to do with the distinctions between rocks and minerals. As long as a mineral is a pure mass of the same matter it makes no difference whether it is the size of a grain or as large as a mountain. And the collection of two or more minerals in one mass makes it a rock, and it can differ in dimensions even greater than the limit given the mineral. One can easily see the reason that minerals are less often met with as compared with rocks. And one can also imagine, and imagine correctly, why the mineral should be the more attractive of the two, generally.

Starting with a crystalline grain of homogeneous texture, or selecting such occurring in the rock, we will observe its color. The color of a mineral is hardly a safe guide

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then this condition is further modified by the general requirement of this solid body to take a definite structure or crystalline form. On applying these principles to the average rock we find that the rule can not be carried out to its full extent. The solid condition is easily seen, although not always. It is still more difficult to find a regular geometrical form. And the isolation of these instances gives these rocks the unusual appearances, so, unconsciously we are apt to speak of them as minerals. So also are the cases of homogeneity only here and there met with. What we generally see is a mixture of forms and materials. A rock is said to be a mixture of mineral aggregates. This then makes nearly every thing commonly met with a rock. We also notice that the size has nothing whatever to do with the distinctions between rocks and minerals. As long as a mineral is a pure mass of the same matter it makes no difference whether it is the size of a grain or as large as a mountain. And the collection of two or more minerals in one mass makes it a rock, and it can differ in dimensions even greater than the limit given the mineral. One can easily see the reason that minerals are less often met with as compared with rocks. And one can also imagine, and imagine correctly, why the mineral should be the more attractive of the two, generally.

Starting with a crystalline grain of homogeneous texture, or selecting such occurring in the rock, we will observe its color. The color of a mineral is hardly a safe guide

to make a decisive determination of its identity. A mineral may have several colors, or may occur in nearly every locality of nearly the same color, and then in some one locality it may turn up of such a color as to be utterly unrecognizable, when compared with its more familiar appearance.

(To be continued.)

## CONCHOLOGY.

### Directions For Collecting Alcoholic Specimens of the Mollusca.

FOR a general receptacle, a tin canister, with a screw top, is best; and this may be of any size, from 5 to 20 inches in diameter, according to the requirements of the collector.

The alcohol should be of about a 70 per cent solution.

Cut pieces of mosquito netting into the following sizes for use in separating specimens, 3 x 3, 6 x 6, 8 x 8, and 12 x 12. For large specimens, a 15 x 15 size may be found necessary. Specimens from different localities should *always* be kept separate. With each bundle of specimens, attach a label written upon parchment with a *soft* lead pencil, containing locality, date, depth of water (if dredged) and all information which you think will be of interest for future reference.

It would be well to puncture the animal in several places, with the point of a needle, in order to let the alcohol reach every part.

A note book is indispensable; in this, all notes should be made, concerning each species or group of specimens. Each bundle should

be numbered, and a corresponding number should be found in your note book, explaining more fully than your label, all notes and remarks concerning that particular bundle.

—F. C. BAKER.

## GEOLOGICAL MYSTERIES.

*Supposed origin of some of the precious stones of commerce.*

GEOLOGY has been a revelation to mankind and has told us wonderful things of the past history of the earth, says the *American Analyst*. Certain things are formed, says the geologist, through volcanic action or the agency of fire, and that is as near as he can come to it. So that, after all, we see effects, but know little or nothing of the causes. There is a rock known as amygdaloid, one of the igneous rocks, which in some of the gigantic transformations of nature, we will say in cooling from a melted state, formed within itself cavities from the size of a marble to that of the closed hand. Now as nature abhors a vacuum, she set to work to fill these cavities, and in doing so she used other materials, and these combinations produced some of what we call the "precious stones of commerce."

Exactly how this is done, we can not tell, but we see some hint of the operation in every subterranean cave where the stalactites and stalagnites are found. Every student knows this is the result of dropping water which contains carbonate of lime. The water evaporating leaves a minute particle of lime, which takes something to itself from the earth or atmosphere,

and in course of ages, bodies are formed of a most remarkable character. In probably somewhat the same fashion have these cavities been filled in igneous rocks, and then come time and storms and other agencies, earthquakes, perhaps and the rocks are rent apart, and out drops a bead or a boulder, and a curious man picks it up, and hammers and breaks it, and then puts a polish on it, and lo! he holds in his hand an agate or an onyx. Many of the stones used in the arts have no other origin, and are deposits of silica, alumina, oxide of iron, and other coloring substances. It is the color or arrangement of colors that gives the name, and thus we have agate, onyx, chalcedony, carnelian, sard, schryso-prase, sardonyx, and others, all members of the quartz family, and all having a family resemblance. Nature produces some very strange forms occasionally, and agates are found with exact resemblances of moss and other natural objects and figures, which are very curious and often very valuable.

## PHILATELY.

MAURICE V. SAMUELS, - EDITOR.

*All communications for this Department should be addressed to the Editor at 1624 Octavia Street, San Francisco, Cal. All Philatelic publications sent will be carefully reviewed.*

MAJOR EVANS' well written article in the *Stamp Advertiser and Auction Record* will do much to convince doubters of the truth of Patrick Chalmers' claim that his father, *James Chalmers* of Dundee, invented the adhesive postage stamp. Major Evans, while confessing himself a believer in *Hill*,

states most fairly the proofs of Chalmers, although he tries to cast doubt upon them later. He says: "Mr. Patrick Chalmers asserts that his father had the idea of the employment of adhesive postage stamps as early as August, 1834, and that he in that month, had experimental stamps printed in his own printing office; this assertion he supports by evidence, and if we admit that it is proved, there can be no doubt whatever as to the priority of the *invention* on the part of James Chalmers." \* \* \* "The whole case turns upon this date." The evidence of one of Mr. Chalmers' witnesses, Mr. Maxwell, alone, ought to convince us all. He says he worked in James Chalmers' printing office until October 1834, that while there he himself cut apart the essays in question, and that his apprenticeship indenture with Messrs. Umphreston & Kerr, is dated Nov. 2, 1834. So there is little doubt that his statement as to October is correct. Major Evans in a letter suggesting that he saw the stamps or essays after leaving Chalmers' employ brought the answer. "I say most distinctly that the stamps to which I allude were printed before I left it." Will the argument that memory is often treacherous be sufficient to disprove this assertion? The above is a good example of the other arguments of Hill's defenders. Can it be wondered at that Major Evans' article more than anything else, proved to us the truth of Chalmers' claim? The A. P. A. committee will, we trust, decide in favor of the right side—that of Chalmers'.

MEXICAN rarities are offered at exceedingly low prices of late. The Colina 1c on 2c, for instance,

catalogued at \$2.50 for 25 cts., and the older issues at like cut rates. What is the matter? If such decreases in the value of Mexican stamps continue, it will soon be found impossible to obtain customers for the rarities. The sudden fall in the '64 set, a few years ago, excited distrust and now it increases.

THE American Philatelic Association should publish a standard catalogue.

By mistake it was stated that the *Western Philatelist* had "gone under." It had, however, simply decreased in size for a short time, and soon will appear again in all its original brightness.

THE campaign against surcharges is steadily carried on. It is to be hoped that success attends the endeavor to put an end to their issue. It was Scott, we believe, who started the ball a rolling.

PRES. TIFFANY will undoubtedly continue to occupy the chair as long as he may be willing, but the Vice Presidency it seems is to be hotly contested. Corwin and Van Derlip may fight for it, but we trust a Western man gets it. Why should not W. F. Greany of San Francisco be elected to represent the West? The following, our choice, makes a strong and excellent ticket.

For President, JOHN K. TIFFANY.  
 " Vice " WM. F. GREANY.  
 " Sec'y, MILLARD F. WALTON.  
 " Treasurer, CHAS. GREGORY.  
 " International Secretary,  
 JOS. RECHERT.

A MARKED decrease in the value of Honduras stamps has been no-

ticeable of late. Very evidently a lot of remainders has been placed on the market. The whole 1879 set is now obtainable for fifty cents. Judging by the Guatemala set of 1882 now worth about twenty cents, they will be sold at even a lower price in the near future.

THE new U. S. stamps are generally in demand by the local press. As far as general appearances go it seems that they are satisfactory, but paper and workmanship is censured.

SAN FRANCISCO dealers must carry all philatelic necessities in stock!

#### MOUNTAIN PLOVER.

(*Podasocys montanus*)

A bird which is almost as common on our plains as the Lark Bunting but not quite so popular, is the Mountain or Prairie Plover. They seem to be wholly independent of water as I have found their nests in the driest parts of the country as well as near some creek. Their whistle is very strong and somewhat resembles that of our Curlew. Sexes are very much alike and before and after the breeding season they move about in small flocks of ten or twelve.

This bird when flushed from her nest can make the best show of being crippled and in the worst misery of any I ever observed. If you appear more interested in the nest than in her, she will crawl to your very feet, uttering her agonizing shrieks. The nest is on the bare ground with no lining whatever, eggs usually four in number averaging 1.45 x 1.10, but not as pointed as most plover's eggs.

No other writer has described the eggs in better words than Cone. He says: "They are of an olive-drab with a brown shade profusely dotted all over but especially at the larger end, with black, dark brown and neutral tints. Markings all mere dots and points, largest scarcely exceeding a pin's head."

Birds arrive about the 20th of April, fresh eggs can be taken the last of May.  
 —Sunny South Oologist.



# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

A. MACDONALD, - - - PUBLISHER.

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## TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertising matter must be in by the 15th to insure insertion in the next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

We request all our readers to send us contributions relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.

All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

Address all communications to A. Macdonald, 2219 Scott St., San Francisco, Cal.

THE lateness of this number is unavoidable, but we hope to again catch up with *Father Time* and at least issue the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP in the month dated. Our July number will be out on or near the twentieth of that month.

GET a copy of our May number. We promise something big.

HEREAFTER our circulation will be about 1500 each month. Advertisers should make a note of this as we present low rates.

THE *West American Scientist* is again published by C. R. Orcutt of San Diego; Carson & Co. having

severed their connection in November.

THE "Prominent 'Phiz'" was omitted from the last number of the *Rhode Island Philatelist*, Editor Parrish claiming it difficult to get one of interest to his readers. Try the *Western*, friend Parrish, they seem to be overstocked and promise two with their September number.

ANOTHER great American enterprise gobbled by an English syndicate. "One Dime" (not the capital.)

THE neat little cuts used to illustrate the Chronicle of new issues in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* make a very attractive appearance. The *Metropolitan* is on the right side in the surcharge question.

THE hints about counterfeits found in the catalogue now running in the *Philatelic Journal of America* help to make it a most valuable work.

BOTH the *Yankee Philatelist* and the *American Stamp Journal* have gotten out 16 page issues lately. The *Yankee* for May contained 12 pages of ads. Business seems booming.

J. WALTER SCOTT is still ahead in the vote for who is the most prominent philatelist. John K. Tiffany next.

Watch for our next number!

THE March number of the *Empire Stamp Journal* contained very interesting reading what there was of it.

Watch for our next number!

# \$50 REWARD



For the recovery of a 13 c. blue Missionary stamp of Honolulu, as per annexed cut, which was accidentally placed in one of my "FIVE CENT STAMP PACKETS."

**E. F. GAMBS,**  
Coin and Stamp Dealer,

39 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO.

HAVE you seen the above sticker? If not, you need glasses. 'Tis not so gay as a bandanna, nor so wide as a circus bill, but 'tis enough and 'tis all over town.

E. F. Gambs—the only Gambs—is disconsolate. He has lost what was dearer to him than his Sunday girl. It was only a bit of soiled paper, about an inch square, but its price was as the price of a corner lot. It was blue, but not so blue as its former owner. It also bore the unlucky number thirteen. In brief, a Hawaiian Islands stamp of 1852.

Once on a time a Missionary in the land of King Calico attached it to an appeal to his blue-nosed brethren in the land of modern nutmegs, for more flannel shirts and liver pads for the heathen. At last it came into the possession of E. F. G. Just at that time there was a grand clearance sale at 39 Sutter St. 600,000 continentals had gone like the dew, to fill 5 c. packets. More were coming by special train,

but not fast enough. Something must be done to still the clamors of the populace. Twenty millions of small boys, all with collections, all waiting to buy 5 c. packets. (Thanks Col. Sellers). In the wild scramble of *filling*, sundry rarities disappeared, presumably into the ever open mouths of the packets. And the Pride of Hawaii went too.

Where is it now? That is what E. F. G. wants to know. And he will pay fifty large round American dollars to see it again. Perhaps it is in Boston with the Bean eaters or Los Angeles by the Boom. Maybe in Jersey or other foreign ports. But like Bo-Peep's sheep it has gone and left only a *tail* behind it.

This is why E. F. G. mourns and sings all the time, "bring back my bonnie to me." By the bye it is rumored that there are several adjoining offices to let at No. 39. The former occupant lacked a musical education.

## THE STAMP BOOM.

LIKE all pursuits, whether mercantile, literary, or otherwise, Philately is having its boom, which started last October and is still in full swing; this is in a great measure due to Messrs. Duke Sons & Co. Cigarette Manufacturers of Durham, North Carolina and New York, who have given away genuine Stamps on their Advertising cards, to the number of Forty Millions, also to the *Golden Weekly*, a periodical which gave coupons with each number, for every 10 coupons they gave a packet of stamps, and for 20 coupons, a stamp album.

A further impetus was given on the Pacific Coast, notably in San Francisco by the really magnificent display made by Mr. E. F. Gambs, the well-known stamp importer of this City, at the Mechanics' Fair, held last Fall, and for which he received the first award, in the U. S. Schoolboys and old collectors are buying, none selling, with good prices, so the future of Philately seems very bright.

## GEOLOGY.

## A SERIES.

## PART X.

WHEN Glaciers, like those of Greenland terminate in the sea, the icy foot becomes broken off from time to time through the varying movements of the tides, and these fragments of glaciers, floated away by the sea, are icebergs. Sea-shore ice sometimes carries stones and gravel far out to sea.

## Formation of Sedimentary Strata.

The material of sedimentary rocks excluding limestones, has come mainly from the degradation of pre-existing rocks. But another part (as that of limestones or infusorial earth) has been taken up from a state of solution in the ocean or in fresh waters, through the agency of life. Yet the waters have received the ingredients from the rocks, either when the ocean first began to exist or subsequently through the dissolving action of streams in exposed rocks.

MEANS OF DEGRADATION. Erosion by running waters, and by ice. Pressure of water descending into fissure growth of trees, which tear the ground and rocks apart, which in process of time are decomposed.

The formation of deposits are 1. by the waters of the sea. 2. Waters of the lakes. 3. Running waters of the land. 4. By frozen waters.

HEAT. The crust of the earth derives heat from three sources. 1. The sun, an external source. 2. The earth's heated interior. 3.—Chemical and mechanical action.

CAUSES WHICH CHANGE CLIMATE. 1. A gradual diminution

in the heat of the sun through the geological ages. 2. Variations in the condition of the sun's exterior, causing periodical alterations in the amount of heat radiated, and thus producing alternating cold and warm areas. 3. Variations in the level of the earth's surface; the climate becoming changed when extensive regions have been lifted into mountains. 4. Variations in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit.

The fact of a high heat in the earth's interior is established in various ways. 1. The earth is a spheroid, which is just the shape that would have resulted from the earth's revolution on its axis, provided it had passed through a state of complete fusion and had slowly cooled over its exterior. 2. In deep borings for water and in shafts sunk in mining, it has been found that the temperature of the earth's crust increases, on an average, one degree of Fahrenheit for every 64 feet of descent. 3. The volcanic region on the Pacific Coast. Such extensive outlets so widely distributed seem to indicate that there is or must have formerly been, some universal seat of fire beneath. The chemical and mechanical effects may be seen in the upturning and flexure of rocks attending mountain-making.

EFFECTS OF HEAT. 1. Expansion and contraction. 2. Igneous action and results. 3. Metamorphism. 4. Formation of veins, under these different heads. 1.—Heat from any subterranean source penetrating upward may cause wide changes of level. 2. The changing heat of the day, which in some countries amounts to 80°F. or more, and also that of the seasons is a force always at work.

(To be continued.)

A \$20 A  
Day Man!



**A VOICE** from Ohio. Here is portrait of Mr. Garrison, of Salem, Ohio. He writes "Was at work on a farm for \$20 a month; I now have an agency for E. C. Allen & Co's albums and publications and often make \$20 a day (Signed) W. H. GARRISON

William Klue, Harrisburg, Pa., writes: "I have never known anything to sell like your album. Yesterday I took orders enough to pay me over \$25." W. J. Elmore, Bangor, Me., writes: "I take an order for your album at almost every house I visit. My profit is often as much as \$20 for a single day's work." Others are doing quite as well; we have not space to give extracts from their letters. Every

one who takes hold of this grand business piles up grand profits. Shall we start YOU in this business, reader? Write to us and learn all about it for yourself. We are starting many; we will start you if you don't delay until another gets ahead of you in your part of the country. If you take hold you will be able to pick up gold fast. **Read** On account of a forced manufacturer's sale **125,000 ten dollar Photograph Albums** are to be sold to the people for \$2 each. Bound in Royal Crimson Silk Velvet Flush. Charming decorated insides. Handsomest albums in the world. Largest size. Greatest bargains ever known. Agents wanted. Liberal terms. Big money for agents. Any one can become a successful agent. Sells itself on sight—little or no talking necessary. Wherever shown, every one wants to purchase. Agents take thousands of orders with rapidly never before known. Great profits await every worker. Agents are making fortunes. Ladies make as much as men. You, reader, can do as well as any one. Full information and terms **free**, to those who write for same, with particulars and terms for our Family Bibles, Books and Periodicals. After you know all, should you conclude to go no farther, why no harm is done.

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—E. P. NEWGOMER—

Mineralogist, geologist and philatelist. Papers and price-lists solicited.  
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## GYP SUM CRYSTALS

Fine clear crystals, various sizes, from the famous Crystal Bank in Ellsworth, Ohio. Many have smaller ones inside.

—PRICES—

Assorted Sizes.....40 cents per dozen.  
All large ones.....50 cents per dozen.  
Sample Crystal for 2-cent stamp.

C. S. MASON,

331 TENTH ST., - TOLEDO, OHIO.

## ROCK ROCK

Trenton oil bearing rock from oil wells 2000 feet deep. Fine large specimen only 30 c.

W. L. R. TILTON,

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**CABINET PHOTO** of Dak. sod shanty 25c. 1 doz. \$2.00. ½ doz. 4 x 5 photos of birds, nests, etc., from nature 75c. Sample 15c. E. S. Cheney, Pitrodie, S. D.

**PETRIFIED DROPS OF WATER**, gathered at the National Soldiers' Home, near Dayton, Ohio, and mounted on gilded, tinted card-board, and properly labelled, make a most interesting curiosity. Each card contains 18 to 20 specimens, in shapes as varied as crystals of snow, which they resemble to a great extent. PRICE, 25c a card; 2 cards for 45c. No other dealer has them. J. MILTON FINCH, 217 Bainbridge St., Dayton, O.

**STAMPS** on approval at 35 per cent comm. 50 varieties for 6 cents. Address—**JAMES J. WAL-LIS**, Salem Var. Co., N. S. Can.

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**GUY STEWART**, Publisher,  
Lake View, Mich.

Editors copying this and the above can have same space in The Record.

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James Bird, Box 234, Manchester, N. H.

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**MINERALS.** 20 specimens from Pa., size 1 x 1½ in. Labelled, name and Location, in Div. Box. By mail, prepaid for 50 cts. Isaac S. Kirk, Fremont, Chester Co., Pa.

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**A VOICE** from Ohio. Here is portrait of Mr. Garrison, of Salem, Ohio. He writes: "Was at work on a farm for \$20 a month; I now have an agency for E. C. Allen & Co's albums and publications and often make \$20 a day (Signed) W. H. GARRISON"

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one who takes hold of this grand business piles up grand profits. **Shall we start YOU in this business, reader?** Write to us and learn all about it for yourself. We are starting many; we will start you if you don't delay until another gets ahead of you in your part of the country. If you take hold you will be able to pick up gold fast. **Read** On account of a forced manufacturer's sale **125,000 ten dollar Photograph Albums** are to be sold to the people for \$2 each. Bound in Royal Crimson Silk Velvet Plush. Charming decorated insides. Handsomest albums in the world. Largest size. Greatest bargains ever known. Agents wanted. Liberal terms. Big money for agents. Any one can become a successful agent. Sells itself on sight—little or no talking necessary. Wherever shown, every one wants to purchase. Agents take thousands of orders with rapidity never before known. Great profits await every worker. Agents are making fortunes. Ladies make as much as men. You, reader, can do as well as any one. Full information and terms **free**, to those who write for same, with particulars and terms for our Family Bibles, Books and Periodicals. After you know all, should you conclude to go no further, why no harm is done.

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A  
JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. IX.

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY, 1890.

NO. 4.

## The Distribution of Minerals.

By S. H. WOOD.

SOME suppose that minerals "turn up" here and there by chance. This is not so. The useful minerals are not distributed over the earth irregularly but there is a system in the distributions, the knowledge of which enables us to decide whether a particular kind of mineral may be ordinarily found in a certain spot. The most important rule in judging as to whether a certain mineral can be found in your locality is by the appearances and general characteristics of the rocks about you. The knowledge of the relation of particular minerals to the general character of rocks constitutes the Science of Geology; and the knowledge of the character of the minerals is the Science of Mineralogy. It is not my intention to write especially on either of these subjects but merely on the distribution, systematically, as it were, of minerals. The history of the formation of rocks, as you are aware, has been divided into certain periods and it is agreed generally that *Granite* is the oldest. Granite rock is frequently interspersed with more or less vertical crevices or veins which are filled with matter which in composition is entirely unlike that of its own and form veins of ores or other minerals. We are liable, from experience to expect to find in these veins ores of tin, iron, copper, cobalt, lead, anthracite coal and occasionally silver. We find besides these in such veins feldspar, kaolin, quartz, plumbago, garnets, different varieties of spar and fragments of rock of various kinds.

We never expect to find bituminous coal in granite and seldom find anthracite. We do not find gold, platinum, sulphurous ores of tin, nickel, cobalt or mercury in such quantities as to make it pay to extract it.

So we might go on to enumerate Metamorphic Rocks or those second in age, Stratified Rocks, Tertiary Formation or stratified rocks of a later period, Volcanic Rocks, etc., etc., but space does not permit. We will skip all this and pass on to the main object of our article—*Mineral Distribution* or *The Distribution of Minerals*.

The distribution, in the United States, especially the *Geographical Distribution* is very distinctly marked. The ridge of the Alleghany Mountains divides the surface of the country into transition rocks on the east and secondary rocks on the west. In the first division spoken of namely: between the Atlantic and the Alleghanies we find minerals which belong almost entirely to the transition series and with the other side ditto with the secondary rock. Both slopes of the Rocky Mountains are similar in character and the minerals on each side are those belonging to the east slope of the Alleghanies.

The extent of mineral veins is varying almost as much as the character of the minerals themselves. In the western coal-fields, as that of Pittsburgh, we can and do trace the same vein of coal for hundreds of miles while there are also small veins in the same basin extending only a few miles.

Immense beds of magnetic ore have been found, and to all appearances, are yet being found, in the State of New York. *Systematic* layers of useful minerals are found in almost every state in the Union in such abundance and extent as to render the raising of them most easy and simple.

## THE REPRINTED STAMPS OF THE U. S.

General Issue Adhesive Postage.

THE government reprinted the general issues of adhesive postage stamps on May 5, 1881, and they were sold in sets at face value. Since the demand for the old issue of postage stamps was so great the government thought there was millions in it and caused to be made the following stamps. All are now obsolete.

GENERAL ISSUE—1847.

VALUE	DATE	COLOR	DESCRIPTION
5 ct.	1847	Red brown	Franklin unperf
10 ct.	1847	Bluish black	Washington "

These reprints are without gum and are a very poorly executed reprint. They certainly resemble counterfeits more than reprints. The letters at the base of these stamps inside the line that encloses the design are very hard to make out and on the 5 c. are hardly discernible at all while the originals plainly show the letters "R. W. H." and "E."

CARRIERS' STAMPS, Reprint, 1857.

VALUE	DATE	COLOR	DESCRIPTION
1 ct.	1857	Blue	Eagle perf.
1 ct.	1861	"	Franklin unperf.

The reprints of the "Eagle" variety are perforated and can be found with gum and without gum. They are printed in a clear dark color. The originals are unperforated and have brown gum. The "Franklin" variety was reprinted upon the original paper and it is extremely hard to distinguish from the genuine.

GENERAL ISSUE—REPRINT—1851.

The stamps in this issue were not reprinted.

GENERAL ISSUE—REPRINTS—1857.

The reprints of this issue are printed on white paper with gum, and the colors very bright. The originals are printed on tinted paper and the gum dark brown. Orig-

inals perforate 15 and reprints perforate 12.

- 1 ct. Blue, Franklin, perf.
- 3 ' carmine, Washington, perf.
- 5 ' red brown, Jefferson,
- 10 ' green, Washington,
- 12 ' black,
- 24 ' deep lilac,
- 30 ' orange, Franklin,
- 90 ' deep blue, Washington

GENERAL ISSUE, Reprints—1861-1868.

Originals have gum of dark brownish color while the reprints bear gum of a white color which cracks very easy and colors new and bright. All the reprints are without grill.

- 1 ct. Blue Franklin, perf.
- 2 ' Black, Jackson,
- 3 ' carmine rose, Washington, pf.
- 5 ' Dark brown, Jefferson, perf.
- 10 ' Green, Washington, perf.
- 12 ' Black,
- 15 ' " Lincoln,
- 24 ' Mauve, Washington,
- 30 ' Orange, Franklin,
- 90 ' Blue, Washington,

GENERAL ISSUE—REPRINTS, 1869.

The reprints bear the white gum which has a tendency to crack on bending the stamp and are without grill. The gum on the originals is of a dark brownish color. The originals are found with and without the grill.

- 1 ct. buff, Franklin, perf.
- 2 ' brown, Horseman,
- 3 ' net. blue, Locomotive,
- 6 ' " " Washington
- 10 ' orange, Eagle & Shield,
- 12 ' green, Steamship,
- 15 ' brown and blue, Landing of Columbus, perf.
- 24 ' green and purple, Declaration of Independence, perf.
- 30 ' carmine and blue. Flag and Shield, perf.
- 90 ' carmine & black. Lincoln, pf.

GENERAL ISSUE—REPRINT—1870.

Originals have brown and white gum. All reprints are without gum.

- 1 ct. Deep blue, Franklin, perf.
- 2 ct. Dark brown, Jackson,
- 2 ct. Vermillion,
- 3 ct. Green, Washington,
- 5 ct. Deep blue, Taylor,
- 6 ct. Rose, Lincoln,
- 7 ct. Vermillion, Stanton,
- 10 ct. Brown, Webster,
- 12 ct. purple, Clay,
- 15 ct. Orange, Webster,
- 24 ct. Violet, Scott,
- 30 ct. Bluish black, Calhoun
- 90 ct. Bright carmine, Perry,

By studying the above list collectors will with a little practice

soon become adapt in distinguishing the difference between the originals and reprints of the U. S. General Issue of stamps.

—SHEEKAWGA.

## COINS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE coins of Newfoundland are made of gold, silver, copper and bronze.

No. 1. The only gold coin is the two dollar piece. *Obv.* head of Victoria facing the left. "Victoria D. G. Reg."—"Newfoundland" *Rev.* "2 Dollars" and date in center. Above "Two hundred cents;" below "One hundred pence;" dates 1865-70-72-73-74-76-80-81 82.

No. 2. A silver 50c. piece. *Obv.* similar to No. 1. *Rev.* "50 cents" and date in center, surrounded by a design of curved lines; dates, 1870 72 73 76 80 81 82.

No. 3. A silver 20c. piece. *Obv.* and *Rev.* the same as No. 2 except "20 cents" takes the place of "50 cents;" dates, 1865 70 72 73 74 76 80 81.

No. 4. A silver 10c. piece, *Obv.* and *Rev.* the same as No. 2, except the change to "10 cents;" dates 1865 70 72 73 74 76 80 81.

No. 5. A silver 5c. piece, *Obv.* and *Rev.* the same as No. 2. except the change to "5 cents;" dates, 1855 70 72 73 74 76 80 81.

## COPPER.

No. 6. *Obv.* head of Victoria facing the left. "Victoria D. G. Reg." *Rev.* a crown and date in center, "One Cent, Newfoundland" dates, 1865 72 73 76 80.

No. 7. *Obv.* a curious coat of arms of two horses, etc. and date 1841. *Rev.* a sheep suspended around the middle. "R. & I. S. Rutherford, St. John's, Newfoundland."

No. 8. *Obv.* the same as *Obv.* of No. 7 without date. *Rev.* the same as *Rev.* of No. 7.

No. 9. *Obv.* the same as *obv.* of No. 8. *Rev.* "B E M ½ B. S." a Hudson Bay Esquimaux Mission piece.

No. 10. *Obv.* similar to obverse of No. 7; date 1846. *Rev.* similar to reverse of No. 7. "Rutherford Bros., Hail our Grace, Newfoundland."

No. 11. *Obv.* the same as obverse of No. 10. *Rev.* similar to reverse of No. 10. A slight change in the position of the letters, etc.

No. 12. *Obv.* "Peter McAuslane, St. John's, Newfoundland." *Rev.* "Sells all sorts of shop and store goods."

No. 13. *Obv.* 1860 in center. Fishery rights for Newfoundland. *Reverse*—Responsible Government and Free Trade.

## Magdalen Island.

No. 14. Obverse seal in center. Magdalen Island Token; date 1875. *Reverse*, Dry codfish in center; Success to the Fishery. One Penny.

## Prince Edward Island.

No. 15. Obverse Dry Codfish in center. Success to the Fisheries. *Reverse* plow in center, Speed the Plough. There are several varieties.

No. 16. Obverse 1855 center. One above. Cent below. *Reverse* Fisheries and Agriculture. Several varieties.

No. 17. Obverse ship sailing toward the left. Half Penny Token. *Reverse* the same as reverse of No. 16.

No. 18. Obverse 1855 or 1857 in center Prince Edward Island. *Reverse* Self Government and Free Trade. There are several varieties of each date.

No. 19. Obverse 1855 in center Prince Edward's Island. *Reverse* the same as reverse of number 18.

No. 20. Obverse Sheaf of Wheat. Prince Edward's Island Half Penny date 1840. *Reverse* Plow, Commerce & Trade.

No. 21. Obverse Head of Victoria facing left. Victoria Queen; date 1871.

—E. G. WARD. Palmer, Mass.

## —\*AN ODDITY\*—

RECENTLY E. F. Gambs the well known Foreign Stamp importer came across a Three cent U. S. Proprietary stamp without the usual portrait of George Washington in the center. In lieu of being green and blank, it was all green, and the oval in center, where the father of our country's phiz usually appears was for once blank. It is undoubtedly an error of great rarity.

## EXCHANGES.

700 good philatelic magazines, some old to exchange for good U. S. or Foreign stamps, or will sell for cash. Send for list. C. F. Case, Box 83, Molalla, Or.

\$20 worth of fine Mound Builders' relics for the best offer of a printing press and outfit or of U. S. and other American postage stamps. W. F. Case, Molalla, Or.

I have old Philatelic Magazines, stamps, postmarks and postal cards to exchange for Indian arrow and spear heads and hatchets. Send list. W. M. Dick, Oberlin, Ohio.

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A. MACDONALD, - - - PUBLISHER.

Box 1732, San Francisco, Cal.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

United States, Canada and Mexico . . . 25 cents a year.  
To other Countries in the Postal Union . . . 35 cents.  
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" " " 5 00 . . . . . 15 "  
" " " 10 00 . . . . . 20 "  
" " " 25 00 or more, . . . . . 25 "

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Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.  
We request all our readers to send us contributions relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.  
All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

## CIRCULATION 1500.

Entered at the San Francisco Post Office as Second Class mail matter.

What our Stamp Dealers are doing and thinking of during the summer months.

J. W. SCOTT. I shall reform by wiping out surcharges, which will put me a peg above my neighbors, The C's.

THE CALMAN'S. Wish we had not put in so much "push" in those syndicate envelopes, D— them.

R. R. BOGERT. I shall drop in on the boys in Europe, and unload thousands of Honduras sets, and thus build up my stock, while trade is quiet in the Metropolis.

E. F. GAMBS. My stock of those "beautiful Nicaraguas" often causes me to use "beautiful language." Guess I shall have to take a trip to Europe, and "enlarge" my stock by swapping some of them off.

C. H. MEKEEL. How on earth will I ever rid myself of all those horrid Mexicans. I can't do it by my approval sheet system. What's the matter with taking a trip to Europe, etc., etc.

C. F. ROTHFUCHS. I shall not offer any more Departments after this year. They are a better investment than Washington Real Estate.

E. B. STERLING. I always knew that I would live to see Match and

Medicine stamps booming, for ain't they growing bigger in price every day? I now wish I had all I owned once.

WM. P. BROWN. No more trips to Japan for me, at least not while the stamp boom lasts in New York. Big profits, you know.

S. B. BRADT. I expect to get rich when the Worlds' Fair comes round in '92, for the A. P. A.'s will most all be here.

F. TRIFET. Music hath more charms for me new than stamps, although I must acknowledge the stamp business has grown to a fearful extent.

S. ALLAN TAYLOR. Put me down as an anti surcharge man every time. My stamps sell well without surcharging them.

C. H. BOGARD. Any' one who has \$9,000 ready cash can have my stock, but not for a red cent less.

DURBIN & HANES. Business is too good for us this summer, so can't spare the time to take any trips. Perhaps next year.

JOSEPH RECHERT. The "Hobos" have the fever bad, and I have all I can attend to. The Jersey skeeters are awful though, while stamping.

E. T. PARKER. My monthly price list is bringing me too many orders, so can't get away.

W. F. GREANY. My stock of those California Locals is altogether too large for me to handle, and as the demand for them is somewhat limited, it is about time for me to be turning my attention elsewhere.

W. H. NIEUSTEDT. Our Standard S. Co. are advertising big, and ready to swallow up any of the small fry who are disgusted with the "biz." Well boys, we have the stuff, so come on and say the word.

## PHILATELY.

MAURICE V. SAMUELS, - EDITOR.

All communications for this Department should be addressed to the Editor at 1624 Octavia Street, San Francisco, Cal. All Philatelic publications receive will be carefully reviewed.

J. W. SCOTT's catalogue is "the" thing for convenience and prices, but it lacks completeness. All things considered, Durbin's is the second best. Of course, Major Evan's beats the American reference lists, and it is therefore the more to

be regretted, that it is so poorly priced.

AUCTION SALES have become almost too common. Collectors, of moderate means, let opportunities slip by to purchase stamps especially desired, because they cannot afford to spend too much on stamps in a month. Would not better results be obtained if the sales were held less often.

## AGENTS' DIRECTORY.

Names inserted under this head, 10 cts. per month.  
James Bird, Box 231, Manchester, N. H.  
BIRDS' EGGS. Mound and Indian Relics, Fine Fossils and Curiosities. F. M. Kinne, Knoxville, Iowa.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

A two-line card in this column costs 75 cents per year, in advance; or 10 cents for one month.  
MINERALS. 20 specimens from Pa., size 1 x 1 1/2 in. Labelled, name and Location, in Div. Box. By mail, prepaid, for 50 cts. Isaac S. Kirk, Fremont, Chester Co., Pa.  
COINS. Sent on Approval. Agents Wanted. M. Jenkins, Rensselaerville, New York.

8 varieties Broken Bank Bills for 25 cents silver. Daniel McNeill, Box 1462, Mobile, Ala.

CABINET PHOTO of Dak. sod shanty 25c. 1 doz. \$2.00. 1/2 doz. 4 x 5 photos of birds, nests, etc., from nature 75c. Sample 15c. E. S. Cheney, Pittsford, S. D.

## COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY.

Your name and address printed under any headings desired, at 5 cents each per month, or 50 cents per year.

### STAMPS.

A. S. Buchart, Owen Sound, Ont., Canada.  
Percy A. Daniel, 61 St. Charles Street, New Orleans, La.

### COINS.

A. S. Buchart, Owen Sound, Ont., Canada.

## DEALERS' DIRECTORY.

### BIRDS' EGGS.

Chas. Turton, 1240 So Flower St., Los Angeles, Cal.

### COINS.

Chas. Turton, Box 956, Los Angeles, Cal. "Wampum," old Indian money, fine specimens, 6 for 15c., or 25c. per doz.

R. D. Hay, Winston, N. C. War Relics and Confederate Money.

### ENTOMOLOGICAL SUPPLIES.

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W. F. GREANY, 827 Brannan Street, San Francisco, Cal.

LOVERS OF FLOWERS want to know how to get the lovely wild flowers of the Pacific Coast—the lilies, the ferns, the cacti, seeds of the palm and evergreens, and also how to grow them. They are advised to subscribe for *The West American Scientist* and to write at once to Orcutt Seed and Plant Co., San Diego, Cal. Send 25 cents for sample of magazine.

100 Foreign Stamps 5c., 300 10c., 500 for 15c. Sent postpaid. Geo. P. Jacobson, Calmar, Iowa.

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Minerals, Fossils, Sea Shells, Old Arms,  
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proval sheets of U. S. and Foreign Stamps.  
One 50 c. Album to every tenth one send-  
ing 10c. for one or more of Approval  
Sheets and 50 varieties of Foreign  
Stamps. Reference required, or good  
security. 30 per cent Commission al-  
lowed on Foreign Stamps, 25 per cent  
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10 var. USED	18c.	3 var. UNUSED	30c.
10 " Mexico	35c.	9 " U. S. war	70c.
25 " "	45c.	4 " Mexico 1894,	25c.

5000 finely as't Continentals \$1.50  
1000 mixed Foreign Stamps for  
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and upwards, for only \$15 cash.  
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**A \$20 A Day Man!**

**YOUR VOICE** from Ohio. Here is a portrait of Mr. Garrison, son, of Salem, Ohio. He writes "Was at work on a farm for \$20 a month; I now have an agency for E. C. Allen & Co's albums and publications and often make \$20 a day (Signed) W. H. GARRISON"

William Kline, Harrisburg, Pa., writes: "I have never known anything to sell like your album. Yesterday I took orders enough to pay me over \$25." W. J. Elmore, Bangor, Me., writes: "I take an order for your album at almost every house I visit. My profit is often as much as \$20 for a single day's work." Other agents doing equally well; we have not space to give extracts from their letters. Every one who takes hold of this grand business piles up grand profits. Shall we start YOU in this business, reader? Write to us and learn all about it for yourself. We are starting many; we will start you if you don't delay until another gets ahead of you in your part of the country. If you take hold you will be able to pick up gold fast. **Send—** On account of a forced manufacturer's sale 125,000 ten dollar Photograph Albums are to be sold to the people for \$3 each. Bound in Royal Crimson Silk Velvet with Flush. Charming decorated insides. Handsomest albums in the world. Largest Size. Greatest bargains ever known. Agents wanted. Liberal terms. Big money for agents. Any one can become a successful agent. Sells itself on sight—little or no talking necessary. Wherever shown, every one wants to purchase. Agents take thousands of orders with rapidly never before known. Great profits await every worker. Agents are making fortunes. Ladies make as much as men. You, reader, can do as well as any one. Full information and terms free; to those who write for same, with particulars and terms for our Family Bibles, Books and Periodicals. After you know all, should you conclude to go no farther, why no harm is done. Address E. C. ALLEN & CO., AUGUSTA, MAINE

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Correspondence invited.

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—E. P. NEWGOMER, —

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"WAMPUM," or old Indian money; fine specimens collected by an Indian trader years ago while among the Alaska tribes. 5 for 10c. or 20c. per doz. CHAS. TURTON, Box 956, Los Angeles, Cal. [Stamps taken.]

AMERICAN STAMPS. 25 S. America, 25 c. 25 Mexico, 20c. 75 N. America, 15c. 30 obsolete U. S., 10c. 20 U. S. Revenue, 15c. 10 U. S. Post Cards, 10c. Sheets of fine stamps on approval, Foreign at 35 per cent, U. S. at 20 per cent discount. Grooved, entire, INDIAN AXE for sale for best offer. FLOATING STONE, will float on water, specimen 10 c. Piece of stone, from the foundation of the observatory erected on the hills of Valley Forge by Washington's army, sent post paid for 10c.

EDW. W. HOCKER, NORRISTOWN, PA.

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If you send 12c. you will get the Pilot Packet of 25 varieties fine stamps. Positively none common. JAS. H. COLLINS, 55 Bates St., Detroit, Mich.

**OH LOOK HERE!** 8 choice arrowheads, 10c. 12 Choice Birds' Eggs, 10c. 25 Dollars Confederate Money, 10 cents. Address JOHN F. BOWEN, Antreville, South Carolina.

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dropped handle bars, ball bearings and half enameled.

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Prairie Depot, Wood Co., Ohio.

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A  
 JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
 PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
 NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
 BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. IX.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER, 1890.

NO. 5.

## A Novel Collection.

By E. P. N.

THE other day I went to see a friend, who is a prominent philatelist and a leading member of the A. P. A. After talking over various subjects I asked to see his collection. He brought out a small box filled with sheets of tinted card board, on which the stamps were mounted.

"This," says he handing me the box, "is all that remains of my collection." The last time I had looked at it (about a month previous) it was mounted in two huge books made to order and consisted I think of about 12,000 varieties. "What!" says I, "you don't mean to tell me you have sold the rest of your treasures?" "That is just what I have done and here is the result," handing me a large sheet of card board beautifully ruled and at the top was an immense "A." I was dumb-founded till he began to explain.

"This collection may seem odd to you but this is the method that philatelists will use one hundred years from now." He then began to illustrate and showed me how it was arranged. "This sheet contains one stamp from every stamp-issuing country on the globe whose first letter is "A." Here we have the whole world in a nutshell and have no need for huge volumes of stamps." I admitted it was a novel idea and asked him to go further. He then handed me the sheet bearing "B" and it was arranged similarly to "A." This is the method:

A	o	o	A	o	o
B	o	o	o	o	o
C	o	o	o	o	o
D	o	o	o	o	o
E	o	o	o	o	o

(o represents ruled squares.)

"The ruling can be done to suit the taste and "A" can be divided into as many sheets as desired, though I think it is more handy to keep every letter on one sheet." The numerous readers of this journal will understand there are to be twenty-six lines under each letter as sub heads. For instance Azores would be represented in "A" sheet "z" line or last line and etc.

I asked him if the idea was a new one to him and he said it was. "To collect the old way has been proven time and again to possess many disadvantages and having a specialty possesses nearly as many. When you have a specialty you are all the time hunting for old issues, while in my method we deal with the present and the future and let the past take care of itself. It is a singular fact that in examining a collection of the stamps of all countries more than one fifth of the designs on 12,500 varieties of stamps are alike. The only difference is the value represented and what is the sense in collecting these?"

"In my method you will notice that I have only one stamp of each country. Now, in selecting this stamp you can use your own judgment, but you will notice I have taken the one that best represents the history of the country. For instance take France and of course it is Napoleon. You can take a used or unused specimen. I have selected an unused where I have knowledge that it is a genuine one, though of some countries you will have a hard time to find genuine unused and of course in such cases I employ a used one to represent that country."

I was now fairly interested: in fact I had come, I had seen and I was convinced, and I looked the collection over again for I could not keep my eyes off such a novel sight. "Complete?" Yes—Well no it wasn't for the next day a new

set of stamps appeared from an obscure country that had never issued any before and this gentleman sent for one the same day, so his collection would be complete until some other nation thought they needed some colored slips of paper, and would issue them.

"Do you become as much interested in your stamps this way as you did before?" I ventured to ask. "Interested?" "Well I should say so. Say pard I tell you it's a fact I wouldn't exchange this collection for two like my other one though my other one was certainly worth more than three times as much in a financial sense." There are many other points in which this method is far ahead of any other but we have not room to mention them.

"Why have you kept your method from the philatelic public so long?" "Well, I thought maybe it wouldn't be accepted, as some of these philatelists are such dormant creatures you know. Well I have only been on to the method a little over three months." He then gave me the right to publish the method with the understanding his name was not to be mentioned and I left, satisfied that it was a novel way of making a stamp collection, and one that certainly should be well considered by all philatelists.

## The Advisability of a Scientific Library.

By S. H. WOOD.

THIS subject, as you perceive, treats directly on the subject of preserving all, or nearly all, of the Scientific Magazines, Books, Pamphlets and Fly-Sheets published.

In order correctly to consider this subject, we are forced to divide it into two classes—Book Literature

and unbound Literature.

Each of these classes we separate into two distinct divisions.

The former, Book Literature, we separate into *Ancient* and *Modern* Literature. Ancient Literature may be applied to any book issued before our late Civil War. Although strictly speaking our Civil War was *Modern*. A beginner in order to obtain a fair idea of Science should be in possession first of the Comparatively Modern Works, such as Prof. Dana's, Geo. F. Kony's and other prominent writers of the last few years. Although a thorough knowledge of former volumes should be gained, yet it should be procured in such a way and at such a time as not to interfere with the knowledge gained through recent works. However a person reading but a small portion of the many books devoted to Science is liable, at least to a great extent, to forget some important points of a work studied some time since. In cases of this nature *it is* advisable to preserve your books for reference.

Again, many points in a work will at some future period come under discussion; your opponent wishes proof—you state you have seen a certain statement in a volume of a certain character. Failing to have the volume preserved you are unable to bring forward the proof. Under such circumstances also it is advisable to preserve your volumes.

Lastly, persons in your company, probably not having the means to procure a library, or who probably are not in such circumstances as to feel able to adjoin a library to their collection, being desirous of obtaining knowledge on certain questioned points, wish to obtain this volume from you, being very willing to add specimens to your collection for the use of your books. Owing to your short-sightedness in not preserving the volume, you are unable to get the specimens.

In this case as in the others you may deem it advisable to preserve your volumes. Yes—I advise you to keep *all* Bound Volumes of a Scientific nature falling into your hands whether old or new.

Now in consideration of the second class—unbound literature. I am bound to say that there is entirely too much of what you might call unrefined literature, that which is filled to a great extent with slang, for which American writers are becoming noted. Besides this there is a certain ungeniality between magazines which many are unable

to account for, papers filled almost entirely with *personal disputes*, etc.

To collectors I say any paper containing to a great extent slang or disputes of a personal character are not worthy of a place in a library. Some periodicals, among which can be mentioned the *Scientific American*, Prof. Dana's production, and a few others, may be classed as high standard literature.

As solid literature may be mentioned several smaller periodicals of which I have taken a great interest in.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP I have watched from its first number and am convinced that no better paper can be obtained for the general collector. I would say to a collector on the advisability of preserving unbound literature, use your own judgment and preserve what you consider *solid* and *standard* and you are safe.

In conclusion I say that no matter how few papers and books you may have, preserve them all with care, bind all papers in volumes and in after years they will prove invaluable to you as they have to others.

#### DUTY DIFFICULTIES.

ALTHOUGH the leading San Francisco stamp dealers have for several years past been very prosperous, as far as sales are concerned, all of them have ceased, or rather been compelled to drop their Foreign trade, on account of Custom House affairs.

This, in a great measure is illustrated by the fact that the dealers are complaining on account of the duties, and unless they are soon regulated, we expect to see some of them abandon the Golden shores, to plant themselves in New York and in other big Eastern cities, and San Francisco will no longer be acknowledged by other cities, as one of the leading American Philatelic centres. Stamp collecting always so popular, may again resume its full sway on the Pacific Coast, but to justify this sanguine expectation, the duty should be alike throughout the Union, and not vary as it now does. Why should Foreign Postage Stamps be rated dutiable at 5c. per 1000 in New York City, 10c. per 1000 in Baltimore, and 25 per cent in San Francisco upon the invoice value?

Here the authorities class them as works of art, or something of a similar nature, and insist upon ap-

praising them at the fictitious values, created by philatelists. As the profit in many instances is but 25 to 30 per cent, this is absolutely prohibitory, as well as absurd. Why this discrimination?

Our stamp dealers do not expect to get their stamps from abroad free of duty, nor do they ask it, but they are willing to pay the same duty asked in New York, Baltimore, and other Eastern ports.

They should be able to work without such an obstacle. It is time that the authorities in San Francisco arrive at a correct ruling, so that the dealers are permitted to renew their Foreign correspondence and business, and can enjoy the same privileges as extended elsewhere, and by every Eastern stamp dealer.

A RECENT letter from the postal authorities declare approval sheets and exchange books returned from foreign countries exempt from the twenty-five per cent duty imposed most unreasonably upon all postage stamps from abroad.

#### EXCHANGE NOTICES.

##### NOTICES LIMITED TO 24 WORDS.

This column is free for the use of subscribers only. Notices which are indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers, will not be admitted in these columns. When it is desired that a notice appear in more than one issue, a separate copy must be sent for each time. Always write notices on a separate sheet from your letter. No postal cards noticed.

Stamps to exchange. Send sheet and I will do the same. Also philatelic papers to exchange for stamps. Chas. E. Welen, 87 Whiting St., Chicago, Ill.

Two slightly imperfect arrow heads for every fine U. S. copper cent coined before 1830. Arthur B. Roberts, Weymouth, Medina Co., Ohio.

A specimen of Jasper  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  for every specimen of Gypsum, Mica, Hornblende, Iron ore, Feldspar, Hematite, Cuprite or Calcite of the same size sent me. George L. Howe, Granger, Benton Co., Oregon.

Wanted to exchange. Curiosities for "ad" space in Collector's Papers. Send sample copy and I will send list. C. Turton, Box 956, Los Angeles, Cal.

For exchange. First class eggs in sets of this locality for first-class skins of the following numbers; (A. O. U.) 292, 292a, 293, 293a, 294, 294a, 295. F. M. Richards, Farmington, Maine.

109 Philatelic papers for best offer of Indian Relics or Minerals  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . George L. Howe, Granger, Benton Co., Oregon.

Why buy your rubber stamps when you can make any size so cheap? Receipt for five three cent vermilion U. S. 1887 or any U. S. stamp catalogued at 20 cents or more. E. Wilkinson, Broken Bow, Neb.

ESTABLISHED 1892.

# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC

A. MACDONALD, PUBLISHER,  
Box 1732, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.**  
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Subject to the following discounts:  
On orders for \$1 00 . . . . . 5 per cent.  
" " " 3 00 . . . . . 10 "  
" " " 5 00 . . . . . 15 "  
" " " 10 00 . . . . . 20 "

**TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.**  
We request all our readers to send us contributions relating to Natural History, Coins, Stamps, Relics, Curiosities, etc. Publishers wishing to discontinue their papers can have their unexpired subscriptions and advertising contracts filled by us on favorable terms.  
All Specimens, Books, Catalogues, etc. sent us will be carefully reviewed.

**CIRCULATION 1500.**  
Entered at the San Francisco Post Office as Second Class mail matter.

OUR readers may have wondered at our "semi-occasional" appearance, but it could not be helped. During the first half of the year we found it impossible to issue the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP on time. The changes have been many as was seen by number four. Several improvements in both contents and make-up have been contemplated and not being able to both catch up and make the necessary changes at once, we have deemed it more satisfactory to our subscribers and patrons in general to skip the last four months and call this October, No. 5. This will in no way interfere with our subscription books as names are entered to expire with such and such a number, not month.

**BRIC-A-BRAC.**  
Interesting Facts and Tidbits from our Scrap Book.

THE largest insect known to the entomologist, the Erebusstrix of Linnaeus, a noctuid moth of Central America, expands its wings from eleven to eighteen inches.

A HORSE-FLY when born is fully grown of mature size, and there are no little flies of the same species. The small ones occasionally seen are of a different kind from the large one.

THE smallest known insect in the world, the Pleratomus Putnamii, a

parasite of the ichneumon, is but one nineteenth of an inch in length.

THE body of every spider contains four little masses, pierced with a multitude of holes (imperceptible to the naked eye), each hole permitting the passage of a single thread; all the threads, to the amount of one thousand to each mass, join together when they come out, and make the single thread with which the spider spins its web, so that what we call a spider's thread consists of more than four thousand threads united.

THERE are 4,041 muscles in a caterpillar.

THE deepest running stream in the world is the Niagara River, just under the suspension bridge, where it is seven hundred feet by actual measurement.

IT is said that the postage stamps of half the nations of the world are engraved and printed in New York.

LENWENBROCK, by means of microscopes, observed spiders no bigger than a grain of sand, which spun threads so fine that it took 4,000 of them to equal in magnitude a single hair. The fly spider lays eggs as large as itself.

IT is estimated that there are 13,000 different kinds of postage stamps.

THE lightest known substance, "damaria," is said to have been found in the crater of an extinct volcano in Damaraland, its atomic weight is 0.5, or half that of hydrogen.

POSTAGE STAMPS of all issues since the beginning of the civil war are good, and may safely be used for postage. The issues of 1847 and 1851 are not accepted because our friends, the late enemy, when they appropriated everything of Uncle Sam's found South at the outbreak of the war, also took in his stamps. —Newport News.

SPECIALISM gains favor every day. The time is fast approaching when the general collector must lose heart, and either retire from the philatelic field, beaten by numbers, or devote his entire energy to the completion of certain countries or groups of stamp issuing nations. The latest to disgust us is Seychelles with its issue of eight varieties—English Colonials and undoubtedly collectible. Even those of us who will not touch French

Colonials and Native Indian stamps, do not refuse the emissions of De La Rue & Co.'s printing establishment. It we but shun the baneful surcharge, we need fear no deluge of oddities and errors (made to order) in English Colonials.

**IT WON'T PAY YOU**  
to place your advertising contracts for the coming year before you have given the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP a fair trial.

**THEY TRIED IT**  
and this is what they have to say:

S. F., AUG. 14, 1890.  
ED. OLD CURIOSITY SHOP:—

I find your paper an excellent advertising medium and advise all brother advertisers to use it if they wish to know the road to fortune. You may continue my "ad" until further notice.

Respectfully,  
E. F. GAMBS.

YARMOUTH, N. S. MAR. 24, '90.

SIR:— My advertisement has paid very well. What would be your terms for running that advertisement for one year.  
JAMES J. WALLIS.

**1847 1891**  
**GOLD DISCOVERED!**

GOLD was discovered in California in 1847. Those who advertise in the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP in 1891 will come to the conclusion that GOLD was discovered in 1891 as well.

The ROAD is the advertising columns of the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP; the pockets of its 7,000 readers the mine.

The more it is "worked" the better the "yield."

A. MACDONALD, Publisher,  
BOX 1732, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

**EASTERN OFFICE:**  
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F. G. A. RICE, MANAGER.

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A  
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PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. IX.

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER, 1890.

NO. 6.

## ANIMAL MIMICS.

### WONDERS OF PROTEAN RESEMBLANCE.

#### Imitation of Natural Objects.

The Assimilation of Color—Some Interesting Experiments.



**A**MONG the first things to attract my attention in California were the many examples illustrating the protective resemblances of certain animals. During cross country walks and rides I soon discovered that the jack rabbit availed himself of his resemblance to his surroundings quite as much as to his powers of speed. Unlike our Eastern rabbit, the jack, I found, was more commonly seen in open and barren places, courting miniature desert tracks where there were stones and boulders among which he crouched. I was often fairly upon the wily fellows before they would move, and I have seen one dash around a bush, take the back track for a few paces, then, crouch, so resembling the stones and semi-burnt vegetation that had I not observed the move I should have been deceived. The jack in this instance was merely taking advantage of one of the peculiar and interesting methods of protection with which nature has endowed all animal life. The jack has a coat that in general color simulates the sun-dried district it generally affects, and the lack of contrast between it and its surroundings constitutes its protection from hawk, man and coyote.

Among all animals we find this peculiar protective assimilation. There are few contrasts. The

tawny skin of the lion; the dust-colored coat of the coyote are good examples. In the open, sandy places not an animal is pure black or a striking color. Even the horses which have run wild in Southern California are piebald and rarely pure black, having assumed a tint that makes them inconspicuous. A brown or black bear would soon be observed where the coyote makes its home, but the latter, lying in the sides of hills covered with dried and sunburnt vegetation, is almost perfectly safe from intrusion if it but remains quiet.

In hunting the coyote with grey hounds, which do not depend upon scent, I have seen one lying flat on the hillside, not far from me, evidently depending entirely upon its resemblance to the surroundings for protection. It watched me narrowly, following me with its sharp nose and eyes, but making no motion that would show that it was not one of the many mounds of earth on the slope.

That animals are aware of their resemblance and take advantage of it there can be no doubt. In driving through the White mountain country some years ago I suddenly came upon a quail. It was so near me that it did not attempt to fly, merely thrusting out its neck to the full extent, and so resembling the twigs and brush amid which it stood that I almost lost sight of it. I pretended not to see it and moved slowly on, still watching it, and it retained the position until I was out of sight.

In Australia a bird has been noticed which when alarmed thrusts out its long neck at an angle almost exactly resembling a limb of the tree, in this mimicry finding protection. On the Pacific slope and especially in California we find many examples of this interesting phase of nature. One of the most familiar examples is the common

horned toad, or more properly, horned lizard. In riding over the country the sharpest eyes rarely make out the little animal unless it is in motion, when its scrambling action makes it conspicuous, but the moment it stopped it became invisible again. Every one must have noticed this, and it is simply due to the fact that the little flat lizard has a coloring, or a lack of coloring, as the case may be, that imitates the ground upon which it stands. I noticed in the San Gabriel valley, particularly, that the horned lizards on the lowlands, where the ground was clear, were dust-colored or mottled, while upon the foot-hills, where there was more cover and color, they were more highly colored. Taking a number selected promiscuously, I placed them in inclosures—one with a black bottom, another with white, another with brown, and so on. When the lizards were placed in the pens they were all of the same general tint, but after a few days I found that to a greater or less extent they had assumed a tone corresponding to the base upon which they rested. In other words, they were to a certain extent mimicking their surroundings to render themselves less conspicuous.

How does this work with other animals? Some years ago I had a number of octopi, or cuttlefish, as they are commonly called. When I took them from the water, sprawling and struggling, their eyes giving out baneful green lights, they were all of one color—a rich gray. I had previously arranged inclosures, each with a different colored base, ranging from black to white, and into these improvised prisons the octopi were released. A very short time sufficed to produce a change, the singular animals adapting themselves rapidly to the new surroundings, and some becoming almost invisible. Thus it

will be seen that the resemblance of animals to surrounding objects is not accidental, but in the direct line of a protection that is of no little importance in the economy of life.

The reader will find examples of this mimicry of color, which is but one phase, at every hand. Note the grasshopper, that lives on the mess amid the sun-dried grass. It is not a vivid green. The little pest is bedecked in a suit of pepper and salt, so that he is hardly distinguishable. Now turn to the rose bushes, where is found another of the tribe. As I write I have one before me that is the exact tint of the rich green leaves, so that the sharpest-eyed bird would be deceived and pass it by. See, also, the droves of aphidæ, or plant lice, on the rose. They are not black or brown, but the same tint of the leaves—a delicate green. Two spiders, which build their nests on this rosebush, are green—all preserved by this marvelous protective resemblance. We find this all through the animal kingdom. Some change rapidly, like the lizards; in others the adaptation comes slowly.

One of the most remarkable examples of the former is the chameleon of Eastern countries, or the anolis of our Eastern States. Here the change is often instantaneous and the assimilation complete. The tree snakes are almost always green, and resemble vines twining among the leaves and branches. The rattlesnake also affects the color of its surroundings.

In the mountains of this State a beautiful katydid is found which so mimics a leaf, with even the midribs and veins, that it is almost impossible to distinguish it. My first experience with one was in Millard's canyon, back of Pasadena, where I was wandering with a faithful dog for my only companion, enjoying the delights of this beautiful region where summer reigns in winter, and the stroller can sit among the ferns and hear the voice of birds within sight of snowbanks. While glancing up I noticed what I supposed to be a leaf from a sycamore come drifting down, fluttering this way and that after the manner of leafy parachutes. I watched it until it fell in the bushes, and would have passed it by had not my companion, with more prescience or curiosity than I possessed, called my attention to it, so I picked up the leaf and discovered the cunning

mimic that instead of lying down had descended, not only looking like a leaf, but resembling one in its flight. Its tint was a most delicate green, like that of a tender leaflet, while the wings were almost exact in their representation of leaves, the veins and midribs being imitated to the life, so that when this beautiful creature was resting on a plant in leaf no one would have suspected that it was not a natural leaf. The common mantis is equally curious as a mimic, resembling a twig, while its slow and deliberate motions add to the deception.

By far the most remarkable of all mimics are found among insects, the walking sticks and walking leaves being the most striking. One variety of the former is six inches in length and is almost exact in its resemblance to a twig. The walking leaf is equally remarkable in its similarity to a leaf, all the ribs and veins being seen, so that in structure and color the protection is well nigh perfect. Not only do the insects resemble their surroundings, but the eggs are



*Phyllium siccifalium*, feeds on leaves and mimics fresh leaves.

similarly protected. This is especially noticeable in the egg cases of the common mantis, which so mimic their surroundings that it is almost impossible to distinguish them, a protection that was quite necessary. Some remarkable instances are seen among butterflies, and those who have studied these insects must have noticed the fact that many, while flying are exceedingly conspicuous, yet the moment they alight they apparently disappear—a change due to the protective coloring of the inner side of the wing.

(To be continued.)

## BRIC-A-BRAC.

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THE caterpillar feeds with two saw-edged jaws, working transversely, and uses them to such good advantage that he eats three or four times his own weight every day.

THE number of eggs in a six-pound eel, in November, is fully 9,000,000. Under the microscope they measure 80 to the linear inch.

ABOUT 2,000 species of insects on an average, have been discovered yearly during the last century.

ONE of the remarkable things in Utah is a mountain near Salt Lake City completely covered with oyster shells.

THE king or horseshoe crab chews its food with its legs, the little animal grinding its morsels between its thighs before it passes them over to its mouth.

THE vitality of the snail is remarkable; one that has been glued to a card in the British Museum for four years came to life upon being immersed in warm water. Some specimens in the collection of a naturalist revived after they had apparently been dead for fifteen years.

THE sloth is by no means a small animal, and yet it can travel only fifty paces in a day; a worm crawls over five inches in fifty seconds; a lady-bird can fly twenty million times its own length in less than an hour; an elk can run a mile in seven minutes; an antelope can run a mile in a minute; the wind-mule of Tartary has a speed even greater than that; an eagle can fly fifty miles in an hour; while a canary falcon can even reach seven hundred and fifty miles in the short space of sixteen hours.

NOTE.—We want our readers to send in clippings and items for this department.

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ESTABLISHED 1882.

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BRICA-BRAC

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THE improvements spoken of in last number are now under way and it is with pleasure we present our readers with the first installment of "Animal Mimics" which is illustrated with several sketches by the author. In our next number the first part of an interesting article on the Butterfly will be published which is also illustrated.

WE want your ideas. What would you curtail, what amplify, what exclude, what new feature introduce? We repeat it—we want your ideas. What would you do if you were editor? We want to make the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP the foremost paper of its kind in America. It is the oldest and what hinders it from being the best. We want those who are to decide in the future to make their rules now. Let us hear from you. We want your opinion.

WHAT A MUSEUM CURATOR SHOULD KNOW.—I have often been asked as to what is the requisite knowledge necessary to become a museum curator. First of all there must be a natural taste for Natural History; and secondly, the person must have application, without which he would make but a sorry professor.

A curator should be first of all master of one branch of Natural Science; as for example, conchology. Secondly, he should have a general knowledge of the rest of the animal

kingdom, so that if given a specimen, without label or any indication of any kind as to what it is, he should be able to place it in an instant in its branch, class, and order. It is not desirable that he be an authority upon any branch with the exception of the one which he has taken up as a life study. The duties of a curator are many; not only has he to give a general supervision to the collection, but he must also attend to certain portions of the business of the museum. A knowledge of the Languages is also quite important. In addition to the above he should have a good knowledge of Geology and Mineralogy.

—BY F. C. BAKER.

**SOME PHILATELIC CLIPPINGS.**  
Selected by E. P. Newcomer.

"J. HENNIKER HEATON, a member of Parliament is stopping at the Auditorium Hotel. Mr. Heaton's errand to this country is to arouse an interest in ocean penny postage. He said, "You send letters clear across the country to Vancouver, in the British possessions for one penny—your two cents are two half pennies. That is 3,000 miles. Why can't you send letters across to Great Britain and Ireland for the same sum? In the decade ending 1889 the number of letters sent from this country to England has been trebled. In 1879 in round numbers there were 8,000,000 letters. In 1889 there were 21,000,000. The fact is magnificent. There should be no bother of trying to recollect it costs five cents to send a letter across the water. Let us knit even more closely together the bonds of kinship between two great English speaking nations. It would be a splendid stroke of international policy thus to weld Great Britain and America together. I don't suppose any one who has not given the subject a thought can realize the amount of small postal orders annually sent home to the old people by the young and strong who have come over here. Do you know that in 1888 there were over \$5,000,000 sent over to England in sums of from \$5 to \$25. It's a pretty thought isn't it, that the wide ocean cannot break off the gratitude that a son feels for his aged father and mother who brought him up. Stop and think how much more the friendly correspondence of two nations may do to the maintenance of peace than all the armed war ships that ever floated. And the cost of one war ship would be

amply sufficient to maintain ocean penny postage for three years. I am not constituted a committee to try to effect this. I am doing it of my own motion. At home I have enlisted the support of all the press for this movement. All the newspapers are in favor of it. I saw Mr. Wanamaker here, but of course he can't do anything in the matter without the action of Congress. Of course the ideal condition would be when a letter need not have a stamp on at all. Australian newspapers are sent free of charge even now. But in the meantime let us have penny postage all over England and America."

—Chicago Tribune.

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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,  
NATURAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES &  
BRIC-A-BRAC



VOL. IX.

SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER, 1890.

NO. 7.

## THE BUTTERFLY.

Something About the Gaudy Ephemera.

From Chrysalis to Winged Loveliness.

Species Which the Collector May Find in the Vicinity of San Francisco.

THE collector of butterflies is always an artist in his soul, with the true artist's keen eye for color and form, beside possessing that power for observation, carrying out details and making comparisons which constitute the scientist's talent. The pursuit is fascinating and absorbing. It opens by a magic key the garden door of wonderland, peopled by a busy insect world of beings, so exquisite in form and coloring, and yet so apart from the beaten haunts of men that only the searching eye of the scientist ever really discovers their existence. The common observer now and then beholds some dazzling inhabitant of this fairy realm dash athwart his vision and daily almost within his grasp, yet it tells to him nothing of its life, its origin or its use; of its curious childhood as some ravenous worm, eyed and horned and armed with cutting, steel-edged jaws, that may even pierce and devour the heart of oak until gorged and glutted to repletion it crawls away to hide its lowly form and undergo that marvelous transformation from a soft, loathsome, creeping spiral of flesh into something so truly beautiful that men gaze upward at its glittering splendors with wonder and delight.

These chrysalides into which the caterpillars change are the most curious cradles made by the unseen fingers of that old nurse, Dame

Nature. The smaller chrysalides are attached to some object by a thread of silk at one end, which is sufficient to hold it securely, while the larger and heavier species are made fast in a sort of silken hammock which supports both ends and the center. But those varieties like that which may be seen in the representation of the Cynthia, folded up in one of the long leaves of the alanthus tree, sheltered from sun and dew, gently rocked in every passing air, hidden from prying eyes of greedy birds, is the most remarkable.



Cynthia and chrysalis.

The chrysalis at the close of its trance, listening to the voice of its fairy nurse, wets its fore legs with a moisture secreted for the purpose and begins to dissolve with it the silken walls of its prison. Slowly and patiently the tiny arms work. Thread by thread the tissue gives way until there is room for it to burst through and crawl out, its wings folded and crumpled and its motions slow and cautious. Then it unfolds like a blossom in the clear, warm sunshine after a shower. Fold by fold, plume by plume, it flaunts out and prinks like a girl

preparing for her first ball.

She is one of the most exquisite moths, this Cynthia, measuring some four inches across her broad wings, which are soft and thick, with a rich velvet pile, while along their deep, wavy borders of clouded olive, threaded by delicate lines of rose and lilac, appear four young moons pictured in transparent silver sheen, so thin and glistening that they seem spangles of glass. Her plump, rounded body is richly clothed in downy fur. Though distinctively formed and marked, she flits among the luxuriant foliage almost invisible to the keen eyes of her enemies. As twilight deepens into night she prepares for flight, waving her voluptuous wings with a slow, enthralling motion, then vibrating them with thrilling swiftness, until she seems an airy mass of translucent, moon-spangled mist. And thus finding her course by means of this strange charm given by her fairy godmother, she launches into the dewy air to trysts that only stars may look upon. Queenly in her slow luxuriance, her rich attire and stately grace, she is the crescent-crowned and jeweled Cleopatra of the insect world, and most appropriately named Cynthia, the Moon-queen of night.

This species is of unusual interest, having been introduced from Japan for the purpose of making silk, but the experiment proved a failure, and the insects being liberated have adapted themselves to the climate and are now numbered among the numerous moths found on this coast.

Butterfly collecting is a pursuit similar to that of collecting rare coins or books or mineral specimens, and, like these, some collections have a monetary value of many thousand dollars. The collections of Europe are enormous and very complete, and several in America are distinguished for the same

excellencies. They are esteemed according to the rarity of the specimens preserved, the complete varieties of the various species and the beauty and size of those which are particularly remarkable for these qualities. The one feature most highly prized by the collector is the rarity of a specimen. Could he possess a perfectly unique butterfly he would be the king of them all.

In this particular San Francisco is favored, for there are several rare species here, and though some are not remarkable for any other feature, they are highly esteemed. I remember when a little fellow of noticing a couple of odd butterflies out in the Mission. They flirted and twirled among some heliotrope in a garden I was watering, and I paused and wondered at the distinct figure lights on their wings, but that was all until years after I deeply regretted having missed these two rare "88" butterflies that I might so easily have captured and now would so eagerly pursue.

The specimens of *Sycenal Heoxes* were found near the Golden Gate Park. The little creature, with its rich cerulean wings, edged with downy threads of brown and white, the reverse of which is of creamy bronze, with brown and white markings and outlines, is extremely rare and was supposed to be extinct until William Haring of this city had the good fortune to come across these. He has preserved them in his collection and has received for them a prize of \$10 from the American Entomological Society.

He seemed to regard these specimens with as much pleasure as he did those of the large and glorious *Ornithoptera Brookeana* from Senegambia, Africa. Their long, exquisite wings of black jeweled velvet measure seven inches across, and though motionless the flashing cone-shaped gems that mount them glow like cut emeralds in the yellow sunshine, now dark and shimmering green, now flashing golden bronze as the throat of a humming-bird. The back of the neck is marked with a crimson as soft and rich as a ruby. The antennæ are remarkably long, while the form is unusual for grace and elegance owing to the large pointed fore wings and the relatively small size of the hind wings. But all this is far outrivalled by its coloring.

Among those which are curious the owl butterfly holds a prominent place, the likeness of its color and markings picture the face of the horned owl so perfectly. Soft fawn-tinted dapples blend with deeper

shades upon the rich feathery surface until the eyes, large gleaming circles in the hind wings, blink out of shadow, perfect owl eyes, while the pointed shape of the fore wings admirably suggests the horns.

Far more curious still this picture work of nature is executed upon the thorax of the death's-head moth, a species widely distributed over the old world and which has been regarded for centuries by the superstitious as ominous of evil and dissolution. When this large, heavy moth, with its shadowy wings and thick body somberly draped as with a funeral pall, batted down by some flickering lamp, it is no wonder that he who turned to see what strange visitor had intruded thrilled with horror at the message written so unmistakably upon its back. A skull and cross bones, pictured distinctly with the color of an old time-stained skeleton long buried, seemed half sinking into a back-ground of dark mold. The monk studying by his night lamp needed no knowledge of hieroglyphics to decipher this warning and the ignorant peasant read it as plainly.

Among the figures shown in the cut representing a group of butterflies is a little one in the corner of queer outline, almost like that of a devil's darning-needle. Those elongations of the hind wings suggested in another cut represent the dude of the butterfly realm, light and airy and decked with flots and frills of a jolly season. This one is of much elegance, fine and handsomely marked. There are many varieties with this peculiarity, some having tails nearly as long again as the wing and of a glistening, silvery surface. The silver tails are light in tint and texture, and glisten like burnished silver as they flit with a wavy dancing motion.

But they are rivaled by another species more familiar, the *Paysilio Daunus*, commonly called swallow-tailed butterflies. These are large, brilliant creatures, zebra-striped, with shades of yellow and black. But the prince of them all is a fine fellow. His clawhammer coat boasts no less than ten tails. There is some style about him. The broad wings are richly striped with deepest topaz and black velvet and the lower corners of the hind wings have their dashing terminations set just below peacock eyes of darkest sapphire and emerald. There are a number of different varieties found here on the warmer shores of the bay and some of them are large and extremely beautiful. I captured a fine specimen almost by accident at

Sausalito in June.



*Specimens of rare and gorgeous species.*

The most beautiful creature of these flower decked and sunny shores is the *Meganostama Eurydice*, one of the most brilliant butterflies of the California groups. It is nearly three inches across the wings, which are deeply bordered with black, irregular in outline and marked with large flame like spaces near the thorax, of dazzling orange changing with every movement into burning jets of lustrous rose or living azure fire. The female is a clear lemon in color, marked with small black dots, and she is a size larger than her mate. These when seen upon the flower sown steeps of Mount Tamalpais, their native home, are bright and beautiful beyond the power of words to describe for such living gems need the soft vernal settings which Nature spreads invariably about her favorites.

A day spent in capturing these elves is sure to be pleasant, and one among the few which brings exhilarating strength and the ruddy tints of health in a train of delightful experiences. At first it seems cruel to cast the gauzy net over creatures so fragile and lovely, the very froth and foam of this boundless sea of bloom. A little pinch on the thorax, under the wings and its tiny spark of life is out, its joyous consciousness is ended. Bend to examine those parts which made such a wonder of iris beauty in the air. They have grown dull. It is all too delicate for the touch of mortal fingers.

Here it goes into a little straight jar half full of moist sand. I must look you up in my books, my beauty, and now for another. Their lives are so brief, what can it matter? It varies from only two to six weeks in the numerous families. Here is one of a species which is now almost out of season.

(To be continued).

# ANIMAL MIMICS.

## WONDERS OF PROTEAN RESEMBLANCE.

### Imitation of Natural Objects.

#### The Assimilation of Color—Some Interesting Experiments.

[Continued.]

A writer in *Nature* thus refers to an instance:

"I was much surprised one day last week to see a large insect of this order—lepidoptera—come from above the olive trees overhead with the wild dashing flight of the larger moths. Attracted apparently by the sheltered and sunny recess in which I was sitting and by the scarlet geraniums and bignonias which were in full flower in it, the moth darted downward and after a little hovering settled suddenly on the bare ground underneath a geranium plant. I then saw that it was a very handsome species, with an elaborate pattern of light and dark chocolate browns. But the margins of the wings, which were deeply waved or dentated, had a lustrous yellow color, like a brilliant gleam of light. In this position the moth was a conspicuous object. After resting for a few seconds, apparently enjoying the sun, it seemed to notice some movement which gave it alarm. It then turned slightly around, gave a violent jerk to its wings and instantly became invisible. If it had subsided into a hole in the ground it could not have more completely disappeared. As, however, my eyes were fixed upon the spot I soon came to observe that all the interstices among the little clods around it were full of withered and crumpled leaves of a deep blackish brown. I then further noticed that the spot where the moth had sat was apparently occupied by one of these, and it flashed upon me in a moment that I had before me one of the great wonders and one of the great mysteries of nature. There are some forms of mimicry which are wholly independent of the animals themselves. They are made of the color and of the shape which are like those of the surrounding objects of their habitat. They have nothing to do except to sit still, or, perhaps, to crouch. But there are some other forms of mimicry in which the completeness of the deception depends on some co-operation of the animal's own

will. This was one of these. The splendid margins of the forewings, with the peculiar shape and their shining color, had to be concealed, and so, by an effort which evidently required the exertion of special muscles, these margins were folded down—covered up and hidden out of sight. The remainder of the wings were so crumpled up that they imitated exactly the dried and withered leaves around."

The naturalist Wallace made a remarkable discovery in this connection in the East Indian archipelago. He found a butterfly which, while extremely conspicuous and beautiful, had, while on the wing, the wonderful faculty of disappearing instantaneously. One day he saw a leaf projecting from a twig in a somewhat singular way, and, upon attempting to take it off, he disturbed a butterfly. The moment the wondrous creature folded its



The chameleon.

wings they perfectly resembled a leaf, the tips resting on the limb and taking the place of the stem. The wings of these marvelous mimics are perfect in their imitation, even the spots of mold and various tints being apparent on them. The reader en rapport with nature will find this phase of natural history a most delightful study, and, when taken up with that of the theory of evolution, it will afford an abundant field for thought and conjecture.

In California, as suggested, there are endless instances at every hand, especially among the caterpillars, which in almost every case are provided with some protection. The common inchworm of the East holds itself in the air, appearing like a new shoot. An anonymous writer thus refers to a Japanese instance:

"While in Japan a messmate brought aboard, in an ordinary pot, a beautiful trained shrub with a leaf much resembling that of an orange. It was placed on the wardroom table where we all sat. The steward removed it from the table to the top of a harmonium at least three times a day, and I watered it when required. I often examined and admired it. In eight or ten days it began to show signs of failing, and, thinking it might be infected with

spider or green fly, I examined it carefully, and in doing so disturbed a large green smooth-skinned caterpillar. Like all animals on board ship, he soon became a great favorite, and we often asked strangers to point him out, and in no case did they succeed. He always lay along the edge of the leaf, with his head to the point, and ate at each bite exactly the breadth necessary to preserve the contour of the leaf as far as possible. When he reached the point, by a few sharp convulsions, he returned to the stem and began another row. When he had finished one-half of the leaf he began the other, and when nothing but the center rib of the leaf was left he ate backward along the stem. He was the most economical feeder I ever saw; only a very little bit of



The protective resemblance of the leaf butterfly.

the center rib of the leaf was bitten off and fell to the ground, and the hard stem of the leaf was left. I soon observed that he could assume the exact shape of the leaf he was feeding on, and I frequently shifted him and watched the process. In due time he assumed the chrysalis form; he partly suspended, partly glued himself to the stem of the plant and it was very difficult to detect him; but not nearly so difficult as in the caterpillar state."

Among the smaller moths I have noted many strange examples, while their pupæ are remarkable for imitation of bits of wood and other inanimate forms.

In the ocean there are endless examples of this feature of the protective economy of life, this being especially noticeable among fishes. In a former article I have referred to the attendants of jelly fishes. Almost every large jelly examined by me was attended by a school of

minute fishes allied to the mackerel family, which were exact in their resemblance to the tentacular parts of their host. But the most striking case was that of the *Physalia*, or Portuguese man-of-war, not the *Velella*, which goes by the same name and drifts upon our California waters in August, but the fairy-like bubble with pink sail and trailing tentacles from five to seventy-five feet, of intense blue, found in the equatorial waters of all seas.

The *Physalia* resembles an elongated soap bubble from one to six inches long, the upper portion having a frill, which can be extended upward as a sail, and when caught by the wind sends the man of war along over the sea. From below extend a mass of tentacles not unlike those of a jelly fish, but of the most intense blue. These tentacles have the armament of lasso darts we have seen in the jelly fish, and a mere touch to a common sardine is almost instant death. I have seen a sprightly fish dart at a dangling point and roll over, belly up, as if struck by an electric shock. To further illustrate the virulence of the poison, I was swimming upon my side and inadvertently crossed the tentacles of a specimen. They immediately covered the abdominal region and seemed to sink into the flesh like hot irons. I had to be taken from the water and the purple mass scraped off with a razor and for several hours my life was in danger. Twelve months later the attacked parts looked as though they had been tattooed in fanciful designs in India ink. I refer particularly to this to emphasize the singular fact that among those death-dealing tentacles that are fatal to sardines, and almost so man, there lives a family of little fishes, and, to come to the point, in their coloring they are perfect mimics of the tentacular parts of their hosts; are, in brief, bits of blue or purple, each fish being richly tinted, so that the ordinary or casual observer would not distinguish them from the tentacles. The little attendants find absolute protection in this resemblance, as few animals, even of the most predatory character, care to attack the *Physalia*. Of all the instances illustrating this feature of life that I have observed, this is the most striking and impressive.

Among the bottom fishes we find that the same principle holds true. The flounder assimilates the color of the bottom upon which it rests, and can scarcely be distinguished from it. So with the sculpins; they are brown and black, white and brown, yellow and a variety of tints,

while the singular barbels from the lower jaw and various parts but add to the resemblance. The little sea-horse—hippocampus—especially an Australian form, has long streaming tentacles that give it the appearance of seaweed. As we have seen the animals of the Sargasso sea all simulate the rich tints of the sargassum; crabs, fishes, worms and mollusks—all are protected in a marvelous manner.

Note in the north how the hare is white as the banks of snow; how the ptarmigan changes its coat from white in winter to brown in summer. The great white owl, the ermine and many more are striking cases of the adaptation of color to surroundings. It would be interesting to trace out the evolution of these changes, but in the limited space but one instance can be given. In the case of flounders, which are especially remarkable for their mimicry of surrounding objects, it is found that if the eyesight is destroyed—and the same is true of other fishes—the fish has apparently no control over its color and assumes any hue without reference to its surroundings. This discovery demonstrated the fact that the eye is the medium of change. It is known that the skin of animals consists of two portions, the epidermis and cutis, the first being made up of cells of different kinds, while the latter contains special gland cavities and cell elements, the latter being filled with coloring matter or pigment. The pigment in these cells is red, green, brown, yellow or black, and the color is changed according to their contraction or expansion. Actual experiment has shown that cells which are yellow when distended become orange when contracted, while, according to Semper, the orange or red ones become under distension brown or black. Now, contraction or expansion is produced by reflected light. This acts on the eye; the impression is conveyed to the cells by the sympathetic nerves, and they contract or distend, as the case may be, producing the various protective colors.

This is but a simple presentation of the facts which can only be perfectly understood by an elaborate description of the anatomy of the skin. However, the eye, reflected light, and the little cells are the factors by which the change is effected. I cannot invite my readers to a more interesting field than this. It is boundless in its possibilities for new discovery and of the greatest interest to the student or lover of nature, be he young or old.

CHARLES FREDERICK HOLDER.

## SOME PHILATELIC GLIPPINGS.

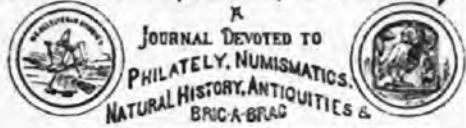
Selected by E. P. Newcomer.

EVERY few weeks some one announces himself as the victim of the 1,000,000 postage stamp hoax. It is firmly believed by many people that if 1,000,000 stamps are collected and forwarded to some one, a bed will be provided for an invalid boy in a hospital, or a home for an orphan will be secured, or a large amount of money will be paid. Churches have been the special victims, and there is hardly a city in England, the United States, Australia or India or in any other country that has not had several church members begging, borrowing, and helping themselves to postage stamps in order to make 1,000,000 that will go to clothe and feed some orphan. The swindle originated in the fertile brain of a postage stamp collector at Stettin, Germany, says the *New Haven Palladium*. He desired to get vast collections to sort out and sell again, and hit upon the plan to set the whole civilized world at work for him gratis. He preyed on the sympathies of people by announcing that an orphan would be cared for in the Syrian orphan home for every 1,000,000 stamps sent him. This worked well, and the next dodge was the starting of a mythical mission in China, the holy sisters of which were said to have agreed for every 1,000,000 stamps sent them to save from the jaws of the crocodiles of the Yellow river at least one Chinese baby, and then educate and Christianize it. The stamps were to be sent, not to Jerusalem or China but to Munich or Stettin. The last claim of the sympathy of the world that has been made by this German is that for 1,000,000 stamps, a home for an old lady or an old gentleman will be provided in one of three homes—one in London, another in New York, and a third in Cincinnati. For 500,000 stamps a bed will be endowed in a hospital, and for 100,000 a home will be found for an orphan one year. It is estimated that the Stettin man has collected over 100,000,000 stamps in the United States alone. One of the circulars was received by a New Havener lately. It is a clever dodge to get something for nothing.



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# THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



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## CIRCULATION 1500.

Entered at the San Francisco Post Office as Second Class mail matter.

A GOOD old western "boom" seems to have struck the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP as well as Dickens and Lytton. Nicholas Nickleby by Dickens takes the lead, three copies ordered; Lytton's Pompeii, second—two copies, and one each of Christmas Stories and Pickwick Papers.

Seven books: six subscribers to each book. Forty-two subscribers. Five not in clubs. Forty-seven subscribers in all in one month too. Looks "boomy" doesn't it?

ANOTHER Christmas and one more year has passed making it nearly ten years since the CURIOSITY SHOP was started, thus making it the oldest paper of its kind in America.

WE are at all times glad to let our readers know what is going on among their collecting friends and with this in view, extend to all our friends a cordial invitation to write us from time to time of any little incidents which occur under their notice, and of any changes in their business or interesting additions to their stock or collections. Remember this is the paper for Collectors, Dealers and everybody with a hobby and we're going to prove to you that we mean just what we say. We are right "in it!" "Are you with us?" "Not yet?" Well it will cost you but a quarter to stay

in with us for a whole year! "See!"

BILLY'S in it! Wm. F. Greany of this city married last month. The happy pair have our best wishes.

PRINCE has changed the name of his paper from *The Oologist's Advertiser* to *The Collector's Monthly* and is now devoted to Ornithology, Oology and Natural History.

THE *A. A. Bulletin* comes to hand from Gilman, III. and is published by W. A. Crooks of that place in the advancement of the Aga-siz Association.

J. W. JACOBS who was to publish a new oologist's monthly called the *Owl* informs us that the first number will not appear in January as he has not time to devote to it at present.

EUGENE A. BROWNE deserves credit for the exceedingly interesting matter now being published in the *Companion*.

THE *American Stamp* comes to hand from the D. B. Crockett Co. in four page and cover form. Drop the cover and let us have 8 pages of reading, friend Crockett, and you ought to get the support of New York as well as Jersey.

W. M. HOLDEN will continue the publication of the *Yankee Philatelist* and if the advertising patronage it now has continues we predict for it a long and profitable existence.

## NOTES BY "GAF."

Too much cannot be said in praise of the 51 Edition Catalogue, published by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York. It is complete; therefore leaving nothing to be desired.

I RECEIVED from Mr. E. B. Sterling, that prominent philatelist, a very neat conceit in the shape of a business card with a little square in the upper right hand corner to which was affixed a revenue stamp—unused and in splendid condition making as it does, when a particularly bright colored specimen is placed thereon, an exquisitely neat suggestive little souvenir.

F. N. MASSOTH JR. informs me that reports to the effect that *Figaro* will change hands shortly are without foundation. The paper will be

enlarged and radically changed in appearance, the plan being to get it up on the exact model of the old *Western Philatelist*. It will be published from Chicago with a Chicago Editor—Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer—and he assures me it will be a "great paper," in consequence of which the advertising rates will be doubled, no contracts at present rates being made after Jan. 1. It will be known as the *Stamp Collector*.

MR. NAENCY, Manager of C. A. Burger's new establishment on Park Row, N. Y., showed me a couple of fine specimens of the old St. Louis Stamps 5c. and 10c., on the original envelope, when I was in his place the other day. He purchased them at a bargain. He also showed me specimens of many other Gems which though we often read about, still very few people can boast of having seen. Naency is a very pleasant and obliging fellow too.

JUST at the present time the condition of the stamp business is not as we would all like to see it. It seems that everybody is complaining big and little dealers alike. But I venture to predict a happy "boom" as soon as the Merry Holidays are over. There is just one reason for this depression in trade, which by the way exists in every line of business to a greater or less extent and that is that folks are not going to spend any more money just now until they know how they are going to "come out" after their holiday presents. They never know how much they will expend until the last minute and when this is once settled and Christmas and New Year is a thing of the past—then their minds are more at ease and they once again turn to affairs of every day life.

I UNDERSTAND that A. Lohmeyer of Baltimore is about to issue a new price list of Post Cards. This will doubtlessly give card collecting a further impetus. I don't see why this branch of Philately is not more generally adopted. Surely it is quite as interesting as stamp collecting. A good collection of post cards would be worth quite a sum of money.

THEO. TOPPELL is a tall, slender and quite young man, a perfect blonde (with mustache to match) with expressive blue eyes. He is very well posted on philatelic subjects and every time I meet him he appears to me as though he had

just jumped out of a Turkish or Russian bath. He confesses to have a horror of those people who are always endeavoring to impress you with their knowledge (?) of matters philatelic. With all this "The" makes one great mistake and that is he only advertises in one paper. But I have hopes that if you "drum" him up a little he will discover his error and "Boom" his business by advertising in the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

MR. F. G. A. RICE of Brooklyn, the representative of all philatelic papers, is 25 years old, married, father of a bouncing year old girl, and says business is "booming." He deserves success.

THE true cause of Mr. Aue's retirement from the philatelic arena and relinquishing of his interests in the *Philatelist*, was his desire to devote his entire time to the study of law in order to successfully pass examination for admission to the New York Bar. Mr. Aue has been in the employ of a prominent law firm in New York City for a number of years "GAF."

N. B. Publishers desiring articles on any subject or philatelic notes can arrange for same by addressing "Gaf" care of this paper.

## BRIC-A-BRAC.

Interesting Facts and Titbits from our Serap Book.

THE speech of Claudius, engraved on plates of bronze, is yet preserved in the town hall of Lyons, France. It was discovered in 1528 on the heights of St. Sebastian, above the town.

Two mounds of the prehistoric age have been discovered on the Isthmus of Corinth by P. K. Kastromenos, who thinks that they are the tombs of Sisyphus and Neleus.

IN Tepe-Kermene, an ancient town in Crimea, a platina coin has been found bearing the image of Anticchus of Syria, who died B. C. 164. The coin is the only one of its kind known to exist, and for this reason its value is inestimable.

PRECIOUS STONES OF AMERICA. Rock crystal, which admits of high polish, and which is much used in jewelry now, is found in large quantities in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Arkansas. There is

fine jet in Colorado. In Maine is a mountain called Mount Mica, out of which tourmalines to the value of \$100,000 a year are taken. Moonstone is found in Virginia and the soil of New Mexico is enriched with sapphires, rubies and garnets.

A CURIOUS problem is offered to naturalists by the presence of the glow-worm in the nests of the weaver-bird of Bengal. The bird weaves a nest like basket-work and having several compartments. In almost every nest one or more glow-worms may be found fastened to the side by means of a little ball of clay. One explanation of their presence is that the bird sticks the worms where they are found in order to light up its dwelling. Another theory is that the female bird hangs them up to attract the male bird, as Hero held a torch to guide Leander. A prosaic idea is that the glow-worms are collected as food. Each theory has its strong points and also its weak spots.

AN INSECT GOLIATH.—The bird-spider of tropical America grows to be three inches in breadth and as much as four and a half inches in length, being the largest of the several hundred species of spiders known to naturalists. Its nests resemble those of the large caterpillars of France and Spain, and consist of a beautiful white silken tissue of several thick layers, and strengthened by very strong threads capable of arresting the flight of any small bird. In the center of this nest are placed the eggs, 1,500 to 2,000 in number. The creature is very powerful and is provided with formidable instruments of attack, enabling it not only to destroy small birds and the young of larger species, as some writers have maintained, but large lizards and reptiles.

### THE HOLY SHEKEL.

A New York Gentleman is the Proud Possessor of a Very Rare Coin.

MR. H. GOTTSCHALK, of New York, is the possessor of a coin of unusual interest. It is called the "holy shekel," and it is claimed that it was used in the temple of King Solomon more than 3,400 years ago. There is little doubt as to the genuineness of the coin, as it has been examined both by experts and ministers, and it tallies identically with the description of the "holy shekel."

On one side its inscription reads "Holy Shekel," and on the reverse side is "Jerusalem" in Hebrew

characters. How the coin was preserved through so many centuries is a mystery. One of its strongest features is that in the center of the side on which "Holy Shekel" is inscribed is a six-cornered star, believed to be emblematic of the faith the Jew had in the coming of the Messiah, and is called the Star of Bethlehem by them. The Hebrew letters and the star are nearly pure gold, though the coin as a whole is only 30 per cent pure. It is said to be intrinsically worth \$6.70 in United States money.



Mr. Gottschalk tells the following interesting story as to how he came into possession of the coin: "About ten years ago I was traveling in Roumania. In the little town of Caralostepo I met and became well acquainted with an old rabbi whose family had possessed the "holy shekel" for the preceding three centuries. I was then employed assisting the persecuted Hebrews of that country to escape to America. As I was about to leave that country the old rabbi presented me with the coin as a token of his gratitude. Along with it he gave me parchment documents showing the unbroken train of possession by some member of his family since A. D. 1620. As near as I can learn from the traditions of the past the coin was used in Solomon's Temple about 3,400 years ago. There has been no use for such coins since, and it is genuine beyond any doubt. The 'holy shekel' was not used by the Jews as a circulating medium, but as an offering for certain prayers and religious ceremonies as it was customary to pay for—a custom that yet exists.

"There are many silver shekels in existence. They are not of this type, but were the coin used in the market places and formed the general medium. In the ancient days only very rich people could afford to give holy shekels, hence so few have been preserved.

"There is but one other such coin in existence so far as I have been able to learn, and that is in the British Museum, but not so well preserved as this one. The Museum offered to exchange with me and to let me name my own figures to compensate for the difference."

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