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The

STAMP

COLLECTOR



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July, 1886.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

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AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR,

F. J. ABBOTT, PUBLISHER.

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BRIEFFRAGEN
ALBUM.

KATALOG

PHILATELIA

THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

VOLUME I.

JULY, 1886.

NUMBER 1.

PHILATELY, OR STAMP COLLECTING.

The number of persons in this country who are interested in collecting postage and other kinds of stamps is estimated at two hundred thousand. This may seem a great many, but there are many times this number who not only do not collect stamps, but who do not even know that there is such a pursuit. I will venture to say, that if you should mention the term "philately" in a mixed assemblage of a thousand persons, not five per cent., or fifty persons, would know what you meant. Many of those who are ignorant of the meaning of this word "philately" understand, or think they understand, what is meant by *stamp collecting*. "O, yes," they will say, "that is a little boy's pastime. My little one is a stamp collector," and thus dismiss the subject as not worthy of any further attention.

This class of persons is just the one that this article is largely intended for. Philately is something more than mere child's play, and can no longer be dismissed by a word — often a contemptuous one, when addressed to a collector of mature years. It is indulged in extensively by children, to be sure — in fact, the majority of the two hundred thousand collectors alluded to are children — but is this in itself any reason why persons who have passed the period of childhood should not also be stamp collectors? While stamp collecting has its votaries so largely among children, those who have made it what it is to-day have long passed the period of childhood, and what was the pastime of that period is now the science they delight to pursue — the recreation of their hours of leisure.

The word "philately" is derived from the Greek words *φίλος*, dear, or friend, and *ἀτέλεια*, free of tax or charge, prepaid. Freely rendered, we have philately defined as meaning a friend or lover of prepayment,

as applied to stamped paper used for that purpose (see Webster's and Worcester's Dictionaries, *supplement*).

Having defined this word for the benefit of the novice (nearly every schoolboy who collects stamps already knew its significance), I will first give a slight sketch of the origin and growth of stamp collecting, and then endeavor to show wherein it is worthy of more attention than it now receives from adult persons who have leisure to dispose of, and money with which to indulge their whims.

The origin of stamp collecting is somewhat obscured, the name of the first collector and the year when collecting began being facts not definitely known. By some writers England is attributed with starting the mania, as it was then called, while others give France the credit. This much seems reasonably sure, that stamp collecting appeared to spring up spontaneously, all the world over, with the introduction of stamps for the purpose of prepaying postage. The early days of stamp collecting are noticeable for the ridicule showered upon its votaries — Knights of the Spit-Upon* they were called, and many other depreciative terms were applied to them. In 1863 the London *Saturday Review* made the appearance of a philatelic paper, *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, the occasion of a scathing article, ridiculing the new pastime. The writer, however, displayed considerable lack of knowledge on the subject, and several erroneous statements are made; noticeably when he says, "And they have a man of letters — of very many letters — Dr. Gray, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., etc., as guide, philosopher, and friend. It is to be regretted that this gentleman is not Dr. Gray of the British Museum," etc. Now, this gentleman *was* none other than "Dr. Gray, of the British Museum," as the writer of the article ought to have known. But in spite of adverse criticism, and in spite of that far more potent weapon, ridicule, stamp collecting flourished and prospered, and the boys and young men of that day who were attached to it are the heartiest advocates it has to-day.

In this country stamp collecting has been making rapid progress in the twenty years that have elapsed since the writer first began collecting. The great variety and beauty of our own stamps has, I think, had much to do with this; but the main reason is, that the youngsters who began collecting twenty or thirty years ago are now men, and with many of them the child's interest in stamps increased and strengthened with increasing years. Right here we have a most excellent example of the value of stamp collecting. When a man, or a number of men, can take up and carry on in after life a pleasurable pursuit

* When was a folly so pestilent hit upon,
As folks running mad to collect every spit-upon
Postoffice stamp that's been soll'd and been writ upon? — *Punch*.

begun in boyhood, there *must* be something in that pursuit worthy of attention from those who are ignorant on the subject; either that, or the individual is one who continues a child's folly in his mature years. As evidence that this latter cannot possibly be the case, many men could be cited, if necessary, whose names are familiar everywhere, who to-day take more pleasure with their stamp collections than ever they did when children.

A few words of inducement to persons of leisure and means, who are not especially attached to any one branch of collecting, but hover daintily on the border lands of all. Philately, or stamp collecting, affords as vast a field for you to work in as any branch of collecting now in vogue. The number of varieties of stamps is very large, and may be multiplied many times by including minute variations. In addition to this, every year brings forth a large number of fresh recruits; and in fact it may be said as it is of books, "of making many *stamps* there is no end." So much for the vastness of the field of labor. The would-be scientific collector should possess a ready eye, keen judgment, and a most excellent memory. If he does not possess these qualities, and desires to cultivate them, he could not find a better school than this self-same *boys' play*. As for getting a complete collection of existing stamps, he will have to content himself with the hope only of ever making his collection complete; for I do not believe that, no matter how much money a man might be able to put into a collection, such a thing as a complete collection of all the varieties that have existed up to, say, the beginning of this year, could ever be brought together. You will see from this statement that the seekers after the unattainable have a fine field here.

In regard to stamp collecting being a frivolous pursuit, a mere waste of time, I have to say, that, on the contrary, it keeps your mind constantly refreshed on points of geography, current history, and the history of the last forty years as well; politics, as illustrated in the changes that occur in governments; the art of engraving; and many minor points of more or less importance. It cultivates the memory and keenness of discernment, and in nine cases out of ten the boy who was an ardent collector of stamps, and stuck to it through a number of years, developed these qualities to a much greater extent than would have been the case had he never been a stamp collector.

In conclusion, I wish to quote a few prices which were paid for stamps at a recent auction sale in New York, as showing that stamp collecting is something more than mere boys' play. This sale occurred on the 12th and 13th of April last (and is but one instance out of a number of sales that have taken place this year), at the auction rooms of Messrs. Ortgies & Co., New York, some of the main features of which were the following:

United States — Brattleboro, 5c., \$145.00; Carriers', 1c., red, \$10.00; Carriers', head of Franklin, \$10.00; St. Louis 5c., \$55.00; St. Louis 10c., three varieties of die, \$26.00, \$30.00, and \$31.00 each; New Haven 5c., \$18.00; Postage, issue of 1869, 30c., with shield reversed, \$35.00; two 6c. envelopes of 1857, \$40.00 and \$44.00 respectively; 10c. War Department envelope, \$50.00. Canada — 12d., \$50.00. Cape of Good Hope — Wood block, 1d., blue, \$56.00. Confederate States — Baton Rouge, 5c., \$50.00; Goliad, Texas, 10c., \$95.00. Great Britain — 1d., black, V.R. in corners, \$34.00. Sandwich Islands — 13c., 1852, \$82.00; do., another variety, \$90.00. India — Afghanistan, 1872, sheet of sixty varieties of the 1sh., \$55.80. Newfoundland — 1sh., scarlet, \$55.00. Peru — 1858, $\frac{1}{2}$ p., red, \$58.00. Roumania — 1858, 27p., \$62.00; do., 54p., \$26.00. Spain — 1851, 2r., \$35.00; and many others.

Were these prices paid by boys for playthings? is the question I would ask of everyone who would call philately mere boys' play.

Philo.

A FEW FACTS CONCERNING THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

In the year 1873, Em. Fenard, first clerk of the postoffice, Honolulu, prepared for us, by command of Hon. C. R. Bishop, H. H. Majesty's minister of foreign affairs, a historical sketch of, and the laws relating to, the Hawaiian postoffice. This matter was published in the "Philatelist" for April and May, 1875. Recent investigations prove much of the information therein contained to be untrustworthy. The date of the first issue is given as 1852, but we propose to give the exact date of issue, and some facts hitherto unpublished. The Act of April 27, 1846, makes the first mention of the Hawaiian postoffice, and various regulations — all that were necessary in the incipient stage of civilization and industry then existing — were drawn up. Previous to 1859, all inter-island letters were carried free of charge. This was recommended by the minister of the interior as an inducement to the native population in letter writing. (See report in *Polynesian* newspaper, 1851.) The Act of June 18, 1851, to create and regulate a postoffice in Honolulu reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The fifteenth article of the treaty with the United States renders indispensable the establishment of a postoffice in Honolulu;

WHEREAS, The public interest urgently requires greater regularity in the postal intercourse between Honolulu and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The service of the postoffice cannot be performed without adequate remuneration;

Therefore, BE IT ENACTED by the house of nobles and representatives in legislative council assembled:

I.—There shall be established a postoffice in Honolulu, and, for the time being, the *Polynesian* office is declared to be the postoffice.

II.—The duties of the postmaster shall be performed by some person to be appointed, and compensated by, and subject to removal at the pleasure of the minister of the interior.

III.—The postmaster shall charge the following rates of postage to and from this kingdom, viz.: five cents for every single letter weighing less than half an ounce, forwarded to or received from any foreign port, and on packets weighing half an ounce, and under one ounce, ten cents, and five cents for every additional half ounce; two cents on each newspaper, price current, printed circular, or other printed paper (not being a pamphlet); two and one-half cents for every sheet of all pamphlets.

IV.—(This section relates to the compensation of ship captains for carrying mails.)

V.—(Relates to the delivery of mail to the postoffice boat.)

VI.—(Relates to the immediate delivery of mail from foreign vessels, etc.)

VII.—(Relates to the delivery of mail from vessels having contagious diseases on board.)

VIII.—(Relates to the delivery of inter-island mails by coasting vessels, etc.)

IX.—The outward postage on all letters, newspapers, and pamphlets shall in all cases be prepaid.

X.—The postmaster is hereby authorized to issue stamps of the value of the outward postage of letters, pamphlets, and newspapers.

XI.—This Act shall take effect immediately after publication in the *Polynesian* and *Elele* newspapers.

(Signed)

KAMEHAMEHA.

Keoni Ana.

By this Act, the postage on United States letters was reduced from fifty to thirteen cents to any point east of the Rocky Mountains. This amount covered the entire Hawaiian and United States postage, five cents being the foreign rate of the islands, two cents the United States sea postage, and six cents for the United States inland rate. Mr. H. M. Whitney was appointed postmaster of Honolulu, and he commenced the issue of stamps on the 28th of June, 1851. Mr. Em. Fenard fixed the date of issue as 1852, and states that Mr. Whitney was postmaster from that date to 1856. A reference to the files of the *Polynesian* newspaper fixes the date of issue, and shows us that Mr. Whitney was postmaster up to the middle of 1857. So much for official information. Three stamps were issued by Mr. Whitney, viz.:

two cents pale blue; five cents pale blue; thirteen cents pale blue; printed on yellowish-white paper. They were set up and printed in the Polynesian office, one form only being used for each value, consequently there



are no typical variations to long for. Our illustrations give a fair representation of these extremely scarce and interesting stamps, which are found in but a few princely collections.

We have stated that one form only was used for each value. We are informed by Mr. C. E. Hitchcock, the actual printer, that "they were struck off one at a time," and that "only a few hundreds were printed, as but a few were called for." All three values have the words "Hawaiian Postage" above the fancy inner framework, but some objections being made that the 13 cents, which was specially issued for the double Hawaiian and U. S. postage, only expressed the postage of the former. The design of that value was changed late in 1851, to more clearly denote the purpose for which it was intended, and "H. I. & U. S. Postage" replaced the former inscription. The mail carrier or inter-island delivery system was entirely suspended, by order of the King, in the latter part of 1855, and put in operation again June 1, 1856, as appears by the various postoffice notices published in the *Polynesian*. We intend to continue our researches, and hope to place before our readers many new facts regarding the subsequent issues of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

James M. Chute.

Now, gather up the scraps and fragments of thought on whatever subject you may be studying,—for of course by a note book I do not mean a mere receptacle for odds and ends, a literary dust bin,—but acquire the habit of gathering everything, whenever and wherever you find it, that belongs in your line or lines of study, and you will be surprised to see how such fragments will arrange themselves into an orderly whole by the very organizing power of your own thinking, acting in a definite direction. This is the true process of self-education; but you see it is no mechanical process of mere aggregation.—*The Choice of Books*, Charles F. Richardson.

A PHILATELIST'S OBSERVATIONS ABROAD.

To fully appreciate the magnitude and extent of stamp collecting one must travel. Your correspondent undertook a short pleasure trip across the Atlantic last fall, and while on the other side, in three short months learned more of the beautiful art of forgeries than he had ever dreamed of in the previous twenty years of his existence. In a word, Europe is full of forgers and forgeries. My excursion, while strictly one of pleasure, yet was also one of great profit and experience regarding the study we all take so much delight in. My albums, of course, accompanied me in my wanderings over the continent, and were in almost daily consultation with me. I made many additions to my six volumes in point of rarity and variety, and also picked up as curiosities a few well executed imitations of old and obsolete issues. America may be in its youth, so to speak, regarding stamp collections, but Europe certainly is in its old age, and perhaps its dotage, too, when we come to consider the curse of forgery which is fast dragging the beautiful art into low degrees. Our philatelic atmosphere is decidedly purer and clearer than the transatlantic "ozone." The day following my arrival at Antwerp, I strolled around the ancient thoroughfares of the pre-historic old "burg," just to see what I could see. I was at once struck with astonishment and surprise at the wonderful number of stamp dealers, with their wares so seductively displayed in their store windows. Everybody seemed to have a finger in the business. In the windows of shoe stores could be seen sheets of every kind of postage, adhesives and envelopes, revenue, and telegraph stamps. In the grocery stores, perched on heaps of greasy soap or on piles of questionable-looking brown sugar, were sets of rare and unused stamps. The *Bon Marché* had them; the millinery shops sold them; the tobacconists retailed them, and the bookstores wholesaled them. Poor, innocent stamps, what a hard time they must have had—that is, the good ones!

I verily believe that in the one town of Antwerp, there are more stamps of good and bad character than there are in the whole United States, with Canada thrown in. But what struck me as the most curious of all was the vast number of dealers, compared with the limited number of collectors. Where were the collectors? It occurred to me then that a majority of these fellows must be stamp sharks and that they must thrive upon somebody. Sure enough, from a little quiet observation and close attention to straws, I was not long in discovering that just such greenhorns as I was supposed to be usually swallowed the bait whole, without so much as nibbling.

As a rule, foreigners were the victims, and Americans and Englishmen did the most swallowing. Here was a go, and from the first

I resolved to be on my guard. I paused in front of a flush-looking window, the frontispiece of a prominent bookstore in the Rue Otto-Venus, and stood there in a sort of regretful admiration at the wonderful display of unused rarities lavishly strung out over some twenty-five or thirty square feet of space that might have been put to better use. Regret that so much good paper should be made the means of compounding a fraud, and admiration at the unblushing cheek and gall of the individuals who could enter on and keep up such gigantic schemes of deception with impunity. As I stood there scanning the lot and trying my best to separate the clean from the unclean, a smooth-tongued, oily-spoken old gentleman, who ought to have been in jail, came to the door with a bland smile upon his countenance, rubbing his hands industriously, and at the same time inquired if "Monsieur would like to view some real genuine *timbres poste* at a ruinous low figure?" I told him in bad French that Monsieur would do a little viewing, and so stepped inside to view, as it were. The respectable old gentleman looked me over with a cold, critical eye, and evidently took me for a greenhorn. I returned the stare with interest, and sized him up to be a rascal who wanted to fleece me. I was nearer the truth in my estimate than he was in his. Down came a huge volume containing scores of sheets of all kinds of stamps, among which were many desirable specimens, good and cheap, but the counterfeits outnumbered the others at least fifty per cent. I turned page after page until I came to a leaf containing some rare U. S. envelopes, unused, and all cut neatly square. Adorning this particular page were members of the 1853 issue of envelopes, such as the ten cents green on buff and on white; six cents red and ten cents green, on buff and on white, 1857-60 issue; three cents pink on blue paper, 1861 issue; and many others that needed only a glance to detect their spuriousness. These truly beautiful specimens averaged about thirty centimes apiece, or six cents each.

"Will Monsieur have that set?" inquired the dealer. "So cheap, and a positive loss to part with them."

"Where did you get them?" I inquired.

"Came direct from the postoffice in Washington" (he took me for an Englishman); "the postmaster general himself sent them over."

What exasperating nonsense! I mentally ejaculated. As if the head chief of our postal service would have any dealings with a questionable stamp dealer in far-away Antwerp. "Is that really so?" remarked I, with difficulty keeping my gravity.

"Oui, Monsieur; true as the cross," said the man, with Uriah Heep humbleness.

"Very well; I'll take the set"; and tossing a five-franc piece on the counter, which, by the way, was instantly snatched up by the inno-

cent old gentleman, I waited for my change. But no change was forthcoming.

"Monsieur take stamps for the balance?" insinuated my enemy.

This was cheeky, to say the least. He had got my money, and was going to force me to take the remainder due in trade.

What was I to do? Alone, on a foreign shore, with no friends at hand and my native country 3,000 miles away, I thought it best under the circumstances to "take it out in trade." Glancing over the big book again, I saw many genuine stamps, none of which, however, was I in any pressing need of; but still the persuasive eloquence of the respectable old gentleman lingered with me, and as the stamps were marked very low, I quickly made up my mind what to do. To own the truth, every stamp in the establishment, good or bad, was priced at least fifty per cent. below standard catalogue figures. In turning the leaves slowly over, I noticed that there was a generous assortment of current Belgian issues, and that they were marked at face value. These stamps I very well knew would pass as money anywhere in Antwerp. Here was my opportunity. Selecting the amount due me, I quickly folded them up and passed the same into my vest pocket before the astonished vendor of false goods could interpose an objection. Making him a polite bow and wishing him a very pleasant *bon jour*, I stepped outside on to the pavement and hurried down the street. After this neat *coup d'état*, he must have taken me for a Yankee, as I played him a Yankee trick. Elsewhere in Antwerp I found many good stamps at cheap prices, and made it a point to lay in a fair stock of the same whether I wanted them to fill vacancies in my books or not. I bought a great many Persian and Turkish, fine specimens, and didn't have to pay fancy prices for them either. In one small bookstore, hid away among the tall houses of an out-of-the-way street, I ran across what some would consider a bonanza. The dame and daughter who presided over the establishment, at my request to see some stamps, politely exhibited to me half a dozen good fat volumes, containing a very large assortment of adhesives and varieties. In a separate parcel were the uncut envelopes. I was somewhat surprised that so small a "shop" as this particular place of business appeared to be, and a bookstore at that, should carry a stock of philatelic goods that would have been a dealer's outfit in our own country. With a smile the pleasant lady let me into the secret, upon my making known what I desired to learn. The stock she carried was owned by a Parisian firm who passed them along from one city to another, each successive handler making a return of sales to the home office, and then sending them on to the next town. Of course, commissions were paid each according to the amount of business done. For instance, the six volumes I was then looking over were to go to Brussels next day, and in return or exchange, an

invoice would arrive from Amsterdam to replace the volumes en route to Brussels. Each intermediate salesman or saleswoman kept their respective lots at least a fortnight before forwarding to the next. It struck me as being quite a bright idea, as the goods were, in the manner described, perhaps displayed to thousands of eyes that might never have had the feast had the stamps been held by the owners in Paris and merely advertised. In my opinion, one of the greatest delights as well as the greatest inducements to stamp collecting is simple observation. One's desire to possess is always enhanced by seeing the possessions of others, and I am afraid many of us are inclined to covet. Therefore I think the system in vogue throughout northern Europe of passing stamps along from town to town and from city to city is a good one; that it serves to keep alive the interest of those already under the influence, and also tends to awaken the latent faculties of those who as yet know nothing of the delights in store for them. The big firm at Paris, in the manner described, thus kept their tremendous stock swinging around the circle, and no doubt created in localities a business and trade which would probably never have sprung into existence save for their happy idea. But I find my philatelic musings are carrying me off into endless ramblings, and so I will close right here, lest your many readers become tired with my everlasting "gabble," and class me with the long-winded preachers we hear or read about and yet dread to listen to. More anon.

J. M. T. Partello.

REPRESENTATIVE CHICAGO COLLECTIONS.

I. THE STARKWEATHER COLLECTION.

The evenings spent in looking over the very fine postage stamp collection of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Starkweather will long be remembered with feelings of the greatest pleasure. It would certainly be difficult, if not impossible, to find anywhere a more cordial host and hostess than the affable doctor and his amiable wife. Their interest in stamp collecting is of the substantial and enduring sort, and is not selfishly confined to their own collection alone, as is the case, unfortunately, with but too many advanced collectors. They are philatelists in the widest sense of the word, always ready to impart what information they can, and seeking constantly to increase their stamp lore, as well as to add new specimens to their collection.

This collection was started twenty years ago by Mrs. Starkweather, and now numbers nearly six thousand specimens. These consist entirely of postage stamps, mostly adhesives, with a very small sprinkling of cut envelopes. Local stamps and revenues are disregarded, as

are also postal cards. The specimens are well arranged in an imperial album, the well filled pages of which must be a source of constant delight to its owners and their stamp collecting friends.

In taking up their first volume one is struck with the completeness of the European portion of the collection. Only here and there are a few stamps wanting, and many a rare stamp greets the eye. Noticeable among the French stamps are five of the series of 1853, with large (7) perforation (*la susse*); Finland has fine specimens of the early issues. Great Britain has, in addition to an almost complete set of adhesives, beautiful specimens of the penny Mulready envelope and wrapper. The Italian set includes five canceled specimens of the issues from 1851 to 1854, all in excellent condition. The Roman States have a full representation, nearly all used, and include very fine used specimens of the fifty baj. and one scudo values. The Swiss series includes a fine assortment of cantonals — Basle, Geneva, and Zurich — and also a number of the stamps issued by the Federal administration. But the principal attraction of this volume is in the Turkish set. Mrs. Starkweather has for a long time made these stamps the subject of special study, and is more thoroughly acquainted with their many peculiarities than any other person I have met. The set numbers one hundred and sixty distinct varieties, and although not yet complete, makes a very striking display. It is to be hoped that Mrs. Starkweather will, ere long, favor the public with the result of her researches. The subject is certainly one of great interest to collectors, and has not yet been fully treated in all its particulars.

Passing on to the second volume, the first sight that meets the eye is a number of fine Cabul stamps. The majority of these are canceled in the manner peculiar to that country, viz.: by having a small piece cut or torn off them, which is done before affixing them to the envelope. Cashmere has a much larger representation than is usually seen, even in large collections. The Ceylon collection is admirable, and includes nearly all the surcharges. Hyderabad, or Deccan, also has a fine display. The Hong Kong set only lacks the color variety of the ninety-six cents stamp. A splendid lot of native Indian stamps next calls for special attention. The Japanese set is nearly complete, and is followed by all five of the stamps issued not long ago by Corea. The Persian stamps make very attractive pages, and are set off by an exceedingly fine canceled specimen of the ten-francs value. The recent surcharges for British Bechuanaland here have verification in a canceled specimen of the one-penny value. The balance of the series is also here, but uncanceled. The one-penny stamp came through the Chicago postoffice in the regular course of the foreign mail, and is, beyond the possibility of a doubt, authentic. Mauritius shows some fine canceled specimens of the "Britannia" series; St. Helena, a sixpence

blue, star water mark; Sierra Leone, a full uncanceled set; and Transvaal a very fine assortment. The South American stamps are well represented, particularly the U. S. of Columbia. Here are found two of the three small stamps of the first issue of Bolivar, the five and the ten pesos of 1880 (large rectangular stamps), and many others equally or more rare. The Brazilian set is exceptionally good, as is also that of British Guiana; among the latter is a twelve-cents 1880 issue, surcharged 5d. in red, large figure. Major Evans, in his "Handbook," says of this stamp, "the meaning of this surcharge is unknown to me." Argentine Republic also displays some fine surcharges, notably the one cent, two cents, and eight cents on the five and ten centavos of the issue of 1867-76, and some specimens of this same issue surcharged in large black letters. The Cuban series is the nearest complete of any collection I ever examined. Guatemala includes the rare four reals and the one peso of 1873. Mexico is resplendent with rarities, and includes a one centavo, blue, current issue, unperforated. The rare St. Lucia, blue (6d), with star water mark, is here found in perfect condition; likewise the ten centimes, 1880 issue, of New Caledonia. This latter stamp is unquestionably genuine, having been removed from the original envelope many years ago by the doctor himself. Of the very full collection of Australian stamps the most noticeable are two fine specimens of the "Sydney Views." Last, but by no means least, we have the stamps of our own country. Our civil strife is brought to mind by the choice collection of Southern stamps. The five cents, green, of 1861, is preserved on the original envelope; and such rare provisionals as the Memphis five-cents envelope, the five-cents Mobile, five-cents Baton Rouge, five-cents Charleston, and others attract much attention. The United States adhesives are here in full force, every stamp issued from 1847 to the present time, and including the departments and periodicals entire, being represented, grill varieties and errors alone excepted. Local and provisional stamps are without representation. The envelope stamps are somewhat of a disappointment as compared with the adhesives; but when we bear in mind Dr. and Mrs. Starkweather's statement that they give little or no attention to this interesting branch of stamp collecting, their absence is accounted for. However, they do have a few fine envelopes, in particular an exceedingly fine specimen of the four-cent, compound value, of 1860, on white paper.

One point in connection with these United States stamps struck me very forcibly. The set of the 1869 issue appears for the most part uncanceled, and these uncanceled stamps were purchased while in current use at the postoffice by Dr. Starkweather, and are *without grill*. I have long held the opinion that this series was issued by the government both with and without grill, and every now and then have run

across something to confirm that opinion. About two years ago I myself removed a two-cents stamp without grill from a letter mailed in 1869, and that first led me to believe they were so issued for use; but whether they were issued intentionally or by accident is a question that still puzzles me. The testimony of Dr. Starkweather, however, is sufficient to settle the question of their existence, and time will perhaps settle the question of intention.*

The method employed in this collection is excellent, and will commend itself to all collectors. The various sets appear generally with the low values unused and the high ones canceled, with as light a canceling mark as can be obtained. There is much in favor of this plan, and it forms a middle ground between all canceled or all uncanceled that the champions of both sides can unite on.

Considered as a whole, this collection is a very fine one, and an honor to our city. While it contains none of the exceptionally rare stamps, it maintains a very high average, and is an evidence of the philatelic ability and knowledge of its collectors.

FRANKLIN ON OCEAN TRANSPORTATION.

Hon. John Bigelow has collated in the *June Century*, from the unpublished letters of Benjamin Franklin, twenty-four of the most important and interesting. From one of these we quote the following:

“Four Packet Boats were at first thought sufficient between Fal-mouth and New York, so as to dispatch one regularly the first Wednesday in every month. But by experience it was found that a fifth was necessary; as without it, the regularity was sometimes broken by accidents of wind and weather, and the merchants disappointed and their affairs deranged, a matter of great consequence in commerce. A fifth Packet was accordingly added.

“It is probable, as you observe, that the English will keep up their Packets. In which case I should think it advisable to order the dispatch of the French Packets in the intermediate times, that is, on the third Wednesdays. This would give the merchants of Europe and America opportunities of writing every fortnight. And the English who had missed writing by their own Packet of the first Wednesday, or have new matter to write which they wish to send before the next month, will forward their letters by the post to France to go by the French Packet, and *vice versa*, which will increase the inland postage of both nations.”

* We should be pleased to hear from any collector having canceled specimens of the 1869 issue of U. S., *without grill*. It will oblige us if you will send such particulars as you may be able, and a list of the values you may have.

PHILATELICAL ORGANIZATION.

NEW YORK, CHICAGO, ATLANTA, June 25, 1886.

To the Philatelists of the United States :

The project of establishing a National Philatelic Society has now been the leading subject with philatelists, philatelic societies, and the philatelic press for a sufficient length of time, and has received enough emphatic and hearty indorsement from leading philatelists, to warrant an effort being made at organization. In order to bring about this result without delay, a National Committee, consisting of the persons whose names are affixed to this circular, has been formed, to undertake the first efforts in this direction, and to take the steps necessary for organizing at as early a day as may be expedient.

The objects we are striving for through the medium of a National Society are the promotion and advancement of Stamp Collecting in all its branches; the dissemination of philatelic knowledge; facilitating the exchange of duplicates (through a bureau of exchanges); and obtaining new issues at cost price.

There is no reason why philatelists in this country should not have as successful a society, with a complete international correspondence, as any of those that are now flourishing in other lands; on the contrary, there is every reason to look forward to a grand organization that shall eclipse them all. It is only a question of time and united effort, and if you will seize upon the present favorable opportunity, and work together, this year will yet witness the organization of a society that any philatelist will be proud to be a member of.

We desire the aid of every philatelist in the land, and would strongly urge the formation of local societies in every community where six philatelists can be brought together. Let every society communicate with the member of this committee who is most convenient to it; and let every individual philatelist, who is not connected with any society, do the same. In this way we will soon be able to ascertain how many, and who, are willing to unite with us. And we would, furthermore, urge the desirability of doing this *at once*; it is not a question that requires a great amount of time for consideration, but one that needs your prompt and earnest action.

We trust that the philatelists to whom this appeal is sent will extend us their aid and support by forwarding their names without delay for enrollment on our list of prospective members.

THEO. F. CUNO (N. P. S. of New York),
148 Jefferson Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 S. B. BRADT (Chicago S. C. U.),
Grand Crossing, Ill.
 W. G. WHILDEN, JR.,
93 Washington St., Atlanta, Ga.

RECORD OF NEW ISSUES.

EDITED BY R. R. BOBERT.

ANGOLA.—A series has just been issued somewhat resembling the 1870 issue of Portugal. The inscription above the head is "Provincia de Angola."

ANTIGUA.—There are three new post cards, 1d., and 1×1d., carmine, and 1½d.×1½d., red brown.

AUSTRIA.—Letter cards are to be issued in eight languages. There are four values, 3kr., green; 5kr., red; 3 soldi, and 5 soldi; on blue card, with white inside.

BELGIUM.—The letter cards are out with the new stamps; 10c., carmine on blue, and 25c., blue on rose.

BHOPAL.—The ½ Anna, with letters in corners, is now red, instead of black, and unperforated.

BOLIVIA.—The new stamps resemble the issue of 1870, with eleven stars. They are: 1c., rose; 2c., violet; 5c., ultramarine; 10c., green. Envelopes: 5c., blue; 10c., orange. Post cards: 1c., brown on apple green (for interior); and 2c., ultramarine, blue on cream (union postal universal). Other values are being prepared: 3c., 15c., 20c., 25c., 50c.; and registry stamps, 10c., 15c., and 20c.

CAPE VERDE.—A new set, similar to that of Angola, has appeared. They are inscribed "Provincia de Cabo-Verde," and are: 5r., black; 10r., green; 20r., carmine; 25r., lilac; 40r., brown; 50r., blue; 100r., brown; 200r., violet, and 300r., orange. (See illustration.)

CEYLON.—There are two new stamps, 25c., brown, and 28c., gray-green. The head of Victoria is in an octagon, below which is a fancy-shaped tablet, containing numerals of value. At the top is "Ceylon Postage."



COREA.—We have received the 25 mon orange, 50 mon green, and 100 mon blue and red. (See illustration.)

CYPRUS.—We have a new stamp of the current design, 12 piasters, Venetian red.

DUTCH INDIES.—The 7½c. post card is now on white, instead of buff.

GREECE.—On April 1, a new series, unperforated, of three values was issued—25 lepta, blue; 50 lepta, bronze green; 1 drachma, gray. (See illustration.)



GUATEMALA.—Mr. Durbin describes a proof of the new 1-centavo stamp. In the center is a scroll, inscribed "Libertad 15 de Septiembre, 1821," on which is seated the national bird. This is surrounded by a horseshoe, inscribed "Union Postal Universal." In the upper corners are a train of cars and a steamship. Below the horseshoe is "Guatemala, C. A.," and at the bottom the value. We understand that the values will run from 1-centavo to 2 dollars.



HOLKAR.—We have received a stamp from this state, having the portrait of the rajah in an oval. At the right is "Holkar State Postage"; at the bottom "Half Anna," and at the left and top, native inscriptions. The color is mauve. There will be four other values, 1, 2, 4, and 8 Annas. (See illustration.)

ITALY.—There are two new stamps for packets: 10c., olive green, and 20c., blue. 15c. letter cards are also expected.



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JHIND.—The surcharge is now spelled "Jeend."

LAGOS.—A green half-penny stamp of the current type has lately been issued.

MACAO.—We have the 10r., green; 20r., carmine, and 40r., yellow.

NABHA.—The surcharge is now in two horizontal lines.

PERU.—The new issue, it is stated, made its appearance on May 15, but we have no particulars.

ROUMANIA.—The 5 bani green and 10 bani red of the new design are reported.

RUSSIA.—Reply paid cards are now in use, 3×3k., rose on buff.

SHANGHAI.—The 40 cash is now printed in brown.

SORUTH.—Both values now come perforated.

TOBAGO.—We have both the 2½d. and the 6d., surcharged in black, "¼ penny."

TOLIMA.—Two new stamps have been issued, 5c., brown, and 10c., blue. They resemble the 1883 Colombia, and are perforated. There are also three new Cubiertas: 5c., yellow; 10c., blue, and 50c., red. The inscriptions are the same as those on the previous issue, but the circles in the corners contain the figures of value only, and not the word "cents."



U. S. OF COLOMBIA.—New 10c. stamps are now arriving, with the portrait of Dr. Nuñez, president of the Republic. They are inscribed "Republica de Colombia." There is no change in color, which is still orange. (See illustration.)

POSTMASTER-GENERAL VILAS is exciting some newspaper comment on his method of manipulating some of the foreign mails. The *New York Nautical Gazette* says: "The Vilas line steamer, Edith, is advertised by the postal authorities to leave here next Saturday with the mails for Mexican Central America and the west coast ports. How is this? Isn't there some huge blunder here? She doesn't go anywhere near those ports, her destination being Jamaica."

A *New York* dispatch to the *Chicago Inter Ocean* says: "The steamer Manhattan, which sailed from here a week ago, took down the first mails under the new arrangement, and it is understood that the postmaster general had agreed to compensate the Mexican government for the extra service and its mail agents by paying a certain amount for the mails taken on each steamer. The Alexandre steamers have a contract with the Mexican government, and have had one for years, by which it pays a certain amount annually to the company for carrying the mails. It has never been supposed, however, that the contract covered the carrying of mails from New York. But when the proposition was made to the Alexandre Line by the Mexican Minister to carry the mails from New York, the Mexican mail agent agreeing to take charge of them, it consented as a matter of courtesy rather than one of obligation. In fact the question was never raised as to their being obliged to take the mails from New York, nor will they raise it. A Mexican mail agent is allowed to travel on each steamer, and he takes official charge of the mails, although the company is responsible for their safe carriage. Under the new arrangement he goes to the postoffice here and receives the mails; the understanding with the company being that he is to receive the Mexican bags only. It was reported that on the Manhattan were three bags of mail for Havana in addition to the ten for Mexico, which were surreptitiously sent with the Mexican mails, and which it is believed the mail agent knew nothing about. An investigation is to be made to ascertain whether the postmaster general had by trickery deceived the mail agent and the company, and if any is landed at Havana the postmaster general may hear something."

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE following letter was received by a firm who deal in postage stamps:

"MESSRS. _____:

"Dear Sirs.—Please send me some approval sheets (four) with stamps from some of the following countries: United States (must be good bargains), Cape of Good Hope and other British colonies, Natal, U. S. departments, New York and New Haven postoffice stamps, Swart's, Hussey's, Boyd's and Blood's locals, two sets of Chinese, Jamaica, U. S. newspaper, Azores, Porto Rico, Poland, Sweden, Peru, Hamburg, Luxemburg, Guadeloupe, St. Thomas, Chili, Canada, England, and registered England. I want these stamps for thirty days. I want to have as many as can be low-priced.

"Respectfully, _____."

THAT the approval sheet dealer's lot is not a happy one may be inferred from this letter; for, although it is a trifle harder nut than the average for the dealer to crack, still it is a good specimen of the difficulties in their way. In this particular case, I hardly think the writer a rogue (the swindler always sends plenty of references, but in this instance references are not alluded to), but rather think the letter attributable to inexperience. However, it may be that this letter is but one of many sent to different dealers; in which case I would advise them to look sharply after any sheets sent in answer to such a letter as the foregoing.

* * *

A WELL known Chicago book and autograph collector remarked the other day, that while in New York recently, he had, by accident, witnessed a postage-stamp auction. "It was the most animated scene I ever witnessed in the way of an auction sale. Book or autograph sales are nowhere in comparison. The interest was intense, and the bidding sharp and lively. The buyers evidently knew what they wanted, and bids ran up, \$25, \$26, \$27, and so on." Upon being interrogated as to the composition of the crowd in attendance, he replied: "A fine-looking lot of men." "No boys?" I asked. "No boys, all men," was the reply. This, coming from a man who is not a stamp collector, is a further verification of the right philately has to be numbered among the first of collecting diversions; and it is to be hoped that witnessing this stamp auction will be but the prelude to further and greater interest in philately on the part of this gentleman.

* * *

MR. DURBIN, in the *Philatelic Monthly*, takes exception to the spaces prepared for revenue stamps in the new edition of the International Album, and says he does not think they "have any place in a postage stamp collection, or a postage stamp album; and hence we think it a mistake to provide spaces for them in a book which is declared to be a postage stamp album." In all of which we quite agree; not that we want to discourage the collecting of revenue stamps, but rather because we wish to encourage that branch of philately, and the few spaces for revenues in the album referred to does not admit of anything like a full collection of these interesting stamps. Take Mr. Durbin's advice in regard to the pages these spaces are on, and "cut them out." Revenue and postage stamps should be kept separate, by all means.

* * *

THE practice that was in use for a short time some years ago of surrounding an envelope stamp with an advertisement has again been adopted. We have received the current two cents envelope with a band a fourth of an inch wide around it, printed in the same color as the stamp, and lettered in relief, "D. Appleton & Co." at top, "Educational Publishers" at bottom, and in spaces cor-

responding with the numerals of the stamp the letters "N. Y." We trust that the government will not permit this method of advertising to continue; in fact, we have every reason to believe that this latest attempt was immediately put down, as an examination of a large number of envelopes mailed by the same firm since the receipt of the one mentioned has failed to develop another specimen.

* * *

THE Robinson collection of autographs was sold at auction, yesterday, by Bangs & Co., No. 739 Broadway. Thomas Carlyle's signature brought \$8; that of Edwin P. Christy, the original minstrel, \$1.60; Henry Clay, dated 1840, \$1; De Witt Clinton, 85 cents; Peter Cooper, 75 cents; George Cruikshank, with sketches, \$7; Jefferson Davis, \$1.30, and a letter written by him, \$7; Charles Dickens, with letters from 1838 to 1869, \$51; Robert Fulton's steamboat patent, written by himself in 1809, \$67; Nathaniel Hawthorne, \$13.50; a letter from Thomas Jefferson, \$30; Andrew Jackson, \$5.50; a letter by Lafayette, dated 1786, \$5; a letter by Lincoln, dated 1865, \$13.50. Many other autographs were sold, at prices ranging from \$1 to \$25.

* * *

THE stamp and coin establishment of Messrs. Stevens & Co., 90 Randolph Street, is fast becoming the rendezvous for all stamp collectors in and about Chicago. Strangers invariably, and as if by instinct, find themselves in "Steve's" before they have been in the city many hours, and always to the advantage of both parties. Stevens & Co. have recently added largely to their stock by buying, entire, the very complete stock of the late firm of Foster & Co., to say nothing of other and smaller dealers' stocks they have absorbed in their rapidly increasing business. The Chicago Union has at last found a home with these kind friends, and wish to express their thanks for Mr. Stevens's courtesy.

* * *

MR. FRANK MOORE, the millionaire who has recently been appointed postmaster at Baltimore, has called upon the postmaster general, and several members of congress, and advocated a change in the method of delivery of mail matter in large cities which he claims will greatly facilitate the same. His plan is to do away with general offices in the large cities, and substitute smaller offices in convenient localities. The mail would be distributed by the postal clerks on the cars, so that when the train reaches a city, the pouches for each district could be sent to the various offices, and distributed at once.

* * *

THERE recently came under my notice a two-cents news wrapper of the current issue of Great Britain that had received two separate impressions from the die. One of these impressions was in the proper place, and the other (evidently an accidental one) was located considerably above the first, and just touching the edge of the wrapper. This latter stamp has printed across it the words *canceled stamp*, showing that the postal authorities preferred to send out the wrapper in this condition rather than destroy it. This philatelic curiosity is possessed by a Chicago collector, and is undoubtedly unique.

* * *

A FORM of the collecting mania that some of our readers may not be acquainted with is the collecting of book plates. *The Book Buyer* (New York) is publishing a very interesting series of illustrated articles entitled "Some American Book Plates," and such as are interested in this subject would do well to read them. The May and June numbers of the same magazine also give a list of names and addresses of book-plate collectors.

THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETIES.

We shall be glad to have all the societies represented in this department, and will send *The Stamp Collector* free to those regularly sending us reports of their meetings. Reports must reach us not later than the 20th of each month.

THE CHICAGO STAMP COLLECTORS' UNION.

Both of the June meetings of the C. S. C. U. were full of interest to the members present. At the meeting held on the 4th, the subject of national organization took up all the time, to the utter exclusion of any other topic. At the last meeting, the same subject was again brought up; the special committee on organization made their final report, and were relieved from further duty, their work being taken up by a national committee. Much discussion was indulged in on the question of raising the dues of members. At the last meeting in May notice was given that action would be taken at this meeting on a constitutional amendment raising the membership dues from fifty cents a quarter to fifty cents a month. Much opposition was developed, but after some filibustering the opposition joined the majority, and the amendment was carried unanimously. The auction sales, inaugurated in May, and continued at the meetings since then, were made a feature of the society, and a motion was carried giving ten per cent. of the gross receipts of such sales to the society. Two new members have been admitted this month.

NASHVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Nashville Philatelic Society was organized in February, 1886, and has had five regular meetings. The officers are president, L. H. Gale; vice-president, B. F. Cheatham, Jr.; secretary, J. M. Gray, Jr.; treasurer, D. W. Porter; librarian, A. J. Porter, Jr. The official organ is the *Cumberland Collector*, although short reports of meetings, etc., will be published in this paper. The society has a collection of stamps, and quite a number of books, papers, etc. Philately is on a "boom," and new members are joining.

J. M. GRAY, JR., Secretary.

NEW MILFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

This Society was organized November 18, 1885, with six members. At our quarterly meeting, April 2, the following officers were elected for one term: J. W. Turrill, president; G. S. Hill, vice-president; Maurice U. Levy, secretary and treasurer.

Thanks are due Mr. E. B. Sterling for one of his catalogues of U. S. Stamps, latest edition.

Mr. J. W. Turrill was appointed librarian, but he being away at present the secretary was appointed librarian, with full power. All communications should be addressed to Maurice U. Levy, Sec. N. M. P. S., Box 50, New Milford, Conn.

THE POMEROY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Pomeroy Philatelic Society, of Toledo, was organized in March of the present year, with C. N. Bishop, president; M. Loenshal, vice-president; E. D. Kline, secretary and treasurer, and an executive committee of three members, J. M. Krumm, W. H. Brown, and A. Parker.

The society was named "Pomeroy" in honor of George E. Pomeroy, Sr., an old resident of Toledo, and the originator of the Pomeroy Letter Express — using one of the first stamps ever issued.

Our society is composed of ten active members, with several applications on file. Regular meetings are held on second Thursdays of each month.

E. D. KLINE, Secretary.

THE PROPOSED NATIONAL SOCIETY.

The committee who are making arrangements for organizing a National Philatelic Society, having different views as to the best method of conducting exchanges of stamps, wish to submit the following plans, and, at the same time, to request all persons interested to communicate with them on the subject; stating which plan has their preference, or outlining some other plan.

I. EXCHANGE OF STAMPS BY MEANS OF APPROVAL SHEETS.

The plan advocated by the undersigned has been in operation in almost all of the European societies for years, and it is modeled after that of the Dresden Society, the most successful one of all. It is simple, and combines cheapness with equity and security from fraud and speculation. The Dresden Society circulated stamps to the value of \$3,000 in 1885, at a cost of five per cent. No complaints of any kind have been made to or about the superintendent of the Bureau, W. Sellschopp, located at Rostock, Mecklenburg. There is no need of a clumsy system of bookkeeping, no need of keeping on hand a large stock of stamps, very little printing to be done, and the correspondence is small. Any other plan entails a correspondence with hundreds of members; the Dresden plan reduces the correspondence to the small number of local societies, multiplied by the number of times at which the packages with exchanges are sent out from the bureau.

The plan operates as follows:

The superintendent issues sheets and envelopes at a stated price, say from two to five cents apiece. This gives the revenue to cover the cost of the bureau. Every member having duplicates procures the desired number of sheets and envelopes from the chairman of his local society. He then puts his duplicates on the sheets, or in the envelopes, marks them with his number and name, as well as with the prices of the different specimens, and then hands them to his chairman, who gathers in the sheets from all members. The whole is sent to the superintendent, who books the amount, puts together the sheets of several local societies, and mails them to two or three other societies, taking care that no society gets their own stamps back. As soon as such a book of sheets arrives, the members of the respective local societies, after having agreed who shall have the first choice, taking turns in doing so, select the stamps they desire, giving each member three days to keep the book, and when all have had their choice the book is sent further, or returned to the bureau, together with the amount paid for the stamps taken from the sheets. The superintendent pays from this sum what is due to every society for the stamps they have sent in, or asks for the balance, if they have taken more from the sheets than they have furnished him. Provisions are made to prevent any society from keeping a book longer than the number of its members entitles them to. For every day a book is kept more than the stated time, a fine of ten or twenty-five cents is to be paid. On the day when the book is to be sent to the next society the superintendent must be notified by sending him a postal card. For failure to do so a fine is collected also. The bureau pays the postage for everything it sends out, and so does every local society. The printing, etc., is paid for with the money coming in for sheets and envelopes. It is the duty of the superintendent to so change the routes of circulation of books, etc., that every local society receives the latter in turn, giving them an equal chance of first choice.

The superintendent receives no salary, but he has a right to circulate his own sheets free of cost, and to have first choice from all sheets sent to him. No professional dealer can become superintendent.

Provisions may also be made to circulate books, etc., among individual members who do not belong to any local society.

If there is anyone knowing of a plan more adaptable, and as cheap and simple as the above-described, I would be glad to hear from him. If not, I ask all who have the progress of rational and equitable interchange of duplicates at heart to give this plan their approval.

Brooklyn, July, 1886.

Theo. F. Cuno.

II. EXCHANGE OF STAMPS THROUGH A BUREAU OF EXCHANGES.

An important factor in our proposed National Society will be a system for the exchange of stamps, between members, that will give each an equal chance to secure such specimens as they most desire, from the list of exchanges offered, and that will give satisfaction to all. The existing systems of exchange, as far as I am acquainted with them, do not appear to give equal chances to all; in each case some person or persons has first choice and the balance are compelled to take what they can get after the choice stamps are taken, or go without.

I would propose that the exchanges of the society be accomplished through a committee of three members, to be known as the Bureau of Exchange and to be elected by the popular vote. The chairman of this committee, or bureau, shall be the actual agent in making exchanges, the remainder of the committee serving as overseers of his work, and also rendering him such services as they can. Each member of the society shall have the privilege of sending any stamps he may desire to dispose of, through exchanging,—but not exceeding in value twenty-five dollars,—to the bureau of exchange, and the value of the same, according to the standard price-list of the society, shall be placed to his credit in the exchange account,—subject, however, to the discrimination of the bureau, as hereinafter provided for. Each member shall be entitled to receive such stamps as he may select from the monthly bulletin, but not exceeding the value of the stamps standing to his credit; and, furthermore, each member ordering from the bureau must enclose sufficient stamps for the return postage on his order, and must also fully prepay all parcels of stamps and communications addressed to the bureau. Members not having stamps for exchange may purchase any of the stamps listed in the bulletin for cash, at 25 per cent. discount from the prices there quoted.

The bureau of exchange shall credit to the individual members sending them the value of all consignments of stamps sent in, before placing the same in the general stock of the society, and no member can reclaim the stamps sent in by him except by ordering them from the bulletin list. And in case any member shall fail to receive full exchange for his consignment within six months from the date of sending it, he shall be at liberty to demand a settlement in cash from the bureau, at 40 per cent. discount from list prices; such accounts to be drawn up by the bureau and to be paid by the treasurer in the same manner that other obligations of the society are discharged.

In order to prevent an accumulation of undesirable stamps the bureau of exchange shall be at liberty to reject any stamps sent them for exchange that, in their opinion, may be too common or in poor condition, or of which it may already have a sufficient supply; such rejected stamps to be returned to the members sending them at their own expense.

The bureau of exchange shall make and publish, monthly, a list of all the exchanges offered; giving the quantity of each specimen on hand, and any remarks about the specimens offered, such as "reprint," "specimen," "poor condition," "doubtful," "had cancellation," etc. This list will be mailed to all

members on the same day; and at a set day afterward, say ten or twelve days, in order to equalize distances, all the orders received shall be placed in a bag, well mixed, and then be taken out by the chairman, in the presence of at least one of the other members of the bureau and one member of the society who is not a member of the bureau; as the orders are taken from the bag they shall be numbered consecutively by a member of the bureau, and the chairman, at his convenience, shall fill all orders in rotation, commencing with number one.

Finally, the chairman should receive some remuneration for his services; and I think a satisfactory officer could be had by allowing him, in addition to his actual expenses, five per cent. on all consignments received by him,—of course this would have to be taken in stamps and in the same manner that other members would get their stamps. Furthermore, in order to protect the society from possible loss, the chairman of the bureau should be compelled to give bonds to the society, and, in case he should be unable to furnish satisfactory individual bonds, the society should pay the premium necessary for obtaining bonds from one of the institutions that make a business of furnishing them.

Whatever objections may be raised to this plan, I do not think anyone will say that it does not provide equal chances to all members. No individual in the society will be privileged at all under such a system. It will be urged, perhaps, that it is expensive, and, perhaps, that the machinery is too complicated. In regard to the first point, I do not think it necessarily involves much expense. A monthly publication of some sort will have to be issued, anyway, and the additional printing of the exchange list will not greatly increase its expense, and certainly will not increase the postage on it. The expense for postage will fall on the members availing themselves of the bureau—a slight expense to each one, but a considerable amount in the aggregate, if borne by the society. In regard to the machinery necessary to carry out this plan, it may require a little more work than some other systems; but if it gives the satisfaction we ought to derive from it, the extra work involved would cut little or no figure. It would be necessary to have as chairman of the bureau a person sufficiently acquainted with bookkeeping to properly keep the exchange accounts of the members; but, on the other hand, a certain amount of bookkeeping would be necessary under any system that could be devised.

In conclusion, I think it would be desirable for earnest philatelists to give this subject their early consideration, and see whether a perfectly satisfactory system of exchanges can be inaugurated in our society; a system that will combine cheapness and simplicity with fairness and equity.

GRAND CROSSING, July, 1886.

S. B. Bradt.

The committee also wish to say that sufficient members are now pledged to insure a successful organization, and they would ask those intending to join the society to carefully consider the question of temporary officers, and to send to them, as early as possible, the names of such persons as each individual member, or each society, would prefer for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. If all the members will respond promptly to this request, it will greatly aid the committee in arranging preliminaries for an election of officers. These officers will be elected for the purpose of organizing the society, and will have full power to draw up a constitution and rules for the government of the society. Their term of office will be but temporary, and they will be succeeded by permanent officers as soon as their work is accomplished.

EDITORIAL CHAT.

WHY WE ARE HERE.

It is customary for new ventures in literature to advance some reason for their appearance, some apology or excuse for their trespassing upon the time of their fellow men. We do not wish to be considered as making any apology for our appearance, but do wish to state *why we are here*.

Stamp Collecting, while it possesses a host of representatives in amateur journalism, has had but very little recognition, thus far, in literature. For years there has been a demand among advanced collectors for a journal that would represent them fairly; one that would stand comparison with the journals supported by the followers of other similar pursuits; and one that would offer a medium for the better dissemination of philatelic knowledge and the interchange of ideas on the leading issues connected with stamp collecting. In the STAMP COLLECTOR an effort is made to produce just such a journal as this, and the effort is made in full confidence of the support of all that great army of stamp collectors which is said to number well on to two hundred thousand members in this country alone. Of course we hardly expect to get the entire two hundred thousand on our subscription list this year; in fact, we will be highly gratified to receive ten per cent. of them to start with. But what we do want is to have every one of them see and examine this number, and then consider whether he can continue to be a stamp collector and get along without such a journal as this promises to be.

We will provide our readers, each month, with about thirty-two pages of reading matter. In order to do this we have spared neither effort nor expense in securing the ablest writers there now are on our subject, and will use every endeavor to draw out such new talent in this branch of literature as has heretofore remained in obscurity, awaiting a chance to assert itself. To any such we extend a cordial invitation to make their talents known to the philatelic world through the medium of our columns.

In our *Record of New Issues* we will chronicle, and illustrate, the latest candidates for admission to stamp collections. Our *Correspondence* department, it is hoped, will be the means of drawing out a great many points of general interest such as collectors will frequently embody in a letter, while they would hesitate, or be unable, to write articles on the subject. In *Queries* will be found a convenient receptacle for such philatelic nuts as our readers may want cracked for them. We hope that all stamp societies will aid us in making the *Philatelic Societies* an interesting feature, by keeping us well informed of the doings of their respective societies. The remaining departments, *Notes and News*, *Exchange Notices*, *Book Reviews*, and *Folly as it Flies*, will, each in its way, afford such information as is implied in the title.

Having said this much in behalf of our literary venture, we will now ask stamp collectors to examine our columns and judge for themselves whether they consider it worth their while to afford us their support.

We shall be pleased to have philatelists who are able and willing to prepare good, original articles on any branch of our subject send their MSS. to us for examination. We will pay good prices for good articles, and hope that the many able stamp collectors who have not yet been heard from in this field will respond to our call.

We also desire good, live correspondents in all the leading cities of the world, and will be glad to make permanent arrangements with any such who will communicate with us.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Under this heading we shall insert any communications that our friends may send us for that purpose, when such shall be of a nature to interest our readers.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., June 19, 1886.

EDITORS OF THE STAMP COLLECTOR:

Dear Sirs,—I suppose you have succeeded in getting the first number of your paper to press, and I hope you have something original and entertaining to lay before the philatelic world. There is plenty of room for a paper of the right sort. * * * We can't expect to match the old *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, or even *The Philatelist*. Those days seem to have passed, though I cannot see why. Collectors are just as numerous, and fully as earnest; but we cannot get such writers, for some reason. American stamp literature of to-day is lacking in original and *faithful* articles. Perhaps I am wrong in saying original. I guess there is no doubt but what most of it *is* original—altogether too much so to be of benefit to any one. But as I look over many of the papers, and see so many glaring misstatements put forward as information, I get entirely disgusted. Of what use is it to publish mere lists of stamps at a time when there are so many good catalogues? Unless these lists contain historical notes, or information concerning the stamps, or new discoveries, they are worse than useless. By historical notes, I do not refer to the country whose stamps are being considered, but to the stamps themselves. There are yet many fields, and wide fields, open to the scientific philatelist who will venture upon them, and make the result of his study known through a medium such as you propose to issue. * * * A good subject would be "Colored Inks, from a Philatelic Standpoint"; these could be made the subject for many interesting articles. And some one might look up the subject why some of the small, half-civilized colonies, with a population that would not make a respectable town in this country, need a much larger variety of stamps than our fifty million busy folks, and then have to surcharge them in every complication they can invent. Albums is still a good subject; also the mounting of entire envelopes has never been solved satisfactorily. The comparative rarity of the U. S. entire envelopes is a good subject, and articles on *very* rare stamps. But I am going it blind with my theories, and guess you will cry "let up."

Yours truly,

E. B. HANES.

In reply to a letter of inquiry, the postal authorities at Hong Kong sent me a circular letter which gives a complete list of the postage stamps, and revenues used postally, which have been issued by them. In this circular they say: "No intentional change has ever been made in the colors of the above, but sometimes more or less ink on the plate may have varied the tint a little, and thus given rise to incorrect statements as to varieties of color. The eighteen cents value completely changed color by fading. The statements of text books about a second color of the ninety-six cents stamp, etc., may have arisen in this way. Twelve hundred sheets of the 1883 green ten cents were printed in a darker shade by mistake, and will shortly be issued to get rid of them."

This would naturally be accepted by collectors as settling the question as to whether there are two colors of the ninety-six cents stamp or not. But anyone who has seen the two must certainly disagree with our Hong Kong friends. It may not have been intended to issue the stamp in two colors, but the two certainly exist. I have them before me at this moment, and no amount of official circulars could convince me that in some way, probably by mistake, two different inks were not used in printing, and that at least one sheet was run in a different color from that generally used.

The work of organizing a National Society of Philatelists is progressing rapidly. We have the assurance of the national committee that the society will organize early this fall (probably in September) with at least two hundred members. We print below a few of the many hearty indorsements the plan has received from philatelists. Our thanks are due the committee on organization for the privilege of printing these extracts.

I am in favor of your plan for national organization, with some few modifications.—*R. R. Bogert.*

I think a project of that kind could meet with nothing but success.—*S. B. Bradford.*

I approve the plan.—*J. J. Casey.*

Our society [Nashville] will cheerfully enter the project, and you can enter us as applicants for membership.—*B. F. Cheatham, Jr.*

I am willing to become a member, and do all I can to aid the project.—*James M. Chute.*

Philatelic societies keep up the interest in stamps, and increase the number of collectors, and thus aid the dealers. I do not see how any dealer can be opposed to them. * * * I am ready to assist so far as any one person can.—*L. W. Durbin.*

I have not been able to see all of our members [Denver Society], but send names of six who will be glad to join.—*F. W. Feldvoisch.*

I will begin at once to form a chapter in this city [Pittsburgh]. It can be done, and in a very short time.—*John F. Higgins.*

I will agree to stand by the organization as long as another member remains.—*W. K. Jewett.*

I am with you in regard to a National Philatelic Society.—*Hugo Kuenstler.*

Any assistance that I can render toward helping the formation of the National Society in this city will be given.—*W. A. MacCalla.*

I regard it as an excellent idea, and will do all I can to help out the plan.—*H. A. Malin.*

I think the idea a good one, and would like to see it carried out.—*W. V. Nicholson.*

You have my hearty support in the formation of such an organization.—*A. M. Rareshide.*

I would be pleased to join the organization, and lend it such support as may be in my power.—*H. B. Seagrave.*

You may put my name down as a member, and anything I can do to aid the cause I will do with the greatest of pleasure.—*Edw. J. Stebbins.*

You can put my name down as one that will help swell the list.—*E. B. Sterling.*

I am in entire sympathy with the movement.—*C. E. Swope.*

The scheme of a National Association cannot be too highly praised. It is what philatelists of America have long been in need of.—*Thomas Coke Watkins.*

I will be one of the number to start the organization.—*Wm. V. D. Wettern, Jr.*

The National Organization is needed, and I do not understand why collectors have been so long without it.—*W. P. Young.*

QUERIES.

Any question of a philatelic nature that our readers may send us will be printed in this department. We invite those who may be able to answer any of these questions to send the answers to us, and they will be printed in the following issue.

1. Can any of your readers give the full name and a brief biographical sketch, of Mr. Hill, who died at Boston about two years ago, and who was very active in introducing cheap postage in the United States? J. C.

AN UNACCOMMODATING POSTMASTER.

"You seem unhappy," ventured a hotel loiterer to a glum-looking citizen of the woolly west, yesterday.

"Guess you'd be so, too, if you lived where I do. I'm going on to Washington to see the president."

"Political trouble?"

"National trouble, sir; international trouble. Don't letters come from all over the globe? Say, now!"

"Oh, I see; something wrong in the postoffice department."

"Wrong! I should say there was. You see I live at Snag Forks, and Bill Wilkins, he's been postmaster for nigh on to six year. At first he done the square thing. When the letters come they was dumped in a candle box on the bar-room floor, and the boys had no trouble a findin' their mail. But Bill ain't the man he used ter be. He's got as unaccommodatin' as a Texas steer. Fust he moved the box to the counter, and we had to nearly break our arms a divin' fer the letters. Then if the durned coyote didn't get a new painted consarn with glass in front so we couldn't git at the mail at all, and, as if that weren't insult enough to honest men, he went to work, rigged up a lot of boxes, and hang me if he didn't put locks on to 'em and go to chargin' storage. I just tell you I'll git that Bill Wilkins out of that there place or die fur it, now you see."—*Chicago News.*

In the *New York World* of May 5 there is an interesting little story in which a lucky "find" of a quantity of valuable old postage stamps results in saving a family from being turned out of their home under a mortgage foreclosure. The postage stamp part of the story is well worked up, and shows that the writer is conversant with stamps. But we must object to the probability of finding envelopes of 1867, "errors" of 1869, and War Department envelopes, in the company of such old timers as the Brattleboro' and New Haven locals, and the like; especially when it is preceded by the following description: "There on top, as if put in last, was a bundle of letters tied with a faded ribbon. Dick took out one with some curiosity. *It was written before envelopes were in common use*, and the address was on the middle fold of the letter itself, the edges of which had been turned into one another, and sealed." We must draw the line somewhere, and although it would be considerably stretched by admitting the Confederate locals, it might possibly do to pass that over, but as for the ones mentioned, the statement will hardly answer. The story is said to have been written by Mr. T. E. Wilson, of the *World's* editorial staff.

A POSTMASTER in a New York town sent an official notice to a newspaper, stating that its paper, addressed to —, at that office, remained unclaimed, and gave as the reason, "is there is no Sutch Person Living here." Let's organize a national society for the education of rural postmasters.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Those of our subscribers who have any articles to exchange that are of interest or value to collectors generally are invited to make use of this department without charge. Notices must not exceed five lines in length, and we reserve the privilege of rejecting any we do not think it best to print.

Will exchange stamps or other papers for complete files or odd numbers of philatelic papers. Publisher the STAMP COLLECTOR, 90 Randolph St., Chicago.

I have a number of symbolical envelopes, used during the rebellion, unused and entire, to exchange for stamps. Write for particulars, and inclose list of exchanges. S. B. Bradt, Grand Crossing, Ill.

Six months' subscription to this magazine for a copy of No. 5, *Keystone Philatelic Gazette*. Only one copy wanted. Write first. Publisher the STAMP COLLECTOR, 90 Randolph Street, Chicago.

FUN AT HOME.

There is nothing like it to be found—no, not if you search the world through. I want every possible amusement to keep the boys home evenings. Never mind if they do scatter books and pictures, coats, hats, and boots! Never mind if they do make a noise around, with their whistling and hurraing! We would stand aghast if we could have vision of the young men gone to utter destruction for the very reason that, having cold, disagreeable, dull, stiff firesides at home, they sought amusement elsewhere. Don't let them wander beyond the reach of mother's influence, yet awhile. The time will come, before you think when you would give the world to have your house tumbled by the dear hands of those very boys; when your heart shall long for their noisy steps in the hall, and their ruddy cheeks laid up to yours; when you would rather hear their jolly, whistle than the music of all the operas; when you would gladly see dirty carpets—ay, live without carpets at all, but to have their bright, strong forms beside you once more. Then play with and pet them. Praise Johnny's drawing, Bessie's music, and baby's first attempt at writing his name. Encourage Tom to chop off his stick of wood, and Dick to persevere in making his hen coop. If one shows a talent for figures, tell him he is your famous mathematician; and if another loves geography, tell him he will be sure to make a great traveler, or a foreign minister. Become interested in their pets, be they rabbits, pigeons, or dogs. Let them help you in home decorations; send them to gather mosses, grasses, and bright autumn leaves, to decorate their room when the snow is all over the earth, and you will keep yourself young and fresh by entering into their joys, and keep those joys innocent by your knowledge of them.—*N. W. Christian Advocate*.

All of which is very true, and we wish to add, that if you want an amusement that will keep your boys, or girls either, well contented at home, it will be difficult to find one more engaging and, at the same time, instructive, than stamp collecting. The young stamp collector is always ready to devote his time to his stamps; and when away from home finds his greatest delight in the company of other collectors.

"Will your brother probably ever come out here?"

"No, I think not—he has never been west of the Alleghany Mountains."

"Is that so? What is his business?"

"Writing descriptive articles of the West for eastern publications."—*Estel-line Bell*.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Book-lore is the good angel that keeps watch by the poor man's hearth, and hallows it; saving him from the temptations that lurk beyond its charmed circle; giving him new thoughts and noble aspirations, and lifting him, as it were, from the mere mechanical drudgery of his every-day occupation.—*Anonymous*.

The neatly printed little volume entitled *Frank's Rancho*,¹ is a tempting morsel for whiling away a few leisure hours. Frank, who is the son of a well-to-do London merchant, becomes wearied with the monotonous routine of work in his father's counting room, and determines to strike out for himself in the western wilds of America. The first part of the book comprises letters from Frank, in which he describes graphically and in an interesting manner his struggles and repeated failures, but always maintaining his courage and starting afresh after each unsuccessful venture. His father, who is the writer of the narrative, is finally induced to cross the ocean and the greater part of the American continent in order to visit the son, who has at last taken up an apparently permanent abode at the foot of the Rockies. The trip across the continent and back is quite pleasantly described, and the numerous clippings from periodicals which the author intersperses in his story serve well to illustrate the people and habits of the region traversed. *The Dial* is authority for the statement that the initials "E. M.," attached to the dedication, represent Mr. Marston, of the well known London publishing house of Sampson Low, Marston & Co.

*Bugle Echoes*² is certainly a well named book. Its title at once brings to mind all the splendor and glory, the sadness and humiliation of warfare. And this admirable collection of the poetry called forth by our civil war echoes and re-echoes, on every page, the bugle blast, the trumpet's blare, the cannon's roar. The compiler of the collection, Mr. F. F. Browne, editor of *The Dial*, has performed his task with remarkable taste and judgment, and the volume shows that the work was done in a spirit of love for his subject. The poetry of the South appears side by side with the poetry of the North, an arrangement that is well calculated to aid the reader in analyzing the sentiments that urged the different authors to express themselves in behalf of the cause they thought right. We regret that our limited space prevents the quotation of a few of these poems; but then, no limited number of selections would do justice to the book, so we will be content with advising our readers to read for themselves.

*The Boat Sailer's Manual*³ is just the sort of book needed by all would-be boatmen. The author, Lieut. Qualtrough, U. S. Navy, who is favorably known through his previous books on boating, says, in his preface: "Since the publication of *The Sailor's Handy Book* I have arrived at the opinion that a more elementary work, and one which should chiefly treat of the handling and rigging of small craft, would prove very acceptable to a large class of persons, who, while not aspiring to the designation of yachtsmen, take considerable pleasure in the possession and management of sailing boats." The book is most excellently adapted to the needs of the class of persons for whom it was prepared, and contains, in addition to its technical information, a chapter giving weather indications, useful receipts, hints to bathers, instructions for saving drowning persons, hints on accidents, injuries, and poisons, cookery, and in addition a glossary of nautical terms. It is profusely illustrated, and contains a good index.

¹ *Frank's Rancho*; or, *My Holiday in the Rockies*. 16mo, 214 pages, price \$1.25. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

² *Bugle Echoes*: Edited by Francis F. Browne. Post 8vo, 376 pages. Cloth, gilt edges, \$2.00. New York: White, Stokes, and Allen.

³ *The Boat Sailer's Manual*. By Edward F. Qualtrough, Lieut. U. S. Navy. 16mo, 255 pages. Roan binding, \$2 net. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Sterling's Catalogues⁴ of United States Stamps have been so long recognized as standards by most philatelists that there is but little left unsaid in their favor. The fifth edition of the *Price Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the U. S.* gives a good description of all U. S. postage and envelope stamps, 768 in number, with prices at which most of them can be obtained. It also includes a list of 119 stamps and envelopes issued by the Confederate States. An interesting item in this catalogue is a list of oddities in adhesive stamps, comprising unsevered pairs of some of the early issues, perforation oddities, etc. The fourth edition of a *Price Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the U. S.* contains a list of nearly 2,000 revenue stamps, including many in proof condition, and some oddities. This catalogue is indispensable to the revenue stamp collector.

*Haschisch*⁵ is the striking title of a recent addition to the long list of summer novels. The name inscribed on the title page is unknown to readers of fiction, but those who are brave enough to take up and read his story will look forward to the production of other works from his pen. A person who is supposed to have committed a murder is inveigled into taking the Oriental drug, haschisch, and while under its influence re-enacts in pantomime the crime of which he is suspected. The story is told in a direct, concise style, without any unnecessary reflections or wandering from the subject, and the interest is sustained throughout. The *denouement* is well worked up to, and is highly dramatic.

A very useful guide for those who desire to instruct themselves in oil and water color painting will be found in *Amateur Art*⁶—painting without a teacher,—by Henri Clarise. The work is admirably adapted for self-instruction in painting, and is sufficient to enable anyone possessed of a little tact and talent in this direction to master the rudiments, at least, of the art. Full and complete directions are given for flower painting, in oil and water colors, cameo oil painting, china painting, transferring and coloring photographs, painting on velvet, satin, wood, glass, etc., lustre painting, pottery painting, modeling in clay, etc., etc. The book also gives an excellent table for mixing colors.

The advantage of understanding the use of wood-working tools, even to a limited extent, is readily conceded. The *Manual*⁷ prepared for the Industrial School Association of Boston is well adapted for self-instruction in this branch of manual training, and any bright boy can, with its aid, gain considerable insight in the handling of ordinary tools. The book is written in a simple yet comprehensive style, and is amply illustrated with cuts, showing the various ways of handling tools.

Durbin's catalogues are always a delight to stamp collectors, and the new edition of the *Postal Card Catalogue*⁸ is no exception to this rule. About two thousand varieties of postal cards are here described, and the market price in most instances quoted. If you collect postal cards you can scarcely do without it; and if you do not collect them, you should possess this catalogue in order to be informed in regard to them.

⁴ Standard Descriptive and Price Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the United States only. 8vo, 46 pages, paper, 25 cents. Standard Descriptive and Price Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the United States. 8vo, 87 pages, paper, 25 cents. Trenton, N. J. E. B. Sterling.

⁵ *Haschisch*, A Novel, by Thorold King. 16mo, 314 pages. Cloth, \$1; paper, 50 cents. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

⁶ *Amateur Art*. By Henri Clarise. 4to, 76 pages. Board covers, \$1.00. Chicago: Amateur Art Company.

⁷ *Wood-Working Tools; How to Use Them. A Manual*. Post 8vo, 102 pages. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

⁸ *Standard Catalogue of Postal Cards*. Sixth edition. 8vo, 34 pages, paper, 25 cents. L. W. Durbin, Philadelphia.

FOLLY AS IT FLIES.

Antiquarian Gent: "Got any old—ah—Roman weapons or pottery lately?"

Dealer: "'Xpect 'em next week, sir—'ain't quite finished rustin' yet, sir."—

Punch.

* * *

Employer: "Here, Mr. Jones, take this ten cents and go out and buy yourself a cigar, right away." Clerk (astonished): "Why, why, Mr. Vanderbilt, what do you mean? I thought you detested the odor of tobacco in your office." Employer: "So I do. I abominate it; but I've observed that when a young man is smoking a ten-cent cigar he has to stop whistling 'Mikado' chestnuts on the wrong key as long as he dallies with the filthy weed."—*Somerville Journal.*

* * *

"If an *s* and an *i* and an *o* and a *u*, with an *x* at the end, spell "Su,"

And an *e* and a *y* and an *e* spell "i," pray what is a speller to do?

Then if also an *s* and an *i* and a *g* and an *h-e-d* spell "cide,"

There's nothing left for a speller to do but to go and commit *Siouxeyesighed*.

* * *

That is an excellent story which comes from Pontiac, Ill., to the effect that a train was chased for miles by a vindictive tornado, which finally overtook it and went on ahead, whereupon the engineer opened the throttle and chased the tornado.—*Philadelphia News.*

* * *

There was a collector out West,
Who thought he had surely the best
Collection of stamps,
But it gave him the cramps
When he found out what others possessed.

There was a collector down East,
Who thought his collection at least
Was nearly complete,
And he murmured, "I'm beat
To know how it can be increased."

* * *

Podgeson: "What will you give me for this Roman coin? I brought it from Rome."

Dealer: "That's worth about twenty-five cents."

Podgeson: "Twenty-five cents! why, I paid fifty for it."

Dealer: "That may be. They have to pay duty on them over there. Ours come directly from the factory in New Jersey."—*The Rambler.*

* * *

Contributor: "Here is a manuscript I wish to submit——"

Editor (waving his hand): "I'm sorry. We are all full just now."

Contributor (blandly): "Very well; I will call again when some of you are sober."—*Boston Courier.*

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August, 1886.



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Monthly
Magazine

COLLECTOR

STAMP

The



No. 2.

Vol. I.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

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SIR ROWLAND HILL.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

VOLUME I.

AUGUST, 1886.

NUMBER 2.

VARIETIES IN THE 1870 ISSUE OF U. S. STAMPS.

It has always been a source of wonder to me that so many American collectors fail to collect the oddities of stamps—errors and the various colors in which stamps are printed. Especially is this the case in the stamps of our own country. How few collections contain the two sets of due stamps, the brown and the red-brown; or the black and the sage-green of the Post Office Department; the light and dark red of the War: each of these appears in two distinct colors. Why collect the six cents carmine and six cents red of the 1870 issue and not any of the others?

Without going any farther back than the 1870 issue of the U. S. stamps, let us notice a few of that series which have appeared in different colors. First, the one cent: it has appeared in light and dark blue, and also in a blue that might, I presume, be called a slate-blue; the two cents has appeared in light and dark brown—the head in a very dark oval; the ten cents has appeared in the same two colors; the twelve cents in two shades of purple; the one cent, two, three, six, and ten cents of this issue have appeared with a plain frame instead of the usual lined one familiar to all. Perhaps the whole series have been so issued, but I have never been able to get but the five values. These stamps made their appearance in 1873, and I presume lasted but a short time, as most of mine were obtained then, and I have never since obtained any except on letters written in that year. There has been quite a number of the three cents collected, and it is to be found in the collections of many of the older collectors; also the one cent and ten cents are to be occasionally met with; but the two cents and six cents are much more rare. I have also obtained a twelve cents

Treasury Department, printed upon *pink* paper; it is the only one I have ever run across, and is, I think, a genuine specimen. It shows conclusively, to my mind at least, that the revenues were not the only stamps printed on pink paper. Perhaps other collectors have met with postage or department stamps of the same nature, but I have never heard of it.

But, remarks a collector, I cannot afford to waste my time collecting and arranging stamps with such small differences; or, it is all folly to collect varieties of color; the average friend to whom I would show my collection would not be able to distinguish any difference in the colors, except perhaps a shade, and he would think it utter foolishness. As far as that goes, I would say just here, stamp collectors in this country are generally looked upon by the more intelligent people as being a species of harmless lunatics, who paste old soiled pieces of paper in books and imagine they have a gold mine. But a collector must collect for himself, and if he wishes to advance in philately he must study the subject, and necessarily study up the colors and oddities in stamps. Some of our collectors will leave out errors, and at the same time collect specimens that require the aid of a microscope to determine whether one line is broader than another. We are in our infancy here in America in collecting stamps, and have no standard or rule. The general idea is to get together all the stamps we can in order to fill out an album; when we cannot get any more without it costing us too much money, we sell or trade our stamps for some other fancy, and withdraw from the ranks of the philatelists, and speak of it as being a very nice thing to amuse oneself with, but there is nothing in it except to a rich man who wants to use up his income, and then we look with a smile of conscious superiority on some zealous stamp collector who is spending his time and money on his collection.

But, on the other hand, if you once get into the *study* of stamps you will find many treasures to reward your diligence, and it will not cost you so much money as you imagine, either. You will find that you have learned more about stamps than you ever supposed there was to be learned, and also that you have acquired a habit of close observation which may save you many dollars in a business career in coming years. Nearly all advanced collectors collect colors, errors, and odd perforations as eagerly as they do the regular issues. Most of them use some European catalogue or guide, and they naturally drift into this habit, and become as earnest in this direction as in any other. I remember well the time when I thought it foolish to collect the two varieties of five cents, issue of 1861; now I wish I had been wise enough to save all my five cents buff, and also the three cents scarlet of the same issue. It was the same way when the stamps of the 1870

issue were embossed with a grill; how carelessly we used to throw them aside as not being worthy of a place in our books (albums were not as common then as they are now). To-day there are a number of collectors of my acquaintance who regret not having been sufficiently wide awake to hold on to their embossed stamps, and who now gladly pay handsomely for them when they are fortunate enough to get the opportunity, which does not occur every day — especially in regard to the higher values, grilled specimens of which are to be found in but very few collections.

The fact that our leading philatelists purchase so largely from foreign dealers and use foreign handbooks and catalogues in arranging their collections shows that they have reached the European standard, and also that, having nothing in this country of the same nature that will be of any use to them, they are compelled to seek a standard from countries that are much farther advanced than we are. This shows very clearly to my mind that if we continue to collect stamps we must sooner or later collect these varieties, so why not do it now? It will not cause your collection to bring any the less should you tire of stamps and give up collecting them, and it may be the means of giving you a stronger liking and keeping you in the ranks of the stamp fraternity. Just as soon as the demand implies the need of it we will see our catalogues classifying stamps in a thorough manner, and then there will arise a better class of collectors, dealers, papers, and associations.

Wanderer.

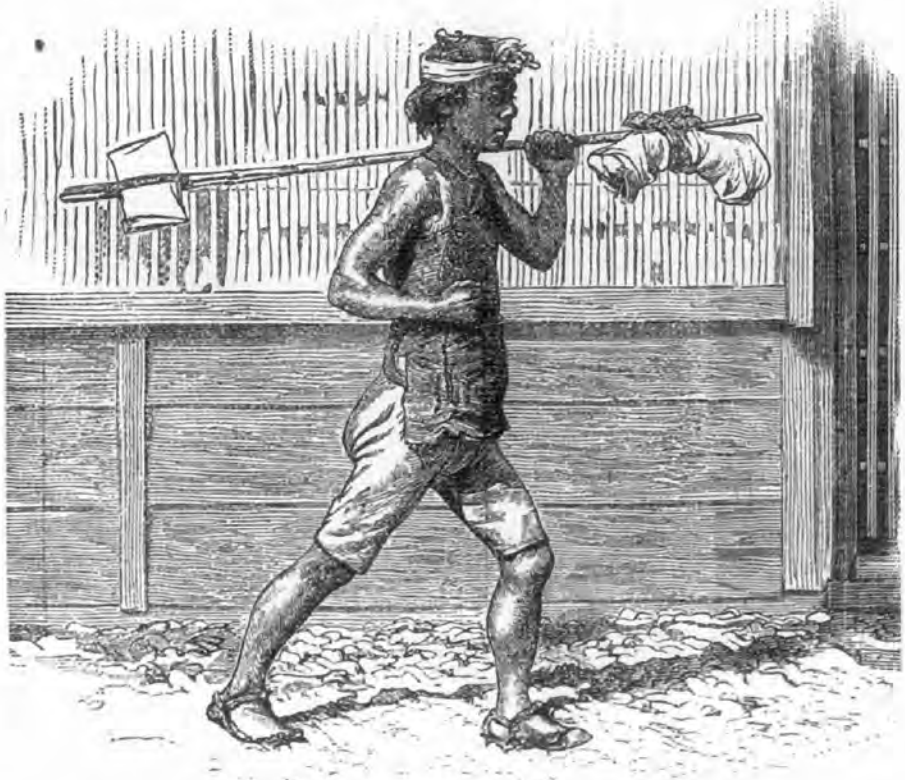
THEN AND NOW.

In 1825 the entire newspaper mail of New York city could be carried by one man, and the whole of the foreign mail could be transported in a wheelbarrow. Carriers received two cents for each letter and one cent for each paper delivered. Out-of-town letters cost six cents for transportation when not sent over thirty miles, and ran up to twenty-five cents for four hundred miles — prepayment being optional, and no stamps used.

In 1886, for one year previous to June 30, 1,632,708,771 adhesive postage stamps were sold, representing a value of \$32,800,579, and 353,948,100 stamped envelopes and wrappers; besides these, 355,648,000 postal cards, and 42,078,650 registered packages and official envelopes were sold, or issued for official use. The total cost of manufacture of these articles was \$1,048,596.40, and the revenue from them amounted to \$43,423,180.

N. G. V.

THE POST IN MANY LANDS.

(Reprinted from Leisure Hour.)

A JAPANESE POSTMAN.

We are, most of us, so proud of our post office, that we are inclined to look upon the post in general as a peculiarly English institution, and to assume that in such matters foreigners have done little but follow our lead. This modest assumption it would not be easy to defend, as in all lands there have existed for ages some means of sending letters from place to place with a fair amount of speed. When did the post begin? It is easy to say that it has been mainly developed out of the various systems of conveying official messages, and that in all nations letter-carrying has passed through a military stage. But it is hardly fair to claim this as a working post. Some authorities would take us back to the invention of the runes, and even to the dawn of speech, as being "the earliest means of conveying intelligence." It may be true that David's letter to Joab is the first on record, and that Jezebel issued the first circular, or, as we have recently been informed, that Ahasuerus inaugurated the first international exhibition, but the research takes us much too far through the question, which, after all, is, When were the letters of private individuals first carried at a fixed

rate per letter? Until this is settled it would be wiser to leave the priority branch of the subject alone.

Owing, however, to the great stride taken by us under Sir Rowland Hill, and the splendid organization that has gradually been built up at St. Martain's-le-Grand, the English post office is still ahead of its rivals, and it has formed the model on which all the modern systems have been modified and the improvements made. England has left a good broad mark on civilization by linking mankind together with the ever growing letter chains, but the lessons that have been learned from her have not so much affected the visible limbs as the network that gives those limbs their life. The circulation and sortation are English, but the members, as collectors and distributors, have undergone little change, and the post in many lands retains its national peculiarities. Even in our own dependencies the local influence is too great to be disregarded.

No more unpostmanlike character, for instance, could well be imagined than the Indian rural letter-carrier as he passes by with his spiked stick to defend him from the smaller beasts of the jungle, and his half-dozen bells in full clang to scare away the snakes. Nor can much of a British origin be detected in his representatives on the northern frontier, who, as in the good days of old, carries his letters in the crack of a stick for the same reason that his Cinghalese fellow-worker has it slung from a twig end by a piece of string. We perhaps get a little nearer the mark in the camel expressman, for picturesque as may be the Tappal-wallah in his long white garb and blue turban, he has nothing like the smart appearance of the green-turbaned camel postman who, in his red coat, with his red curved saber and gorgeously bedecked beast, trots at an easy lurching swing his eighty miles a day, jolting the two mail bags at his side.

In Japan the progressive we get nearer the western mark; but here again the local character is unmistakable, and the rural post runner still swings his basket across his shoulder as did his ancestors centuries ago. In China the national peculiarities have been as yet retained to such an extent that it is difficult to find the post at all—for the special agents at the ports, who collect the letters as if they were parcels, can hardly be recognized as officials. We read of wonderful arrangements for carrying the letters of the court, but none for carrying those of the people; and the thousands of horses, in thirty-five-mile stages, probably owe their existence to a mistranslation. In Formosa there seems to be a letter-carrier of some sort, though the "thousand-mile horse" is a man on foot, who jogs along with paper lantern and umbrella at anything but express speed. And in some of the Chinese provinces there are the foot-runners, armed with the bell, which they ring when approaching a station, and hand with the letters to the runner-in-waiting, who carries them on.

This system of stages is in use among nearly all nations. It is a development of the beacon fires such as brought to the Greeks the news of the fall of Troy. As possessing it we can "survey mankind from China to Peru," for did not the chasquis pass on the quipus, whose genuineness was vouched by the crimson fringe of the inca, and who bore forward their strangely knotted string at the rate of one hundred and fifty miles a day? And did not Cyrus organize his Persian couriers in stages? and did not Xerxes send to Susa by these relays the news of his defeat at Salamis? Had not Charlemagne his messengers? And in these days have we not had the Pony Express of the Rockies? This, the most daring of the modern postal services, has now been replaced by the railway from ocean to ocean, but the gallant pony-riders, doing their sixty-mile stages across the trackless prairie while carrying the mail its 2,000 miles in 240 hours, through perils of every kind from man and beast, will not soon be forgotten.

And even the English letter service was organized in relays in Elizabeth's time. One of the earliest letters sent by post that has come down to us is from Archbishop Matthew Parker to Sir William Cecil, and reads as follows: "Sir,—According to the Queen's Majesty's pleasure, and your advertisement, you shall receive a form of prayer, which, after you have perused and judged of it, shall be put in print and published immediately. From my house at Croydon, this 22d July, 1566, at 4 of the clock afternoon. Your honour's always,

MATTH. CANTUAR."

And it bears the following indorsements:

"Received at Waltham Cross, the 23d of July, about 9 at night."

"Received at Ware, the 23d July, at 12 o'clock at night."

"Received at Croxton, the 24th of July, between 7 and 8 of the clock in the morning."

The distance from Croydon to Waltham Cross is twenty-six miles, from Waltham Cross to Ware is eight miles, from Ware to Croxton, twenty-nine miles; so that the letter took nearly forty hours to travel some sixty-three miles.

There is an earlier letter than this in the acknowledgment of a dispatch that doubtless went north in a similar way. It is dated 1st April, 1515, and is from the English envoy at Stirling to Henry VIII: "This Friday when I came home to dyner I received your most honourable letters by post, dated at your mansion, Greenwich, 26th March." It thus took six days to reach Stirling from London. When Charles II died in 1685, the news reached Edinburgh at one o'clock in the morning of the 10th of February. It left London on the 6th, so that communications had improved somewhat in the hundred and seventy years.

In Scotland there was a local post in 1590, the "Council Post"

from Aberdeen to Edinburgh, the men employed in which had uniforms of blue. But not until 1715 was there such a thing north of the Tweed as a horse post. All the work was done by foot-runners, whose endurance was remarkable. Some of them fairly equaled that servant of Lord Hume, of whom it is related that being ordered one day to take a letter from Hume Castle to Edinburgh, he ran there and back, seventy miles, at such a rate that when his lordship went out for his early morning stroll he found him on the path asleep. Beginning to upbraid him for disobedience, he was handed the answer to his letter, and in return gave him Post Rig as his reward.

But the year 1776 is that most noteworthy in Scottish postal history, for it saw the first penny post north of the border. This penny post was started by Peter Williamson, who kept a coffee shop near the Parliament House, and began by forwarding letters and messages for gentlemen who had business there. The convenience being appreciated, and the letters increasing, Williamson started a regular organized system of delivery, with hourly collections and agents all over the city. His penny post worked successfully, and was finally taken over by the general post office, and he himself received a pension.

Foot posts existed, we are told, in Germany as far back as the fourteenth century, having been organized by associations of merchants for sending letters from city to city. What strange survivals there are in postal matters may be seen even in Berlin to-day, where the yellow post van is driven by an official in shining hat and plume, who wears a horn slung at his back. The Berlin postal service is, nevertheless, one of the best organized in Europe, the town deliveries being especially well managed. The numerous collecting boxes, all fixed to the wall, are about two feet square, painted blue and gold, with the hole in each side defended by an arrangement of movable spikes which prevent any letters being withdrawn; and they are cleared every hour, the time of the letters in transit being rather longer than that in our E. C. district. Attached to the head post office is a museum, where, says a recent writer, "a skilled mechanic waits on visitors to furnish explanations and show the apparatus at work. Here one may trace the evolution of the means of letter conveyance, from the runner on stilts to the highly developed railway sorting carriage. All nations are represented. We see the dashing royal mail of England, the dome on wheels which carried the mails of Denmark till 1842, and the primitive means of India and Japan. The moving adventures of the mails by flood and field are depicted in old prints and photographs. No detail is overlooked. Wagon building is illustrated down to the spokes of the wheels; there are specimens of horseshoes and models of the pastern; there are saddles, lamps, horns, stamps, locks, letter boxes, and weights of every period. Everything illustrates growth, and also

it may be said the immense German capacity of borrowing and improving upon the ideas of others.

“A large amount of space is given up to the models of the principal post offices of the empire, some being accompanied by photographs and plans in section and elevation, so that the department, in setting about the building of a new post office, has a great wealth of experience and suggestion at hand. Field post and field telegraphy have a section, and a corridor is devoted to a complete Rohrpost line, which is shown at work, with postcards of a reduced size specially printed for illustration. On the electrical side the museum is equally complete. The electric light, the telephone, the photograph, are exhibited, and the interested visitors are presented with strips of the platinum sheet which has just given off several bars of a well known Volkslied. Telegraphy is fairly represented, and there is, perhaps, the greatest practical value in this section, which shows, for example, forms of insulators and house-top fixtures; the manufacture of wires, and its common faults; the construction of telegraph lines, and the tools used. The various stages of decay in poles are illustrated with the same fidelity. One pole is shown tunneled by the woodpecker, another contains a nest with the feathered depredator *in situ*.”

The Rohrpost here mentioned is our pneumatic dispatch, which has been extensively adopted in Berlin for both letters and telegrams. The system embraces some fifteen miles of tube, and these communicate with about two dozen stations. The working is the same as in Aldersgate street, with huge air pumps sucking the carriers to headquarters; and every fifteen minutes a “train” passes along the line taking up messages as it goes.

The “runner on stilts” is the postman of the Landes district on the southwest coast of France, who still strides about the marshes with his feet almost a fathom from the ground. He is the strangest of the many strange survivals of the old days of France. The French claim to trace their postal service as far back as the thirteenth century, when the University of Paris organized a system of letter carrying which lasted till 1719. It is such claims as this that have led rival nations to go back still further; and we have Italy, for instance, gallantly claiming its post as coming down in unbroken descent from the days of the Roman Empire.

No mention of French postal affairs would be complete without some notice of the pigeon service during the siege of Paris in 1870. The subject has been almost thrashed out, but the financial side of it does not seem to have been unduly dwelt on. It is somewhat startling to find that each bird carried £11,520 in postage. The rate was in round numbers fivepence per word, and there was a registration fee of sixpence. The postage on the letters averaged four shillings each, so

that on two hundred letters the return was £40. The letters were written in groups of two hundred on a screen, and were then photographed down as if for the microscope, on to one of the tiny pages carried by the pigeon. These pages were a sixteenth of each pellicle, so that each pellicle realized sixteen times £40, or £640, and as each pigeon's load was eighteen pellicles, we get the total of each bird's mail as worth eighteen times £640, or £11,520! And it was well worth it, considering that a pigeon would sometimes bring in from Tours as many as fifty thousand dispatches, and that the balloon with the birds had first to make its way out of Paris over the German lines. The aeronauts had, however, much to be thankful for, for notwithstanding Krupp's postal guns and various other devices, only seven balloons were captured by the beseigers.

A pigeon post is at daily work in the Fijis, the communications from island to island being carried on by the birds until the inevitable cable comes. The Fijian exports are chiefly fruit, and as the fruit would spoil if kept too long in store, means were necessary to give early notice of when the picking should take place, and the news of the arrival of the various steamers is now flown off through the colony. Till recently the important telegrams in the English papers were sent by pigeons from Point de Galle to Colombo, seventy miles higher up the coast of Ceylon. And in different countries and at different times the pigeon has been a letter carrier ever since the days of Anacreon.

From letters to parcels is an easy transition. The latest use of the pigeon, according to Mr. Tegetmeier, is as a parcel carrier. "Recently," he remarks, "the services of pigeons have been still further utilized by Mr. A. S. Scott, who resides at Rotherfield Park, five miles from Alton, Hants. This gentleman has entered into an arrangement with Mr. Coppall, a grocer of Alton, who is also a homing pigeon fancier; and, as occasion serves, birds are interchanged between the two stations, Mr. Scott always having some of the Alton birds in his possession, and a number of his own being at Mr. Coppall's, in Alton. There is no telegraph station at Rotherfield Park, but Mr. Scott is enabled to dispatch his telegraphic messages to Alton without loss of time, sending them by pigeons. On the other hand, in place of waiting for his morning paper until it has been brought by messenger, he receives it by pigeon parcel post. In a letter I have just received from this gentleman, he writes: 'I send you the piece of newspaper brought out by one of my pigeons this morning, and which I received about 9 A.M. Another cutting of similar size was brought out by another pigeon. Thus I get all the news of importance. I send it just as it arrived, without opening it.' The inclosure consisted of a page of the *Daily Telegraph*, of Tuesday, October 27, folded longitudinally, viz.: in the direction of the columns, three times, so as to make a slip of eight

thicknesses of paper. This was then folded transversely and rolled into a firm cylindrical roll barely three inches long by about an inch and a half in diameter. Round this roll a piece of ordinary twine was tied tightly one inch from the end. The two ends of the twine were then knotted together, so as to form an open loop two inches long, which was placed over the head of the bird, allowing the roll to hang down in front of the breast. Notwithstanding my experience of homing birds, I must confess my surprise that so large and weighty an object could be satisfactorily conveyed in this manner for a distance of five miles; the weight of the package was exactly three-quarters of an ounce. That the practice of forwarding the important parts of the daily papers in this manner is habitually followed, I am assured also by Mr. C. L. Sutherland, who has recently been on a visit to Mr. Scott. The practicability of enlisting the services of pigeons in conveying light packages opens up quite a new departure for homing pigeon fanciers. In many cases they may prove of the greatest utility as speedy messengers; medicines can easily be conveyed from the house of the surgeon to that of the patient, and numerous other utilizations of the homing faculty of these birds will suggest themselves to those who keep them." So that we may live in hopes of a great development of pigeon flying, and it is not impossible after all that the first news of the discovery of the North Pole will be brought thence by the pigeons that are to be taken there in the projected balloons. At present "the Arctic mail" is somewhat irregular, consisting merely of a bag of letters hidden in a cairn on the chance of being found and taken on by the next whaler or exploring ship.

In northern Canada the dog-sledge mail works in winter between Winnipeg and Selkirk with the regularity of the coaches; and in Russia, of course, the letters go by sledge, the sledges being drawn by dogs, horses, or reindeer. This is in the winter; in the summer the mail is in some places carried in two-wheeled carts drawn by buffaloes. In Brazil the postcart is drawn by oxen, and is a wagon with a pair of solid wheels. In south Africa the mail is in places sent by the ox-drays. In Natal the vehicle is a light four-horse cart.

There is no hard-and-fast line between letters and parcels in the foreign postal services, and some very strange things go by mail. In Holland, for instance, it has been found possible to post a perambulator. Queer things are posted in this country, but they do not as a rule get through to delivery. There was once a boy who posted himself at the general post office; and a live dog once found his way down the letter shoot at Lombard street. These were accidental; but of deliberate postings of oddities the postmaster general's reports have always several instances. A five-pound note was once posted open, with merely the address and penny stamp on the back; and at Liverpool last Jan-

uary some person wrote a letter containing twenty-six words on the back of a penny stamp, which was committed to the post and duly delivered. "The success achieved," says Mr. Shaw Lefevre, "led to a repetition of the experiment, but on a third attempt being made with a half-penny stamp the diminutive document became liable to a charge of one penny as an insufficiently prepaid letter, a penalty which was duly enforced."

If postage stamps are to be used in this way, their already large numbers will receive a considerable increase. Some idea of the extent of the post office business in this country may be gained from the fact that up to the end of 1884 there had been printed over 31,300,000,000 stamps. Taking these at their present cost of £30 per million, the printer's bill for stamps would amount to £939,000. The Chalmers stamp seems to be an unchallenged British invention, but the Mulready envelope which caused so much fuss was a mere imitation of an Italian device which failed after a short trial. On the 17th of November, 1818, there had appeared at Turin the "postal paper" from which it was copied. This "postal paper" was blue, and stamped and issued in three varieties, fifteen centimes for distances under fifteen miles, twenty-five centimes for distances between fifteen and thirty-five miles, and fifty centimes for distances over thirty-five miles.

It is not quite fair to ascribe all the increase in our postal business during the last forty-five years to the penny rate, for the introduction of the railways as facilitating the means of communication must at least have had some influence on it. The railway first reached London in 1838. Previous to then the mails from the capital had gone by coach, as they do now in many of our colonies. When we hear of the "old coaching days," with all their pleasures and excitement, we are apt to think that the mail must have gone by coach for centuries. As a matter of fact the mails traveled by coach for a shorter period than they have done by train. The word "coach" is misleading; there was a vast difference between the stage coach and the mail coach.

Palmer's scheme was introduced in 1783, but it was not till August 8, 1784, that the first mail coach started. It left London at eight in the morning and reached Bristol at eleven at night. The success was obtained by cutting the road up into short stages, so as to change horses every ten miles, and running light, compact coaches of the type familiar to us in the modern drag. The improvement in the coach was helped by the improvement in the road, for Palmer was a contemporary of Macadam. To horse the mail took as many horses as there were miles to be traversed. The rate was as nearly as possible ten miles an hour, and each horse ran only for one hour in the twenty-four, and remained quiet on the fourth day. The horses lasted about four years; they cost about £25 each to buy, and £2 per week to keep.

For the coach to pay it had to earn £10 for each double mile, and the fares were not much in excess of those now charged for railway first-class, averaging threepence per mile. To run well the coach had to be ballasted almost as carefully as a boat. The build was quite a triumph of ingenuity for insuring strength and speed, though the wear and tear were tremendous. It was owing to this wear and tear that Charles Babbage, just before the railways started, came out with his invention of sending the mails on wires sloping from the church steeples and housetops, along which the bags, or rather cylinders, would slide by gravitation. In the winter the mails were carried on sledges, the coach wheels being in many cases replaced by runners.

The introduction of the mail coaches was, of course, strongly opposed. A vast number of people saw no need for the "perilous velocity." Those who tried the "velocity," however, rather liked it, and Palmer's coaches prospered and prospered until, in 1835, there were seven hundred of them on the road, and the start of the twenty-seven each evening from the post office was one of the most popular sights of London.

The mail coaches succeeded, on the main roads, the old postboys, whose work was done in a very slovenly and dilatory manner, under circumstances of great difficulty and danger. The roads were bad, badly kept, and badly watched, and highway robbery was frequent. Those were the days when travelers made their wills before they set out for the South. "Whereas, I am about to take a journey to London, and whereas it is uncertain whether or not I may live to return, I do therefore think it necessary to make my last will and testament." That these fears were not entirely groundless is sufficiently apparent from the following incident, which will serve to illustrate the perils of the post fourteen years after the introduction of the mail coaches, and only twenty-seven years before the opening of our first railway.

In 1798 the postboy, coming from Selby to York, was one evening robbed of the mail. About three miles out of Selby he had, he said, been accosted by a man on foot, who, gun in hand, told him to unstrap the mail and give it to him. As soon as he obtained possession of the bag, the highwayman pulled the bridle from the horse's head and the horse galloped off with the boy. The man was stout, looked like a heckler, and wore a drab jacket. The mail contained the bags for Howden and London, Howden and York, and Selby and York. A reward of £200 was offered for the discovery of the thief, but nothing was forthcoming, and the robbery dropped out of recollection until 1876, when an old public house was pulled down on the Church Hill at Selby, in the roof of which were found the clothes worn by the thief, and the very bag that had been stolen! This quiet public house on the Church Hill must have been a queer haunt in its day, for not only

were these traces of the highway robbery eighty years before found in the roof, but in the basement, among the foundations, were the evidences of still more serious crime in the shape of several coffins, "with the bodies in a good state of preservation." *W. J. Gordon.*

A PHILATELIST'S OBSERVATIONS ABROAD. II.

From Antwerp, my continental ramblings led me down into Germany. The first city of any importance that came in my way was Aix-la-Chapelle, as they have it in French, or Aachen as they say in German. Over a thousand years ago this quaint old town was the home of Charlemagne, the mighty emperor of the dark or middle ages. After visiting the curiosities and sights worth seeing, and of course appreciating all that the old burg was famous for, my thoughts began to seek their proper level, and soon drifted back to my albums. What could this ancient city know of modern postage stamps, thought I? Walking into a decayed building located in an obscure alley where *brief-marken* were retailed, I approached the window and asked the spectacled face in the opening, in the politest German I could command, if he would favor me with a few current adhesives for cash. "Yah," came the response in such a loud, boisterous tone that I staggered back to catch my breath. But the loud-voiced, good-natured Teuton meant no harm—simply a custom of the country, you know. I tendered a silver mark piece, and asked for the value thereof in stamps. Opening a huge book, between the leaves of which were snugly reposing sheets of the current adhesives of the German empire, he sorted out such as I desired to the value of the coin tendered. I selected the three, five, ten, and twenty pfennigs stamps, the lot altogether amounting to 100 pfennigs, which is just one mark. Upon my expressing a desire to go behind the counter in order to see the Teutonic method of running a post office, the polite vender of *brief-marken* (even if he did have a frightfully loud voice) unlocked a small lattice door to one side, and with an obsequious bow bade me enter. I crossed the sacred threshold of the great German post office department, and at once found myself surrounded with all sorts of mysteries. There were at least a dozen different windows in this room, and each window represented a department, a district, or a combination of both. One aperture attended to adhesives exclusively; another handled nothing but envelopes; a third looked after official matters, while through the hands of a fourth passed everything registered. The windows also answered for the German provinces, and for France, Holland, Belgium, and all continental post offices. An especial window was reserved for England and America.

(How kind!) The German system of handling and conducting the mails is slow but sure, and I think fully equal to our own wide-awake American system in everything but speed. Before the letter mail could be sorted out in the Aachen office preparatory to sending off—and the Aachen office is a fair sample of all the other local post offices in Germany, an American office would have not only their letter mail assorted, but also their papers, parcels, and packages sealed and delivered, and perhaps a dozen miles or more on the route. I looked in vain for the live, active postal clerk standing in the midst of a score of mail bags, with wide-open mouths into which he fired, every second or two, papers, etc., sometimes a distance of twenty feet and over, without once missing his aim; but no such individual nor anything like him could I find in this great room. On the contrary, a few quiet, staid, and respectable old gentlemen walked about from place to place, depositing into designated pouches with the utmost exactness and nicety, papers and parcels, all the time using as much care and gentleness as if the *Cologne Gazette*, *Aachen Zeitung*, or some other ugly and unintelligible Teutonic journal were sick and ailing infants.

From Aachen I went to Cologne, and from thence passed up the Rhine and into south Germany, visiting such places as Bonn, Coblenz, Mayence, Darmstadt, Frankfort, Bingen, Heidelberg, Carlsruhe, and many other cities of note. Not until I reached Stuttgart in Wurtemberg was there anything in the stamp line of sufficient importance to need recording. I found the interest regarding stamps and coins quite lively in this big city, but I can't say there was a dealer in all Stuttgart who made it an especial business to deal in stamps or coins or both and nothing else. Still, in the windows of many mongrel stores could be seen sheets stuck up for sale, with prices marked beneath as they have them elsewhere.

One music store in the *Garten Strasse* (I forget the name of the proprietor) was really so far advanced in the traffic of philatelic goods that he actually made a specialty of the packet business. I was first attracted to his shop by seeing little packets strung out in the window, in value running all the way from a few pfennigs to a dozen or more marks each. I paused, then entered and stated briefly the object of my call. The glass-eyed proprietor was gruffly polite about it, and soon had quite an extensive assortment of stamps displayed for my approval. The stock in trade of this vender of philatelic goods was all inside and not exhibited in the show windows at all; and no one would suppose for a moment, taking the visible wares as a criterion, that the insignificant music establishment carried on such a heavy business in stamps as this particular one appeared to do. I was pleased and delighted to find only genuine stamps with this Stuttgart dealer, which was quite refreshing after my experience in Antwerp.

Many of the scarcer stamps, for which we pay fancy prices at home, were here offered at least 50 per cent. lower. For instance: the fifty yellow and 100 blue of Bolivia, 1866-8 issue, priced in the U. S. at \$1 and \$2 respectively, I bought for one mark and one mark fifty pfennigs (twenty-four cents and thirty-seven cents). The 100 Bolivia, orange, which costs \$2 at home, I got for thirty cents. The sixty reis Brazil, 1843 issue, price on this side of the Atlantic about fifty cents, used, cost me just forty pfennigs or ten cents, in Stuttgart. The 280 reis Brazil, numeral, red and 430 yellow were offered and accepted at ten and fifteen cents respectively. I secured a large variety of telegraphs and revenues for little or nothing. More than one-half the business of the European dealers, with probably the exception of the British Isles, consists in telegraphic and revenue stamps. No wonder we hear of such tremendous collections in Europe. It is probable that nearly every collector on the other side includes in his numerical estimate the vast quantity of telegraph, revenue, and local stamps that glut the market.

While in this big Wurtemberg city I very fortunately made the acquaintance of a bright and interesting young lady who is quite a devotee of the beautiful study, art, science, or pastime, whichever you please, of philately. In this live German city in a few short hours she taught me more about stamps than I could have learned alone and unaided in as many months. First, I was permitted to inspect her own fine collection, which numbered some 9,000 varieties (including all sorts of revenues and telegraphs just mentioned), and which were mounted in handsome style on sheets of cardboard. In truth she possessed a dual collection; for she was the owner of a Maury album, wherein were contained about 3,000 more specimens, but all of them duplicates of her first and best collection. In company we visited the local post office department, and I found it much the same as to spectacles, time, and speed as the kindred establishment in Aachen. Only in this was there a difference, Stuttgart being a much larger city, there were district offices, where letters could be mailed and received, and stamps bought, just the counterpart of the system in our own country. The main office is near the *Koenig Strasse*, and is the headquarters of the big, unseeable officials who have charge of the postal business of Wurtemberg. One day we made a tour of the minor offices, purchasing a few stamps at each station, and endeavored to persuade the aged youths presiding over the same to sell us for cash a copy or so of the two marks black and yellow stamp. But for some reason or other which I could not understand at the time, this especial adhesive was rated as a sort of official, and for neither love nor money, although we talked in five different languages to the gentlemen, could we persuade any of them to part with the little pieces of paper we coveted so.

We tried all the minor stations, and even attacked the main office, but it was of no avail. The idea occurred to revisit the music dealer in the *Garten Strasse*; so hastening back to the latter place, we once more entered the shop dedicated to Beethoven and Mozart and made known the object of our second visit. Our friend drew from some hidden recess an old leather pocket book in the last stages of decay, and extracted from it about a dozen used specimens of the stamp wanted. These he offered at two marks fifty pfennigs each (fifty cents), and assured us they were cheap at that. I hauled out my copy of "Durbin," which accompanied me across the continent, and saw that our friend in far-away Philadelphia retailed them at less than one-third the price asked. It immediately struck me that here was a fine chance for speculation; so I offered the half-and-half music and stamp dealer all he wanted at half his own figures, which offer was gruffly but politely declined. Why the two marks orange and black should be quoted so high in its own country remains a mystery to me even yet.

Before leaving Stuttgart I made a curious discovery. I found that private individuals used private postal cards, and that the government permitted the same to be done unchecked. These cards contained private advertisements, and were forwarded through the mails without check or hindrance so long as the private card contained a postage stamp or stamps equal in value to the card then in use. I forgot to say that I met these cards in other parts of Germany, they being found in large numbers at the leading hotels where tourists usually put up. It is very accommodating in the government, and a very cute idea in the hotel proprietors; for the guests do all the advertising for them, and have to pay for the stamps used in the bargain. In Mayence, Frankfort, and other towns along the Rhine, I was astonished to find that these private postals had almost superseded the current issue of cards issued by the government. As previously remarked, the value of stamps used is always included in the hotel bill. Let no unsophisticated tourist imagine he is going to get away from a German hotel without paying for everything he gets, and frequently for a little more. Scrutinize the bill closely, so as to eliminate the charges which have been entered without a corresponding value received, is my advice.

J. M. T. Partello.

THE EARLY ISSUES OF BRAZIL.

There are but few stamp collectors to whom, in the infancy of their collections, those queer black stamps which are marked only by a numeral, have not been a source of some perplexity. They have the appearance of labels taken from boxes of spool cotton, but are histori-

cally interesting from the fact that they were issued by the country which was second to adopt the cheap postage system. These stamps were in use a number of years before any were struck off by the U. S. government. The first issue, of 1843, consists of a square frame of a single line surrounding a large numeral of value set out in white from a disc engraved with ornamental lines. The following issues up to 1866 are of the same general style, but smaller, and with an oblong background; that of 1844 with concave corners.

The high rates of postage and the small denominations of the stamps (sixty reis being equal to but little more than three cents), made a large number necessary to send a small package. Letters were completely plastered over with the stamps, leaving only the address in view. The sheets were frequently torn by hand, and many stamps severed and mutilated. In canceling, carelessness was shown in a great degree; a few blotches of ink were put upon the letter, canceling whatever portion it happened to strike, while often more than half the stamps would entirely escape. Either the people preferred to cover their epistles with many stamps of a small denomination rather than to buy those of a higher, or but very few of the large values were struck off and circulated. At any rate, some of the stamps of high value (especially those of the 1843 issue), are exceedingly scarce, while the lower denominations are comparatively worth but little.

In 1854 the stamps were colored, and from that date they present a more cheerful appearance; for the preceding issues when mounted in an album, closely resemble so many illustrations in the book. As regards the subsequent emissions, they are well known and for the most part of small value, but the first few issues of Brazil will always remain as curious oddities in philately.

Victor Rosewater.

REPRESENTATIVE CHICAGO COLLECTIONS.

II. THE COLLECTION OF J. H. HUBER, ESQ.

The collection of postage stamps at present under consideration enjoys the proud distinction of being a distinctly representative Chicago collection, in that it was gathered entirely in this city, by a resident of this city. Mr. Huber says that he does not remember to have ever sent away from here for stamps, but has acquired them, by purchase or exchange, entirely in Chicago. Mr. Huber began his collection something over twenty years ago, but from 1868 to 1881 the collection was at a standstill, even a European trip taken in 1873-4 failing to awaken the slumbering interest in our pursuit that broke out

so strongly a few years later. He has now been a philatelist in the full sense of the term for about five years, and in that short time has brought together the fine collection here described, and has placed himself in the front rank of this city's stamp collectors.

This collection numbers 5,500 distinct varieties of postage stamps, adhesive and envelope, and embraces all classes — local, provisional, surcharges, errors, etc. Color varieties are not regarded, except those which are so marked as to be generally considered as distinct emissions. In addition to the stamps, the collection contains a choice lot of postal cards, numbering something over four hundred pieces. All are well arranged and nicely mounted in an Imperial album of the latest edition.

Taking up the first volume (Europe), one is immediately struck with admiration at sight of the well filled pages. Not only are the adhesives here in full force, but a goodly number of envelopes, all neatly cut square, confront the eye. Notable among these latter is a complete set (six) of the early envelopes of Italy, issued in 1819-20. The page devoted to the Swiss Cantonal and Federal issues is perhaps the most striking in the volume, containing as it does the Basle stamp, the double stamp and two of the single stamps of Geneva, an almost complete set of the various types of Zurich, the Winterthur, and most of the Federal issue. The Turkish set is also very striking, especially the fine lot of *Katchak* surcharges. The German states and principalities are very full and complete; among these I noticed in the 1875 issue of the German Empire, a twenty-five pfenniges stamp on *pink* paper.

The second volume, which embraces everything outside of Europe, is naturally of more interest. It contains many noteworthy stamps, many complete sets of the lesser states. Japan is, perhaps, the most imposing, in point of numbers, of the Asiatic group, and comprises, with the solitary exception of the four sen, rose, of 1874, a complete set of all issues. The native Indian stamps are well represented. But by far the most interesting feature in this portion of the album is the fine lot of Shanghai stamps; the first issue (series with plural value), is here in full, supplemented by a fine specimen of the four candareens error (four *mace*), which is said to have once adorned the collection of the late Mr. Pemberton. Among the stamps of Natal I find a one penny with value surcharged and contained between two perpendicular parallel lines; this surcharge is unknown to me. Barbadoes is complete, St. Vincent lacks the five shillings only, Cuba is finely represented, and the Philippine Islands contain, in addition to a fine assortment, an excellent specimen of the one real blue of 1854-5. The Brazilian stamps are very fine, and include a good specimen of the very rare six hundred reis of 1844. Bolivia has a fine specimen of the fifty

centavos blue of 1867, which can also be traced back to the Pemberton collection. British Guiana is very good, but contains no great rarities. Bolivar has some fine specimens of the early issues, and all the issues from 1879 to 1884 complete. Peru includes almost numberless surcharges, some of them very rare and fine. Venezuela and the Columbian states are here in goodly numbers. The Sandwich Islands present some exceptionally fine pages, and include excellent canceled specimens, the type-set locals of 1859-65 — the two cents on blue, and the one and two on white; also canceled and uncanceled specimens of the five and the thirteen cents of 1852-3; then add to these an almost complete set of the latter issues. Tasmania is nearly complete, and includes the unperforated one penny of 1853; Victoria the same, and exceptionally fine, as is also western Australia. The fine lot of Sydney views are entitled to special mention; they comprise the one penny of 1850 (with and without clouds), two pence with clouds, and two pence with horizontal lines; the series following are well filled.

In Mexico we find well filled pages and three well authenticated specimens of the rare Guadalajara provisionals; also a splendid canceled specimen of the Chiapas stamp. Canada has, in addition to a fine display of adhesives, canceled originals of the rare five and ten cents envelopes of the first issue; I also noticed a five cents stamp of the 1876 type on *pink* paper, which is not recorded.

Passing, in conclusion, to our own country, there is a fine set, nearly complete, of the general issue of the Confederacy, all canceled, and a few of the provisionals, good but not especially noteworthy. The U. S. series is very fine, but not yet complete; it is exceptionally rich in envelopes, however, and also includes the departments complete, the rare *post obitum* sealed stamp, and many scarce varieties of both adhesive and envelope stamps. In addition, it includes the black "carriers" stamp, the five cents, and the three cents on green glazed paper, N. Y. post office stamps. Quite a number of locals have found an abiding place here, among them being Boyd's, Blood's, Pomeroy's, Wells, Fargo & Co.'s, the Central P. O., American Letter Mail Co., and many others.

The question alluded to in my last article of the 1869 issue having been originally put forth without grill, has further verification here in a canceled specimen of the twenty-four cents value. This particular stamp has for a long time been in Mr. Huber's possession, but was assigned to an obscure place and considered with much doubt on account of the absence of the grill.

Mr. Huber is certainly to be congratulated on the start he has obtained, and there is little doubt but that his indomitable energy and perseverance in collecting rare stamps will before many years place his collection in an enviable position among the first in the land.

JOHN HILL.

THE FATHER OF CHEAP POSTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Ex-Congressman John Hill, who will be remembered as the father of the cheap-postage bill, died at his home at Boonton, Morris county, N. J., July 24, 1884, at the age of sixty-three. He was born in Catskill, N. Y., June 10, 1821, and in 1845, he settled in Boonton, and was appointed postmaster of that town in 1849. In that office he acquired the ideas in regard to postal reforms which in after years he so successfully carried out. He also served in the same capacity from 1863 to 1867. He was elected to the State Assembly in 1861-2, and again in 1866. During the latter term he served as speaker of the house. He was elected to the fortieth, forty-first, and forty-second congresses, his last term ending in 1883. He was frequently mentioned in connection with the republican gubernatorial nomination in New Jersey, and was considered the foremost republican in the state. Mr. Hill was for many years interested in postal reform and the question of reducing postage, and about eighteen years ago, when he first entered congress, he introduced a bill to abolish the franking privilege, and after two years or more of hard work it was accomplished. About the same time he introduced the one-cent postal card bill, and after two years or more it was passed, but not without much opposition. In his remarks on those bills at the time, in April, 1872, he advocated a reduction in letter postage, considering the abolition of the franking privilege and adopting the one-cent postal card the stepping stone

to further reductions. After the organization of the house in December, 1881, he introduced his two-cents postage bill, which was referred to the post office and post road committee, who delayed reporting it to the house during the first session. He called the attention of the house to the bill, made several speeches on the subject, and made every effort to get it before the house for consideration. In November, 1882, he went to Washington to see Postmaster General Howe, and brought the matter before him. He also called on the President in regard to the matter, and found him favorably disposed toward the measure, and the latter, in his message to congress a few weeks later, recommended the reduction of the letter postage. Shortly after the meeting of congress in December, Mr. Hill saw the chairman of the sub-committee of the appropriation committee on the post office appropriation bill. On Wednesday morning, after the third day, the latter offered a resolution asking permission of the house to place the two-cents postage stamp measure in the post office appropriation bill. This was granted, and on the next day the bill was reported from the committee, printed, and in a few days brought before the house for consideration. A great many amendments to it were offered, but after a long and tedious fight over this clause it passed, and finally the whole bill passed, and, after a long and bitter opposition in the senate, passed that body on Friday, the day after the report to the house of the post office appropriation bill containing the two-cent postage clause. Mr. Hill received many letters thanking him for his interest in the matter, including many from associations and public bodies, containing resolutions of thanks.

MADAGASCAR.

Among the issues of postage stamps by foreign countries there is none more curious within recent years than the new issue of Madagascar— $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches—and none that will be more eagerly sought after by collectors. There are eight in all, ranging in value from 1d, to 2s. They are issued in England, for letters mailed at the British consulate in Antananarivo, and gummed only in the corner. The letters are sent to Mauritius, where the Malagassy stamp is removed and kept for a voucher, and the Mauritius stamp substituted.—*Boston Transcript.*

THE wise collector gets instruction and pleasure from his pursuit, and it may well be that, in the long run, he and his family do not lose money. The amusement may chance to be a very fair investment.—*"The Library," Andrew Lang.*

RECORD OF NEW ISSUES.

EDITED BY R. R. BOGERT.

ANTIQUA.—We hear a 1 shilling stamp has been emitted. Violet, of the current type.



ANTIOQUIA.—Three new stamps have been issued. The arms are in the center in an oval band inscribed "Centavos—Correos de Antioquia." In the upper corners are large figures of value. 1 centavo, green on pale rose; $2\frac{1}{2}$ centavos, black on orange; 5 centavos, blue on pale buff. They are, as usual, unperforated. (See illustration.)

BRITISH GUIANA.—The surcharged card has been superseded by a new one of the same value; 1c., gray on buff; size, 140×90 mm.

CEYLON.—In addition to the two stamps mentioned last month there is a 15c., olive green, of the same type. (See illustration.)



CURAÇAO.—There is a new card, $7\frac{1}{2}$ c., olive green on blue card, with reverse white. It is headed "Briefkaart Vit de Kolonie Curaçao."

DOMINICA.—The 4d. stamp has been changed to gray; and three new cards have been issued, 1d., and 1×1 d., carmine, and $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ d. brown; all on buff, and size 140×90 mm.

FARIDKOTE.—Two new stamps are reported, both $\frac{1}{2}$ anna in value, but one printed in black, the other in green.

FRANCE.—The 10c. card, black on lilac, is surcharged in red in two lines "20 paras," for use in the Levant. There were two letter cards issued on June 10; 15c., blue on buff, and 25c., black on rose. They are headed "Carte Lettre," and have four ruled lines, the first preceded by "M."

FRENCH COLONIES.—The low values of unpaid letter stamps, 1, 2, 3, and 4c., have at last been issued.

GAMBIA.—A new value, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., has lately been issued; color, blue.

GUANACASTO.—The surcharge on these stamps now appears in red.



GUATEMALA.—We have received the following values of the new stamps of this country, viz.: 1c., blue; 2c., red-brown; 5c., purple, and 10c., red. (See illustration.)

HAWAII.—The 12c. has again been changed, this time to red.

LABUAN.—There are changes in color, the 10c. stamp being now olive-brown, and the 16c. dull gray-blue.

MADAGASCAR.—There are stamps issued by the British consul, of the values of 1, 2, 3, and 4d., for postal packets, and 6d. and 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s., for letter. They are large type set stamps, printed in black on violet, and are used to pay postage as far as Mauritius, where they are taken off and replaced by stamps of the latter island.

MAURITIUS.—There has been a change in color here, the 50c now being orange instead of green.

MEXICO.—We understand a new series is in preparation and will be issued shortly. The head will be replaced by a large figure of value in oval surrounded by the inscription, "Servicio Postal Mexicano."

NEVIS.—There are new cards here, same as those for Dominica, noted above.



PERU.—The new issue mentioned last month took place on June 1, instead of May 15, as stated. The values and colors are as follows, the numbers in brackets indicating the exact shade according to color chart of the National Philatelic Society: 1c., violet [c.c. 57]; 2c., green [c.c. 26]; 5c., orange [c.c. 7]; 50c., vermillion [c.c. 125]; 1sol., brown [c.c. 85]. They are perforated 12, and the grill has been omitted.



(See illustrations.)

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—The 6d. has been again surcharged "4d.;" this time in figures instead of letters.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—We hear that the 10c. on the 12c. blue has received a second surcharge, consisting of a large figure "8" in blue; and that the 5c. brown-violet has been surcharged "³/_{cents.}"

SWEDEN.—The current 10 öre is now printed with a post horn in blue on the reverse.

TOLIMA.—Of the same type as the 5c. and 10c., noted last month, we have a 50c. green, and 1 peso red.

TURKS ISLANDS.—We hear the color of the 4d. has been changed to lilac.

NOTES AND NEWS.

POSTMASTER GENERAL VILAS, in answer to a resolution, has informed the senate that there are 109 inland water routes over which the United States mails are transported, for which the total compensation is \$379,971 per annum; there are also eleven coastwise routes, which cost \$66,756. The total number of miles traveled per annum is 3,371,528, and the average cost per mile \$3.25.

* * *

EARLY on the morning of July 9, during a severe storm, the safe in the post office at Minneapolis was rifled by burglars, who took \$100 in currency and \$18,000 worth of stamps. A mail carrier's horse and a delivery wagon were seized by the thieves to make off with their booty. Within the last few days the government agents in Chicago have succeeded in capturing four men supposed to be implicated in the robbery. An attempt to sell a merchant \$4,000 in stamps for \$2,400 led to the arrest of the quartette.

* * *

It was a great day when a stage road was completed through these mountains. But now we can hear the scream of the steam cars only a little way down the river, so close are they now on their way to Soda Springs and on up the river from Sacramento toward Arizona. Then, when the cars come this far and pass on, for the first time will men who have grown gray here receive their letters regularly. * * * Our nearest post office in those days was more than fifty miles away. And even now this letter, when completed and sealed up, will be sent across the Sacramento River in a leather bag, and hung up on a tree within convenient reach of the passing stage driver. The driver will take it down from the tree and hang up another bag in its place containing our papers and letters.—*Joaquin Miller in the Chicago Times.*

WHEN the steamer Oregon split in two, after she went down on a rocky bed off Fire Island, last March, the mail bags were washed out, and have since been at the mercy of the under currents and the waves. One of the leather pouches destined for Chicago was picked up on June 7 on the beach at Cape Hatteras, over 400 miles from the wreck. It arrived here a few days ago, and was opened at the post office. The contents were found to be in good condition. Probably not more than a dozen out of the three or four hundred letters are not decipherable.

* * *

POSTMASTER GENERAL VILAS has saved the government about 30 per cent. on the printing of postage stamps for the current year, the contract having recently been given the American Bank Note Co. at \$10,959.

* * *

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has signed the oleomargarine bill. Now look out for the new revenue stamps, the design of which might be taken from the ingredients composing an Irish stew — to be printed in old gold or a butterish yellow.

* * *

ON and after August 1, 1886, all gold coin below legal weight will, under instructions received from the Secretary of the Treasury, be stamped "light" as the same is presented at a sub-treasury.

* * *

THE Knights of Labor are endeavoring to foment a strike on the part of the New York City letter-carriers. That any of Uncle Sam's favorites should want to strike is certainly remarkable, and hardly credible.

* * *

MR. JEROME H. RAYMOND, whilom editor of the *Collector's Companion*, wishes it announced that his connection with that monthly ended with the March number. There seem to be many who still persist in associating Mr. Raymond with the *Companion* in spite of the many previous announcements of his withdrawal.

* * *

IT is rumored that we are to have another new postal card; black on white this time. The portrait of Jefferson will still adorn it, but redrawn and accompanied with a new design.

* * *

THE new stamped letter-sheet, soon to be issued, will take the place of the postal card to some extent. It is a letter-sheet and envelope combined, and is perforated and gummed at one end so as to be folded and fastened. They will have the government stamp, and will be put up loosely and in pads.

* * *

THE Morgan Envelope Co. and the Plimpton Manufacturing Co., of Hartford, Conn., have been awarded the contract for furnishing the government with stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers for four years beginning October 1, 1886. The contract will amount to about \$3,250,000.

* * *

THERE are 4,842 letter-carriers employed in the various carrier post offices in the United States.

* * *

IT has been the custom at the Chicago post office to return as unmailable such postal cards as had on the address side the occupation of the party to whom they were addressed — a silly custom which has now been discontinued, the post office department having ruled that the additional inscription was useful in identifying the addressee.

By a recent ruling of the Postmaster General, photographs are now rated as third-class (printed) matter, and can be sent through the mails by the payment of one cent for two ounces, instead of one cent an ounce as heretofore.

* * *

COL. WILLIAM H. BOLTON, superintendent of second-class mail matter at the Chicago post office, and John T. Stuart, weighing clerk, were arrested July 26 on charges of embezzlement and conspiracy. Col. Bolton was held to the federal grand jury in bonds of \$15,000, and Mr. Stuart in \$5,000. Both parties are well connected, and have always been highly esteemed.

* * *

MR. DURBIN says this is the busiest summer season ever experienced in the stamp trade. Should he not have added that the unusual interest is largely, if not entirely, due to the efforts that are being made to unite collectors and place philately on a firmer and more creditable basis through the medium of a national society?

* * *

MR. F. L. MILLS, who has so long and successfully conducted the *Stamp World*, is about to retire from publishing circles. He will certainly be greatly missed by the many friends he has made during his journalistic career, and can be sure of a hearty welcome should he conclude to again enter the lists. Mr. Mills's former partner, Mr. Collin, will succeed him in the management of the paper.

* * *

AN industrious if somewhat eccentric gentleman at Berlin has succeeded, after many years' patient labor, in amassing no fewer than one thousand heels from various kinds of boots and shoes worn by ladies and gentlemen more or less eminent. These novel articles of *vertu* he has had duly mounted in a handsome glass case, while a carefully prepared catalogue gives the date of their acquisition and the names of their former possessors. The origin of this latest development of the acquisitive craze is said to date from a visit of the collector in 1861 to the old castle of Kinast, during which a beautiful Swedish lady lost one of her boot heels, and this identical heel forms the most cherished object in the eyes of the ardent collector. He is, it is perhaps, needless to say, a bachelor.—*Argonaut*.

THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETIES.

We shall be glad to have all the societies represented in this department, and will send THE STAMP COLLECTOR free to those regularly sending us reports of their meetings. Reports must reach us not later than the 20th of each month.

CENTENNIAL STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first anniversary meeting of this society was held July 1, and the following officers were elected: J. C. Feldwisch, president; J. T. Drysdale, vice-president; F. W. Feldwisch, secretary; D. W. Osgood, Jr., treasurer; H. A. Babb, librarian. This society now stands on a good foundation and is building up rapidly. We have some very good active members, and at our last meeting we weeded out the drones and will be very careful as to whom we admit in future. Notice has been given that a motion would be made at next meeting that the name be changed to the Denver Stamp Collectors' League. We have essays and an auction at each meeting and a great deal of interest is taken in these two features. Three prizes are awarded for essays, and this makes the competition very lively.

F. W. FELDWISCH, Secretary.

ELKADER PHILATELICAL SOCIETY.

The Elkader Philatelic Society was organized July 19, 1886. Officers were elected as follows: Fred Stearns, president; Geo. Everall, treasurer; Wm. Reinecke, secretary. It was resolved that we join the National Society about to be organized. Address communications to W. Reinecke, Secretary, Elkader, Iowa.

NEW MILFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At our quarterly meeting, July 2, the following officers were elected: G. S. Hill, president; F. E. Soule, vice-president; W. P. Landon, secretary and treasurer. It was resolved to hold four meetings during the next three months, instead of meeting weekly, as heretofore. At the meeting of July 23 the subject of a national society was discussed. Mr. Turrill, our former president, was present at this meeting.

W. P. LANDON, Secretary.

THE HARTFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Last evening, July 21, a meeting of gentlemen interested in the collection of stamps was held at the residence of Mr. H. E. Pratt, 71 Pearl street, and a permanent society was formed under the name of the Hartford Philatelic Society, the following officers being elected: Frank Orr, president; E. O. Gilbert, vice-president; H. E. Pratt, secretary and treasurer. Resolutions were adopted inviting all gentlemen interested in the science to become members, and requesting them to communicate with the secretary. The meeting was then adjourned till Wednesday evening September 1.—*Hartford Evening Post*.

A SOCIETY with over twenty members is said to have been organized at Stapleton, New York, but no particulars have yet been furnished us. There is also a movement on foot to establish a New England society. Mr. L. H. Patterson, of Danver, Mass., will furnish particulars to any persons interested.

THERE is a society at Pittsfield, Mass., called the Berkshire Philatelic Union. Although formed last winter, it is known to but very few philatelists.

THE PROPOSED NATIONAL SOCIETY.

Some changes have occurred since last month, the most important of which is the addition to the National Committee of representatives from the Philadelphia and St. Louis societies. Although the committee has not called upon the societies for representatives from each one, still it is understood that any society is at liberty to appoint its own member of the committee, such member to have an equal voice with the others in all deliberations. At latest reports the society had a membership of over two hundred and fifty.

CHICAGO STAMP COLLECTORS' UNION.

The attendance at the meeting of July 2 was quite small, owing probably to the patriotic impulses of many of the members. The event of the evening was the attendance of Mr. Cuno, of New York, who favored us with an address. At the meeting of July 16 there was a good attendance and much business was transacted, the most important of which was making nominations for temporary officers of the proposed National Society. These were as follows: for president, E. R. Durborow; for vice-president, J. H. Raymond; for secretary, Theo. F. Cuno; for treasurer, W. G. Whilden, Jr. Auction sales have not been of much importance this month, the sale at the first meeting being postponed on account of the pressure of other business, and the last sale being composed entirely of postal cards, for which reason it failed to be very interesting. Five new members elected this month.

EDITORIAL CHAT.

THE recent exposure at the Chicago post office of frauds in connection with the prepayment of second-class matter, well illustrates the utter worthlessness and folly of the present method of collecting postage on that class of mail. A system that will admit of such opportunities for defalcation is very much at fault, to say the least. And all this might have been prevented by simply selling these stamps to publishers, and requiring them to affix the necessary amount to their packages in the same manner that other stamps are affixed to other classes of mail. Of course there is a difficulty arising from the fact that mail matter of this kind is delivered to the post office in bulk — usually in sacks or large packages — and it would be impracticable to place the amount of postage required on each separate package of the entire lot, but this difficulty might be overcome by affixing the stamps to the packages or sacks containing the lot and requiring that they be canceled in the presence of the person delivering the mail to the post office. By thus selling the stamps in the same manner that ordinary postage stamps are sold, and in this way preventing the weighing clerk from having anything whatever to do with cash payments of postage, it would be impossible to produce any such scandalous result as the one referred to. The only chance of fraud would be the possible conniving of the weighing clerk with the outside parties delivering the mail to him — an unlikely occurrence, and one that would necessitate their taking stamps only, and they would be exceedingly hard to dispose of in any considerable quantity.

Another point this case brings up is the ease with which the defalcation was accomplished, and the continued temptation that is offered employes in large offices to in this manner rob the government. Is it likely that the Chicago office is the only one that has succumbed to this temptation? Would it not be wise to carry the investigations further, and compare accounts in other offices?

IN view of the broad field that is open to philatelic writers it would seem that plagiarism was altogether unnecessary, as well as foolish. In spite of the many opportunities there are for original thought and writing, we are continually running across articles that have been reprinted, rewritten, or redressed, time and again, until they are as familiar to students of philatelic literature as are the old nursery rhymes to our children. But it is not every day that a person has the audacity to chop out, word for word, a column of matter written by another person, and have it printed over his own name; yet we have just such a case as that on hand now. We were much interested in an article on posts that appeared in the *London Leisure Hour*, and decided to reprint it for our readers. This, however, we could not do without explaining that the portion of the article referring to pigeon posts is not taken from the article on that subject published in the *Toronto Philatelic Journal* for April; but that, on the contrary, the latter was evidently taken bodily from the one republished in this magazine.

THE leaders in the effort to form a national philatelic society have met with quite an unexpected set-back in the action taken by one of our societies. The society in question (St. Louis) refuses to recognize or treat with any committee not composed of representatives of all the leading societies (we presume every society considers itself a leading one, and who can draw the line?), and in pursuance of this policy has appointed one of its members to act with the present committee. As the admission of one new member to the committee necessitates the admission of a representative from every society that chooses to appoint

one, why would it not be in order to reconstruct the committee entirely? There is no doubt but that some, if not all, the members of the original committee would be only too glad to let go if the opportunity was offered them. Then, too, it is a self-appointed committee that can only exist by the favor of the society's members; and, as it has seemingly fallen into disfavor, it might be wise to relieve it of duty and form an altogether new one. It would take no more time to do this than it will take to make the committee representative by including a member from each society. That is bound to consume time, and instead of having an organization effected by the first of October, as the situation a month ago indicated, we can, indeed, congratulate ourselves if that date witnesses the completion of this new committee, and the restoration of united and harmonious action.

THE *Chicago News* says of us, that "even the crankiest of cranks' hobbies have their representative journals," and in the same breath gives us credit for publishing "a description of an interesting collection." Our thanks are due to the *News* for admitting that a stamp collection can be interesting, even though it be "cranky" to the superlative degree.

THE nominations for temporary national officers made by the Chicago society are such as we can commend most heartily. Mr. Durborow is a well known Philadelphia collector, and would make an excellent president; Mr. Raymond, the candidate for vice-president, well represents the society he hails from; he made many friends by the able manner in which he conducted the *Companion* when that journal was in his hands. No person in this country is better adapted to fulfill the onerous duties of secretary than is Mr. Cuno; he is a man of rare attainments and ability, and has the subject well in hand; furthermore, he is the prime mover in the present effort at organizing. Mr. Whilden is well known to collectors, and in no one's hands would the society's finances be safer. These are all good men and true; men whom the breath of slander cannot reach; men with whom the American society can safely trust its honor.

SOME societies are advocating certain dealers for national officers. This we think is a mistake. Not but that there are men among the dealers who would make capital officers. On the contrary, there are many dealers who would make most excellent officers. But we must avoid the mistake of starting off with even the appearance of the society's being run in the interest of dealers if we desire to make it a permanent success. There is any quantity of good official timber aside from the dealers, and if we are wise in this matter we will look there for officers. The idea that dealers might oppose the society should they not be allowed to run it is surely an erroneous one. No dealer will oppose a movement that cannot fail to increase his business, and the renewed interest and activity in stamp collecting that will follow in the wake of a successful organization is sufficient consideration for them.

THE pleasant features of Sir Rowland Hill are familiar to most of our readers; but although his portrait has been published in periodicals time and again, we do not think the one we publish this month will prove unwelcome. *Philalia*, the frontispiece to our last issue, is a reproduction from a German photograph, and represents what is supposed to be the Goddess of Philately.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Under this heading we shall insert any communications that our friends may send us for that purpose, when such shall be of a nature to interest our readers.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the foot note on page fifteen of your issue of the current month, I would say that in 1869 I was an employe of the post office in this city, and when the issue of that year made its appearance, I gathered a large number of all denominations, both canceled and clean, and the earlier impressions were *without grill*. I have these duplicates now, but cannot get to them at the present time, or I would forward specimens. Besides this I well remember the complaint made regarding the non-adhesiveness of the gum, and also the newspaper comments when the grill appeared.

In what month this appeared I cannot remember; but think a reference to my journal would discover the date. It is my impression, however, that the grill appeared within a week after the first stamps reached our office. When I find time to refer to my note book and to my duplicate stamps I will write you further, if I obtain further facts from them.

Yours very truly,

EDW. L. JOHNSON.

I have read the views in THE STAMP COLLECTOR regarding the mode of exchanging stamps, and have thought the matter over carefully, and I am of the opinion that the second plan is the better of the two for this reason: Sending stamps around on approval sheets soon gets them in bad shape; a collector tries to get a certain stamp off a sheet, but the stamp commences to tear, so then he of course does not want it, and it goes back to the society. Taking stamps off from one sheet and putting them back on to another soon makes them look shop-worn and far from desirable. No, the best way, in my mind, is to publish a list, as is suggested, and upon receipt of an order send the party just what is in stock.

Yours truly,

H. B. SEAGRAVE.

I have the two cents and six cents of 1869 issue in canceled condition and without grill. In my opinion the stamps without grill are the rarest.

J. L. JOHNSON.

—————, JULY 28, 1886.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find postal note for seventy-five cents, for which please send THE STAMP COLLECTOR for one year, beginning with No. 2.

If our Brooklyn friend who neglected to add his name to the above will send us his name and address, we will be glad to put him on our mailing list.

Dear Sir,—I have three specimens (used), of the 1869 U. S. issue without grill, viz.: one, two, and three cents. Most of the one cent stamps, 1869 issue, that I have seen, have been without the grill, while comparatively few of the two and three cents were without grill.

A. MELVIN JONES.

Dear Sir,—I have the following U. S. stamps of 1869 without grill: one cent, two cents, light and dark brown, three cents, ten cents and fifteen cents.

Yours respectfully,

ED. C. BAILEY.

WHAT THEY THINK OF IT.

I trust you will keep up to the high standard that you have set, and wish you every possible success.—*G. B. Calman.*

It seems to be the beau ideal of what a stamp paper should be.—*J. J. Casey.*

We are delighted with the work, and almost feel ashamed of ourselves for taking advantage of this special offer. It is well worth the \$1.—*R. S. Harris & Co.*

It promises to be what I have awaited—a first-class monthly in every respect.—*C. A. Hazlett.*

You have certainly got a good-looking paper, and we wish you every success with it.—*D. C. Heath & Co.*

It is all any collector can desire.—*E. D. Kline.*

The best I have ever received.—*F. L. Mills.*

The want of more really good publications is sorely felt, and we feel sure that your paper will supply this want.—*The Scott Stamp & Coin Co.*

I consider it a model in every particular, and well worth the patronage of all true philatelists.—*H. B. Seagrave.*

I certainly consider THE STAMP COLLECTOR the most creditable journal of the kind now published.—*J. A. Shindell.*

I think your magazine the most newsy and completely philatelic I have ever seen.—*C. B. Spafford, Ph.G.*

Your magazine is a fine one, and ought to be a grand success.—*N. G. Vreeland.*

THE STAMP COLLECTOR at hand, and I assure you that it was a literary treat. I devoured its contents as a starving man would a loaf of bread.—*W. G. Whilden, Jr.*

It is neatly gotten up; the writers are well informed, and the articles well written.—*Montreal Gazette.*

The first number of THE STAMP COLLECTOR will prove a surprise, owing to the extent and variety of the information about stamps it furnishes.—*Troy Times.*

Number 1 starts out with an article on "Philately," showing that stamp collecting is something more than child's play, not a mere waste of time, but work that keeps the mind constantly refreshed on points of geography, current history, the art of engraving, and many other points of more or less importance.—*The National Baptist.*

TARDY DELIVERY.

One of the most extraordinary cases of delayed mail delivery came to light on June 15 last. On July 27, 1860, Gen. George L. Becker, of St. Paul, addressed a letter to Capt. Mahlon Black, at Stillwater, both being members of the same branch of the democratic party, the contents of the communication being exclusively political. Somehow the letter switched off between St. Paul and Stillwater, and when next heard of it was found with others upon the streets of Bismarck about six years ago, and taken in charge of Capt. Thomas Van Etten, then a resident of that place. Upon his removal to Sauk Rapids the letter was placed in a box and nothing more was thought of the matter until the great cyclone, when the box was blown out of Capt. Van Etten's barn, but subsequently found at some distance, with the contents undisturbed. In the meantime Capt. Van Etten had ascertained Capt. Black's address and forwarded the letter, which fell into the hands of the right owner about twenty-six years after it had been written and mailed! Who can produce another letter which has been on the road an equal length of time?—*St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Those of our subscribers who have any articles to exchange that are of interest or value to collectors generally are invited to make use of this department without charge. Notices must not exceed five lines in length, and we reserve the privilege of rejecting any we do not think it best to print.

Will exchange stamps or other papers for complete files or odd numbers of philatelic papers. Publisher THE STAMP COLLECTOR, 90 Randolph St., Chicago.

I have a number of symbolical envelopes, used during the rebellion, unused and entire, to exchange for stamps. Write for particulars, and enclose list of exchanges. S. B. Bradt, Grand Crossing, Ill.

I have a two cent U. S. stamp of the current issue cut in half, diagonally. It is well authenticated and will be exchanged or sold for cash. J. L. Johnson, 215 Jefferson St., Wilmington, Del.

One dollar and fifty cents' worth of good U. S. stamps, by Sterling's catalogue, for Vol. I, *Keystone Philatelic Gazette*; good U. S. stamps, coins, minerals, autographs of prominent men, etc., for U. S. stamps and tin tags. W. C. Michaels, Lock Box 164, Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

I will give from ten to twenty varieties of stamps for every United States or foreign stamp sent me, not in my collection, which only numbers two hundred and five foreign and forty-one United States stamps. John L. Tuckerman, 59 Sheldon Street, Providence, R. I.

I have a large number of autographs to exchange or sell. Send list of duplicates and of those wanted to, D. S. S., care of THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

QUERIES.

Any question of a philatelic nature that our readers may send us will be printed in this department. We invite those who may be able to answer any of these questions to send the answers to us, and they will be printed in the following issue.

2. I have a U. S. postal card of the same design as that now current, but printed in an olive-grey color. Upon the blank side is printed a notice of the expiration of a subscription to the "*Art Interchange*, Wm. Whitlock, publisher, New York." Can anyone tell me if this is an error or, if not, why more have not appeared, for this was mailed May 7th? Has anyone seen others? V. R.

3. (1) Can anyone inform me about a three cent *blue*, 1870 issue U. S.? 2. A friend has two three cent *red* of the same issue. What are they? (3) What is the value of a 70 K. Wurtemberg? J. L. J.

(Number one is a changeling made by chemicals and is met with frequently. It is of no value.)

ANSWERS.

No. 1. Mr. M. T. Hutchins, of Brooklyn, sends us a newspaper sketch of the late Mr. John Hill, which we reprint on another page. As the name of the newspaper was not furnished us, we are unable to give it due credit. Our thanks are due Mr. Hutchins for this and other clippings sent us; also to other persons who have sent us biographical sketches of Mr. Hill.

WITHIN the last year there has been organized in Japan a society known as the Romaji Kai, or Roman Alphabet Society. Its aim is to substitute Roman letters for the Chinese and Japanese characters now in use. The society is making rapid progress, and has already a membership of 6,000 and a journal of its own. Would that Turkey might be induced to go and do likewise.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Book-love is the good angel that keeps watch by the poor man's hearth, and hallows it; saving him from the temptations that lurk beyond its charmed circle; giving him new thoughts and noble aspirations, and lifting him, as it were, from the mere mechanical drudgery of his every-day occupation.—*Anonymous*.

Mr. Charles Hutchins of Boston has prepared a monograph on the existing rates of postage on second-class mail matter.¹ It treats of the injustice of the present rates, and has for its text the bill presented to the house of representatives by Mr. Money, of Mississippi, a few years ago. This bill was favorably reported upon by the House Committee, in whose report is found the following: "The law, as it now stands, is not only inconsistent with the general law regulating rates of postage, but is illogical, unjust, and absurd." It has three times been passed in the house of representatives, but as yet has failed to reach a hearing in the senate. It is probably not very generally known outside of publishers' circles that to send a periodical by mail to the most distant part of the country it costs many hundred per cent. more than it does to mail it to a person residing in the city of publication, provided that city has letter-carrier service. To illustrate: The last issue of this magazine weighed about three ounces. At one cent a pound—the second-class rate—it costs something less than one-fifth of a cent a copy to mail to New York city or San Francisco or any other post office in the United States. In order to mail it to persons residing in Chicago it was necessary to affix a one-cent stamp to each copy, making the cost of delivery within the city where published more than five times that of delivery to New York or San Francisco. Such a law is surely most "illogical, unjust, and absurd," and we trust Mr. Hutchins's efforts to direct attention to the matter will result in a speedy hearing for the bill that has been so repeatedly thrust aside, and which simply provides for establishing a uniform rate of postage and repealing that portion of the postal law of 1879 which created this monument of inconsistency.

Lovers of entertaining fiction well told should not fail to read *Mr. Desmond, U. S. A.*² It is one of the few really good summer novels, and, although it contains nothing that can be called new in plot or action, it is a book that will hold the attention when once fairly begun, and leave the reader the better for having made its acquaintance. It is to be hoped, however, that its description of life at a military post is not strictly authentic, as it does not reflect any great credit on our army.

No more thoroughly entertaining book has been sent from the press this year than Miss Harris's³ recollections and reminiscences of school days in the country forty years ago. It will bring vividly before thousands of readers the happy times of childhood, days which had a peculiar charm and delight which city school children can never know or understand. Miss Harris tells us about many things which are pleasant to remember, and tells it in a style which adds much to the charm of the narrative.

The author of *Silver Rags*⁴ is a very fascinating writer of juvenile literature, and manages to make the young folks feel that he is still one of them.

¹A Bill Regulating Rates of Postage on Second-class Mail Matter; with remarks on the present law respecting the same. By Charles Hutchins. 8vo, paper. Boston.

²Mr. Desmond, U. S. A. By John Coulter. 16mo, 244 pages, cloth, \$1; paper, 50 cents. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

³Old School Days. By Amanda B. Harris. 12mo, price 60 cents. Boston: Interstate Publishing Co.

⁴Silver Rags. By Willis Allen. 12mo, price \$1. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.

One of the characters in this story is Pet Sibley, a "little maid from school," who takes her vacation with some country relatives in Maine, and who has ever so good a time, including a narrow escape from drowning while on an expedition in search of water lilies. Many interesting short stories are woven in, and add much to the interest of the story.

Coin collectors will be interested in Mr. Johnson's⁵ descriptive list of Bolen's works. It gives the number of each piece struck in the different metals, the disposition of the dies, and all other necessary details. The same gentleman has also prepared a very complete coin handbook, containing a list of some twelve hundred coins of all metals struck in and for the United States, the American colonies, and Canada. This handbook gives the number struck of each date and denomination of the United States series, and much interesting information that is invaluable to the numismatist. It is also intended for the use of those persons whose occupation is to handle quantities of coins, and with its aid the veriest novice can determine whether any particular piece is worth more than its face value. A very handy glossary of technical terms is also given.

As a writer of Indian stories for young people, Mr. W. O. Stoddard is assuredly successful. His latest production⁶ in this line is worthy the attention of both old and young. The book is interesting from the very start, and the interest is well kept up throughout. At the same time there is much valuable information concerning the present condition of the Indian, and it is presented in an entertaining manner. Mr. Stoddard has struck at the false and pernicious in juvenile literature by producing a book that is at once healthy and attractive. The illustrations are appropriate and well executed.

ARTICLES IN THE PHILATELICAL JOURNALS.

JULY, 1886.

- Austria, The Post Cards of. *Phil. Record.* (June.)
 Bogus Stamps. *Empire State Phil.*
 Brattleboro' and Similar Stamps. J. J. Casey. *Phil. Jour. of Am.*
 Corea (Notes and Queries). *Phil. Record.* (June.)
 Hawaiian Islands, Facts concerning First Issue. J. M. Chute. *Stamp Collector.*
 Mexican Provisionals. C. H. Mekeel. *Phil. Journal of Am.*
 Mexico, The Stamps of. Wm. Caillebotte. *Phil. Record.* (June.)
 National Philatelic Society, The. *S. and C. Gazette.*
 National Society, The Proposed. *Stamp Collector.*
 Philatelist's Observations Abroad, A. J. M. T. Partello. *Stamp Collector.*
 Philately. *Stamp Collector.*
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 Philately, The Study of. A. J. Palethorpe. *S. C. Journal.* (June.)
 Samoa and the S. and C. Gazette. *S. O. Journal.* (June.)
 Samoa Stamps Again, The. *S. and C. Gazette.*
 Starkweather Collection, The. *Stamp Collector.*
 Watermarks. *Phil. Record.* (June.)

⁵J. A. Bolen's Medals, Cards, and Fac-Similes. By Edwin L. Johnson. 8vo, paper 25 cents, cloth 50 cents. The Coin Handbook; the Gold, Silver, and Base Coins of the U. S. By Edwin L. Johnson. 16mo, paper. Springfield, Mass: Numismatic Publishing Co.

⁶Two Arrows; A Story of Red and White. By William O. Stoddard. Illustrated. 16mo, 286 pages, price \$1. New York: Harper and Brothers.

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One of the earliest and most successful stamps on record is beauty's stamp on woman; it will pass current with the males of to-day, as it has from Adam's day, and will to the end of all time.

* * *

"What makes you stand there grinning?" asked one traveler of another, as they watched the Mexican volcano, Colima, belch forth in eruption.

"Oh, I can't help it," said the other; "it's so lava-ble."—*Tid Bits*.

* * *

"Here's a story about a coin which a man marked with his initials coming back to him after an absence of twenty-three years. Queer, wasn't it?" "Oh, I don't know, Bromley; I passed a coin in a bazaar at Constantinople thirty years ago, and ——" "It came back to you ——" "The same afternoon, Bromley. It was a counterfeit."—*Philadelphia Call*.

* * *

"I say, Cholly, ole boy, I see they've found another bag of mail lost with the steamer Oregon."

"Have they, though? By Jove, I hope they won't find them all."

"And why not?"

"Why, you see, the Oregon sank about a week after I lost a letter my wife gave me to mail to America."—*Chicago News*.

* * *

The Board of Health of Flatbush, L. I., has resolved to tax funerals \$1 each. On the ground that to die is more of a luxury than to live in a town that has such a Board of Health, it is perhaps proper to make a man pay for it by sticking a revenue stamp on his corpse.—*Chicago News*.

* * *

The following sign is up in a Harlem grocery store:

No Trust,
In God We Trust,
All Others Pay Cash.

* * *

"Now, girls," said Mrs. Partington to her nieces, "you must get husbands as soon as possible, or they will all be murdered."

"Why so, aunt?"

"Why, I see by the papers that we've got almost fifteen thousand post offices, and nearly all of 'em dispatches a mail every day."

* * *

Advertiser: "How is this? I see you have reduced your advertising rates one-half."

Solicitor: "Yes, sir; that's all right. We had to do it this week. Our affidavit editor is out of town."—*The Rambler*.

* * *

"Mr. Jones," said the end man, with the insinuating voice for which he ceased to be famous some time during the reign of Elizabeth, "can you tell me how to invest money so that it will go the farthest?"

"No, Mr. Thompson, I am not aware that I can. How do you invest money so that it will go the farthest?"

"Why you buy postage stamps, to be sure."

The orchestra played, and Bones sang, "Why is our Grover's vest cut low?"—*Tid Bits*.



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