

THE STAMP.

Vol. 1—No. 1. RIVERSIDE, CALIF., Fri. JAN. 29, 1897. Whole Number 1.

our regular correspondent.

FOOSTER LETTER.

Winchester, Indiana.

Readers of the Stamp:—

WITH THE return of cold weather, Philatelic matters once interest many who had paid little or no attention during summer months. Many new collections are being started, but I am sorry to say, one of our most prominent collectors has decided to sell his collection.

The person I refer to is Mr. W. S. Preston. His collection is a good one, comprising such things as U. S. 39 issue nearly complete, the high value Columbians, Cuba nearly complete, and many scarce U. S. Revenues, as well as a fine collection of foreign stamps. This collection also contains a splendid copy of the Cincinnati Handstamp, which its owner values at \$25. Some of the rarities have already, and it is very likely the rest will be sold by auction. Mr. Preston's retirement, Philately has lost an ardent supporter, and hope he may soon return.

Another collection which is to be sold is that of W. W. Edmunds, of Richmond. His collection was made in England, 18 years ago, and is long in British Stamps.

The other day a gentleman telephoned to me and said he had a couple of fine foreign stamps to show if I would come to his office. It is only eight blocks away, so I

went. When I arrived, he showed me a couple of 2½d current English stamps and then waited expectantly for my surprise at the RARE (?) gems before me. It came, but not as he expected. I said d—, and "something" else, adding that I had a million, more or less, for sale at 2c a pound. He was like every one not a philatelist; he thought his were the only letters ever received from a foreign country, and supposed the stamps would be prizes for a collector. Nearly all the "boys" have met such people, and



One of the "Boys" know how hard it is to convince them that such stamps are flies in July. The best way to deal with them is to do as I did with this one; that is invite them home with you and show them a few of your foreign stamps, beginning with Russia and ending with Hankow, or Foochow, and they will never again ask you to walk a mile to see a 'continent' of which you have scores.

So far the Indiana State Society has failed to appear. Why don't somebody do something?

Rumors of an important "find" of stamps in the country near here have reached me, and I hope to be give a full report next month.

I warn you against John Brassington, of Hart Mich. He cheated me out of some Mss. H. I. Watts.

A bill authorizing the use of private cards of the same size and weight as regular postal cards, with a 1c stamp affixed, was recently passed by Congress. The bill originated with Mr. Loud of California. Mr. Loud also called up two other postal bills, both of which passed.

The Stamp.

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Subscription, (75c per year to U. S., Canada,
and Mexico.
(\$1.00 per year to other countries)

Advertising rates, 25c per inch.

Exchange desired with regularly issued Philatelic publications.

We will not be responsible for what our correspondents say.

GOOD Mss. and notes of interest wanted.

Forms close Mondays of each week. Issued Fridays.

THE STAMP, Riverside, Calif.

Notice

WE have never been able to make the 'Western Stamp' pay, so we have suspended it. All contracts will be filled by the 'STAMP.' Yours truly,
The Western Stamp Pub. Co.

Editorial Opinions.

MR. S. M. Hamilton, of Petersburg Ill., has favored us with a copy of a neat 12 page 6x9 pamphlet, entitled "The Inside History of the late P. S. of A. Convention." It is neatly and ably written. Price 25c per copy.

The Cuyler Sun is a neat 8 page weekly paper. The January Evergreen State Philatelist is fine. The Philatelic West changes its size again with the January number. The January Stamp Advertiser is very good. The January Boys' World is good. The January Herald Exchange is good. The January Philatelic Literature Collector is nice. The January Official Bulletin is an improvement over former issues. The January Philatelic Literaturist is very good.

The January Texan Philatelist to the usual standard. The January Trans-Mississippi Stamp began a new volume. As a Philatelic paper, the Philatelic Nebraskan is a dismal failure. We hoped for something much better. The March Philatelist has suspended. The January Stamp is a new paper from New Jersey. The custom half-tone is omitted from the January Omaha Philatelist. The January Philatelic Advocate had 12 pages. The Philatelic Californian has moved from San Francisco to Oakland.

The Stamp Collectors' Almanac 1897 is valuable for any philatelist to have. Price 1d, of S. Stewart, North Eastern Terrace, Darlington, England.

Inasmuch as there are only a few other weekly stamp papers (The Weekly Stamp News, and the Stamp Collector) we believe that there is a good opening field here in the west for a new paper, which is only waiting for someone who is enterprising enough to make use of it. That person has not been found, but our personal interests prevent our mentioning of the name. We mean 'his' name.

We shall ALWAYS say just what we want to, WHEN we want to, ALL we want to, (even if we do not appear semi-weekly in order to save enough space) and say it "sans reproche."

Mr. Herbert I. Watts, the well known philatelic writer, has just completed a philatelic novel, and has made arrangements to have it published. We will announce the title when it is ready.

Another directory is announced, the Reliable Address Book, by J. H. Wis, Beaver Falls, N. Y.

as we go to press we receive 57th catalogue. It is by far the one ever issued. Although the prices are not just what they could be, yet, on the whole, it shows careful compiling. A glance through the book shows that the publishers have looked well to their interests—of themselves. However, the long suffering collector will gladly accept it as a standard of what it really is. The sectional editions of several U. S. adhesive stamps will greatly help many collectors—advanced ones as well as beginners. One great trouble with the catalogue is that many of the pages are trimmed off too close to the reader.

There is no reason why publishers should not be made to pay a higher rate for second class matter, if a rate is made on letters, but the second class bill now before Congress (where it has been for the last eight years) thoroughly disgusts Mr. Loud. He shows his ignorance of the subject he has attacked by calling it "free matter" and "POSTAL loss!" It is NOT a POSTAL loss; it is simply one of the many ways in which the public's money is used up. The Post Office Department is one of the best ones in the world, and should not be mis-represented and degraded by any one-sided so-called 'reform' as the loud second class bill. We admit that the loss (to the GOVERNMENT and to the POSTAL system) is far greater in carrying free matter than there is any need of, but still it is a postal affair. Several other government expenditures could be cut to meet the 'free matter' loss. The President's salary, for instance, several thousand dollars too high

for the light duties imposed upon "His Royal Highness. (Said duties consist of writing an annual message, a large amount of duck hunting and fishing, dodging Queen Lil, watching the Spanish butcher the Cubans, (when he should be wiping the whole "durn little village" of Spain out of existance!) and using up the money he gets incidental expenses, for which he receives the insignificant compensation of \$50,000 per annum, for four consecutive annuums! Why don't Mr. Loud' class that \$50,000 annual loss as a POSTAL deficiency? There would be as much sense in that as in including "free matter. Although the bill in question is a 'Loud Bill,' it is not 'loud' enough to be passed by any senseable congress.

The January Monthly Observer is very good. The January Filatelic Facts and Fallacies is excellent.

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H. I. WAFFS,

Winchester, Ind. (m2)

Scott's 142nd Auction Catalogue lists many fine lots of stamps. Two engraved plates of stamps are bound in the front of the catalogue, illustrating several of the lots. These catalogues are sent free, on application, by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., 18 East 23rd St., New York.

The January Eastern Philatelist contains several instructive articles.

In the January Eastern Philatelist Editor Pinkham gives the Philatelic Monthly and World a good raking up in regard to second class rates. That's right; the P. M. & W. is not entitled to second class rates, but how about the the ads. of the Granite State Stamp Company that appear in the E. P. in direct violation of the second class regulations?

Elsewhere in this issue we print a halftone of Mr. Georges Carion, of San Francisco.

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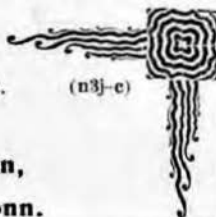
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