





Crawford 1778



The Curiosity Hunter.

VOLUME 1.

1873.

Rockford, - - - Illinois.

D. A. K. ANDRUS,

Dealer in Curiosities.

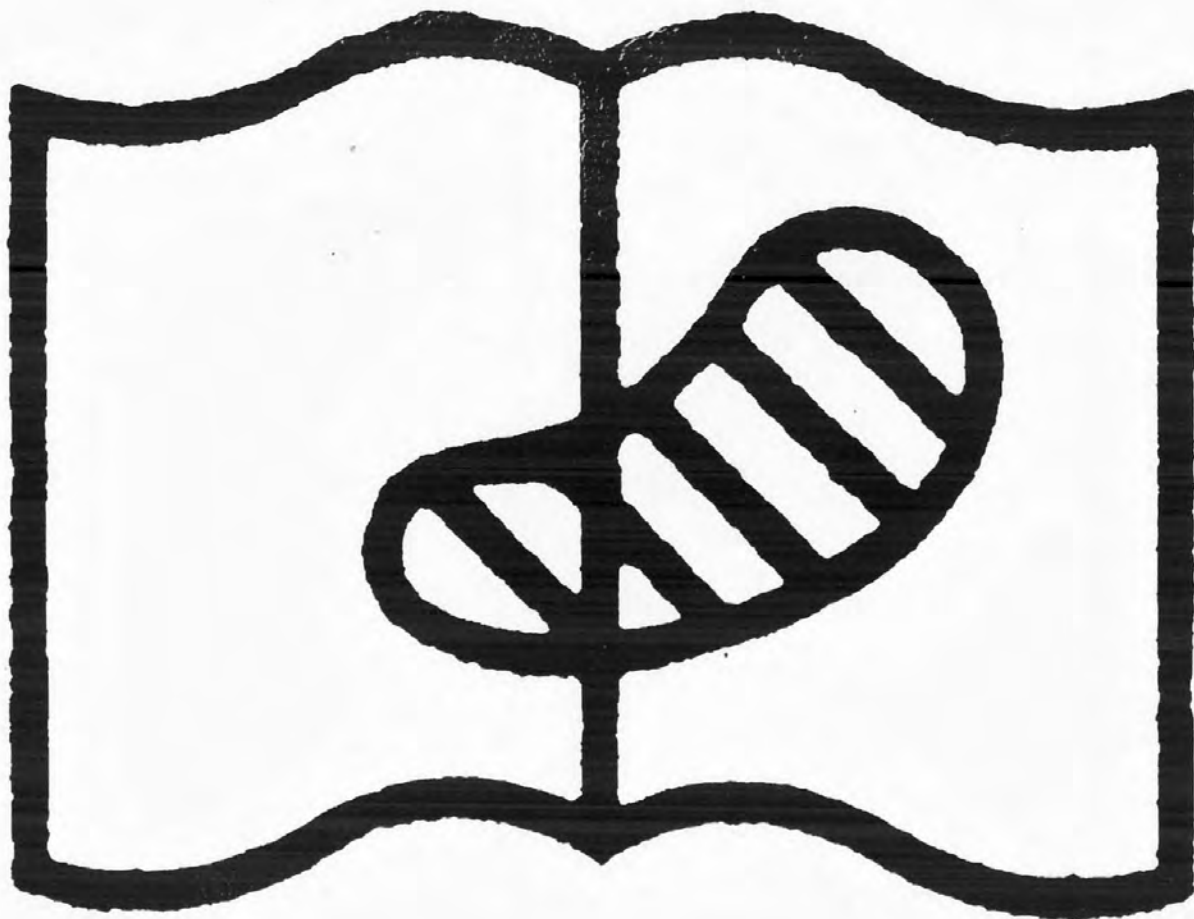


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The Curiosity Hunter.

Vol. I.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER, 1872.

No. 1.

SALUTATORY.

In publishing this little sheet, we shall attempt to furnish a paper, which when bound up at the end of the year, will furnish a common-place book for Curiosity Collectors of whatever ilk. We shall glean from whatever source we can gather them, brief articles in relation to any and all kinds of Curiosities, whether of Nature, Science, Art, Literature, or Antiquity, enlarging and beautifying our sheet as rapidly as our patronage will warrant. If throughout our broad country, there be Collectors who have felt the want of such an organ, let them remember that with them in a great measure lies the success of this undertaking. If favored by your patronage and contributions, we can certainly say with Richieu, "In the bright vocabulary of youth, there should be no such word as FAIL."

COLLECTORS of Algae, Shells, Corals, &c., will find it to their advantage to send us a list of wants, accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope, in which case only will it be returned, with the prices of those we can furnish.

PROF. DAWSON'S magnificent collection of native and foreign birds, fish, and eggs, attracted much well merited attention at our late County Fair. Some of the rarer specimens we shall describe in the future.

FROM Wm. P. Brown we have a fine specimen of the one shilling revenue of Antigua. It makes a fine addition to our collection. Thanks, friend Brown.

WE have received the new set of stamps issued by Sweden. They are by far the most beautiful emissions of that country.

T. M. COAN, in the "ALDINE" for August, says: "What are ACHATINELLA? They are beautifully colored shells that grow upon the bark and leaves of the forest trees, having a certain resemblance and common character, which makes them a genus. They are a conical shell, a little like the ordinary snail shell; but they have an infinite variety of colored markings, some of which are extremely beautiful. Green, crimson, yellow, olive, and the peculiar flush of sunset-skies may be seen in the smooth enamel of their surfaces. The colors are deep and durable; the shells may be called a sort of glorified snail shell. Some of their tints of green are especially tender and glowing, and can only be compared to the soft rich hues of oriental vases, or textile fabrics. This genus of shells is divided into two or three hundred species, and some of these species are again sub-divided into varieties.

TO ALL those who are desirous of enlarging their collection of Revenues, we would offer our lists of the first issue of U. S. Revenues, and all Canadian Bill Stamps for a three cent stamp each.

WE have received Jno. W. Kline's Price List of Medals. It contains a brief accurate description of some sixty medals which he has for sale, in copper, brass, white metal, bronze and silver.

WE received a call a few days since from Maj. Samuel E. Houghton, claiming to be the smallest man in the world. Height, 31 inches; weight, 41 pounds; age, 20 years.

OUR thanks are due Oscar Ulex for a copy of his Stamp Catalogue—the finest of the Continental Catalogues that we have yet received.

The first coin issued by our Government, bore at Franklin's suggestion, the motto, "Mind your business."

The Curiosity Hunter.

September, 1872.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

D. A. K. ANDRUS, ROCKFORD, ILL.

P. O. Box 733.

Terms Fifty Cents per year, postage paid.

WE shall be pleased to exchange with all papers devoted to any branch of curiosity collecting.

WE have upon our table Jno. W. Haseltine's Priced Catalogue of Coins in stock and for sale by him.

WE have a large Stock of Advertising Coins and Tokens for sale cheap. Send list of wants and three-cent stamp, for prices.

THE publishers of our Philatelic journals must look to their laurels if they wish to compete with "The Canadian Philatelist."

OUR large Descriptive Catalogue, containing four pages of illustrations, and full description of 2,500 Government Stamps, a Money Table, and list of dealers, &c., 15 cts.

SEVERAL new minerals have been discovered of late, among the announcements of which we notice *pulianite*, a species bearing a resemblance to fahlerz, found in cubic crystals of a dark gray color.

THE largest, most complete, and best arranged common-place books we have ever seen, are the property of Mr. A. F. Davis, of this city, compiled by himself, and from which we shall glean many items of interest.

THE U. S. half dime of 1802 has been sold as high as \$300; the dollar of 1804 as high as \$750.

WE wish to obtain all kinds of Revenues, and will give fair price for good specimens in exchange for other stamps.

THE publishers of the *Stamp Collector's Guide* are doing their best to make their paper what it professes to be—a Guide. Success gentlemen.

PARTIES desiring to dispose of, or to obtain curiosities will do well to make their wants known through our columns, as we will receive a limited number of advertisement at 10 cents per line, each insertion cash in advance.

WE shall publish in one of our columns, as rapidly as the information can be obtained, a directory of all dealers in curiosities, of whatever character, and all dealers are requested to send the name and address of their firm, the line of business, and a price list.

ONE of the most complete works on the wonders of the ocean, is "The Ocean World," published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, a work of great interest to the general reader, and of almost incalculable value to the collector of the wonders of the deep. Its six hundred pages and over four hundred illustrations constitute an encyclopedia which no collector of this class of curiosities can well be without, if he wishes terse but exhaustive information in relation to those objects which he collects. Price, post paid, \$8.50. To be obtained of the publishers, or of us.

WOOD DUCKS.

"ONE may see that the male duck, he with the crest, is a very peacock among ducks. Lightly, softly, and full of grace, he sits upon the surface of the water, dark with the reflections of the overhanging foliage. Evident pride is in his beautiful form, and his glorious color, flashing at every turn of the lithe neck, brilliant in contrast of fine white above, and dark violet brown below and on the breast. His cheeks and the sides of his neck are violet, while his forehead, his crown, and his pendent crest shine with glossy bronze-green, ending in violet, and mingling with the lines of white as they run backward from the corner of his vermilion bill, and from his eyes, and fall with the plumes that droop in a perfect curve from the hind head. A crescent spot of pure white, bordered with a like marking of pure black, marks the sides of the breast; under the wings the sides of the body are beautifully marked with fine parallel undulating pencilings of black of a warm grayish ground, and the flanks are still further decorated with broad alternate semi-circular patches of black and white, which cover the lower edge of the wings when they are closed. His back gleams with green and dusky bronze of a changeable metallic quality of color, and the great quills show steel-blue in the direct light. Thus gorgeous he can afford to flaunt his beauty among the moose-heads and lilies, and let his most pardonable vanity shine out in the glitter of his scarlet irides."—

G. BURLING, in *September Aldine*
 A few specimens of this magnificent bird, artistically mounted by the celebrated taxidermist, Mr E. H. Lyman, can be obtained from us. All the more beautiful and rare of both North and South American

birds can be obtained, either singly, in pairs, or in groups, from us. A list of wants, accompanied by a three-cent stamp, will be returned with the prices at which we can furnish them.

WE have a large stock of Stereoscopic Views, selections from which will be sent on approval to amount of remittance accompanying an order and the money refunded for all such as are returned in good condition, as unsatisfactory.

THE first copper coins issued by the United States government were coined at the New Haven mint in 1787. None of the large copper cents have been issued since 1857, as an act was passed in that year discontinuing the copper cent and half cent, and a new cent, composed of 88 per cent of copper, and 12 per cent of nickel, and weighing 72 grains, was substituted. All three were first coined in 1865. This statement is made on the authority of a broker, as we have no data at hand from which to furnish authoritative information.

SALE OF STAMPS.

THE number of adhesive stamps issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue during the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1871, was 411,563,888, representing a value of \$150,100,741, as follows: Documentary stamps, 106,786,432, value \$20,820,066; proprietary stamps, for matches, patent medicines, etc., 304,877,456, value \$4,199,007. The result as compared with the previous fiscal year is as follows: Decrease in number of documentary stamps issued, 58,011,288; and money decrease on same, \$2,096,100; increase in proprietary stamps, 7,184,870; value in money increase, \$24,047.

OUR POSTAL CARDS.

IN our last number we stated on official authority that the new post cards would appear about September 1st. The following article, copied from a daily paper, explains the reasons for delay:

"The opinion of Attorney-General Williams on Saturday, in which he decides that the Postmaster-General had no authority under the new postal code to contract for postal cards, there being no specific appropriation made for that purpose, and he having no warrant for using other appropriations therefor, was brought about, it is said, by a quarrel among certain engraving companies, which allege that the whole postal card business was a job put into the hands of the National Bank Note Company. It is known that the sample card which was adopted by the department was got up by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and that the Department was in the act of issuing an advertisement asking for bids for furnishing the card like the sample, to be opened in a time so short that no company could prepare a sample to accompany its bid. Thus it is claimed the National Bank Note Company, being the only one to furnish a sample, the contract would be awarded to it. The competing companies being assured of this, sought measures to kill the whole business, proper competition not being allowed, and secured legal assistance in the matter. That assistance was to the effect that the Post Office Department had no power to get up the cards without an appropriation, and the Department being so informed asked an opinion of the Attorney-General, who decided as above stated. Postal cards will not therefore be issued until an appropriation is made for them by Congress at its next session."—*Stamp Collector's Guide.*

THE new set of Swedish stamps is the handsomest ever issued by that government.

THE new set of Mexican postage stamps bears the portrait of Miguel Hidalgo, the first hero of the independence.

THE late change in our postal rates has caused the emission of one cent newspaper wrappers, color blue on brown and buff; also 1 cent envelopes, the stamp being impressed in blue on white, yellow and light and dark buff envelopes. In regard to the post cards see article elsewhere.

IF to any who may receive this paper a thought of scorn or ridicule may come, either on account of its size or its incompleteness, we can only say, "Despise not the day of small things," but favor us with your patronage and contributions, and we will strive to make it what you and we wish it to be—a valuable aid to those in search of curiosities

WE had the pleasure of recently seeing an English sixpence bearing on it the head of "Good Queen Bess," and the date 1572. It is in circumference a little above the size of our American 25 cent silver pieces, and very thin. The edge is irregular, and bears evidence to a little clipping. It is curious, in this connection, to notice how coins bear out and corroborate the statements of historians. Hume says that English rulers formerly laid claim to the sovereignty of France: we turn to our insignificant sixpence, and around the rim we trace the inscription which, translated from the Latin reads: "Elizabeth by the grace of God, queen of England, Ireland, and France."

The Curiosity Hunter.

VOL. 1. ROCKFORD, JLL., OCTOBER, 1872. No. 2.

SUCCESS.

Always a pleasant word to contemplate, but much more pleasant when you can feel that it has been achieved in some undertaking the consummation of which you have devoutly wished for. Less than a month since we conceived and immediately commenced the execution of the idea illustrated by the issuing of "THE CURIOSITY HUNTER," and already the congratulations and subscriptions of hundreds of collectors in nearly all the States of our great Union, from Maine to California, from Michigan to Texas, have reached us, and assures to our undertaking that with which we have headed our paper for this month, success. To our friends we express our thanks, and present this number of our paper twice the size of the last, and if sufficiently supported, shall continue to enlarge and improve our sheet as rapidly as possible. We again ask you for such contributions as you may think of interest to any of the classes of collectors which we represent.

A NEW JAPANESE CURRENCY.

The Japanese propose to revolutionize their currency and financial system, and, in fact, have already begun the change. The Japanese embassy, which was in this country and in England a year ago or more, had charge of this matter. At first they were inclined to adopt the English system, this seeming to them better than any other which they examined in Europe; but when they reached the United States, and became acquainted with our system, their views were changed,

although the English sought earnestly to prevent this. The Japanese commission finally decided to adopt our decimal system, taking our dollar as their unit, and immediately took measures to put it in operation. Part of the commissioners went home to change the coinage, and the others remained here to superintend the printing of bills and bonds like ours. This work, we believe, is not yet finished, but the coinage has been so far changed that new coin is already circulating in Japan. An article in the *New York Times* describes this new Japanese coinage as follows:

"The lowest denomination of their gold coin is 'one yen,' equal to one dollar. There are then gold coins of the denomination of two, five, ten and twenty yens. The silver coin is called 'sen,' the denominations being five, ten, twenty and fifty sens, the lower denomination being equal to five cents of our currency. The copper coinage is one sen, equal to the one-hundredth part of one yen, one-half sen, equal to the two-hundredth part of one yen, and one rin, equal to the one-thousandth part of one yen. These low denominations are absolutely necessary in that land of cheap commodities and cheap labor."

This adoption of our financial system in Japan gives us an advantage which was understood and appreciated by the English when they sought so persistently to give Japan their system; but the Japanese commissioners decided wisely, for not many years hence we shall have more direct communication with their country than all the nations of Europe together.—*The Postage Stamp Reporter.*

WE have received from John W. Haseltine, 512 Walnut street, Philadelphia, a catalogue of the C. N. Bodey collection, which is to be sold at auction on Oct. 29 and 30. Thanks.

The Curiosity Hunter.

OCTOBER, 1872.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
D. A. K. ANDRUS, ROCKFORD, ILL.

P. O. BOX 733.

Terms, Fifty Cents per Year, Postage Paid.

Advertisements, 10 cents per line, each insertion.

CURIOUS COINS.

We had the pleasure, recently, of seeing a collection of curious coins belonging to a gentleman of this city. Probably those most interesting to an American are the ones coined by the various Colonies or States prior or during the war of the revolution.— Those which especially attracted our notice were the rare coppers coined by New York, Massachusetts, Vermont and Virginia. All bear witness to an execution and design more or less rude. They have upon them such devices as "Independence and Liberty," "Valor and Liberty," etc., all indicative of a desire for freedom from the oppression of the mother country. We also noticed a fine lot of rare Roman and Grecian coins, which ranged in age from 1,500 to 2,000 years.

MEDALS.

We have on hand a number of fine proof medals, struck in commemoration of important historical events in American history. They can be furnished either in copper, brass, white metal, bronze or silver. Among the ones most noticeable for general beauty of design and finish, is the "Independence Medal," bearing on the obverse "Independence Hall, 1776," and

on the reverse the "Liberty Bell" and and its well-known inscription. It is size 24 of the American scale. We have also in stock others struck off for political campaigns, in great variety.

IN OUR next month's issue we shall begin the publication of a descriptive list of advertising coins, to be followed by a list of Rebellion tokens, and request our friends to send a short description or rubbings of such as they may have, thus assisting in making it complete.

ON OUR table, as we write, in the full rays of the sun is a case containing a dozen of the most rare and beautiful of the South American Humming Birds, radiating from their bright, sparkling beauty a halo of glory. Each one of these, in their bright plumage, is as far beyond the power of description as the imagination excels the real. The pen of the poet, the pencil of the painter, could not do them justice. We shall not attempt, but simply say, if you wish beauty beyond comparison, you should obtain a few of these "diamonds of the first water," skillfully grouped by that careful student of nature and skilled taxidermist, Mr. E. H. Lyman. Prices sent on receipt of return postage, and a list of wants.

THE name of God is spelled in four letters in almost every language, thus: In Latin, Deus; French, Dieu; Greek, Theos; German, Gott; Scandinavian, Odin; Swedish, Codd; Hebrew, Aden; Syrian, Adad; Persian, Syra; Tartarian, Idga; Spanish, Dias; East Indian, Esgi, or Zeni; Turkish, Addi; Egyptian, Amun, or Zent; Japanese, Zain; Peruvian, Lian; Wallachian, Zene; Etrurian, Chur; Irish, Dich; Arabian, Alfa, &c.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. L.—Cleveland.

THE FUGIO CENT.—In 1786 Congress established a mint, and the first coin issued from this mint was the copper variously known as the "Fugio cent," "Franklin cent," and "Link cent." One side of this coin bears in the centre the words, "We are one;" in a circle surrounding this, the words "United States," while an outer chain of thirteen links completes the design. The other side bears a representation of the rising sun, and a sun-dial; under the dial is the legend, "Mind your business," and about the rim, "Fugio, 1787." This coin is known as the Franklin cent because of the pithy advice contained in the legend, but there is no evidence to show that Franklin had anything to do in regard to its coinage.

The reasons why the other names mentioned are applied to this copper, are obvious.

The Fugio cent was coined in very large quantities, but good specimens are somewhat rare.

In 1859 a whole keg of these cents was found in the vaults of a New York Bank, where it had remained undisturbed for over half a century.

L. G. Hoyt, Exeter, N. H.—Cannot send what you want, have not time. Will insert your advertisement for 10 cents per line, which will answer the same purpose.

H. W. B., Portland, Maine.—Have done as you wish. Will you please furnish some items of interest in regard to your specialties?

WE shall be pleased to exchange with all papers devoted to any branch of curiosity collecting.

WE shall hereafter acknowledge receipt of money for subscriptions in this column, instead of by letter, as follows:

Wm. N. Albany, N. Y. J. B. C., Providence, R. I. G. H. R., Northfield, Vt. H. G. S. & Bro., Winona, Minn.

M. D. G. Montpelier, Vermont. Mr. D. is "now as then." Heartily pleased to hear from you. Sends thanks and kind wishes. W. Eames, East New York.

IF any of our friends desire geological specimens, or silver, copper and iron ores from the Lake Superior district, we can obtain them for them at very reasonable rates.

WE have received MASON'S COIN COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE. It is even more readable than usual, and brother Mason promises still further improvements, if sufficient support is given him. We glean some choice items for this number of our paper from his valuable magazine.

IT is surprising to note the steady increase of the stamp trade in this country. Every mail brings us from one to three price lists of new dealers.

A VULTURE, it is said, can fly 150 miles an hour, wild geese 90 miles an hour, the common crow 25 miles, and swallows 90 miles. It is said that a falcon was discovered at Malta twenty-four hours after the departure of King Henry IV., of France, from Fontainebleau. If true, this bird must have flown 24 hours at the rate of 57 miles an hour, not allowing him to rest a moment during the whole time.

FREEMASONRY IN THE HOLY LAND.

"What," exclaims the reader, "has freemasonry to do with numismatics?" We reply, that it has thus far accomplished many things of great interest to the student of ancient numismatic history. It has equipped and sent out to the Holy Land a distinguished savant and numismatist, Robert Morris, L.L.D., of Kentucky, whose researches have been embodied in a beautiful and readable volume of six hundred and eight large pages, embellished with over two hundred choice illustrations; and this work has many references to ancient coinage, with *fac similes* of rare and interesting specimens of Greek and Roman issues. After several years of laborious travel and persistent investigation in a land rich in numismatic history, Dr. Morris has published his great work, "Freemasonry in the Holy Land; or, Handmarks of Hiram's Builders." To the reader we would say, get this book at once, and thereby become a member of the American Association of Numismatics, and the American Holy Land Exploration. By remitting four dollars to Robert Morris, LaGrange, Ky., you become a subscriber, receive a magnificent and handsomely bound volume as above described, and certificates of membership in two worthy scientific associations. To our masonic readers we would say, you cannot well do without "Freemasonry in the Holy Land," and, if your head is level, send your subscription to a good, square, honest brother, who has traveled as far as 32 degrees latitude east, and is a *grand* author and *master* of ancient history, to say nothing of other abilities. There

is no *rust* about Dr. Morris, unless the rust of ages, found on the many ancient coins he has collected.---*Mason's Coin Collector.*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES.---The postal system projected in 1692 was not put into operation until 1710, when the States were still a British Colony. By an act of the British Parliament, the postmaster general was to have his principal office in New York, and secondary offices in one or more convenient localities in other provinces. In 1753 Benjamin Franklin was appointed to that dignity, with a minimum income of £500 a year for himself and secretary. He soon introduced some useful improvements during his administration, which considerably augmented the revenue of the post office. In 1760 he proposed to start a mail coach for carrying despatches between Philadelphia and Boston, to set off once a week from each of those towns. Franklin, having become an object of suspicion on account of his sympathy for the aggrieved colonists, was superseded in 1774.---*Moens' Illustrations of Postage Stamps.*

FROM Louis G. Hoyt, treasurer, we have received a letter stating that the American Egg Co. are about to publish a journal devoted to the interests of collectors of birds, eggs, nests, &c. Persons interested can address as above, Exeter, N. H.

PERSONS giving their exclusive attention to coin collection will greatly advance their interests by sending \$1.50 to Mason & Co., box 1893, Philadelphia, Pa., and thus become subscribers to their valuable magazine.

WE have the promise of some items describing some of the many objects of interest in the museum of the University at Ann Arbor, Mich.

FROM DR. G. A. STOCKWELL, of Port Huron, Mich, we have a valuable addition to our collection of Revenues, in the shape of an English medicine stamp. This stamp is 5 3-8 inches in length by 1 inch in breadth, printed in black and red, on white paper. At the left end is the word STAMP, at the right the word OFFICE, printed in large black letters, on a clear field of white. The border of the stamp is black, intersected by white scroll work. The central portion is red and black, broken by white scroll work. In the exact center, in white, is a crown surrounded by a circle of white, in which is inscribed, in letters of black and red, "Stamp duty, three half-pence." On the left of this circle, in white letters, "Value, 1s. and under," on the right, "Dr. John Hooper," also in white letters. For this stamp, the only one of the kind we have yet seen, friend S. has our thanks.

WE have been often asked the meaning and derivation of the word *Philatelist*, and for the benefit of the uninformed, will state that it is the word chosen by scientists to designate (the *poor in talents*, as outsiders call us) collectors of stamps; it is derived from two Greek words, meaning, respectively, *liking* and *untaxed*, or *exempt from tribute*, and was deemed the best word which could be derived from a classical source for the purpose intended.

COLLECTORS of Algae, Shells, Corals, &c., will find it to their advantage to send us a list of wants, accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope, in which case only will it be returned, with the prices of those we can furnish.

WE wish every collector of curiosities to send descriptions, short, compact and expressive, relative to varieties among his specialties; thus increasing the value of our paper to himself and others. We need, must and will have the co-operation of persons interested in the collection of curiosities of all kinds.

OUR large Descriptive Catalogue, containing four pages of illustrations, and full description of 2,500 Government stamps, a Money Table, and list of dealers, &c., 15 cents.

WE have a large stock of Stereoscopic Views, selections from which will be sent on approval to amount of remittance accompanying an order, and the money refunded for all such as are returned in good condition, as unsatisfactory.

WE have seen, within the last few days, quite a number of very fine specimens of the currency of the late confederacy; they are the property of J. A. Earlandson, of this city, who has a few duplicates for sale.

WE wish to obtain all kinds of Revenues, and will give fair prices for good specimens in exchange for other stamps.

WE will give good prices, in cash or trade, for all unmutilated specimens of the U. S. Private Revenues.

A LIST of the old issue of U. S. Revenues sent to any address for a three-cent stamp.

WE have for sale a few of the Canada Excise, or Tobacco Stamps; 25 cents each.

THE FOLLOWING, for which many thanks, we clip from the *Rockford Journal*, of October 5th:

STAMPS.—Truly our Forest City, and the various branches of business carried on within its limits, are becoming well and widely known. As an example of this, Mr. D. A. K. Andrus, the well known dealer in stamps, coins, shells, and various other curiosities, has, within the past few days, received an order from Charles Roussin, the famous Parisian antiquarian, for nearly 500 rare and valuable stamps, chiefly United States local, revenue and match stamps. Some of these stamps ranged in value from \$4 to \$5 each. The whole order, amounting to a large sum of money in the aggregate, was promptly filled by Mr. Andrus. We learn that this gentleman has also received orders for different curiosities from England and Germany.

GREEN RIVER CANON. — Broken pottery is strewn about, and the ruins of antique dwellings are found upon the cliffs. A singular race once lived upon the inhospitable shores of these obscure and formidable streams. To the tops of towering hills, almost as inaccessible as the eagle's eyrie, the fated people fled from their plundering and more powerful neighbors. A scant subsistence was gained from patches of corn on the river's shore, and game and edible plants in the valleys. From this point their ruins and relics are found as far as the canons extend. In many places stone steps lead up to terraced cliffs, where houses still are seen. The positions were impregnable. Upon the smooth faces of rocks near, their picture writing is readily traced. It consists of rude outlines, cut in the stone, of men, reptiles, beasts, lightning, clouds and unknown symbols.

Specimens, rare and valuable, we have obtained in large quantities. Our scientists have got immensely rich with a multitude of fossils, and found many wonderful theories thereon. A bed of flint was discovered where arrow heads were made; many chipplings are of beautiful colors. We

have several varieties of precious stones, such as garnets, rubies, agate and chrysolite. Rock crystals, discovered in a cave, prove to be clear and lustrous.—*Correspondent Powell's Exploring Expedition.*

By far the most complete work on Corals that we have seen, is that by Jas. D. Dana, L. L. D., published by Dodd & Mead, 762 Broadway. With in its 400 profusely illustrated pages facts relative to "CORALS AND CORAL ISLANDS," that our philosophy had never dreamed of, are brought to light, and we are led, by a pleasing instructor, through the various labyrinths of a new field in curiosity hunting, particularly varied and beautiful even to one not wholly interested in this branch of the sea's wonders. The author names some 600 species of corals, and gives a short description of each, and their varieties, together with a list of authorities from whom he quotes; the whole forming a work which the collector of Corals cannot well afford to dispense with. Bound in muslin for \$6.00; to be obtained of the publishers or of us.

WE wish to obtain all kinds of private revenues, if in good condition, and will pay good prices either in cash or trade, for good specimens. Let all save the match and medicine stamps that come under their notice, and thus aid us, and either increase their collections or lengthen their purse by sending them to us.

WE welcome among our exchanges *The Amateur World*, a neat, illustrated amateur paper, devoted to the interests of boys and girls. Published by Frank Cropper, 461 Fourth St., Louisville, Kentucky.

OLD POEM.

We re-print an old poem of Roger Williams', suggested by the currency, English and Indian, of the colonial times. The poem is not strictly fresh — having been written in 1630, or thereabouts — but it is good:

“The Indians prize not English gold,
Nor English Indians' shell;
Each in his place will pass for aught
Whate'er men buy or sell.

English and Indians all passe hence
To an eternal place;
Where shells nor finest gold's worth aught,
Where nought's worth aught but grace.

This coyne the Indians know not of;
Who knows how soon they may;
The English, knowing, prize it not,
But fling't like drosse away.”

THE SEVEN ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE WORLD.

1st, The brass Colossus of Rhodes, one hundred and twenty feet high, built by Cares, A. D. 280, occupying twelve years in making. It stood across the harbor of Rhodes sixty-six years, and was then thrown down by an earthquake. It was bought by a Jew, from the Saracens, who loaded nine hundred camels with the brass.

2d, The Pyramids of Egypt. The largest one engaged 360,000 workmen thirty years in building, and has stood at least three thousand years.

3d, The Aqueducts of Rome, invented by Appius Claudius, the Censor.

4th, The Labyrinth of Psammeticus, on the banks of the Nile, containing, within one continued wall, one thousand houses and twelve royal palaces, all covered with marble, and having only one entrance. The building was said to contain three thousand chambers, and a hall built of marble, adorned with statues of the gods.

5th, The Pharos of Alexandria, a tower built by order of Ptolemy Philadelphus, in the year 282 B. C. It was erected as a light-house, and contained magnificent galleries of marble, a lantern at the top, the light of which was seen nearly a hundred miles; mirrors of enormous size were fixed round the galleries, reflecting

everything on the sea. A common tower is now erected in its place.

6th, The walls of Babylon, built by the order of Semiramis, or Nebuchadnezzar, and finished in one year by 200,000 men. They were of immense thickness.

7th, The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, completed in the reign of Servius, sixth king of Rome. It was 450 feet long, 200 broad, and supported by 126 marble pillars, 70 feet high. The beams and doors were of cedar, the rest of the timber of the cypress. It was destroyed by fire 365 B. C.

DURING an excavation made in Pompeii, a few weeks ago, the objects turned up were: A human skeleton, almost perfect; a pair of gold ear rings, with pearls; a gold bracelet, five gold coins, seven hundred and eighty-two silver coins, three silver rings, and sixty-seven pieces of bronze money. The coins were all of the consular and imperial periods. The jewelry and coins will be placed almost immediately in the Naples Museum, and the skeleton in the Pompeii Museum, together with the human remains previously discovered.

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Wholesale and retail dealers in

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Field Medal, bronze, \$1.25

Book or Paper Money, 1.60

Send stamp for priced catalogue.

SEND a three-cent stamp for price list of Canada Bill Stamps.

THE paulonia imperialis, a Japanese tree in Rome, Ga., has a leaf 36 inches across. It multiplies very rapidly from the scattering of the seed by the wind.

Box 273, Syracuse, N. Y.

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DEALERS IN

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And publishers of

THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

Send stamp for specimen copy.

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THOSE collecting Stamps and Coins will do well to send for our new circular. Sent on receipt of three-cent stamp. Large illustrated Catalogue 15 cents. Address

STAMP AND COIN CO.,

P. O. Box-1089, Rockford, Ill.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, NOVEMBER, 1872.

No. 3.

TO GRUMLERS.

While we are daily receiving letters expressing the gratification felt by persons receiving our little paper, we also receive occasional letters from others, saying, "Why do you not devote more space to coins, to birds, to stamps, to minerals, to autographs &c. &c.?"

To these we have only to say that the cult is yours, not ours. We glean from all the sources which we can, articles in relation to each of the above, and if in any number any branch of curiosity hunting is neglected, it is not because we have neglected it, but for the simple reason that in our reading we have seen nothing in relation to that branch of collecting, and each and every one of you instead of grumbling in your letters will occupy the same space in describing some specimen or peculiarity in relation to something which you possess or have seen in your peculiar line of collecting you will render the paper more valuable to others and like it much better yourselves, as you will then have a greater interest in its success. Try this once and see if it is not so; and if our paper is not large enough to contain all the good things you send us, we will endeavor to make it so. Now do not grumble any more, until you have tried our remedy, at least.

To those who have shown their interest by sending us articles of interest or subscriptions or both, as some have done, *thanks*.

Among the curiosities received lately at Mr. J. F. Dawson's Museum, Freeport, is a chicken with four legs, and a white skunk weighing ten lbs.

COINS.

We have from Messrs. Beifeld & Bell four coins, an English half penny token of 1812. A Hungarian silver coin, obverse head of Leopold XV, surrounded by the inscription, "LEOPOLDUS. D: G: R. S. (XV.) SAGE. H. G. B. O: REX." reverse a female seated, holding a sceptre in the right hand and a child in the left; at the right centre of the figure, within the inscription is the letter "K." at the left the letter B, the whole surrounded by the inscription, "PATRONA HUNGARIA, 1693" between the letters N. & G. of HUNGARIA is a shield bearing the Hungarian coat of arms. This coin is about the thickness of old Spanish quarter, and is size 19 by the medal scale; it was dug up by a party of laborers on a new railroad, near Klein Tell, Hungary, purchased by a brother of Mr. Beifeld, and together with others brought to this country; among the others found by Mr. Beifeld is a Washington, medal size 12, copper, obv; bust of Washington surrounded by the inscription, "GENERAL WASHINGTON;" reverse Eagle grasping arrow and olive branch, surrounded by inscription, IN UNITATE FORTITUDO DEI GRATIA. Also a Hamburg shilling of 1738. - Observe castle within a wreath surrounded by the inscription HAMBURGER; reverse within a wreath, 1 SCHILLING, 1738, -I-II-L.

THE formal ratifications of the postal treaty between the United States and the Argentine Republic were exchanged on Nov. 7th. It is rumored that this will cause the emission of stamps of a new denomination by each of the countries.

The Curiosity Hunter.

NOVEMBER, 1872.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

D. A. K. ANDRUS, ROCKFORD, ILL.

P. O. Box 733.

Terms, 50 cents per year, postage paid.

Advertisements 10 cts. per line each insertion.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ADVERTISING COINS.

Copper, size 12, obverse, head liberty, 13 stars, 1863. Reverse, Remington & Bennett, druggists and grocers, Maumee St., Adrian.

Bronze, size 12, obverse, redeemed, Exchange and Dean St's., 1863, Albany, N. Y., 6 stars. Reverse, John Thomas, Jr., premium teas, coffee and spices.

Bronze, size 12, obverse, redeemed at 427 Broadway St., 1863. Reverse, Benjamin & Herrick, fruit dealers, Albany, N. Y.

Bronze, size 12, obverse, redeemed by D. L. Wing & Co., Albany, N. Y., 2 stars. Reverse, union flower, in wreath.

Copper, size 12, obverse, head liberty, 13 stars, 1863. Reverse, Comstock & Bro., mortar druggists, Albion, Mich.

Copper, size 12, obverse, rope and anchor. Reverse, J. P. Barnes, dealer in stoves and tinware, Anderson, Ind.

Copper, size 12, obverse, Indian's head, 13 stars, anchor. Reverse, Dean & Co., house furnishing goods, 1863, 13 stars.

Bronze, size 12, obverse, mortar, 2 stars, druggists, Ann Arbor, Mich. Reverse, Stebbins & Wilson, dry goods and groceries, business card, 2 stars.

Copper, size 12, obverse, head liberty, 13 stars, 1863. Reverse, Wm. Wagner, merchant tailor and dealer in clothing, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Copper, size 18, obverse, planing machine, Woodworth's patent planing machine made by S. B. Schenck, Attleboro, Mass. Reverse, this machine is capable of planing, tonguing, and grooving, jointing, or rabbeting 18 feet of boards or plank in a minute, 1834.

Copper, size 12, obverse, planing machine, Woodworth's patent planing ma-

chine made by S. B. Schinck, Attleboro, Mass. Reverse, plank planed and matched by W. P. Haskins, 435 Riv St., Troy, N. Y. Also ground No. Scotia plaster for sale, 1834.

Copper, size 12, obverse, union, spread eagle grasping branch and arrows, stars, 1861. Reverse, Ira H. Fitch, dealer in leather, harness, &c., Broadway, Aurora, Ill.

Copper, size 12, obverse, business card in wreath. Reverse, Gates & Trask, dealers in watches, jewelry and silverware, Aurora, Ill.

Copper, size 12, obverse, spread eagle, 1863. Reverse, John Reisse, dealer in dry goods, groceries, clothing, hats and caps, Barton, Wash Co., Wis.

Copper, size 12, obverse, V. P. Collier, general hardware, No. 40 Battle Creek, Mich., 4 stars. Reverse, A. Gleason, manufacturer, Hillsdale, Mich., 1863, spread eagle and stars.

Copper, size 12, obverse, spread eagle, 1863. Reverse, A. P. Redfield, hardware, iron, tinware, stoves, nails, &c., Beaver Dam, Wis.

Copper, size 12, obverse, warrior with flag and shield in wreath, 1863. Reverse, O. M. Warrin.

Copper, size 12, obverse, spread eagle, 2 stars, union, 1863. Reverse, Peck & Pratt, dealers in wines, liquors and cigars, Beloit, Wis.

Brass, size 13, obverse, mortar and pestle, 13 stars, George B. Ames, 1863. Reverse, George B. Ames, dealer in drugs, books &c., Belvidere, Ill.

Brass, size 18, obverse, anvil, John Plane & Co., Belvidere, Ill., 1856. Reverse, cook stove, dealers in hardware, iron and stoves.

Brass, size 18, obverse, anvil, Plane & Jennison, Belvidere, Ill. Reverse, cook stove, dealers in hardware, iron and stoves.

Copper, size 12, obverse, S. P. Sedwick & Co., variety goods, Bloomingdale, Ill. Reverse, no compromise with traitors, in wreath.

Brass, size 18, obverse, spread eagle, Mahony's wholesale clothes warehouse, No. 50 Ann St., Boston. Reverse, manufacturers of every description of clothing, also dealers in cloths and furnishing goods.

Copper, size 18, obverse, Peck & Burham, wholesale dealers in French, British

and American dry goods, 54 Hanover St., Boston. Reverse, a general assortment of fancy articles, (silver spoons and spectacles, gold beads, scissors, razors, combs, &c., in wreath.)

Copper, size 12, obverse, head liberty, stars, union, 1863. Reverse, Weaver Fox, stoves, tin, hardware, &c., Bunan, Mich.

Copper, size 12, obverse, Indian head, stars, 1863. Reverse, Geo. Gage, Cooper, 334 Main St., Buffalo.

Copper, size 12, obverse, Indian head, stars, 1863. Reverse, Alberger's meat store, Buffalo, 2 stars.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Prof. S.:—Yours received; thanks for enclosures. I should be pleased to argue with you for a series of articles.

A. L. L.—Should be pleased to hear from you, as you propose in yours of Oct. 26th.

W. L. M.—You will see by advertisement on cover, what I pay for revenues, cannot accept offer for subscription.

F. K. M., Chicago.—Yours received; contents, thanks.

F. A. G.—Thanks for enclosure in your last.

E. W. H., Decorah.—Thanks for your suggestion; it will be adopted. Should be pleased to insert your card.

WE have received from J. W. Hazeltine, a copy of each of the Cyrus W. Field Medals, by G. H. Lovett, N. Y.—Reverse—A well executed bust of Cyrus W. Field to the right, partly surrounded by two branches of oak leaves. Over the bust the name—"Cyrus W. Field."

Reverse.—*Nil Desperandum Perseverantia Vincit*" in a semi-circle, thirteen stars underneath, wreath of laurel surrounding the following words in the center:—"Presented to Cyrus W. Field, by a few of his friends in New York, for his perseverance in superintending the laying-of the Atlantic Telegraph cable, August 5, 1858."

The same obverse.

Different reverse.—*Nil Desperandum Perseverantia Vincit*." In the center the same words as the preceding, although differently arranged, and without date.

Although the reverse dies of the above are slightly cracked, the obverse is in fine condition.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.

J. F. T., Grand Rapids, Mich., 1 year.

J. W. H., 512 Walnut street, Philadelphia, 2 copies, one year.

J. C. B., Brooklyn, N. Y., one year.

W. B., Rockford, Ill., one year.

J. F. D., Freeport, Ill., one year.

Wm. P. B., New York, one year.

G. A. S., Port Huron, Mich., one year.

J. B. D. & Co., Windsor Locks, Conn., one year.

THERE is in the possession of a numismatist of this place a copper colonial, which, after having been to all appearance perfectly coined, received a partial second impressien from the same die, over about one-fourth of its surface, flattening that portion of the coin so as to make it thinner, the surplus metal projecting from the original so as to form a segment of a small circle. The owner facetiously remarks that it is an admirable illustration of the Yankee propensity to hold onto a penny, *pinching* it until it *squeals*!

VALUABLE DISCOVERY.—Some little time ago about ten thousand pieces of Roman money, principally of the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius and Nero, were discovered in the bed of the Mayenne, at St. Leonard. Their presence is explained by the fact of a dangerous ford having formerly existed at this spot, and the custom of travelers to throw in the river a piece of money, *ex voto*.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

MAURITIUS.—A new stamp of the value of ten pence has been issued for this island. The design consists of head of Queen looking to left, in plain oval This in turn, surrounded by rectangular frame, inscribed "Mauritius," above, "Ten Pence," below. The corners between oval and frame are filled with ornaments, and the frame at sides is also of an ornamental character. The color is red-maroon. We also learn that two new envelopes of the values of 10d. rose, and 1sh. 8d. blue, will also be issued soon.

JAMAICA.—A half-penny stamp has just been issued. The design is similar to the fourpenny in some respects, and the color is maroon.

CHILE.—The two new post cards one of the value of 2 and 5 centavos. The envelopes are also said to be nearly ready for use—but more anon.

DENMARK.—**HOLTE.**—Another stamp has been issued for this town, value 2 sk—color, green and white.

RUSSIA.—**FATEJH.**—The Belgian magazine figures an oval stamp for this district. It is struck on envelopes in dark blue, value 4 kop, and in vermilion-red, value 6 kop —"Philatelist."

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—As these stamps are now generally admitted to be genuine emissions, we will endeavor to describe them. The design consists of value in centre, on a ground of perpendicular lines, surrounded by wide dark oval band, inscribed "SERVICE POSTAL" above, "INDIA PORTE" below. The corners are filled with ornaments, and altogether, it is a suspicious looking customer. The colors and values are as follows :

10 reis black. 20 reis vermilion. 40 reis blue. 100 reis green. 200 reis olive yellow. 300 reis dark-violet-brown. 600 reis dark-violet-brown. 900 reis dark-violet-brown. 900 reis bright violet.

SWEDEN.—It is said that a new envelope and post card, each of the value of 10 ore will be issued soon.

SPAIN.—The new emission is said to be "nearly ready." How long! oh! how long! before.

PHILIPPINES.—We clip the following as regards the new issue from "The Philatelic Journal :

6 c. de pereta (Le Timbu Poste.) 16 de pereta, ultramarine. 62 c. de peret lilac 1 p., 25 c de peseta, blue on flesh 2 p., 50 c. de peseta, rose. (?) 5 h., green.
—*Stamp Collector's Monthly.*

AN ANCIENT HUMORIST.—Hierocte who lived in the sixth century, collected twenty-one jests under the general title of the "Pedant," and in this fossil jest-book we find jokes that have been handed down through succeeding collections and have become old and familiar friends. Among these ancient jests is an account of a man who, for fear of drowning, determined not to enter the water until he was master of the art of swimming; of the man who complained that his horse died just as he had taught to live without food; of the philosopher who carried a stone about with him as a specimen of his house; of one who stood before a glass with his eyes shut to see how he looked when he was asleep; of a man who bought a crow to see whether it would live two hundred years or not, and of one who went into a boat on horseback because he was in a hurry. Here we find the ever new story of a man who, meeting a friend, asked whether it was he or his brother who was buried; and the blundering execution of a person who, not having attended to the request of a friend, said, when he met him, "I am sorry I never received the letter which you wrote to me about the books."

THE new silver dollar recently struck in the San Francisco Mint, is said to be adapted for general circulation in China, where the want of silver coin as a acknowledged value, has been much felt. It is worth six per cent. more than the old dollar, and will be received in China on the same terms as the Mexican dollar, which has hitherto been at a premium of from five to eight per cent.

THE largest churches in Europe, will contain the following number of persons: St. Peter's, Rome, 64,000; Cathedral at Milan, 37,000; St. Paul's at London, 25,000; St. Sophia at Constantinople, 23,000; Notre Dame de Paris, 20,000; Cathedral of Pisa, 13,000; Mark's at Venice, 7,000.

OUR EXCHANGES.

Our exchange list is not yet as great as we wish it might be, but as it is constantly increasing we cannot complain, especially when those which we do receive, compliment our paper so kindly. Gentlemen, we can simply list our hat and return our thanks.

The Stamp Collectors' Magazine, published by Alf. Smith & Co., Bath. This magazine for October has reached us, and is as usual brim full of articles of decided interest to all stamp collectors. The following list of the contents is presented by its editors:

Our Contemporaries; The City delivery ports of San Francisco, by C. H. Coster; Newly Issued, or Inedited Stamps; The Poisoned Postage Stamps; Occasional Notes; Reviews of Postal publications; Correspondence, &c., &c.

The Index—David W. Jagger, Editor and Proprietor, Newburgh, New York, is the neatest amateur paper yet received. Friend Jagger evidently understands his business, and attends to it.

"*The Stamp Collectors' Monthly*" published by F. H. Pinkham, New Market, N. H., is as full of items of interest as possible. Enlargement and illustrations are among the promised improvements by its editor.

The Stamp Collectors' Chronicle, published occasionally, by W. H. Bruce, St. Johns, New Brunswick. It is the intention of the editor to develop this into a monthly magazine of sixteen pages, to be devoted to stamp interests entirely.

We have received the quarterly price list of Stafford, Smith & Co., Brighton, England; and the price lists of Biefeld & Bell, Chicago; H. W. Fletcher, Quincy; L. W. Durbin, Philadelphia; J. B. Douglass & Co., Windsor Locks; and Ed. M. Reed, Toledo.

FROM Dr G. A. Stockwell we have another English medicine stamp, that of Thomas and William Henry, Manchester. The size is the same as that of the "Hooper," described in our last, the background, as in the last is of black interlaced by white lines, a border of trefoil shaped spots of red extends along the upper and lower edges of the stamp. The ground work for inscriptions upon either side, of the central circle for containing the value, in white letters, is red and the inscriptions are in white letters.

FROM Messrs. Beifeld & Bell of Chicago, we have a 25 Bani Roumani, bearded issue perforated; also a ½ Groschen and 2 Groschen German Empir current issue with large Eagle in center, colors same as in previous issue, for which thanks.

WE are indebted to Jno. W. Hazeltine, for a Catalogue of the Coin sale to take place on Nov. 11th, at the store of Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York.

A BURIED ANCIENT TOWN DISCOVERED.—Prof. Agassiz, who still lingers in California, has been presented with specimens of pottery taken from a large mound—say 300 feet high and 300 yards in diameter—that was opened by one of the engineers of the North Pacific railroad, at the end of a prairie about 25 miles from Olympia, in Oregon. Many conjectures have been made for the last twenty years as to what could have caused so singular a formation, but no one was ever curious enough till recently to make any examination of the interior of these mounds. A thorough examination of others revealed other relics, evidently the work of human hands; in fact, in every mound that has been opened there is some curious relic of a long forgotten race discovered.—The theory now is that this prairie was the cemetery of the people who inhabited the country in pre-historic times. It is expected that Prof. Agassiz will visit the place and make a thorough examination personally.

OYSTER BABIES.

An observer says he is not as stupid as he looks. He can keep his mouth shut, and thereby defy all our arts to wile a secret from him. When spatting time with the oyster comes, it is said to be sickly or milky. This appearance is due to the accumulation of the spat, which is, in the earliest stages of its development, of a creamy consistence of color. When the spat is mature, it assumes the appearance of the scrapings of a slate pencil; the parent oyster then opens its shell, and a kind of mistiness is observable in the surrounding water. This is caused by the myriads of young oysters scattered in every direction. No sooner are these tiny creatures free from their mothers, than they assume the most active state of life and motion, dancing and gyrating up and down in concentric columns, as midgets play in the evening sunbeams. Under the lens of a microscope you will see how exquisitely these little fellows are fast ioned. A pair of tiny shells, the counterpart of those of the maturer oyster, inclose the yet rudimentary organs, while affixed to the mantle is a kind of tiny coronet, composed of minute, hairlike appendages (cilia). The violent and ceaseless vibration of these living paddles serves to row the infant oyster rapidly from the place. Should it become the destiny of one of these fragile beings to become a steady, well-behaved oyster, it finally settles itself on some suitable resting-place, to which it makes itself fast—no one ever clearly knows how—by the under valve or shell. The bristle-like oars of cilia, no longer of utility, disappear, and now a permanent fixture, the baby oyster begins to grow. At about a fortnight old it is not bigger than a fair sized pin's head, and at three months about that of a split pea. Having attained a year's growth under favorable conditions, the young oyster will become as big as an ordinary half-penny; while at four years' growth they are considered marketable.

THE *Indian Daily News* cites the following statement of Dr. Shortt, of Madras: "Allow me to record a most interesting occurrence that took place in my house. A Russel's viper [*Daboia elegans*]

that I have had for some seven weeks being the same that I exhibited at the recent lectures at the Medical College of the 24th of June last and following days measuring three and a half feet in length, has produced thirty-nine young. Each little one measures eight and a half inches in length, and one out of these, about six hours old, in an experiment, killed a young partridge weighing nine and a half tola in ten seconds. This proves how very prolific these deadly snakes are, and when the young are put together they will exceed the mother eight times in length. I am glad to add the mamma and babies are doing nicely."

A STONE AGE.—Some curious revelations have been made by the excavations on the supposed site of ancient Troy. Nothing has been discovered, indicating a civilization and culture such as the Trojans must have attained; but all the relics point to a stone age, like that with which antiquarians are already familiar from European remains. The stone utensils differ widely, however, from those found in Europe, showing better workmanship. There are broken vases of clay, finely made, and fragments of pottery, clay and hard black stone, perforated by means of sharp flints. It seems impossible that these could have been fashioned by stone tools, for some of them are highly ornamented. The explorer has come to the conclusion that the inhabitants of this stone period must have lived centuries before the Trojan war.

THE Imperial Library of St. Petersburg has just obtained an annual appropriation of 300,000 francs, and has been enriched by several donations of great value, among others a Koran written by the hand of Osman. This manuscript is more than twelve hundred years old, and the ulemas of Samarcand call it "the sacred pen." Some of its pages are still stained with blood, according to tradition. This manuscript is the only one remaining of the literary treasures formerly secreted at Samarcand by Tamerlane, and forms, consequently, one of the most ancient and precious monuments of Mussulman literature.

A HUGE SKELETON.—The following description is given of a skeleton recently found at Otisville, Orange county, N. Y.:

"The upper jaw and main portion of the head weighs 500 pounds, and measures 3 feet and 7 inches across the top. There are four teeth in the upper jaw, two on each side. The back teeth extend seven inches along the jawbone, and are four inches across. The openings where the tusks have been are three feet and eight inches deep, and eight inches in circumference. The vertebrae was found in forty pieces, but lying altogether, while the pelvis was taken out whole and uninjured. The channel where the spinal cords lay when the monster was alive is five inches in circumference. Among the missing bones are the tusks, the lower jawbone, and those of the hind legs. One bone of a leg that has been found weighs alone over 350 pounds. When the skeleton is reconstructed it will measure fourteen feet from the bottom of its feet to the top of its head, and over twenty-five feet from head to tail.

"A singular incident connected with the skeleton is, that in its stomach was found a quantity of undigested matter, among it were fresh looking and very large leaves, of odd form, and blades of orange grass, of extreme length, varying from an inch to three inches in width, and looking as if freshly cropped from the earth."

This singular incident makes this story look fishy.—*Editor.*

NOTED MONUMENTS.

From the New York correspondent of the *St. Louis Globe*, we take the following:

Near Broadway is the monument of Captain James Lawrence, the gallant commander of the *Hornet* and *Chesapeake*, whose "don't give up the ship" has long been embalmed in the sanctuary of the nation's gratitude.

The grave of Charlotte Temple, the poor girl who was ruined and deserted by a British army officer, who died of exposure, is not in Trinity, as is often supposed, but in St. Paul's, at the corner of Vesey street.

Alexander Hamilton's monument, on

the south side of Trinity, is well nigh forgotten. I have mentioned it to several old citizens, and they have told me they did not know of its existence. Therefore, I will say that it is of white marble, about seven feet high; the upper part in the form of a truncated gable. On the side is this inscription:

To the

Memory of

Alexander Hamilton

The Corporation of Trinity Church

Has erected this Monument

In testimony of the respect for

The Patriot of Incorruptible Integrity,

The Soldier of Approved Valor,

The Statesman of Consummate Wisdom,

Whose talents and virtues will be ad-

mired by a grateful posterity,

Long after this marble shall have mouldered into dust.

He died July 13, 1804, aged 47.

I could not ignore the satire of Fox upon the carved eulogium: "Admired by a grateful posterity long after this marble shall have mouldered; and yet, while it is still fresh and firm, they who pass his grave every day are unaware of its being." Is there, indeed, hope that a great man's memory may outlive his life half a year?

At a sale of autograph letters, recently held in London, a characteristic note from Benjamin Franklin, brought one pound nineteen shillings. It ran:

"Mr. Strahan: You are a member of Parliament, and one of that majority which has doomed my country to destruction. You have begun to burn our towns and murder our people. Look upon your hands! They are stained with the blood of your relations! You and I were long friends. You are now my enemy and I am
YOURS,
B. FRANKLIN."

THE original purchase of Manhattan Island in 1626, for \$24, has been generally regarded as quite a snug little operation; but a mathematician with nothing else to do, has calculated that the same sum, put out at ten per cent. compound interest, would have amounted by this time to \$25,560,179,962, a sum nearly equal to the valuation of the entire real and personal property of the United States.

BOGUS CURIOSITIES.

The world is full of humbugs; as some one said, long ago, "Humanity resolves itself into two classes, one of which lives by preying on the other." Remembering that fact, we are not surprised when a certain writer tells us that the collectors of "bogus curiosities"—coins, medals, ornaments, and the like—in Europe, do quite a profitable business. Every market, from the shops of Paris and Rome to the bazaars of Cairo and Jerusalem, is filled with cheap imitations of the antique. One may buy armor and arms, each with its romantic history; paintings by the old masters, with indisputable certificates of genuineness; jeweled ornaments, worn by almost every real or fictitious celebrity; and coins and medals of all the rulers of the earth, from Menes down. The expert can generally distinguish the genuine from the spurious at a glance, but instances have occurred where the imitation was so perfect that skillful connoisseurs have been deceived. Rare coins have been forged since the fifteenth century, and it is probable that more than one half of the ancient specimens offered for sale are spurious. In Cairo and Alexandria, the manufacture of coins, medals, scarabæi, and other curiosities, has become a regular and, we fear, profitable business. But a few articles are offered for sale at a time, and with great secrecy; and the duped purchaser is led to believe that he is especially favored, and has obtained a bargain. The late discovery of the Moabite Stone, and the interest excited by it in the archaeological world, have incited the curiosity-manufacturers to turn their skill in a new direction; and a thriving trade in spurious inscriptions has sprung up in and around Jerusalem. Scarcely a week passes that does not unearth a fragment of a Semetic monument, that can be purchased of the finder for a reasonable sum. A correspondent of a London paper says that the Bedouins scour the country in search of inscriptions, and seldom fail to find what they seek. The factory undoubtedly pays well, for a number of brand-new examples of ancient art have been disposed of to amateur archaeologists possessed of more money than experi-

ence. They are said to be fairly executed. A stone lately produced with an inscription in Nabatean characters, had the letters well scratched in, and had evidently been lying in some kind of lye to give it an antique appearance. The author of these forgeries, which require a considerable degree of scholarship and some skill, is said to be a German Jew, residing in Jerusalem.

INTERESTING FACTS.

- Glass windows used for lights in 1180.
- Chimneys first put to houses in 1230.
- Fallow candles for lights in 1290.
- Spectacles invented by an Italian in 1249.
- Paper made from linen in 1302.
- Woolen cloth made in England in 1341.
- Watches first made in Germany in 1447.
- Art of printing from movable type in 1440.
- Telescopes invented by Porter & Jansen in 1590.
- Tea first brought from China to Europe in 1501.
- Circulation of blood discovered by Harvey in 1610.
- Bricks made of any required size in 1625.
- Newspapers first established in 1629.
- Pendulum clocks first invented in 1639.
- Barometer invented by Torricelli in 1535.
- Steam engine invented in 1649.
- Fire engine invented in 1685.

THE San Bernardino [Cal.] *Guardian* says: Last week the Frenchman who attends the sheep of Peter Filanc, in San Jacinto Valley, dispatched a large mountain lion in a somewhat novel manner. A dog belonging to the shepherd got on the track of a lion, and following him up forced him to find quarters between two large rocks. The dog coming to a bay, the shepherd went up and found the lion as above stated. Taking his long staff, he boldly went up to the front of the lion, and drawing back gave a powerful thrust with the staff, driving the sharp point down the animal's throat, killing him in a few minutes.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

No. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, DECEMBER, 1872.

No. 4.

JEWISH COINAGE.

The numismatic lore of no ancient and appeals more strongly to not only the collector of coins but also to the biblical student. From the London Charterly we take the following excellent synopsis of Jewish coinage:

"Simon the Maccabee appears to have been the first to coin money in Judea. Shekels and other silver or copper coins of each of the four years of Simon's administration have been found, covered with quaint zigzag characters, and with the chalices, Aaron's rods, and palms so familiar to the eye of the student of Jewish money. John Hyrcanus succeeded Simon, and has left many coins, all of copper. He writes his name three ways, and styles himself High Priest and Prince of the Confederation of the Jews. Two horns of plenty with a poppy head between them, is a favorite device on his coins. After him came Judas Aristobulus, the "lover of Greeks," who was the first Jewish ruler after the captivity to establish himself king. His coins are as scarce as those of his successor, Alexander Jannaeus, are abundant. More than one coinage of Alexander may be distinguished. A half open flower, an anchor, and the horns and poppy-head are common symbols on his money. His name and title are often found on the same coin both in Greek and Hebrew. Only one coin of Alexander, Jannaeus' wife and successor, is extant. The obverse has the words "Queen Alexandra" in Greek, written around an anchor. A star with eight rays appears on the reverse, with traces of a Hebrew legend in the intervals between the rays. The reigns of the three princes who followed after Alexandra, viz: Hyrcanus II., Aristobulus II., and Alexander II., yield us no coins with the exception of a few bronze ones which appear to belong to the second Alexander. After Alexander's death, Hyrcanus II. was restored; but at pre-

sent we have no coins of this period. The coins of Antigonus, the last sovereign of the Asmonean dynasty, differ in many respects from those of his predecessors. They resemble the Parthian money, and have other peculiarities which give them numismatic and historical interest.

The coins of the Idumean princes come next in order. Copper alone was struck in Judea from the time of the taking of Jerusalem by Pompey, excepting in the time of the two revolts, when the Jews again struck silver coins for a short time. All the copper coins struck by Herod I. had Greek inscriptions and no Hebrew. Their types for the most part present symbols for the worship of God, or are borrowed from some of the Asmonean coins, for all images of living creatures were forbidden by the Jews. There are no coins with the title *Great* belonging to Herod I. Some of the devices on his coins are too mysterious to be explained; but the helmets, shields, tripods, wands, etc., which figure upon them, tell of his warlike and heathenish propensities. His successor Archelaus, appears on the coins which he struck under the title of *Ethnarch*, given him by Augustus. Sometimes he calls himself simply Herod. Helmets, galleys, tridents, wreaths, bunches of grapes and other symbols diversify his money. Herod Antipas bears the style of tetrarch on his coins. No coins exist of Herod Philip I. Those of Philip II., the builder of the town of Caesarea Philippi, have the head of Tiberius upon them. This is the first example of the picturing of any living thing upon Jewish money; and it was a grave infringement on the Mosaic law.

Following these come the numismatic history of the two Agrippas, which is very full and clear. During the first revolt of the Jews, money was struck by Eleazer, Simon son of Gioras and Simon son of Gamaliel. The Romans also struck money in commemoration of the over-

throw of Jerusalem by Vespasian and Titus. Following this, money was struck at intervals by leaders of revolts like Barcochab down to the time of the capture of the city by the conquering Arabs."

MAJOR C. P. NICHOLS' CABINET,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS

This cabinet is made of mahogany 3 feet 3 inches in height, 2 feet 2 inches wide, 1 foot 3 inches deep, marble top, folding doors panelled and beaded. There are 47 drawers, lined with black velvet and cotton flannel, so arranged that no space is lost between them, the sides of the cabinet being grooved to receive the lips on each end of the drawers.

The collection consists of coins and medals as follows:

Proof sets 1858 to 1872, inclusive.

51 American silver dollars, full set except 1804.

77 American silver half dollars, full set.

57 American silver quarter dollars, full set except 1833 and 1827.

66 American silver dimes, full set except 1804.

54 American silver half dimes, full set except 1802.

22 American silver three cents, full set, mostly proofs.

89 American cents, full set.

32 American half cents, incomplete.

35 gold coins, among which are early American.

Ecu a la couronne or crown of gold, Charles VI, of France, 1380 to 1422.

Gold angel of Henry VIII, 1509 to 1547.

Twenty Pesos Emperador Maximiliano, Carolina, Mormon, Japanese, Spanish, South and Central American, California and others.

80 Colonials.

62 Greek and Roman, mostly silver.

48 Trial or pattern pieces of the United States Mint.

192 English silver coins in sets, crown to silver penny.

116 English copper coins in sets.

51 South and Central American silver coins.

22 South and Central American copper coins.

70 French silver coins in sets.

30 Spanish silver coins in sets.

16 Mexican silver coins.

12 Belgium silver coins.

25 Denmark silver coins.

13 Turkey silver coins.

10 Saxony silver coins.

10 Holland silver coins.

14 Russian copper coins.

28 Italy silver coins.

25 Switzerland silver coins.

10 Prussian silver coins.

10 Frankfurt silver coins.

14 Austrian silver coins.

10 Sicily silver coins.

4 Greek silver coins.

7 Haiti silver coins.

8 Bavarian silver coins.

33 French copper coins in sets.

10 Spanish copper coins.

6 Mexican copper coins.

8 Belgium copper coins.

20 Denmark copper coins.

10 Turkey copper coins.

10 Saxony copper coins.

5 Holland copper coins.

16 Russian silver coins.

35 Italy copper coins.

10 Switzerland copper coins.

5 Prussian copper coins.

6 Frankfurt copper coins.

10 Austrian copper coins.

4 Sicily copper coins.

4 Greek copper coins.

7 Siam silver coins.

17 Brunswick and Lunenburg silver coins.

18 Portugal and Brazil silver coins.

20 Portugal and Brazil copper coins.

150 Early German copper coins.

109 Miscellaneous copper coins.

118 Canadian copper coins (as per Sandham).

24 Provincial (English), silver tokens.

162 Tradesmen's tokens or farthings of the 17th century.

273 Provincial tokens, penny size, of the 18th century.

1632 Provincial tokens, half penny size, of the 18th century.

157 Provincial tokens, farthing size, of the 18th century.

72 Penny tokens of 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814 and 1815.

20 Half penny tokens of 1812, 1813, 1814 and 1815.

129 Silver medals, mostly large size.

- 285 Bronze medals, mostly large size.
 153 White metal medals, mostly large size.
 381 Small medals and medalets, copper, brass and white metal.
 85 United States Mint bronze medals.
 430 Political medals.
 345 Washington coins, medals and medalets.
 17 Franklin bronze medals.
 1315 Store cards and copper heads.
 22 Hard times tokens, besides many duplicates not included in the above list.

RARE JEWELS.

A London correspondent of the *Boston Globe* has the following:

"I took the opportunity, a few days since, of going down to South Kensington, to have a look at the jewelry at the International Exhibition. The room contains a great deal which is valuable and beautiful, and a great deal which is curious and interesting, but I had no opportunity of going through the place thoroughly, and so can give but a very imperfect idea of the wealth of gems accumulated in the building. I saw some of the famous Cape diamonds. They were large, and of a light straw color—vastly inferior, to my mind, both in luster and appearance, to the Brazilian and Oriental gems. The most marvellous feature of this exhibition, which certainly every lady who cares about jewelry should have an opportunity of seeing, was the matchless collection of gems belonging to the Duke of Devonshire. Setting aside the setting, which for massive richness and beauty could scarcely be excelled, the gems themselves are the most beautifully engraved stones in the world, actually dating from the times of Roman Emperors and Sassanian Kings.

"Besides this, I saw several specimens of emerald in its matrix, in Prof. Tennant's fine collection, and a model of the Mogul Emperor diamond, weighing 279 carats. The Princess of Wales has sent hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of jewels, wedding presents, the most notable in the collection being a pair of bangles, a necklace of rows of pearls and emeralds, with, for a center, a large stone of the latter, scratched

with a talismanic pattern; a Highland brooch, presented by the Queen's Edinburgh volunteers; the King of Denmark's necklace in the Byzantine style, of diamonds and great drop pearls, and a Dagmar cross beautifully enameled in blended colors; the Rajah of Jheend's necklace of Lasque diamonds; the Rajah of Kurpoortulla's present of emeralds, rubies and pearls, brown with age; the Marajah Dhuleep Singh's boquet holder; the South Wales badge, a ribbon and Welsh dragon in enamel, which, as we are told, 'was borne by Cadwaladyr, the last native King elected to rule over the tribes of Britain, from whom the Prince of Wales is lineally descended.' "

—At a late meeting of the British Association, Mr. A. W. Hayne read a paper on the flora of Moab, having visited that region last winter, in the company of Rev. Dr. Tristram. The eastern shore of the Dead Sea was found to be much more fertile and well watered than the West. A most conspicuous feature was the abundance of the date palm, which has almost disappeared from the Holy Land. 'On the northern end of the Dead Sea only a single clump remains, at Gilgal, near Jericho, the city of palms of old. Two hundred and fifty species of plants were collected, of which a large proportion belong to *Leguminosæ* and *Compositæ*.

Curious if True.—Among the curious things connected with the codfish is the frequency with which large stones are found in the stomach. These are of various sizes, sometimes, in a large fish, weighing many pounds; and it is a popular belief among fishermen that these are taken in, just before a storm, for the purpose of anchoring themselves during the expected swell of the sea. This is supposed to be corroborated by the fact (if it be one) that all the fish taken before a storm agree in this peculiarity, whereas at ordinary times nothing of the kind can be detected.

—Metallic money being now scarce in France, the project of an aluminium coinage has been projected, and has obtained the sanction of high chemical authorities.

CHRONOLOGY OF SOME IMPORTANT INVENTIONS.

Maps, globes and dials were first invented by Anaximander, in the sixth century before the Christian era. They were first brought into England by Bartholomew Columbus, in 1489.

Comedy and tragedy were first exhibited at Athens, 562 B. C.

Plays were first acted at Rome, 239 B. C.

The first public library was founded at Athens, 526 B. C.

The first public library was founded at Rome, 167 B. C.

The first public library was founded at Alexandria, 284 A. D.

Paper was invented in China, 170 B. C.

The calendar was reformed by Julius Cæsar, 45 B. C.

Insurance on ships and merchandize was first made in A. D. 43.

Saddles came into use in the fourth century.

Horse-shoes made of iron were first used in A. D. 481.

Stirrups were not made till a century later.

Manufacture of silk brought from India into Europe, 551 A. D.

Stone buildings and glass were introduced into England, 674 A. D.

Pens were first made of quills, A. D. 635.

Pleadings in Courts of Judicature were introduced, A. D. 788.

The figure of arithmetic were brought into Europe by the Saracens, A. D. 991.

Paper of Cotton rags invented towards the close of the tenth century.

Paper was made of linen in 1300.

The degree of Doctor was first conferred in Europe, at Bologna, in 1130; in England, 1208.

The first regular bank was established at Venice, in 1157; the bank of Genoa was established in 1407; that of Amsterdam in 1609; and that of England in 1694.

Astronomy and geometry brought into England, 1220.

Linen first made in England, 1253.

Spectacles invented, 1280.

The art of weaving introduced into England, 1330.

Musical notes, as used, invented, 1380.

Gun-powder invented at the city of Cologne, by Schwartz, 1320-40.

Cannon first used at the siege of Algieras, 1342.

Muskets in use, 1370.

Pistols in use, 1544.

Printing invented at Mentz, by Gutenberg, 1450.

Printing introduced into England, 1471.

Post-offices established in France, 1464; in England, 1581; and in Germany, 1641.

Turkeys and chocolate introduced into England, from America, 1529.

Tobacco introduced into France, by Nicot, 1560.

First coach made in England, 1564.

Clocks first made in England, 1568.

Potatoes first introduced into Ireland, 1586.

The circulation of the blood discovered by Harvey, 1619.

—The first regular newspaper in the United States was the *Boston News Letter*, edited by John Campbell, a Scotchman, a book-seller, and postmaster of Boston. The first number was printed on a half sheet of paper, 8x12 inches, with two columns on each page, and was issued on Monday, April 24th, 1704. This journal had an unusually lengthy career, for it was continued weekly until the commencement of the revolution in 1776, a period of 72 years.

PEARLS.—The formation of the pearls has embarrassed both ancient and modern naturalists to explain, and has given occasion to a number of vain and absurd hypotheses. M. Reaumur, in 1717, alleged that pearls are formed like other stones in animals. An ancient pearl was valued by Pliny at £80 000 sterling. One which was brought in 1574, to Philip II., of the size of a pigeon's egg, was valued at 14,400 ducats, equal to £13,996. A pearl spoken of by Boetius, named the *Incomparable*, weighed thirty carats—equal to five pennyweights, and was about the size of a muscadine pear. The pearl mentioned by Tavernier, as being in possession of the Emperor of Persia, was purchased of an Arab, in 1633, and is valued at a sum equal to £110,000.

"OMAHA EXCELSIOR," published monthly by C. C. Chase, Omaha, neat and good.

NOVEMBER price lists have been received from L. W. Durbin & Edwin Clarke, London.

EXCHANGES, "The Mermaid," Rockville, Conn., published monthly, by A. H. Eaton, at 25 cents per year.

THE two cent stamps impressed on our drafts now bears an elegant medallion portrait of Franklin, in place of that of Washington.

"CORN City's Compliments," published monthly, by Smith & Dyer, Toledo, Ohio, is neatly printed on tinted paper, and contains many items of interest to amateurs.

FROM Oscar Ulex we have the new 2 skilling Halte of Denmark, mentioned in our last number. The design is neat and the stamp forms a valuable addition to the Danish pages of our album.

FROM Henry Moses & Co. of New Britain, Conn., we have an English medicine stamp, used on Keating's Cough Lozenges, similar in design to those previously described by us. Gentlemen, you have our thanks.

FROM Jas. R. Grant & Co. of Birmingham, England, we have received a dog license stamp, printed in violet on white paper. The stamp is oblong and perforated, of the value of two shillings. The design that of a Hound is excellent, and the engraving finely executed.

FROM S. F. Friedman, publisher of the "Philatelistische Brerichte," Rudolfsheim in Vienna we have received a 2 kr Austrian newspaper band. The stamp and border are yellow, and the stamp of the same design, as the regular issue of adhesives of this country.

"THE Philatelistische Berichte," published by S. F. Friedman, Rudolfsheim, Vienna, at 60 Kreuzer, or about 30

cents gold per year. It contains chronicles of newly issued stamp articles, short articles of interest to Philatelists, a wholesale price list and a retail price list. Among the items of interest, the editor acknowledges the receipt of the prospectus of a new stamp paper, to be issued November 1st, at Copenhagen for Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

FROM J. B. Douglass & Co. we have received a letter containing a very high compliment for our paper, and also some rare private revenues, and the promise of a description of some rare coin in the future. Thanks.

WE have received the elegant work from the pen of Robert Morris, L. L. D., entitled, "MASONRY IN THE HOLY LAND," and find it surpasses our expectations as a work of interest to the Biblical student, the Mason, and Numismatist, while to the general reader it presents an array of fact and fancy so judiciously compiled that it cannot fail to amuse and while amusing instruct. We hope that none who may see this will neglect their interests by failing to get this valuable book. Send \$4.00 to Robert Morris, L. L. D., La Grange, Ky., and you will receive the work and a certificate of membership in the American Society for Holy Land exploration.

The coin and stamp company of this city a few days since left with us a medal in white metal of Peel Castle Isle of Man, Isle of man half penny of 1811, and Irish half penny of George the II.

—The new silver coins issued by the British Mint, are so defective in workmanship that the London *Times* says of some specimens forwarded by a banker that they "are of a character that would induce any one to reject them on the ground that they could not possibly have been sent forth from any Government establishment."

THE PROCESSES OF COINING.

WEAR AND TEAR OF MONEY—THE MODES OF CHANGING BULLION INTO COIN—THE MINTS OF ENGLAND, FRANCE AND AMERICA.

BY DR. R. SHELTON MACKENZIE.

As has already been mentioned in these columns, one of the first processes in coining money is to mix with the gold or silver, intended to be used, a certain quantity of alloy, consisting of an inferior metal. The process by which this is done is scientific in principle and mechanical in practice. By its means the metal can be obtained in a state of perfect purity. When it is required to coin it into money, the silver is alloyed with a regular per centage of inferior metal, in order to harden it.

There is a considerable loss of weight in all coin in active circulation, caused by what is called "wear and tear." Two or three months ago, a commission, appointed by the Secretary of the U. S. Treasury "to examine into the loss sustained by the several Mints of the United States, through the processes of handling ore and coin," reported, among the results of their investigation, that they had found "that, in the single counting and transfer of one million dollars from one vault to another, the abrasion amounted to six dollars in value." Therefore, where coin is used as the ordinary currency, its weight must sensibly diminish in such constant use.

Not until the year 1662 was there abolished in England the process of stamping coin by placing thin metal slips between two dies, and striking them with a hammer. The result was an inequality in the coin and an irregularity in the edges, which rendered them liable to be clipped. In the year 1553, an ingenious Frenchman suggested the application of the screw. A century later his plan was adopted in the Mint at London, and its principle is still acted upon in all coinages.

The metal (we will call it gold) having been reduced, or elevated, to a perfect degree of purity, is cast into ingots, in crucibles of plumbago, with the requisite quantity of alloy; say twenty-two

parts of gold to two of copper. When a thorough amalgamation is produced, by great heat, the liquid metal is poured into iron moulds, from which, when cool, it is turned out into bars twenty-one inches long, one inch thick and nearly two inches wide. A small piece is cut from the end of each bar, and this fragment is assayed. A piece of hair, about an inch in length, is put into one of two scales, protected from the dust by a glass case, and so finely balanced that this morsel of hair will turn the scale. If the Mint assayer, thus weighing the gold, discovers impurity in it equal to the weight of that inch of hair, he would reject the whole bar. This assay of the gold is rigorously performed several times before the coin is delivered for circulation.

The bar of gold having been declared to be "all right," and of the requisite fineness, is now ready for the rolling-room. There the first thing done is to clip off the ends with a huge pair of scissors or shears—the theory being that such ends are subject to undue contraction in cooling, and the fact being that coin produced from these ends would be "dumb," that is, not have the proper ring. The bars are then repeatedly passed between successive pairs of rollers with hardened steel surfaces, driven by steam power. By this action the length and breadth are extended, and by gradually bringing the rollers closer, the thickness is diminished.

As the bars become extended, they are cut into several lengths; each of which, in turn, is passed through the rollers, until it becomes a "fillet" of the thickness required for punching out "blanks." Though the rolling is not very rapidly performed, the workmen are careful to touch the gold or silver only with thickly gloved hands. If you were to take up one of these fillets, you would instantly know the reason why, for your fingers would be as severely burned as if you had drawn them across heated iron bars. The heat generated in the operation of rolling is very great. The finishing rollers are so finely adjusted that the fillets (or thinned bars) do not vary in thickness in any part more than the ten thousandth part of an inch. The fillets finally are put into the "draw-

bench," where they are drawn between steel dies, as in wire drawing, to the exact thickness of the coin required. In the process of rolling, the bars are annealed, to remove the hardness induced by the pressure.

The fillets are handed, when they finally leave the rollers, to a workman called the "tryer," who punches a trial-blank out of each, and weighs it in a balance; if it vary more than one eighth of a grain in weight, that fillet is rejected. After this, if the trial be satisfactory, a final rolling reduces it to what may be called "coin-thickness." Next the fillet passes into the "cutting-room," where the coins are punched out of it by steam and pneumatic pressure; the fillets being fed into the presses rapidly, as each of the twelve cuts out sixty blanks in each minute. The scraps left after the punching are called "scissel," and are taken care of, to be remelted. Each blank, actually an unstamped coin, is weighed in the automaton balance—which tests twenty-three blanks per minute, and each to the 0.01 of a grain. All under a certain weight are pushed into a box to be remelted; all over it are put aside to be reduced by filing. The correct blanks are separately rung on a sounding-iron, and those which do not give a clear ringing sound are rejected.

This ordeal passed, the blanks are "milled" on the edge by a machine which raises or ribs the edge, and makes them perfectly round. They are then filed, to take off any wiry rising which the process may have produced. After this they are annealed, to soften them before they are struck with hardened steel dies, and also put into a pot of boiling diluted sulphuric acid, to remove any oxide of copper from the surface. Next they are washed with water, dried with great care in hot sawdust, and finally put into an oven, at a temperature slightly above that of boiling water. These processes produce the beautiful bloom which may be observed in new coin.

Now the blanks pass into the stamping-room; to receive the impressions, on both sides, which will convert them into coin. In the Mint in London the stamping presses make much noise, and con-

vey the idea, by the tremor which their concussion creates, that the building might probably fall down. In the Mint at Philadelphia this noise and this concussion are not perceptible. There are two dies in each coining press. The lower one is stationary; the other is firmly fixed into a screw, worked by steam, which, each time it descends upon a blank, placed on the lower die, makes the desired double impression, technically designated the "obverse" and the "reverse." A steel ring or collar holds the coin while it is being stamped, and the impressed coin falls out as soon as completed. A person attends to each press, and regularly feeds it with a succession of blanks. The machine does all the rest—seizes the blank, pushes it forward on the die, holds it steadily there, jerks down another die on it, with a heavy but noiseless thump—can mill it, if required—and finally drops it down.

On examination, about one in two hundred coins are found to be imperfectly finished. These are rejected. The others are weighed by machinery, which divides them into light, heavy and good—the margin being less than one per cent in value for every five-dollar gold piece.

After the weighing, each coin is again rung on a piece of iron. Every particle of gold filing and of gold dust is saved; and even the water in which those who handle the gold wash their hands is saved, to get any residuum out of it!

The Mint in Paris—a very interesting institution, which merits particular notice on its own account—is open to the public two days in each week, and all the processes of coining are exhibited. In the Mint at Philadelphia there is free admission to the public every day, between ten and twelve, and strangers, especially, avail themselves of this privilege, which is rendered doubly valuable by the fact that the visitors are accompanied by intelligent guides, who can explain the various processes, and who do not hurry you. But it is difficult to obtain admission to the Mint in London. Regular application has to be made. The applicant must give his own name and address, and those of his party not more than six in all; must be known,

THE PROCESSES OF COINING.

WEAR AND TEAR OF MONEY—THE MODES OF CHANGING BULLION INTO COIN—THE MINTS OF ENGLAND, FRANCE AND AMERICA.

BY DR. R. SHELTON MACKENZIE.

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personally or by repute, to the money-ers, or must be recommended, if a foreigner, by the ambassador or consular agent of his country. Ten days elapse between asking for admission and receiving a negative or affirmative reply.

COMMERCE OF THE WORLD.

France exports wines, brandies, silks, furniture, jewelry, clocks, watches, paper, perfumery and fancy goods generally.

Italy exports corn, oil, flax, wines, essences, dye stuffs, drugs, fine marble, soap, paintings, engravings, molasses and salt.

Prussia exports linens, woolens, zinc, articles of iron, copper and brass, indigo, wax, hams, musical instruments, tobacco, wine and porcelain.

Germany exports wool, woolen goods, linens, rags, corn, timber, iron, lead, tin, flax, hemp, wine, wax, tallow and cattle.

Austria exports minerals, silk thread, glass, wax, tar, nut gall, wine, honey and mathematical instruments.

England exports cottons, woolens, glass, hardware, earthen ware, cutlery, iron, metallic wares, salt, coal, watches, tin, silks and linens.

Russia exports tallow, flax, hemp, flour, iron, linseed, lard, hides, wax, duck, cordage, bristles, fur and potash.

Spain exports wines, brandies, iron, fresh and dried fruits, quicksilver, sulphur, salt, cork, saffron, anchovies, silks and woolens.

China exports tea, rhubarb, musk, ginger, borax, zinc, silks, cassia, filigree work, ivory ware, lacquered ware and porcelain.

Turkey exports opium, silks, drugs, gums, dried fruits, tobacco, wines, camels' air, carpets, shawls, camlets and morocco.

Hindustan exports gold and silver, cochineal, indigo, sarsaparilla, vanilla, jalap, fustic, Campechey wool, pimento, drugs and dye stuffs.

Brazil exports coffee, indigo, sugar, rice, hides, dried meats, tallow, gold, diamonds and other stones, gums, mahogany and India rubber.

The West Indies export sugar, molasses, rum, tobacco, cigars, mahogany, dye wood, coffee, pimento, fresh fruit and preserves, wax, ginger and other spices.

The East Indies export cloves, nutmegs, mace, pepper, rice, indigo, gold dust, camphor, benzine, sulphur, ivory, rattans, sandal wood, zinc and nuts.

The United States export principally agricultural produce, tobacco, cotton, flour, provisions of all kinds, lumber and turpentine

A RARE OLD COIN.

Mr. John Melick, who returned from Nova Scotia last night, has in his care a very rare and valuable coin belonging to Mr. Alick Rae Garvie, of Windsor. The coin is about the diameter of an old Spanish shilling but much thicker and heavier. Mr. Garvie believes the coin to be a cast in some composition. It, however, he says, represents a Tetradrachm (Attic talent) of Antiochus Philopater, immediate successor and son of Antiochus III, King of Syria. He was assassinated B. C. 188. His face is very finely featured, and if the coin is original it is a most valuable one. The inscription and monogram is one in the exquisite Greek characters and choice syntax which has been remarked in the Assyrian and Syrian coinage. The coin well merits an inspection by students of numismatics.—*St. John N. B. Daily Tribune, Nov. 7, 1872.*

Ireland has found a branch of manufacture which will flourish on her soil, in the production of relics of the ancient Celts. An antique bronze sword was lately exhibited before the Archæological Society at Kilkenny which some sharp philosopher pronounced a counterfeit, saying at the same time that such productions were quite common in Ireland. He called it an archæological forgery, which he may have intended for a joke.

Ocean waves, "mountain high," as landsmen would call them, are generally much less than fifty feet high. Wilkes, in 1839, made a measurement which showed a height of thirty-two feet. An observation once made by the captain and officers of the British ship *Inconstant* placed the height at seventy-seven feet and over; and waves have been known to reach the top of Eddystone Lighthouse, one hundred and six feet.

AN ANCIENT COIN.

A Coin of Cleopatra, from the cabinet of Mr. B. F. Foltz of this city, in a remarkably well preserved condition, is one of the pleasant surprises that has crossed our path since our last. In its presence we felt like standing uncovered, in awe and homage to its age, upon what scenes has it gazed, through how many hands has it passed, in its centuries of life. How it lifts the veil from the grand eternity of the past. How like an open *sesame* it carries us away back through the long corridors and dim vistas of time until as if by the magic of a fairy's wand we kneel most humbly in the august presence of Egypt's storied queen and await the command of that musical voice which allied with her glorious voluptuous beauty thrilled the world, enchained and ruined Antony, excited Cæsar's lusts, and wrote her name so ineffacably on the pages of history that even now, after the lapse of twenty centuries, there are few persons who have not in their day dreams attempted some conception of her magnificent beauty, of which this coin bears indisputable evidence, the regular features, voluptuous lips, full eye, and prominent chin, are all there, graven as plainly as if by an artist of yesterday, and as strongly assert her glorious beauty and power after its two thousand or more years of wanderings as if they were a vision of our own. How much more interesting and real the pages of our ancient history seem after seeing this coin. How much easier to conceive and people the grand movements of those days and fix them permanently in our minds, and we feel more than satisfied that if one who would read ancient history but finds it dull and dry will obtain from any source an ancient coin and with its aid trace out history, the very pages

which before were dry, dull and insipid will be as fresh and full of interest as is a Tuber rose of perfume. Try it.

HOW AMERICANS USE UP POST OFFICE STAMPS.—To convey some idea of the immense number of Postage Stamps used: In the space of three months the National Bank Note Company have made over 143,000,000 of all denominations, valued at over \$4,000,000. During the present year 520,000,000 have been completed in a week, and 13,000,000 in a single day.

Three times as many three cent stamps are used as of all other denominations combined. After them comes the one cent, and then the two and six cent.—The last weekly return of the company showed a manufacture of over 14,000,000 of finished stamps.—*American Newspaper Reporter*,

CELESTIAL DOSES.—The Chinese doctors in San Francisco, ship strange medicines home sometimes, and the practice of medicine in the Celestial Empire, admits of queer doses. Among recent shipments, the Custom House officers found a coiled snake about four feet long, bagged, and with hideous head scales like a crest. How these animals are taken by patients of Chinese doctors, is not known. One would be a fair dose, if disguised in a coating of sugar. They may be taken in sections, three times a day, as they are dessicated, or they may be boiled down, or pulverized, and taken in powders, or rolled into pills.—Lizards are in nearly as great demand as the snakes. These, also, are dried, and sent over in packages, together with hundreds of other loathsome things, all of which are consigned to the Chinese physicians, and used by them in their practice.

AMONG our national Post Offices are these; Titi, Toto, Why Not, Pipe Stem, Stony Man, Sal Soda, Shickshinny, Snow Shoes, Overalls, Lookout, Last Chance, Back Bone, Marrow Bones, Sorrel Horse, Tally Ho, and Tired Creek.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

DECORAH, IOWA, Nov. 21, 1872.

Dear Editor—"The Curiosity Hunter" for November has just reached me, and I am much pleased with its new dress.

Having lately received some rare coins from Germany, I thought a description of some might be of interest to your readers.

I select four siege pieces of Rome, 1849. of 5. 10. 20. & 40 Baiocchi.

40 Baiocchi—Obverse In an Octagon, the wolf nursing Romulus & Remus, above in the corners. AN 11, B, below XL. 1849. Reverse, a dotted circle, in the centre ROMA, above ROMA OBSESSA AB EXERCITIV FRANCORVM. Below MAZZI ARMELL SAFF. IIIVIRIS. AERE. FERRO. FERENDO FLANDO. Square, size 21.

20 B. obv, same, but in a pentagon. In right hand corner above B, in left hand below XX. Rev. XX. B PRO DEFENSIONE REIPUBLICÆ ROMAN. 1849. Square, size 16.

10 B. Obv. In a square, wolf with only one child and x instead of XX. Rev. a square in the centre x, above CIRCUM, below 1849, at the right VALLATA. at the left ROMA. Square, size 12.

5 Baiocchi. Obv, same as last, but in a triangle with v, B in the corners. Rev. Two concentric circles, In the inner, v; around the smaller circle ROMA. OBSESSA. 1849. Square, size 8. Any thing about the history of these pieces will be thankfully rec'd through the columns of the "Curiosity Hunter."

Yours, E. W. HALWAY.

P. S.—I give also the prices which some rare American medals brought at the auction sale in Frankfort on the Maine, Oct. 7, '72, and following days.

Lot 2909. Libertas Americana. Rev. Pallas Protecting the young Hercules,

America from the attack of the British leopard.

Splendid Condition, Original, 46 Guildren or about \$20.00. This medal is worth here upwards of \$80.00.

Lot 2910, Medal in Silver, on the recognition of American Independence, 1782. *Tyrannis Virtute Repulsa*. Rev. Libera Terror etc. McCoy Catalogue No. 2059. Original, very good, 45 Guildren or about \$19.50.

Lot 2911, Carolina Medal 1736, on the separation of North and South Carolina, McCoy Catalogue, No. 2027. 8¼ Guildren or about \$3.50.

Lot, 2912. Florida medal on the naval management at the Bay of Matanca, on the coast of Florida, 7th Sept., 1628, and the capture of the Spanish Silverfleet by the renowned admiral Heyn. Splendid preservation. Original—21¼ Guildren or about \$9.25.

THE POSTAL CARD.—The new Postal Card is to be three inches by five and one eighth inches in size, made from a fine quality of Card Board, and is of a light buff color. A border or scroll work runs around the edge, while in the upper right-hand corner is a very handsome stamp, consisting of a head of Liberty encircled with stars and surrounded with elliptical scroll work.—The denomination is one cent, and the color of the work a rich velvet brown. The inscription is simply "United States Postal Card. Write address only on this side, the message on the other." Below are ruled lines, while the reverse is blank.—*Western Postal Record*.

SINCE April 15, 1872, the burnt part of Chicago has grown at the rate of a brick store, or iron building of four or more stories, and twenty-five feet front, per working hour. The Phoenix never soared like that.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ADVERTISING COINS.

- Copper, size 12. Obverse—One country, 1864; coat of arms wrapped in banner marked union; reverse, F. F. Squier, dry goods, Cambridge, O.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, head with winged cap, 14 stars, 1863; reverse, F. F. Squier, dry goods, Cambridge, O.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, spread eagle, 1863; reverse, A. C. Cochran, hardware dealer, on padlock, Cambridge, O.
- Brass, 13. Obverse, Cedar river bridge Co., 1867; Indian head; reverse, pass one footman.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, B. A. Wade & Co., dealers in dry goods, groceries, &c., Che- mung, Ill.; reverse, our card, in wreath.
- Brass, 12. Obverse, head liberty; Childs, manuf'r, Chicago, 1861; reverse, Childs, die sinker and engraver, 117½ Randolph St., Chi- cago.
- Copper, 12. Same as above.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, head liberty; Childs, manuf'r, Chicago, 1861; reverse, Dodd's Elgin dairy, pure milk, 57 West Madison street.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, spread eagle and 2 stars, union, 1863; reverse, Childs, manufac- turer of advertising coin, Chicago, Ill.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, head liberty, busi- ness card, 1861, 2 stars; reverse, Freedman & Goodkind, dry goods and millinery, 171 Lake street, Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, C. & S. Stein, dry goods store, 177 Lake street, Chicago, Ill., 2 stars.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, ship, female seated with scales, cornucopia, etc., 1860; reverse, same as above.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, watches, clocks and jewelry, A. Can- dler, 393 State street, Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, wall paper, 81 Randolph street, Chic- ago. F. E. Rigby.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, spread eagle and two stars, Union, 1861; reverse, wall papers, 81 Randolph street, Chicago. F. E. Rigby.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, Indian head, busi- ness card, 1861; reverse, Deutches gast and boarding haus, J. F. Seihler, Larabee St., near Clybourne avenue, Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, Indian head, 8 stars, business card; reverse, N. N. Regensburg, grocery and bakery, No. 30 Wells St., Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, A. W. Escherich, 404 S. Clark St., Chi- cago, Ill., 1861.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, head liberty, 13 stars, 1863; reverse, Ira Brown, book dealer, 61 West Kinzie street, Chicago, Ill.
- Brass, 17. Obverse, hat and two stars, 186 Lake street, Chicago, Ill.; reverse, spread eagle, Baker & Moody, hatters.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, ox head and 2 flags; reverse, great west market, fresh and salt meat, Wm. Reinhardt, 158 Randolph St., W. Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, Gambrinus, with cup and crown, seated astride a barrel marked lager bier, F. S.; reverse, Deutches gast and boarding haus, J. F. Seihler, Larabee street, near Clybourne avenue, Chicago.
- Copper, 16. Obverse, cash paid for pro- duce, Chicago, 149 Lake street, 1845, in ring, mint mark W; reverse, Burbank & Shaw, groceries and crockery, dealers in dry goods, in ring.
- Brass, 18. Obverse, spread eagle and two stars, Pearson & Dana, boots and shoes; re- verse, wholesale and retail, 184 Lake street, Chicago, Ill., 4 stars.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, business card, in wreath; reverse, J. J. Brown's grocery, 171 West Harrison street, Chicago, Ill.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, P. Gaffrey, grocer and tea dealer, 150 North Halstead street, Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, Flagg's cheap store, boots and shoes, 189 Lake street, Chicago.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, Flagg & Macdonald, boots and shoes, 181 Lake street, Chicago, Ill.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, flying eagle, 12 stars, 1863; reverse, J. Rees, 401 Central ave., Cin- cinnati, O., 6 stars
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, Wright, Cincinnati, 1863, 10 stars.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, one country, 1864, 2 stars, coat of arms wrapped in banner marked Union; reverse, W. K. Lanphear, seal presser, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, 6 stars, seal presses, cancelling and hand stamps; reverse, W. K. Lanphear, manufacturer of metallic cards, in wreath, 134 West Fourth St., Cincinnati, O.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, head with winged cap, 13 stars; reverse, 6 stars, W. K. Lan- phear, manufacturer of metallic cards, Cin- cinnati, O.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, coat of arms wrapped in banner marked Union, the army and navy, 1863, 2 stars; reverse, same as above.
- Brass, 12. Obverse, stereoscopic pictures and instruments for sale, P. O. box 2566; re- verse, W. K. Lanphear, Cincinnati, O., man- ufacturer of metal cards, in wreath.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, the federal govern- ment, a national currency, free trade and human rights; reverse, N. Mendal Shafer, at- torney and counselor at law, 57 Third street, Cincinnati.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, spread eagle; reverse, Winesteiner, 35 E. Third street, Cincinnati.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, Indian head, 13 stars, 1863; reverse, Peables, dealer in staple and fancy groceries, Fifth and Race streets, Cin- cinnati.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, Costello's trimmings and fancy goods, 133 Fifth street, Cincinnati, 2 stars.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re- verse, M. Hartwell, grocer and commission merchant, northwest cor. Third and Elm Sts., Cincinnati.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, Indian head 13 stars, 1863; reverse, H. Schmidt's auction and com- mission goods, 27 Elder street, Cincinnati.
- Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; re-

verse, Dr. H. H. Hill & Co., dealers in drugs and medicines, southeast cor. Fifth and Race streets, Cincinnati, O.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, G. Wolfer, tin shop, 62 Findlay street, Cincinnati.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, John Ravy, confectioner, 185 Race St., Cincinnati.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, O'Reilly Bros., dry goods, 112 Fifth street, Cincinnati.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, S. Lasurs, dealer in rags and metals, 26 Fifteenth street, Cincinnati, O.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, 1 star, W. Johnston, die sinker, 154 Everett street, Cincinnati, O.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, M. N. Clark, dry goods, hardware, boots and shoes, Clarkston, Mich.

Copper, 12. Obverse, same as above; reverse, J. P. Sherwood, dry goods and millinery, Cleveland, Ohio.

Copper, 12. Obverse, \$100 bounty pensions, back pay, &c., collected; reverse, C. G. Bruce, authorized war claim agent, 1863, Cleveland, Ohio.

Bronze, 12. Obverse, coat of arms, 2 stars, Alden & Frink, 1863; reverse, merchants, 40 Mohawk street, Cohoes, N. Y., 4 stars.

Copper, 12. Obverse, stoves and furniture, 1863; reverse, Harley & Linvill, hardware, stoves and tinware, Columbia City, Ind.

Copper, 12. Obverse, Indian head, 13 stars, 1864; reverse, G. Kipp, produce dealer, Columbiana, O.

Copper, 12. Obverse, spread eagle, 1863; reverse, D. F. Newcomb, dry goods and groceries, Columbus, Wis.

Copper, 12. Obverse, G. L. Bowne will redeem at the ironclad, Cooperstown, N. Y.; reverse, Bingham & Jarvis, drugs, medicines, paints, oils, &c.

Copper, 12. Obverse, head liberty, to right, 14 stars, 1863; reverse, John Childs, dealer in dry goods, groceries, &c., Corunna, Ind., 4 stars

DIFFERENT KINDS OF ENGRAVING.

"Line" engraving is of the highest order. All great engravings are done in "line"—simply straight lines. Next comes "line and stripple." "Stripple" means dots—small dots like this —... —... These small dots are used to lighten up the high parts of the face or drapery. It is very hard to engrave a face in lines, simply, and only master engravers have ever undertaken it. The masters understand and practice both "line and stripple." Claude Mellan engraved in 1700 a full head of Christ with one unbroken line. This line commenced at the apex of the nose and wound out and

out like a watch-spring until it ended in the border of the picture. Mezzotint engravings are produced thus:—The steel or copper is made rough, like fine sand paper. To produce soft effects this rough surface is scraped off. If you want a white place or "high light" in your engraving, scrape the surface smooth, and then the ink will not touch it. If you want faint color, scrape off a little. Such engravings look like lithographs. Etching is adapted to homely and familiar sketches. Almost all the great painters were etchers. Etching is done thus:—The copper or steel plate is heated, and covered with black varnish. The engraver scratches off this varnish with sharp needles, working on the surface as he would on paper with a pencil. Nitric acid is then poured over the plate, and it eats away at the steel and copper wherever the needle has scraped off the varnish. When the varnish is removed with spirits of turpentine, the engraving is seen in sunken lines on the plate.

A MOUSE'S EAR—Dr. Schobl, of Prague, has made the distribution of nerves to the ear of the mouse a subject of special examination, and calls attention to the fabulous richness of this organ in nerves, the bat's wing being in comparison but poorly supplied. According to the doctor's estimate, a mouse's ear of ordinary size presents on an average 6,000 nerve terminations, or both ears, 12,000. The function of this elaborate development is probably, as in the case of the bat's wing, to enable the animal to guide its way through dark, narrow passages.

THE problem of telegraphing in the Chinese language, to write which requires some 50,000 characters, has been solved in this way: A few thousand of the characters most used are cut upon wooden blocks. On the opposite side of each block is its number. Duplicates of such numbered blocks are at each telegraph station. The China merchant selects the blocks which express the thoughts to be transmitted. The operator telegraphs only the numerals designating these blocks, which enable the receiving operator to select similar blocks at his end of the line.

IN RESPONSE to the suggestion in our last, to send in items of interest in relation to Curiosities which each one who received the "Curiosity Hunter" was collecting, the Coin Collectors have rallied nobly. While we have received nothing from the collectors of autographs, the Conchologists or Orithnologists and other collectors, of whom we have a large number on our lists. Consequently their interests, as well as those of the Stamp Collector, are in a great measure neglected. The Stamp Magazines, of which we have paid the regular subscriptions to three, and received others with the request to exchange, which we have done, keep out of our way with a care which looks very suspicious of a little jealousy.

We hope all will in the future attempt to controll the paper by sending to us short articles of interest in relation to all the various branches of collecting, in which each may be interested. We have found it necessary to enlarge each month so far, and will enlarge and improve as fast as the support and interest in our paper demands. Next month we shall send only to those who have paid their subscriptions, and to such new addresses as we may receive requesting sample copies.

Therefore subscribe.

TOBACCO.

An early mention of tobacco is that in Hakluyt's "Voyages," by M. Jaques Cartier, in 1534. Speaking of the people of "Hochelaga, up the river of Canada," he says: "There groweth also a certain kind of herbe, whereof in Sommer they make a great provision for all the yeere, making great account of it; onely men use it, and first they cause it to be dried in the Sunne, then wear it about their necks wrapped in, a little beast's skinne made like a little bagge with a hollow piece of stone or wood, like a pipe, when they please they make powder of it, and then put it in one of

the ends of the said Cornet or pipe, and laying a coal of fire upon it, at the other end, sucke so long that they fill their bodies full of smoke till that it cometh out of their mouths and nostrils, even as out of the tonnell of a chimney. They say that this doth kepe them warme and in health; they never go without some of it about them. We, ourselves, have tried the same smoke, and having put it in our mouths, it seemed almost as hot as pepper."

A VERIFICATION.

A baked stone from one of the pyramids of Egypt has been subjected to a microscopical inspection by an Austran *savant*. If the account given is trustworthy, some wonderful things have been revealed by the breaking of this brick. It was made of mud of the Nile, straw and sand—the two latter ingredients to cause the clay to adhere and to neutralize its tendency to crack when drying. The materials thus used reveal to the microscope the presence of fragments of river shells, or fish bones, fish scales, insects of several kinds, some of the specimens being intact, the seeds of wild and cultivated flowers, of corn, barley, peas, flax and the radish, together with three distinct varieties of grasses.

This verification of the historical accounts of the productions of Egypt, as given by the Bible and Herodotus, is held in high consideration, and further microscopical explorations are to be undertaken.

TIME was kept in various ways up to the eleventh century, when, in the monasteries of Europe, the idea of a clock was first originated and executed. Of this we have evidence in the work written by Calmet, a French priest, describing the customs of the Cistercian monks in 1120, in which allusions are made to the striking of a clock as a means of waking up the monks. The inventor was a monk named Gerbert, who afterwards became Pope under the name of Sylvester II. His invention continued in use until 1650, when another great Catholic Galileo perfected it by the addition of a pendulum. We might mention in conclusion that Gerbert lived in the "Dark Ages."

THE BOHON-UPAS TREE.

BY H. W. DODGE.

During the cruise of the United States ship *Plymouth* in the east Indies she visited the coast of Borneo, and there spent some time in regulating our commercial interests. While lying off the mouth of Bruni River, upon which is situated the capital city of Borneo proper, a party was made up to visit a upas tree, which it appears is occasionally found in other islands than Java.

With a boat's crew, well-armed, we left the ship at daybreak, in order to accomplish the distance (21 miles) before the sun came out in full strength. Reaching the mouth of the river, after a pull of an hour and a half, we landed to eat our breakfast, and after resting the crew, put off again, arriving at our place of destination about 10 a. m. We were all looking out eagerly for the wonderful stories that so fascinated our boyhood; but here were no barren wastes, or arid, skeleton-covered plains.

Following our native guide-boat, we sheered in alongside of a grassy bank, the summit of which was laid out in small plots like children's gardens at home, each plot surrounded by a border of shells, with carefully kept walks between them. Nothing but grass and flowers were growing there, but these were luxuriant; for this was a graveyard, and we were even then standing under the shadow of the terrible poison tree, near which these people bury their dead, which may partially account for the wonderful stories told by early travellers. The tree itself measured eleven feet in circumference five feet above the ground, and, instead of scattering death and destruction, was girdled round with creeping vines and many-colored parasites that wound their way to the topmost branches, which were higher than any of the surrounding trees, and equalled, if not surpassed, those of our loftiest forest trees at home.

An incision was made, after the manner of tapping maple trees, and the sap, which is reported to be a deadly poison, commenced flowing drop by drop. It was of a yellowish white color, thick and glutinous, resembling, in its general appearance, good rich cream. There was no unpleasant odor perceptible

from it, nor did any of us experience any disagreeable sensations, though standing near by while the sap was being discharged. This was so slow an operation that it required nearly an hour to fill a two-ounce vial. Meantime it was desirable to procure some of the leaves and branches, but these were beyond our reach, as the lowest branch was at least 100 feet from the ground, and, although the men could easily have climbed up by the vines, the surgeon in charge of the party refused to let them make the attempt, fearing that their hands and feet might become poisoned.

At last, having loaded all our carbines with ball, a particular limb was selected, and we fired together, by this means securing several fine specimens.

Having obtained matter enough of all kinds to satisfy the demands of science, we returned to the ship, arriving on board at 2 o'clock in the morning, highly gratified by the result of our visit to this great natural curiosity, which has been one of the wonders and mysteries of our boyhood.

In a portion of Siberia where the inhabitants live chiefly on salmon, which every third or fourth year fail to appear, the government has established a fish savings bank, with a capital of 300,000 dried fish. Into this bank every male inhabitant is compelled to pay annually one-tenth of all the fish he catches as long as the season remains good, but when there is a failure of the salmon and starvation impends, every depositor is entitled to borrow from the bank enough for his regular supplies, on condition of a repayment next year.

PIANO FORTES.—Invented by J. C. Schroder, of Dresden, in 1717; he presented a model of his invention to the court of Saxony; and some time after, G. Silverman, a musical-instrument maker, began to manufacture piano-fortes with considerable success. The invention has also been ascribed to an instrument-maker of Florence. The square piano forte was first made by Frederica, an organ-builder of Saxony, about 1758. Piano-fortes were made in London, by M. Zumpe, a German, in 1766; and have been since greatly improved by others here.

LIST OF GERMAN REVENUE STAMPS.

PRUSSIA.

5 s. gr., blue, with Prussian arms in black circle.

10 s. gr., red, with Prussian arms in black circle.

15 s. gr., brown, with Prussian arms in black circle.

20 s. gr., green, with Prussian arms in black circle.

25 s. gr., bright yellow, with Prussian arms in black circle.

1 thaler, lilac, with Prussian arms in octagonal frame.

2 thaler, orange, with Prussian arms in octagonal frame.

3 s. gr., grey, with number in green octagonal frame.

4 s. gr., grey, with number in red octagonal frame.

5 s. gr., grey, with number in green octagonal frame.

6 s. gr., grey, with number in red octagonal frame.

7 s. gr., grey, with number in green octagonal frame.

8 s. gr., grey, with number in red octagonal frame.

9 s. gr., grey, with number in green octagonal frame.

10 s. gr., grey, with number in red octagonal frame.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

Black number in transverse oval, bright lilac, rect., 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 6, $7\frac{1}{2}$, 9, 12, 15, $22\frac{1}{2}$, 30, 45, 60, 90, 150, 300, silbgr.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

Black number in transverse oval, bright blue, rect., 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 6, $7\frac{1}{2}$, 9, 12, 15, $22\frac{1}{2}$, 30, 45, 60, 90, 150, 300, groschen.

THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION—A CURIOUS BIT OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

The most memorable thing in connection with the history of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, is the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," which was adopted May 20, 1775, in an old, round log and clapboard-covered school house, used as a court room, amid most-enthusiastic shouts. Attached to this document, writes a recent corres-

pondent, are the names of seven Alexanders, many of whose grandchildren and great grandchildren still reside there. This was the first public action taken which looked to a complete separation of the colonies from Great Britain, and the establishment of American Independence. The paper was taken to Philadelphia by Captain Jack and placed in the hands of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, to be presented to the Colonial Congress; but these gentlemen replied that it was too soon for such a movement. This was more than one year before Mr. Jefferson wrote the "Declaration" adopted on the 4th of July, 1776. The agreement in sentiment, and the similarity of a number of passages, prove that Mr. Jefferson had not read and studied the "Mecklenburg Declaration" in vain.

THE OLDEST BOOK.

Boston claims the oldest book in America. It is in the possession of Mr. Geo. H. Brewster. It is a copy of the New Testament, in quarto form, three inches thick, and about ten inches long. The chapters are printed in old English type, and the marginal notes in coarse Roman letters. It was published in London in 1503, and is supposed to have been used by the Puritan Fathers at Plymouth. VERGENNES, Vt., Aug. 26.

To the Editor of the Inter-Ocean.

SIR: My attention has been called to the inclosed "Editorial Note" in your issue of July 31.

I have in my possession a copy of the Holy Bible printed in 1489. It is a beautiful specimen of *black letter* printing, and is considered very valuable. It is fourteen years older than the book mentioned as being in Boston, and was printed three years before this country was discovered. Very truly yours,

WM. H. COLLINS.

PELOPONNESIAN WAR.—The celebrated war which continued for twenty-seven years between the Athenians and the inhabitants of Peloponnesus, with their respective allies. It is the most famous and the most interesting of all the wars which happened between the inhabitants of Greece. It began 431 B. C., and ended 404 B. C.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL of England, in his annual report, quotes, among others, the following complimentary letter from an American gentleman, which goes far to prove the perfection to which the postal system has been brought in England:

"Having recently arrived in England, and not knowing the present whereabouts of a sister, I addressed a letter to her late residence thus:

Upper Norwood, or elsewhere.

I received a reply in orderly course of mail, saying that it had been delivered to her on top of a stage coach in Wales. I venture to say that no other country can show the parallel, or would take the trouble at any price."

THE *Gazette de Cologne* describes the papyrus found in an Egyptian tomb by Mr. A. C. Harris, editor of the *Hieroglyphic Standard*, as in the form of a long roll, no less than 133 feet in length and sixteen and a half inches high. The text of the papyrus is in hieratic character, or an abridgment of hieroglyphics into a mixture of hieroglyphics, signs of letters, and syllables. It is expected that this document will throw great light on the monotheistic religion inculcated by Moses and the forms of legislation inaugurated by him; but the mere fact that the supposed date of the revolution put down by Rameses by the re-establishment of the ancient Egyptian worship, with his rebuilding of its temples and endowing them with great munificence, agrees with the events which resulted in the overthrow of Hebrew Monotheism and the Exodus of the Israelites does not establish the connection between the two.

TWENTY-ONE miles south of Denver, there was recently discovered the largest specimen of fossil vegetation known to science. It is a palm tree, and is in two sections, measuring together 50 feet in length. One section is 39 feet long, with a diameter at the largest end of about 22 feet. The other is twenty-one feet long, and is nine feet in diameter midway from the ends. The tree is now stone, hard and flinty as porphyry. Some of it appears like agate, finely veined and delicately tinted, while other portions are as white as snow, show-

ing a polished surface like chalcedony. Portions of the trunk are honey-combed, and the cavities filled with delicate crystals, which, when brought to the light, sparkle like diamonds. Specimens of the bark have been chipped off, which display all the lines and marks of the original formation

THE oldest swan in the Tuileries is dead. Her name was Diana, and she was brought from Stuttgart by Louis XVIII., and then belonged to the Countess Diana Manrepas, from whom she received her name. She has always been the favorite of all the monarchs since the beginning of the century. Charles X. took her to Compiegne, but she became homesick and they returned to the Tuileries. She will be stuffed and kept at the garden.

JAPAN is moving forward with great rapidity in the race of civilization. In this respect it is far outstripping its neighbor—China. Almost every mail brings news strikingly illustrating the difference between the two nations.—While China is making little or no progress worthy of mention, Japan has established a patent law, has accorded to women additional rights, has directed that gas mains be laid down in Yokohama, and that a fine suspension bridge be erected at Yeddo.

THE prairie hen formerly ranged across the United States, in open country, from the Atlantic to the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and now abounds on the prairies, from Illinois and Wisconsin to middle Kansas, at least, if not found on the dryer plains westward. It has been almost extirpated in the Middle and Eastern States, though it still occurs sparingly in isolated localities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Long Island, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

—Among our national Post Offices are the following: Ti Ti, Toto, Why Not Pipe Stem, Stony Man, Sal Soda, Shick-hiny, Snowshoes, Overalls, Lookout, Last Chance, Backbone, Marrow Bones, Sorrel Horse, Tally Ho and Tired Creek.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, JANUARY, 1872. 3

No. 5

ANCIENT COINS.

The scarcity of historically interesting American coins, and the furor for the series of cents, half cents, &c., has placed all the fine specimens in the hands of a few, and raised their value so as to be beyond the means of a great majority of collectors. The accumulation of the successive proof-sets of the mint is very monotonous, and no information whatever is to be gained from it. So our collectors must look elsewhere for interesting and remarkable pieces for their cabinets; and I propose in a few remarks, to show the interest attached to the ancient Greek and Roman coins, which have been almost entirely neglected in America. Nowhere else is there such a vast field open for study.

On Greek coins we can trace the progress of art from the infancy in the rude incused coins of Ægina, to its perfection in the unequalled series of Syracuse. They present us with authentic portraits not only of their rulers, but of such great celebrities as Homer, Cicero and Sappho. Many cities, each claiming to be the birth-place of Homer, engraved his portrait on their coins. They are of great use in establishing dates and fixing the sites of cities. The Roman coins, although inferior in an artistic point of view, are by far the most interesting historically, recording such striking events in the world's history as the conquest of Egypt, the capture of Judea, and the subjugation of Britain. We find representations of celebrated buildings, such as the Coliseum, of Deities which they worshiped, personifica-

tions of countries, cities and rivers. Indeed, a complete history of many reigns might be written from their coins, were every other record destroyed. The coins of Hadrian bear the names of more than twenty provinces, giving us an entire history of his travels. Theodoric, at one of the distributions of coins, to the people said: "With the assistance of coins you teach posterity the events of my reign." A very extensive and almost complete series can be found of the Roman imperial coins, those of every Emperor, (except a few of the usurpers, who retained the throne but a short time,) can easily be obtained. To illustrate my subject, I select from my cabinet three of the Roman family coins.

PORCIA.—The Porcian law was passed about the year of Rome, 450, (?) and exempted Roman citizens from punishment by whipping.

The reverse of this coin shows a citizen protected by a magistrate from the lictor, beneath the words

PROVOCO—"I appeal."

The apostle Paul availed himself of this law, as we find by Acts xxii. 24-27.

TITURIA.—Reverse of the first represents two soldiers throwing their shields upon a woman. Reverse of the second, two Romans carrying away Sabine women. Romulus, in order to increase the number of citizens at Rome, made it an asylum, to which came multitudes banished from other cities, and, like those who flocked to the standard of King David, came every one that was discontented, every one that was in debt, and every one that was in distress. But these citizens were in want of wives, so

Romulus instituted a feast to Neptune, to which came many of the neighboring people, with their wives and daughters.

In the midst of the festivities, the Romans seized each a maiden and bore her away. (This is seen on the reverse of my second coin of the Titurian family.) To revenge this, the Sabines made war upon Rome, when Tarpeia betrayed the city on condition of receiving what they wore upon their left arms, meaning their gold bracelets.

After the capture of Rome, the soldiers threw their shields, which they also wore upon their left arms, upon her, and crushed her. (This is shown on the reverse of the first coin.) The place was afterwards known as the "Tarpeian Rock." The Titurian family traced their descent from the Sabines.— Now to me, coins of this kind are far more interesting than a series of cents differing only in date. E. W. H.

Being desirous of an ancient coin for my watch guard, I sent to my friend at Pera, Constantinople, for one—not giving any particular size. In answer I received the coin enclosed, with following history of same, "Turkish coin very old—supposed to have been struck in the beginning of the reign of Sultan Mahmoud, and worn by that monarch on his neck-lace. Its value in our money is about 2s. 1d. English, or in your coin 50c. Hoping it is the thing required I have the honor to be, L. B. P.

ALTHOUGH the article of money, in the shape of coins, is one of the most familiar objects of daily use, it is probable that very few persons have troubled themselves to consider when and where it originated. For like all the inventions of man, it must have had a birth and a birth place. Adam had neither purse nor pocket, and in Eden there was no

one to trade with for food or clothing and hence a means of barter was not very likely to be needed. The origin of all human art was in necessity; or, as the proverb has it, necessity is the mother of invention. Thus the first recorded invention was an apron; or, as an old translation of the Bible has it, a pair of breeches. But when the breeches had a pocket in them, and when the pocket was first filled with small change, is a question for antiquarians.

EARLIEST KNOWN COINAGE FOR AMERICA.—The earliest coinage for America, is said to have been made in 1612, when the Virginia Company was endeavoring to establish a colony on the Sommer Islands, now better known as the Bermudas. The coin was made of brass, with Sommer Island for a legend, and a Boar for a type, above which xii; reverse, a ship under sail, firing a gun.

WE FIND a coin, and we at once mark the place of its discovery. It bears the name of a king, or the head of a god.— We compare with other coins, and lay it in its place among the brass, or silver, or gold memorials of the same king or country. It may be in itself of little importance, but in company with others it may form a link in a chain of evidence, a fact in a series, which will settle beyond reasonable doubt a great historical question, forms of worship, manners and customs of nations, relationships of kings, or of great families may thus be determined.

By AN AGREEMENT between the two governments, the thaler of Germany will be considered as equivalent to seventy-five cents in United States coin of gold value. A remembrance of this fact will be useful in the interchange of money orders between the United States and the German empire.

CURRENCY.

Many things have been used at different times as money; cowrie shells in Africa; wampum by the American Indians; cattle by ancient Greece; beaver skins in Canada; tobacco in Virginia; and soap in Mexico.

The Carthaginians used leather as money, probably bearing some mark or stamp.

Frederick II., at the siege of Milan, issued stamped leather as money.

In 1360, John the Good, King of France, who was taken prisoner by the celebrated Black Prince, and sent to England until ransomed, also issued leather money, having a small silver nail in the center.

Salt is the common money in Abyssinia, and cod-fish in Iceland.

"Living money," slaves and oxen, passed current with the Anglo-Saxons in payment of debts.

Adam Smith says that in his day there was a village in Scotland, where it was not uncommon for workmen to carry nails, instead of money, to the baker's shop and to the ale-house.

Marco Polo found in China money made of the bark of the mulberry tree, bearing the stamp of the sovereign, which it was death to counterfeit.

Tobacco was generally used as money in Virginia, up to 1660, fifty-seven years after the foundation of that colony.

In 1641, the Legislature of Massachusetts, enacted that wheat should be received in payment of all debts.

The convention of France, during the Revolution, on the proposition of Jean Bon-Saint Amdree, long discussed the propriety of adopting wheat as money, as the measure of value of all things.

Platina was coined in Russia, from 1828 to 1845.

But the metals best adapted and most generally used as coin, are copper, nickel, silver and gold; the first two being now used for coins of small value, to make change; the two latter, commonly designated as "the precious metals," are used as measures of value, and also as legal tenders.

On the continent of Europe, a composition of silver and copper, called billion, has long been used for small coins, which are made current at a much high-

er value than the metals they contain.

In China, Sycee silver is the principal currency, and is merely ingot silver, of a uniform fineness, paid and received by weight.

Spanish dollars also circulate there, but only after they have been assayed and stamped, as a proof that they are of the standard fineness.

As Asia Minor produced gold, its earliest coinage was of that metal.

Italy and Sicily possessing copper, bronze was first coined there.

Herodotus says that the Lydians were the first people known to have coined gold and silver. They had gold coin at the close of the ninth century, B. C.

Servius Tullius, King of Rome, made the pound weight of copper current money.

The Romans first coined silver 281 B. C., and gold, 207 B. C.

THE first copper coinage consisted solely of farthings, and was issued in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.—Charles II. issued half-pence and farthings, which for the first time bore the figure of Britannia, modeled from the king's cousin, Frances Stuart, remarkable for the beauty of her figure. Penny and two-penny pieces were first coined in the early part of the reign of George III.

"VULGATE" is a term applied to the Latin version of the Scriptures, authorized by the Council of Trent, and which is attributed to St. Jerome. The older version called the "Italic," is said to have been made in the beginning of the second century. Critical editions of the Vulgate were printed by order of Pope Sixtus V., in 1590. The Latin Bible, called the Unity Bible, was printed in 1460.

HAMBURGH is the chief commercial city of Germany. It was formerly one of the free cities, or Hanse Towns, united by the Hanseatic League, in 1241, for the protection of the commercial interest, but was absorbed in the North German Confederation in 1866, when Count Bismarck re-arranged Germany. It is situated on the north bank of the Elbe, about seventy-five miles from its mouth.

NEW ISSUES IN 1872

The following list has been prepared expressly for those of our younger patrons who may not subscribe for any of the stamp periodicals. There are several other countries which have issued single stamps or post cards, not chronicled below, but we have given the principal emissions.

BRAZIL.

Portrait in Oval.

300 reis, Green and Violet.

CASHMERE.

On glazed foreign paper.

4 annas, Green.

8 " " Red.

CEYLON.

Head of Queen to left.

2 cents, rect., Light Brown.

4 " " Grey.

8 " " Chrome-yellow.

16 " " Light Mauve.

24 " " Green.

36 " " Light Blue.

48 " " Carmine.

96 " " Ash-brown.

CHILI

Post Cards.

2 Centavos, Black.

5 " " Red.

ENVELOPES.

2 centavos, Bronze.

5 " " Vermillion.

10 " " Blue.

20 " " Green.

DUTCH INDIES.

The new set of stamps consist of the following values on various tints of paper:

10 reis, Black.

20 " " Carmine.

40 " " Blue.

100 " " Emerald-Green.

200 " " Yellow.

300 " " Violet.

600 " " Mauve.

900 " " Violet.

ECUADOR—The *Gazette des Timbres* gives an illustration of a new stamp for this country, value 1 real. The design has been copied from the Costa Rica stamps, but is very poorly executed; the color is orange-yellow.

DECCAN.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, rect., Red.

1 " " Faded Purple.

2 " " Light Green.

4 " " Dark Grey.

8 " " Deep Brown.

12 " " Azure Blue.

EGYPT.

Pyramid in the centre, Sphinx to left, in oblong oval.

5 paras, oblong, Light Brown.

10 " " Mauve.

30 " " Prussian Blue.

1 piastre, " Red.

2 " " Chrome-yellow.

 $2\frac{1}{2}$ " " Purple.

5 " " Emerald Green.

FIJI ISLANDS.

Crown above C. R. Fine thin paper.

1 penny, (2 cents) rect., Bright Blue.

3 " (6 cents) " Green.

6 " (12 cents) " Rose.

FIGI "TIMES EXPRESS"

1 penny, Black on Rose-Tinted Paper.

3 pence, " " "

6 " " " "

9 " " " "

1 shilling, " " "

GERMAN EMPIRE.

Embossed Arms in circle in centre.

 $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen, rect., Mauve. $\frac{1}{8}$ " " " Green. $\frac{1}{4}$ " " " Orange.

1 " " " Rose.

2 " " " Blue..

5 " " " Bistre.

10 " " oblong, Slate.

30 " " " Blue.

1 kreuzer, rect., Green.

2 " " " Orange.

3 " " " Rose.

7 " " " Blue.

18 " " " Bistre.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1 groschen, Rose.

3 kreuzer, "

NEWSPAPER BANDS

 $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen, Green.

1 kreuzer, "

HOLLAND.

Head to left.

5 cents, rect., Blue.

10 " " Carmine.

15 " " Bistre.

20 " " Green.

25 " " Mauve.

50 " " Chamois.

JAPAN, 1871.

Oriental Desigus.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ tenpoe, square, Brown.

1 " " Blue.

2 tenpoe " Vermilion.

5 " " Green.

JAMAICA.

To the *Philatelist* (English) belongs the honor of first heralding a new half-penny stamp for this Island. The color is Carmine on White.

MAURITIUS.

The *Canadian Philatelist* announces two new envelopes for the Mauritius 10d. rose, and 1s. 8d. blue; also a 10d. adhesive in "Morocco color and Gold."

MEXICO.

Juarez in profile, to left.

6 centavos, rect., Yellow-green.

12 " " " Blue.

25 " " " Pale Red.

50 " " " Yellow.

100 " " " Lilac.

	MADEIRA.	
50 reis, rect.,		Orange-green.
80 " "		Orange
120 " "		Blue.
	NICARAGUA.	
1 centavo, oblong,		Brown.
	NEW ZEALAND.	
Same design as former issue.		
1 penny,		Pale Brown.
2 pence,		Vermillion
6 " "		Blue.
	NORWAY.	
3 skilling, rect.,		Rose.
4 " "		Violet.
	PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.	
Head Queen to left, in various designs.		
1 cent, rect.,		Orange.
2 cents " "		Blue.
3 " "		Rose.
4 " "		Green.
6 " "		Black.
12 " "		Black.
	SWEDEN.	
3 ore, rect.,		Brown.
5 " "		Green.
6 " "		Lilac.
12 " "		Ultramarine.
20 " "		Red.
24 " "		Chrome-yellow.
30 " "		Dark Brown.
50 " "		Rose.
1 rix daler,		Blue and Buff

New envelopes and post-cards of the value of 10 ore, are soon to be issued. The two values—9 and 17 ore—wanted to complete the set of adhesives, are announced.

SIERRA LEONE.

1 penny, rect.,		Crimson Red.
3 pence, " "		Yellow.
4 " " "		Blue
1 shilling, " "		Light Green.

UNITED STATES.

7 cents, rect.,		Rich Vermillion.
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ENVELOPES.

7 cents,		Vermillion on Lemon.
7 " "		" " White.

PERSIA.—Dr. Magnus announces the issue of a set of postage stamps by the Persian government, as he has but one specimen in his possession it is impossible to tell what the values and colors are to be.

JAMAICA.—The newly issued $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp is printed in maroon white paper.

FINLAND.—A new post-card with the inscription in Finnish, Swedish and Russian has appeared.

SPAIN.

Oblong oval in centre containing the value $\frac{1}{2}$; above this is a crown; below DE CENTS DE PESETA, enclosed in a square frame outside of which is CORREOS ESPANA above and below; $\frac{1}{2}$ CENTS, DE PESETA at either side. This is printed in sheets of four

like the Brunswick quartette, from which it is evidently copied, and is unperforated. 4-4 cent. de peseta, pale blue.

The second design is merely a reproduction of the old type used for the 5 and 10 mil. of 1867, with the exceptions that the word CORREOS is changed to COMUNIC, and instead of MILS. DE ESCUDO, the words CENTS DE PESETA are used.

2 cent. de peseta,	violet.
5 " "	green.

Portrait of King Amadens in oval: above COMUNICACIONES; below ESPANA; numeral of value and letter C at lower angles.

6 cent de peseta	blue.
10 " "	dull lilac.
12 " "	violet.
25 " "	light brown.
40 " "	yellow brown.
50 " "	pale green.

Profile of king to right in oval; above COMUNICACIONES; Esp. in lower spandril: value in full in straight line below.

1 (una) peseta	dull lilac.
4 (cuarto) "	yellow brown.
10 (diez) "	pale green.

CHILI.—The five values of envelopes will each appear on three shades of paper—white, blue and yellow.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—A 30 cents stamp is in preparation, it is possible it may take the place of the 32 c.

RUSSIA—LOCAL STAMPS.

Tamboff, 3 kopek,		Black on White.
do 5 " "		Lilac on White.
Livni, 3 " "		Crimson.
Soumma, 5 " "		Red on white.
Kolomna, 5 " "		Vermillion.
Borovichi, 5 kopek,		Black and Crimson on White.
Rjef, 3 kopek,		Black and Red.
Bogorodsk, 3 kopek,		Black.
Charkoff, 5 " "		Red.
Berdiansk, 10 " "		Green and Black upon Blue Ground.
Cherson, 10 " "		Red and Black.
Vaidal, 2 " "		Black on Lilac.
Belozersk 3 " "		Black on White.

POST CARDS.

3 kop,		Red-brown on Grey.
5 " "		Sea Green.

FLORENCE, Italy, was recently visited by a plague of butterflies, an incident of rare occurrence. The insects came after night, and in such swarms that the street lamps gave but little light. Fires were started in the streets by the police and citizens, in which the butterflies burnt their wings, so that a half hour afterward the streets were covered with a layer of the little pests an inch thick. They were of a whitish color, and the streets looked as if there had been a snow-storm.

WHAT IS STAMP COLLECTING?

— — —
ITS RISE, PROGRESS, ETC.
— — —

As an amusement for young people, or the older ones, postage stamp collecting seems more deserving of popularity and encouragement than any other pastime whatever. Why? Because time or money spent in making a collection is not thrown away but gives something material to show for it, beside a vast fund of useful and valuable information. At the same time one is gaining a most beautiful collection of art specimens as a monument of one's perseverance and love of the beautiful; he is constantly learning what will be useful in life, and yet the study is so pleasing that one never thinks of it as work, and hence it is the most satisfactory manner possible of studying geography and history. How different is this from the many, silly amusements which give no lasting benefits. It is impossible to name an amusement that can at all compare with *Philately*. "Philately?"—we think some one exclaims—"What's that?" We will explain.

Stamp Collecting first became popular in England. From thence it came to America, and extended all over the world. It has its devotees in all climes. Soon after its appearance its advocates deeming "stamp collecting" too commonplace a term, coined the word *Philately* to represent it. The word is from the Greek *Philo*, meaning lover of, and *telos* meaning tax. Taxes often being represented by stamps, a free translation gives us, *lover of stamps*. *Philately*, then, is a very appropriate name for the pastime.

Stamp collecting first became popular about 1860 and its progress since its rise is indeed wonderful. No amusement could make such rapid strides into public favor the world over, unless it did possess extraordinary merit. Prince Arthur, of England, the Prince of Orange and many others high in rank, in all countries, are ardent philatelists—Our own merchant prince, A. T. Stewart is said to possess a collection which he bought for \$5000 in gold of a collector in Paris, when visiting there some time since. We know of one party who

is now making a most magnificent collection which he expects to sell to our government, when completed, for \$10,000. The P. O. Department is anxious to buy a full collection of all countries, for preservation. Many such opportunities offer themselves for disposing of collections if they are but finely and neatly preserved. No collector need fear to lay out money on his collection, because it will always bear a market value which increases every year it is kept. A collector, even if he should happen to tire of collecting, had better keep his book and not sell it under any ordinary circumstances, because it is an interesting treasure and curiosity for preservation.

The stamp collector takes great delight in looking over his treasures from day to day. A well arranged and neatly mounted collection presents so much beauty, so much that is curious and instructive that one never tires of admiring its gems of beauty, its strange contrasts, comparisons, etc.

Every encouragement to the advancement of the delightful pastime among young people, or old, helps to advance that which is a most pleasing, never-ending amusement, and which at the same time gives unmeasurable instruction and benefit. Let parents and teachers give their proteges every encouragement when they evince an interest in Stamp Collecting.—*Stamp Collector's Guide for January*.

THE FRANCO-AMERICAN POSTAL TREATY.—In regard to this treaty a new difficulty has arisen, and one which like all the rest, arises from French 'red tapeism,' and the difficulty of getting through the Circumlocution Office. In Cabinet council M. Thiers acknowledged the very large deficits in the postal revenue, and reluctantly confessed that there had to be change. M. de Remusat has favored a treaty with the United States, and a large reduction of the present rates, on the broad ground of modern progress, and M. Thiers finally came to the same view, on the ground of the importance of the Commercial interests between the two countries. Anything tending to increase the means of intercommunication would tend to increase the general revenue arising from taxes on commerce.—*Paris Correspondence New York Times*.

ABOUT POSTAGE STAMPS.

The following extract is going the rounds of the press :

"As soon as they emerge from the hydraulic press, postage stamps are gummed. The paste is made from clear starch, or rather its dextrin, which is acted upon chemically and then boiled, forming a clear, smooth, slightly sweet mixture. Each sheet of stamps is taken separately, placed back upon a flat board, and its edges covered with a light metal frame. Then the paste is smeared on with a large whitewash brush, and the sheet is laid between two wire racks and placed on a pile with others to dry. Great care is taken in the manufacture of this paste, which is perfectly harmless. This gratifying fact has been conclusively proved by an analysis recently made by an eminent chemist. After the gumming, another pressing in the hydraulic press follows. Then more counting—in fact, stamps are counted no less than thirteen times during their processes of manufacture. The sheets are then cut in half, each portion containing one hundred stamps, this being done by girls with ordinary hand shears. Next follows the perforation, which is performed by machinery. The perforations are first made in a perpendicular line, and then afterwards in a horizontal line. Another pressing follows—this time to get rid of the raised edges on the back of the stamps made by the dies, and this ends the manufacture. A separate apartment is devoted to the packing and sending off of the stamps to the different post-offices. It will be seen by this account that any absurd rumors concerning the poisonous, or unclean, properties of the postage stamps, are utterly without foundation.

ST. MATTHEW was a Hebrew tax gatherer, and was consequently unpopular with his people. He preached the gospel in Judea, Parthia and Ethiopia. He was the author of the gospel which bears his name.

THE property of the late Erastus Corning amounted to \$10,000,000, and revenue stamps of the value of \$10,000 were affixed to his will.

UNREDEEMED PLEDGES.

A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF MEDALS IN A BOWERY WINDOW.

From the New York Times.

Strolling up the Bowery, a few nights ago, the writer's attention was attracted to the window of an establishment on the corner of Broom street, the stock in trade consisting of unredeemed pledges bought at pawn-brokers' sales. Lying in promiscuous heaps and hanging from the gas fixtures were watches, diamond jewelry, musical and mathematical instruments, guns, pistols, swords, mechanical tools, and innumerable other articles, that probably at some time were presented as souvenirs of friendship, to be lovingly cherished by the recipient, but necessity sent them to the pawnbroker.

The catalogue of a pawnbroker's sale is a curious study, comprising as it does, everything in the range of male and female wardrobes, every article of jewelry worn for use or ornament, and every variety of mechanical tools and instruments used in science and art. And every article, could it speak, could tell either a tale of sorrow, suffering, robbery, or perhaps murder.

Some things are parted with with less reluctance than others. A needy man's first pledge to the pawnbroker is his watch. It is convenient to say that it is not running and it is left at the store, if its absence should be noticed. Other jewelry follows, until the wardrobe is surrendered. Clothing is generally redeemed. Watches, jewelry, tools and the like are purchased by such speculators as the one whose store is mentioned, and sold generally at their full value to people in search of bargains. The writer entered the Bowery store and asked to be shown some medals, a number of which were exposed for sale in the window. Curious as were the wares of this establishment its proprietor was a unique character. At the time of the visit he had been indulging in copious draughts of lager beer. His history, as narrated by himself, was of an interesting character. James Cassidy is a native of the Emerald Isle, and a lineal descendant of Brian Boru, of Ancient Hibernian renown. Arriving in America about twenty seven years ago, after much

struggling with fortune, he started into business on the corner where he is now located, with \$5 capital. He is now, he says, worth nearly \$200,000.

On examining the stock, the writer found the following articles, which had at last found their way to the shelves of the unredeemed-pledge vendor. First in the list were two silver English medals, formerly the property of British soldiers distinguished for good conduct. One was dated 1793 to 1814, and had four clasps inscribed "Toulouse," "Orthes," "Vithra" and "Salamanca," historic engagements in the war with Napoleon. Another without a clasp was dated 1848. An Indian medal dated 1857-58, such as are presented to the soldiers of the British East India army, was next examined, besides another inscribed "Delhi." The next medal examined was one inscribed on one side "*Nostri plena laboris*, Royal Dublin Society, instituted in 1731," and on the reverse, "To John Brennan, for Drawings from the Round Fine Arts, 1849." The next was a British army medal with a clasp inscribed "Persia," and presented to Bugler, J. Kelley, Second Bombay, E. N. R. L. I. Several gold medals were then inspected. The first one was a champion medal awarded to Charles Nicoll, for hop, step and jump, 1868. On one side is engraved an eagle and a lion in a wreath of laurel, and the inscription, "*Nemo me Impune Lacessit*," and on the reverse a Scotch cap and claymores crossed. The second gold medal examined was a very fine one, and engraved as follows: "First Prize, Harlem Medal Yacht Club, fourth annual regatta, taken by yacht Electric Spark, Commodore J. E. Ebeling, owner, June 15, 1858;" reverse, Neptune, with inscription, Harlem Model Yacht Club, 1858. A gold pioneer badge, inscribed, "Presented by Pioneer P. C. to C. W. Genet," and with handsomely engraved emblems, was next looked at. Several Knights Templar's red cross badges of gold enamel, with the motto "*In hoc Signo Vincas*," were then examined. Next was a heavy gold fireman's ring, inscribed "No. 1, A. McMullan, Druid Steam Fire Engine." There was also a gold badge inscribed on one side as presented to William C.

Wheelan by attaches in front of the New Bowery Theater; reverse, "*Mullem in Parvo*, June 16, 1863." A gold medal inscribed on one side "Walnut Hill School, 1861," reverse, "English, Julian T. Davis," and next a gold star medal inscribed "John McKay, from his friends of Norfolk, Champion Oarsman of Virginia."

The most curious thing in the collection was a large bronze medal in a handsome case, bearing on its face an engraved head of Cyrus W. Field, with the ocean, and, two ships laying the Atlantic cable beneath, and the inscriptions, "Honor and fame are the reward; indomitable perseverance and enduring faith achieve the success." Reverse side: "By resolution of the Congress of the United States, March 2, 1857, to C. W. Field, of New York, for his foresight, faith and persistency in establishing telegraphic communication by means of the Atlantic telegraph connecting the Old with the New World." There was an engraving of a torch, globe and fasces. The fact of this national medal, which bears every sign of genuineness, being exposed for sale as an unredeemed pledge is a mystery which is difficult to explain.

An antique silver crucifixion, which the proprietor averred was a relic from Antioch, 300 years old, was exhibited as a great curiosity. It is black with age, but as there is no other evidence than the word of the storekeeper, its genuineness cannot be vouched for.

A dingy-looking violin, placarded "Cremona, \$250," was pointed out to the curiosity hunter, who not being gifted with the art of awakening the slumbering music that might have been contained in the seedy-looking instrument, was obliged to accept the statement as veracious, though not without a suspicion that the long bow was being drawn. The proprietor then exhibited with much enthusiasm a rough looking cane which he said was a Corconian stick, made of Irish blackthorn. Other articles whose claims of antiquity were somewhat mythical were brought out from corners and hidden recesses, when the writer, after a hasty survey of each, departed well satisfied with the results of his visit.

A DISTINGUISHED NUMISMATIST.—The Visalia (California) *Delta* is authority for the following statement: "It may not be generally known that Dr. Charles Spier of this place is the oldest living and most successful numismatist in the world. He has been engaged in the collection of coins for over fifty seven years, and has now over 14,000 pieces, representing every species of coin ever produced in any year or under the dominion of any sovereign or government from the days of Semiramis and the Pharaohs down to the present time. His collection is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. He has over 10,000 of his pieces in the vaults of the Bank of California, and 4000 or over here. At the Bank of California his collection is pronounced the best and most valuable in existence, not excepting those of Queen Victoria and the Sultan of Turkey, which are particularly extensive and valuable. A few days ago we examined the 4000 of his pieces which he keeps here. They proved a most interesting study. Coins of the ancient Jewish Kingdom; of the various kings, consuls and emperors of Rome; of Tyre, Sidon, Carthage, Ninevah, Babylon, China, Palmyra, Egypt, Japan, etc., with specimens of every year's coinage in all Christian lands from the time of Constantine till now, were exhibited in prodigal profusion. The doctor has many coins which would sell for many thousands of dollars each. His collection has been the work of a lifetime. He has traveled nearly over the world, and is constantly receiving new additions to his pieces from Europe and the East. He has gold and silver coins from the size of a very large tea-cup down to that of a pea. We wish we had the space to particularly describe some of them. The doctor, who is in easy circumstances and greatly advanced in years, though still robust for one of his age, remains in Visalia on account of the excellence of the climate. His collection is very interesting to any one appreciating the mementoes of antiquity."

A BLOCK of native copper, weighing 138 pounds, was recently found on the farm of Wm. Glenn, in Leland township, Grand Traverse county. As the

locality is several miles distant from any known copper mines, the discovery excites considerable attention.

AN AGED DOCUMENT.

Mr. Harris, editor of the London *Hieroglyphic Standard*, has recently discovered a papyrus in an Egyptian tomb, which is pronounced the largest, finest, best written and best preserved of any which have yet been found in the land of the Pharaohs. When unrolled it is over 120 feet long by eighteen inches in width. It dates back to Rameses III, (the Rampsinit of Herodotus), and has consequently been more than 3,000 years in existence. It contains precious revelations of the political and religious civilization of Egypt in that remote period, and is written in a mixture of hieroglyphics, with signs of letters and syllables. The text of the papyrus is an address from King Rameses III, "to his people and to all the people of the earth," upon the events of his reign as well as that of his father, Setinecut, and his grandfather, Manepiah Seti II.; events which put an end to a period of religious evolution, very important also for the study of the Biblical history Rameses relates how he himself restored the ancient Egyptian form of worship and re-erected the temples, endowing the latter with a munificence upon the effects of which he dilates in full. At the end of the address he enumerated his various warlike exploits, and all the other services he has rendered his people. The religious evolution of which mention is made refers to the period of Moses, to the monotheistic worship founded or restored by him, and comprises all the events which terminated in the destruction of monotheism in Egypt and the exodus of the Israelites.

GUNPOWDER was invented by Roger Bacon, an Englishman, who lived in the thirteenth century; but Germany claims the merit for several who lived about thirty years after Bacon's decease. The learned, however, assign the priority of the invention to Bacon, as regards the western world, although it is now well known that the Chinese were acquainted with gunpowder centuries previously.

BIRD LIFE IN THE SOUTH

The city of Columbia, S. C., on a February day presents to its inhabitants a sight which no other city on the continent affords, in the immense number of birds that people its magnificent shade trees. Thousands upon thousands of red-breasted robins are assembled, as in grand convention, prior to their flight to the North. Jay-birds, blue-birds, and peerless mocking-birds are here in large numbers. The fruit of the sugar-berry tree, the wild orange, the black gum and the varieties of the oak, afford them abundance of food.

The robin makes its appearance from further south about the beginning of January, and still remains about the middle of February, when it takes its flight, to the north. For the last few days the air is full of them assembling for departure, and to any one who ever witnessed the gatherings of swallows at the north in the Fall of the year, preparing for their flight south, this assembling of the robins presents a familiar scene.

It is an interesting sight to see them on the ground in search of food. They move as an army and seem to be under the command of a leader, who, on the slightest alarm, utters a shrill, quick note—instantly the whole flock takes to flight. As they move through a field their numbers are so great they destroy immense numbers of cutworms and grubs. For a moment they stand as in silent meditation, then turning the head to one side, listen, when presently they peck away at the earth, and a worm is brought to the surface, which is quickly devoured.

CONDENSED HISTORY OF STEAM.

About two hundred and eighty years B. C., one Hicks, of Alexandria, formed a toy, which exhibited some of the powers of steam, and was moved by its power.

A. D. 450, Anthemius, an architect, arranged several cauldrons of water; each covering with a wide bottom of the leather tube, which rose to a narrow top, with pipes extended to the rafters of the adjoining building. A fire was kindled beneath the cauldrons, and the

house was shaken by the efforts of the steam ascending the tubes. This is the first notice of the power of steam recorded.

In 1543, June 27, Blasgo D. Garoy tried a steamboat of 200 tons with tolerable success at Barcelona, Spain. It consisted of a cauldron of boiling water under a moveable wheel on each side of the ship. It was laid aside as impracticable. A present, however, was made to Garoy.

The first idea of a steam engine is the Marquis of Winchester's "History of Inventions," A. D., 1663.

In 1690, the first railroad was constructed at Newcastle-on-Tyre.

In 1710, Newcomer made the first steam engine in England.

In 1717, patents were granted to Savery, for the first application of the steam engine.

In 1764, James Watt made the first perfect steam engine that was ever made in England.

In 1766, Jonathan Hull sets forth the idea of steam navigation.

In 1773, Thomas Paine at first proposed this application in America.

In 1776, two Americans published works about it.

In 1781, Marquis Jouffroy constructed one on the Saone.

In 1783, Ramsey propelled a boat by steam to New York.

In 1789, William Symington made a voyage on one in the Firth of Clyde Canal.

In 1793, Robert Fulton first began to turn his attention to steam.

In 1798, Oliver Evans, a native of Philadelphia, constructed a locomotive steam engine to travel on a turnpike road.

In 1802, this experiment was repeated.

FLOWERS AND MOSES.—Forty different species of wild violets are found east of the Mississippi. In North America there are said to be one hundred and thirty species of asters, and ninety species of the golden rod. Of mosses there are nearly one thousand different species in the world, and of the beautiful feather mosses alone there are over fifty species.

BIRD TRACKS IN STONE.

A correspondent of the *Providence Journal*, in an article on fossil bird tracks in the Connecticut River Valley, says :

We have only to go to the Connecticut valley, in the northern part of Massachusetts, to find in the slabs of sand stone frequently quarried there, the imprints of more than fifty species of birds with some quadrupeds, which trod the shores or waded the shallows of that ancient estuary, the head of which was probably near Turner's Falls, filling what is now the Connecticut valley to that point, and opening into the ocean. These birds, long since extinct as living beings, did indeed leave their

Footprints on the sands of time."

and so well does a part indicate the whole that these may also be photographed from their tracks, as Agassiz draws a fish, which he has never seen, from a scale.

Some of these birds were small, their steps being not more than three or four inches long, while others were six feet. Think of the birds which took such strides! The footprint of one is seventeen inches long, and another makes a track, if the impression made by what is thought to have been a kind of heel be included, two feet in length and a step of six feet.

These tracks were first brought to the notice of the world in 1836, by the late President Hitchcock, although they had been observed a year before. Although his statements were at first received with scepticism, they are now as well verified as anything in geology. Specimens of tracks from the locality named are to be seen in the large geological cabinets of the world, and are found in many small private collections.

MYTHOLOGY.—According to the mythological story, Pandora was the first mortal female created; being formed of clay, by Vulcan, at Jupiter's request. As soon as endowed with life, all the gods are said to have vied with each other in presenting her with gifts. She received beauty and the art of pleasing from Venus; the power of captivating from the Graces. Apollo taught her how to sing, Mercury instructed her in

eloquence, and Minerva endowed her with wisdom. Jupiter, finally, presented her with a box, filled with innumerable evils, which she was to give to the man she married. Mercury then conducted her to Prometheus, who, however, would not accept the present: but his brother, Epimetheus, less prudent, did, and married her. He accepted and opened the box, from which issued a multitude of evils and distempers which speedily dispersed themselves all over the earth, and have never since ceased to afflict mankind. He shut the box again in haste, but all were gone. Hope, alone, which Jupiter had compassionately inclosed in his unhappy gift, had not time to escape, and, consequently, remained as the consolation of wretched mortals.

A VALUABLE relic of antiquity, says the *Levant Herald*, has lately been discovered in the grounds of the Russian pilgrim's monastery outside of the walls of Jerusalem. It is a monolith cut out of a single block, and only half complete. From a description in the history of Flavius Josephus, it is believed to be a column intend for the decoration of the ancient Temple of Solomon; but that as the column split while it was being worked, it was left unfinished, the lower part of it remaining in a rough, unhewn state. The monolith, which is about thirty-nine feet in length by six in diameter, will certainly prove an object of keen interest to archæologists; and it is to be hoped that it will be retained in a place of safety—the pillage of monuments of antiquity in the East being now systematic.

Two miles from Leavenworth, in Crawford county, Ind., there is an immense pile of large parallelogram sandstones, covering about half an acre of ground, and it is firmly believed that these were quarried, dressed, and transported there by some ancient race who once inhabited that region. In addition to their having square sides and being of great uniformity of width, there is none of the same kind of stone found elsewhere in the county, except two smaller piles near the large one. The largest stones are thirteen feet long and about four feet wide.

STRANGE BIRD.

A new species of bird has been found in Kentucky. In size it has been that of a buzzard and a crow. The head and neck, and body, to the base of the wings, as well as the entire under part of the body, are snow white. The rest of the body is about the color of a partridge. The wings are very long, and the tail is deeply forked. They seem to be entirely carnivorous, and soar high in the air while hunting their food, which, as far as has been observed, consists of grasshoppers, mice, and other small animals. They swoop down on their prey, and have a cry resembling that of a hawk.

ABOUT the earliest and most notable performance of the English opera was in 1656, under the management of Sir Wm. Davenant, the poet. The piece was entitled "An entertainment at Rutland House, by declamation and music, after the manner of the ancients," and was afterwards published, in the same year, in a quarto volume. Davenant had just been liberated from the Tower, where he had been confined by Parliament for his complicity in the scheme—originally encouraged by Henrietta Maria, the Queen, mother of England—of carrying out a number of artificers to Virginia.

A GIRDLE has not yet been put about the globe; but the circle is well nigh completed. The Australian line of telegraph has been brought into notice again by an exchange of compliments between Mayor Hall and the Mayor of Adelaide. The last named city is now on the line which stretches for 1,800 miles across the Australian continent to Port Darwin in the far north, and thence by way of the Indian Archipelago to Asia and Europe. When a cable is laid across Behring sea or strait we shall have closed the gap in the magnetic circle.

IN THE Saginaw salt region a bed of purer salt has been found underlying that now worked. At Cassville, a bed of salt rock has been struck at a depth of 1,700 feet, and at Alpena, at a depth of 1,130 feet from the surface.

WANTED.—Relics from the Pyramids of Egypt.

Hat worn on the "Head of a Pin."
Toe-nail from the "Foot of the Mountain."
Some feathers from the "Bed of the River."
Shoe made on "The Last of the Mohicans."
Ice made in the "Winter of our Discontent."
Dumpling made from the "Apple of Discord."
Planks for repairing the "Bridge of the Nose."
Yardstick for measuring the "Height of Ambition."

ROME was sacked by the Gauls, under Brennus, 390 years B. C. They burned down all Rome, except the capitol.—The Goths took and plundered Rome, A. D. 400. In 547 it capitulated to the Goths, and in 553 was re-taken by Narses, one of Justinian's generals, and remained nominally subject to the Greek emperors until 726, when it revolted, and became a free State, governed by a Senate. In about a century afterwards, the popes became absolutely masters of the city, and continued so for more than a thousand years.

THE first printing by moveable types was invented by John Faust, in 1441, but was first made public by John Gutenberg, of Meutz, in 1458. It was introduced into England by Wm. Caxton, a mercer in London, in 1471. He had a printing press in Westminster Abbey, till 1494. Printing in colors was invented in 1626.

THERE is offered for sale, in New York, a collection of original sketches by eminent artists, both here and abroad, also photographs and autographs of distinguished people, which is said to be the most valuable of any obtainable collection. It is to be sold for \$6,000, and the proceeds go toward establishing, in France, a seminary for young ladies, to be modeled after our own. The purchaser is to be considered the founder of the institution, which is to be named for him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BOSTON, Dec. 16th, 1872.

FRIEND ANDRUS:—As I am about to send you an advertisement for your Curiosity Hunter, I take the liberty to address a somewhat friendly letter and know it will give no offence.

The recent disastrous fire did not leave me unscathed and I regret to say that I shall not need for the present any U. S. Revenue list, as my stock evaporated. I note in your list that you do not catalogue the 50 cent Lottery Ticket; there is one in existence, and Taylor, of this city, can inform you the address of a gentleman who has one. One of the most interesting relics that I managed to get from the fire was a piece of melted leather, composed of numerous hides (tanned sole-leather) all melted together into one compact mass until it resembles strongly a piece of rich mahogany.

The French Consul of this port is making a collection of *blotters*, such as are used by Insurance Companies for advertising and proposes, when he has obtained a sufficient number, to send them to France. Trifet, I suppose you know, has failed. He was sold out \$400 less than he owed the N. E. News Co. I shall publish a small eight page catalogue this week and shall be happy to forward you one. Enclosed you will find a few notes &c. which will form a solid foundation to a waste-basket. Trade is very good for the holidays. Albums sell very fast.

I enclose a few clippings for the "C. H." I keep an open eye for all such.

I understand you collect all kinds of curiosities yourself. Have you a Turkish onion? I have one and can get you another if desirable. Their scent is *tame*."

You know something about coins, so

will you please inform me if a cheap coin cabinet would be saleable. Prices to be about \$5, \$6, or \$8, to hold 500 coins or more?

An answer through the "Hunter" will oblige

[Will some of our friends answer this through our columns. We think they would.]—EDITOR.

LITERARY CURIOSITIES.

Richard the Third's crest was a white boar, Ratcliffe, Catesby and Lovel were his advisers, which gave rise to the following:

The Cat, the Rat, and Lovel, our dogge,
Rulen all England under a Hogge," (boar.)

Collinborne, the author, was executed for this sally.

King James the Second lost his life by a misplaced comma. His cruel Queen sent the following order to the prison keeper, "To shed King Edward's blood refuse to fear, I count it good. The keeper obeyed orders, but Edward's life would have been spared had the comma been placed after refuse."

Achilles was the son of Thetis, and was made invulnerable by being plunged in the Styx. He was educated by Chiron, the centaur, and his armor was forged by Vulcan. He slew Hector, fell in love with Polyxena and was slain by Paris, who shot him in the heel with an arrow as the marriage rites were being performed.

The Pitt Diamond was bought for £20,000 and sold to the Duke of Orleans for £135,000. It cost £8000 in cutting, delivering and negotiating, and the and the chippings were valued at £5000. It weighed before cutting 410 carats, and after 136¼. Committee valued it at £400,000 in 1791.

The Portuguese armed the first gun boat and called it "The Terror of the

Seas." This formidable ship was armed with *one* gun.

INDIAN OR PENN MEDAL.

In the year 1756, a society was formed in Phila, called "The Friendly Association for organizing and preserving peace with the Indians by pacific means. Of that society and the medal about to be described, *Robert Vaux*, in a discourse to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in January 1827, Thus spake :

"Among other means of testifying its regard for the Indians, and that they should possess a memorial which might frequently remind them of the sincere and cordial disposition of its members, the association had a *medal* struck, with a device representing an Indian and a European seated at a council fire, the latter pointing with the calumet or pipe of peace toward the sun, near the Zenith; the whole design being encircled with this beautiful sentiment: "Let us look to the Most High, who blessed our Fathers with Peace." The execution of that medal was the first attempt in that department of the fine arts in Pennsylvania. The dies, not highly finished as may readily be supposed, were engraved by Edward Duffield, of Philadelphia, and cost fifteen pounds. At that time the coining press being unknown in this country, the dies were cut on branches fixed in a socket and the impressions made by the stroke of a sledge hammer."

The coin is dated 1757 and an engraving of the coin can be seen in *Vaux's* life of *Benezet*, page 50 or in the "Casket of 1827, page 383. The Indian is represented as seated upon the earth, right hand extended, while the European is seated upon a stump beneath an oak, his right hand holding the calumet at an angle of 45 degrees.

NOTE.—The design on the obverse is

not given, but it is possible that there was none, else *Vaux* would have surely mentioned it.

ARTHUR EVERETT LEACH.

EAST NEW YORK P. O. }
Dec. 19th, 1872. }

To the Editor—DEAR SIR:—The following are taken from the *New York Observer*, for Dec. 19th :

A correspondent at Rome, writes:—"The excavations in the 'Via Sacra' have brought to light the shops mentioned by *Ovid*, between the Arch of *Titus* and the *Meta Sudans*, where gladiators used to wash their wounds. The Italian Government has brought more Roman antiquities to light in a year, than the Popes have done in a century. Even the relics of Roman glory were considered dangerous, as they were calculated to set the people thinking what a contrast these suggested between the greatness of their ancestors and the degeneracy of the Romans under the Papal Government and Church."

The *Boston Journal* states that since the fire melted granite and leather are found in abundance. A strange sight, however, is a melted brick wall, which can be seen at the rear of the premises occupied at the time of the fire by *Butler, Johnson & Co.* The liquid brick has run down over a considerable space.

Powell's picture of the "Battle of Lake Erie," intended for the Capitol at Washington, will be, when completed, the largest oil painting in America. It is thirty feet long and twenty feet high. The artist commenced it six years ago, and expects to finish it this winter.

Yours respectfully, W. EAMES.

WINDSOR LOCKS, Dec. 19th, 1872.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Esq., Box 733, Rockford, Ill.—DEAR SIR:—We now send a description of one of our coins. Over a year and a half ago (May 2d, 1871,) we wrote to the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, and *Maj. Nichols* answered the letter, and said that he did not know

what country it belonged to. It was obtained of an Irish woman, who works in one of the large paper mills here.

COPPER;—Obverse in circle, near the edge is WITT LAND; in circle inside of this is III, 1154; reverse a wreath around the edge; inside is G. A. It is in very good condition. Any information you can give about this, will be thankfully received by

Yours truly, J. B. DOUGLUS & Co.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., {
Dec. 17th, 1872. }

Friend Andrus:—The dies for the *Libertas Americana* medal referred to on page thirty of the *Curiosity Hunter* are in France. Medals can be obtained for about \$10.00. Mine is an *original* somewhat battered. I value it the more for its present condition. The "*Tyrannis Virtute Repulsa*" is a rare medal; I have the Carolina medal, but do not consider it rare at all, unless in very fine condition. Mine is much worn. The Florida is rare. I have not seen the 5, 10, 20 and 40 Baiocchi pieces, but should judge they were struck during the troubles in Rome, in 1849, by those that favored a Republic. They must be rare. I received one copy of the *Hunter*; others will be along soon, no doubt. As regards the article about my collection, I thank you for its insertion. American quarters 1833, should read 1823. Please send me *Hunter* No. 1, and consider me a subscriber; also your "Descriptive Catalogue of gov't stamps." I enclose a U. S. Revenue Stamp sent me from Washington, some three years ago. I think it is rare, as I do not know that it was ever adopted. Let me know about it.

Yours truly, U. P. NICHOLS.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The Canadian Philatelist for December, comes to us well filled with good articles in relation to Philately, and will always be a welcome guest at our table.

The Stamp Collectors' Guide has again changed hands, and is now in the hands of its original owners and publishers.—The American Stamp Co. it has been enlarged and improved, and now stands

on an equal footing with any of its American contemporaries. We shall be glad to receive monthly visits from this old friend.

The Stamp Collector's Monthly for December is at hand, as usual, well filled with items of general interest to collectors; and we are anxiously looking forward to its January number, when it is to appear enlarged, and in a new dress.

The Stamp Collector's Chronicle published at St. John's, New Brunswick.—The December number comes to us with only four pages—which, however, are well filled, and the typographical and general appearance of this paper equals, if it does not surpass, any of the Philatetical journals of the States. We understand it is the intention of the publishers to skip the January issue and appear in February a sixteen page monthly, replete with articles from the pens of some of the best writers on Philately furnished by either continent. Under the able management of our personal friend—*The Editor*—we can assure our friends that the remittance of fifty cents to the Foreign Stamp Depot at St. John's, N. B., will secure them a monthly visit from a friend to whom—ere the year has passed—they will thank us for having introduced them.

And now comes the welcome representative of our old friends Beifield & Bell, of Chicago, in the shape of a neat four-page monthly entitled *The Western Philatelist*, published at 50 cents per year, postage paid. Gentlemen, we welcome you into our rapidly enlarging circle, and wish you success.

"*The Bird's Nest*," of Exeter, N. H., an eight-page monthly devoted to birds and the collection of their eggs, is at hand, and will be ever welcome.

"*The Schoolmate*" is "a racy amateur journal" published at Cleveland, Ohio,

at 50 cents per year. With the January number it commences its second volume, enlarged and improved—a token of its well-merited success.

"*The North Star*," published at Red Wing, Minn., has always been one of the most welcome of our amateur exchanges. From its columns we ascertain that it is to be enlarged and improved, and henceforth issued monthly.

From Hon. Thos. B. Van Buren, we have received a circular calling our attention to the collection of American journals and periodicals, which, being formed under his supervision, with the assistance of Mr. E. Steiger and Mr. I. Jaraslawski, to represent American journalism at the coming *grand exposition* at Vienna, Austria, which takes place during the current year. Each paper and periodical throughout our whole country are requested to send three copies of one issue to Mr. I. Jaraslawski, box 4, 697 New York, and one copy to Mr. E. Steiger, 22 and 24 Frankfort st., N. Y. We hope that the press will each and every one respond, and thus show the world through an ample representative, what they are doing for the cause of popular education in the United States.

We received a call a few days since from Mr. Virgil Liberman, one of the editors of *The American Playmate*, who presented us with a few copies of his neat paper and its splendid appearance, both in typography and arrangement, show plainer than words the cause of its success. Call again, friend Liberman.

We have received from Maj. C. P. Nichols of Springfield, Mass., an essay for a U. S. Revenue Stamp from a very fine scroll and line engraved type, which from its intricate plainness we confess ourselves totally unable to describe. Thanks!!

FROM H. E. Greenebaum. We have a sheet of parchment paper, watermarked "K. BAYER, STAMPED PAPER," 1849, and bearing an impression of the Royal Seal, and a black circular stamp inscribed *Dimensions—Stampel* and within an inner circle 7 KREUZER for which we wish to express our thanks.

FROM a friend in New York We learn that Mr. Edward Cogan "the father of the American coin trade" at the late Philadelphia sale purchased upwards of \$800 worth of coin for collector— for eight prices, only paying \$738. At the New York sale of December 12th to 14th inclusive, his purchases were in the neighborhood of \$1,000. This friend also hints at the arranging of a large collection of coin by Mr. Cogan, for another sale which is soon to take place. We are pleased to note these "straws" which show to some extent the magnitude of the Coin trade in this country.

FROM a reliable source we learn that the sales of Mr. Jno. W. Haseltine on his late visit to Boston amounted to upwards of \$1500. We are pleased to notice this success of our friend.

FROM the December number of the *Curiosity Cabinet*, just at hand, we learn that Mr. Wm. P. Brown, so long and favorably known to the Stamp, Coin and Curiosity collectors of the U. S., is making preparations to wind up his extensive business prior to an early departure for Japan. We are sorry to record this fact, and do not doubt but that we express the feelings of a large number of collectors in writing the remark, and wishing him Godspeed in the strange land to which he goes.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR, and many thanks to all those who have so kindly lent their assistance in promoting the interests of our Journal are the expressions we wish to offer.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY, 1873.

No. 6.

SIEGE PIECES OF ANTWERP.

When, after the grand crash of the battle of Leipsic, in October, 1813, the allies, in the commencement of the following year, advanced from every side, like ravenous wolves, against prostrate France, Carnot came forward to offer to the emperor, "in his adversity, what remained of strength of sixty-four years of age, for the defense of the country." "Since Carnot proffers me his services," was Napoleon's reply, "I know that he will be faithful to the post I assign him. I appoint him Governor of Antwerp." Arriving at the place Feb. 2d, the very day before the bombardment began, the general conducted the defense with the greatest prudence, and with all possible indulgence to the city and its inhabitants. With a view to alleviate the situation of the lower classes, and at the same time spare the treasury, he directed a provisional siege-money to be struck, exclusively by I. P. Wolschot, cannon-founder of the navy, pursuant to an order of the governor issued March 10th, 1814, for the coining of pieces of five centimes, and a second order of March 16, for that of pieces of ten centimes.

THE COPPER DALER OF CHARLES XII., KING OF SWEDEN.

The first of the copper dalers, or "distress money," as it was called, was issued in 1715. The obverse bore a royal crown, with the date; the reverse was plain, with the inscription 1 Daler, s.m., the two final letters denoting silver mynt, or silver coin. It weighed $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ounce; but copper coins of the same denomination had, under the king's

predecessor, weighed $3\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. In the time of Christina, indeed, they had weighed still more. She had introduced these great lumps of copper, according to "Kundmann," in order to save her subjects the trouble of counting; and had, in her benevolence, even issued copper coins of the weight of 25 pounds. These latter issue had to be kept in cellars by those who owned money, lest the immense pressure might break down the house. The new copper daler of Charles XII. weighed, accordingly, just the 416th part of the one which had been current under Charles XI. In 1716 a second type of this daler made its appearance, weighing almost twice as much as its predecessor, for which reason, and because it had, on the obverse, the Kingdom of Sweden under the emblem of Pallas, with lance and a shield bearing the three Swedish crowns, it was called by the people "Tiocker Jungfrun," or the Fat Maiden. The legend is "Publica Fide."

On the daler of 1717 the legend is "Wett och Wapen," wit and weapons. In 1718 several types were issued; on one is "Flink och Fardig," rough and ready. Others have a representation of Saturnus, Jupiter, Mars, Phœbus, Mercurius, and each exhibits the personage designated, with his appropriate mythological attributes. This series of ancient figures was an unfortunate invention of the minister—who was already obnoxious to the clergy because he wished to tax them—and they were called "the gods of Baron Goertz." The last of these curious coins was issued in 1719; on the obverse a female with an

anchor; legend, "Hoppet," implying that she is Hope. The king having been killed Dec. 11th, 1718, it never circulated at the exaggerated valuation of the others, which were reduced, immediately after the fatal event, to their real worth, two pfennige. As Baron Goertz was being led to execution the exasperated mob shouted after him, in allusion to the mottoes of his coinage, "*Esto nu flink och fardig med denen wett och wapen?*" or, art now rough and ready with thy wit and weapons?

WASHINGTON MEDAL.

Obverse: An officer mounted at the head of a body of cavalry, charging flying troops; victory is flying over the heads of the Americans, holding a laurel crown in her right hand, and a palm branch in her left. Legend, *Gullelmo Washington Legionis equit, Praefecto Comitiae Americanae*. "The American Congress to William Washington, commander of a regiment of cavalry." Reverse: *Quod parva militum manu strenue prosectus hostes, virtutis ingenitae praeclarum specimen dedit in Pugna ad Cowpens 17th January, 1781.* "Because, having vigorously pursued the foe with a small band of soldiers, he gave a brilliant specimen of innate valor in the battle at the Cowpens, 17th January, 1781."

William Augustin Washington, "the modern Marcellus," "the sword of his country," was the eldest son of Bailey Washington, of Stafford county, Virginia. He was educated for the church, but the peculiar position of public affairs led him into the political field. He early espoused the patriot cause, entered the army under Col. (afterwards General) Hugh Mercer, as captain. He was in the battle near Brooklyn, Long Island, distinguished himself at Trenton, and was with his beloved general when he

fell at Princeton. He was afterwards major in Colonel Baylor's corps of cavalry, and was with that officer when attacked by General Grey, at Tappan, in 1778. The following year he joined the army under Lincoln, in South Carolina, and was very active in command of a light corps, in the neighborhood of Charleston. He became attached, with his corps, to the division of Gen. Morgan, and with that officer fought bravely at the Cowpens. For his valor on that occasion Congress presented him with a silver medal.

HOWARD MEDAL.

Obverse: An officer mounted, with uplifted sword, pursuing an officer on foot, bearing a stand of colors; victory is seen descending in front over the former, holding a wreath in her right hand over his head. In her left hand is a palm branch. Legend: *John Eager Howard, Legionis peditum praefecto comitiae Americanae*. "The American Congress to John Eager Howard, commander of a regiment of infantry." Reverse: *Quod in tantam Hostium aciem subito irruens, praeclarum bellicae virtutis specimen dedit in Pugna, ad Cowpens, 17th Janurary, 1781.* "Because, rushing suddenly on the wavering line of the foe, he gave a brilliant specimen of martial courage at the battle of the Cowpens, January 17, 1781."

John Eager Howard was born in Baltimore county, Maryland, on the 4th of June, 1752. When the war commenced he entered the service as captain of one of those bodies of militia termed flying camps. He was present at the battle near White Plains, N. Y. His corps was dismissed in Dec., 1776, and at the solicitation of his friends he accepted of the commission of major in one of the Continental battalions of Maryland. In the

spring of 1777 he joined the army under Washington, in New Jersey, with which he remained until the close of June, when he returned home on account of the death of his father. A few days after the battle of the Brandywine, he rejoined the army and was distinguished for his cool courage in the battle at Germantown. In that engagement he was major of the 4th regiment, commanded by Colonel Hall, of Maryland. Major Howard was present at the battle of Monmouth, in 1778. On the 1st of June, 1779, he received a commission as lieutenant colonel of the 5th Maryland regiment, "to take rank from the 11th day of March, 1778." In 1780 he went with the Maryland and Delaware troops to the South, and served under Gates until the arrival of Greene. Soon after this we find him with Morgan, winning bright laurels at the Cowpens; and for his bravery there Congress awarded him the honor of a silver medal. Howard again distinguished himself at the battle of Guilford, where he was wounded. At the conclusion of the war Col. Howard married Margaret, the daughter of Chief Justice Chen, around whose house at Germantown he had valiantly battled. In November, 1788, he was chosen governor of Maryland, which office he held for three years. He was commissioned major general of militia in 1794, but declined the honor. Washington invited him to a seat in his cabinet, at the head of the war department, in 1795. That honor he also declined. He was then a member of the Maryland Senate. In 1796 he was elected to the Senate of the United States, where he served until 1803, when he retired from public life. When, in 1814, Baltimore was threatened with destruction by the enemy, the veteran soldier prepared to take the field. The battle at North Point, how-

ever, rendered such a step unnecessary. He lost his wife in 1827, and on the 12th of October, 1827, he, too, left the scenes of earth, at the age of 75 years. Few men ever went down to the grave more truly lamented than John Eager Howard.

THE PEABODY MEDAL.

At the last session of the 39th congress, the President of the United States was authorized to present a gold medal to George Peabody, Esq., in consideration of his munificent gift of \$1,000,000 to the south for educational purposes, to be applied without regard to color. It has been completed by Starr & Marcus, of New York, and forwarded to the state department. It is described as follows:

It is three inches in diameter and half inch thick; on the front is the profile of Mr. Peabody in *alto relievo*, and on the reverse the following inscription: "The people of the United States to Geo. Peabody, in acknowledgment of his beneficent promotion of universal education." It is mounted on a base, and to the right of the medal are two palmetto trees in gold, six inches high, around which is twined the ivy, the emblem of friendship. To the left of the medal is the figure of Benevolence, with one hand resting upon the medal, holding in it a spray of laurel, and with the other pointing to Mr. Peabody. Under the palmetto trees are two children, one representing a white child and the other a black, the white child pointing at benevolence and the black one at himself, as if saying, "am I, too, to be educated." The base is six inches long, three-fourths of an inch thick, and one and one quarter inches high, and the whole work is of solid gold. In the rear of the medal resting upon the base, is a per-

fect globe, which revolves, and around this are books and various instruments, representing the progress of civilization and education. On the front of the base is our national shield, executed in enamel. The whole is inclosed in a handsome cabinet of ebony and birds eye maple, lined with purple velvet, the top of which revolves when the medal is placed upon it, thus exhibiting it without placing the hand upon it to change its position.

ERROR HALFPENCE.—Of all the blunders which have emanated from the English Mint, those of the two error halfpence of George II. and George III., formerly termed "Tower Halfpence," stand pre-eminent. Indeed, it must ever remain a matter of astonishment, that such a circumstance could have taken place. If the collector of these coins will take the trouble to search, he will find in the year 1730, one of the halfpence of the first-named sovereign spelled **GEGIUS**. This certainly is very extraordinary; but, is it not much more so to find subsequently one issuing from the Mint of his successor, George III., likewise misspelt? This reads **GEORUIS** instead of **GEORGIUS**, and was issued in 1772. There is reason to believe, that, after the latter coins were circulated, a reward was offered for each piece, if returned to the Mint. This is probable, as they were more rare than those of George II.

THE ROCHESTER Democrat contains some interesting information about Wall street. The first merchants' bank in New York, was established about eighty years ago. It was called the Bank of New York, and was built on the corner of Wall and William streets, and was destined to be the financial magnet of the city; for into Wall street immedi-

ately money began to flow. The first bank is still in existence, and is the center of all gold operations, the checks of the gold room all being drawn on this institution. It began business with one book-keeper, but now employs twenty. Almost all the Government payments and receipts are made at the Treasury office, also on Wall street.—The gold received at the Custom House for duties is daily wheeled to the Treasury in a common hand-cart, a distance of about eight hundred feet, and averages about \$500,000. In this department there are usually \$80,000,000 of gold and green-backs stored in an immense safe or room, whose outer wall is filled in with several thousand musket-balls, which would roll out upon any burglar who managed to cut through to them. Just now Wall street is full of money, and it is said that a hundred million of dollars could easily be borrowed there.

—A cubic inch of gold is worth one hundred and sixty dollars. A million dollars in gold, according to the figures at the mint, weighs just about two tons.

THE CARAT.—Possibly, many people have speculated upon the precise meaning of the word "carat." It is an imaginary weight, that expresses a fineness of gold, or the proportion of pure gold in a mass of metal; thus, an ounce of gold of 22 carats fine is gold of which 22 parts out of 24 are pure, the other two parts being silver, copper, or other metal; the weight of four grains, used by jewellers in weighing precious stones and pearls, is sometimes called diamond-weight, the carat consisting of four nominal grains, a little lighter than four grains troy, or 74 and 1-16 carat grains being equal to 72 grains troy. The term of weighing-carat derives its name from a bean, the fruit of an Abyssinian tree,

called kuara. This bean from the time of its being gathered varies very little in its weight, and seems to have been, from a very remote period, used as a weight for gold in Africa. In India, also, the bean is used as a weight for gems and pearls.

HOW TO MAKE MONEY.—There was recently received at the Treasury Department a note purporting to be a United States legal-tender note of the denomination of five hundred dollars.—It is composed of parts of different genuine notes of various denominations.—The center is part of a one hundred dollar note, with the "one" taken out of the center and upper border, and a "five" neatly inserted. The left hand lower end contains a portrait of Andrew Jackson, taken from a five-dollar note; the right hand lower end a vignette from a ten-dollar note. The scroll work containing the figures five hundred has been taken from a national bank note.—The back of the note is from a ten-dollar United States note, the "ten" having been cut and replaced by the ovals from the back of a "five." Although this note is not calculated to deceive bankers and brokers, it would readily be taken by those not accustomed to handling much money, as the engraving is all genuine.

NATAL--FIRST ISSUE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16th, 1873.

To the Editor of the "Curiosity Hunter"

—DEAR SIR:—Upon the subject of *Reprints*, noticed in the December number of the "American Journal of Philately," severe injustice is done to the first issue of Natal, and I feel justified in pointing out the error the writer has fallen into, especially since most of the sets in this country came from my hands—directly or indirectly. While I am disposed to

doubt that any reprints have been made, yet I am fully prepared to prove that the stamps I obtained from official source in 1865, and through the kindness of the manager of the "Missionary House," Pemberton Square, Boston, are strictly *original impressions*, the remainder of the stock of an inland Post Office in the Colony.

I have compared them carefully with cancelled copies sent me by Mr. Philip F. Payne, of Durban, Natal, South Africa, an authority in the premises; and I find the quality and texture of the paper to be correct, the tints of the used varieties being somewhat duller, consequent upon service; the gum, thick and dark, like the cancelled ones; *in fine*, every minute point gives thorough proof of their unquestionable *originality*.

WILLARD K. FREEMAN.

To H. W. Wernick & Co., of London, England, we are under many obligations for two stamps issued by Bavaria, December 18th, 1872, of the denominations of nine and ten kreuzers respectively.—These are of the last or arms series.—The ten kreuzer, which is an entirely new denomination for this country, is of a light brown color. In writing under date of December 31st, 1872, this firm also informs us that the long expected French Post Cards may be shortly expected, as the decree authorizing their issue was made and passed on December 19th. Two kinds are proposed—one of the denomination of ten centimes for Paris and the department, the other for fifteen centimes for France entire, including Corsica. The stamp will be impressed on the card, and will not as has been rumored, be an adhesive label attached. To those who are desirous of becoming acquainted with the extent of the stamp trade in the world, we would call attention to the advertise-

ment of the new Directory of Dealers to be issued by this firm during the present month.

LOSS OF A CURIOUS DOCUMENT.

The burning of the archiepiscopal palace at Bourges, following so close on the conflagration at Nancy, naturally inspires great alarm for other buildings.—The palace at Bourges, built in Louis XIV. style, was of no architectural value in itself, but it contained works of art and manuscripts of inestimable price. The most remarkable document in the Bishop's collection was, without doubt, the order for the execution of Jesus Christ, which was the personal property of the family De La Tour d'Auvergne. The order runs thus :

"Jesus of Nazareth, of the Jewish tribe of Juda, convicted of imposture and rebellion against the divine authority of Tiberius Augustus, Emperor of the Romans, having for this sacrilege been condemned to die on the cross by sentence of the judge, Pontius Pilate, on the prosecution of our Lord, Herod, lieutenant of the Emperor in Judea, shall be taken to-morrow morning, the 23d day of the ides of March, to the usual place of punishment, under the escort of a company of the Prætorian guard.—The so-called King of the Jews shall be taken out by the Strunean gate. All the public officers and the subjects of the Emperor are directed to lend their aid to the execution of this sentence.—(Signed) Capel, Jerusalem, 22d day of the ides of March, year of Rome, 786."—*The Cosmopolitan.*

THE STATE of Alabama have a series of State Revenues. A stamp of the denomination of \$1.00 has passed through the hands of one of our City Bankers, who kindly informed us of the fact.—We hope to be able to give a description of these in our March number.

THE GOVERNMENT of Belgium is preparing to issue a "reply paid" card; it is to be of the usual kind with two leaves and a five cent stamp impressed on each, the words *carte correspondance* above the arms, and *Response payee.*—*Antwoord betaald* with three lines for address complete the front leaf; upon the other leaf is *Response payee.*

A new issue is announced by the European journals for Iceland. The design varies slightly from the regular issue of Denmark; the water-mark is a crown. The denominations and colors are as follows:

2	skilling	blue.	
4	"	rose.	
8	"	brown.	
16	"	yellow.	
4	"	green,	} Service.
8	"	lilac,	

Japan also favors us with a new issue.

ONE of the most interesting results of the new condition of affairs at Rome, consequent upon the downfall of the Papal Government, will be the dredging of the Tiber. That stream has rolled past the Eternal City for two thousand years, swallowing up the trophies of its successive civilizations, and has never yet been searched for the treasures it conceals. The statues of dethroned emperors, armor, gold and gems, the priceless spoils of conquest, the ornaments of many a palace, have been thrown into the Tiber. And now a company has been formed in Rome, under the presidency of Signor Alessandro Castellari, of which many Americans and Englishmen are members, for making the river yield up its miscellaneous contents.—The work of dredging the channel is undertaken in the interests of art and history, and not as a commercial speculation, and it can hardly be doubted that the substantial results will be con-

siderable. It will be begun at once, money for the start having been supplied by a Parisian banking house, and the operation will be watched with the highest interest by the literary and scientific world.

THE city of Quebec, Canada, is going to pull down its ramparts, throw its ancient and picturesque citadel into the river, remove the gates which obstruct its thoroughfares, and by other vandal practices abandon mediævalism and assume a modern appearance. Quebec is now the only truly picturesque city on the American continent, and the disappearance of its old-time glories will be painful to many.

TECHNICAL MEASURES.

For the benefit of our readers, we give a table of measures for their practical use :

A firkin of butter equals.....	56 pounds.
A sack of coals.....	224 pounds.
A truss of straw.....	36 Pounds.
A stave of hemp.....	32 pounds.
A sack of flour.....	280 pounds.
A quintal.....	100 pounds.
A piggot of steel.....	120 pounds.
A truss of hay.....	56 pounds.
A bash.....	80 bushels.
A kilderkin.....	18 gallons.
A barrel.....	36 gallons.
A hogshead.....	54 gallons.
A puncheon.....	84 gallons.

English prices current often speak of the price per quarter; to reduce this to barrels, multiply the price by seven and divide by twelve, and it will give the price, at the same rate by the barrel.—Thus: if wheat is quoted at fifty-six shillings a quarter, multiply fifty-six by seven and divide by twelve, and it will give the price, thirty-two shillings and eight pence a barrel.—*Copy Hook.*

FIRES IN BOSTON.—The first considerable fire in Boston, occurred in 1654, but its extent is not known. In November, 1676, there was another fire which de-

stroyed 46 dwellings. This fire led to the formation of a fire department, the people being indebted in this instance to the falling rain for checking the conflagration. In 1678 the same devouring element swept away 80 dwellings and 70 warehouses, the loss being estimated at £200,000 sterling. In all these cases the fires were regarded as direct visitations from heaven for the sins of the town. In 1711 one hundred edifices, including the Boston Church, were destroyed by the flames. Here again we find an evidence of the early religious devotion of our ancestors, in the fact that several persons perished in an attempt to save the sacred church bell.—In March, 1760, still another fire carried away 349 buildings, causing great suffering, which called forth relief from the sister colony and from the mother country. Since that time Boston has not, until now, been visited by a general conflagration, although fires consuming much valuable property have been very frequent.

THE original purchase of Manhattan Island in 1626, for \$24, has been generally regarded as quite a snug little operation; but a mathematician with nothing else to do, has calculated that the same sum, put out at ten per cent. compound interest, would have amounted by this time to \$25,560,179,962, a sum nearly equal to the valuation of the entire real and personal property of the United States.

BONES are now dug up out of the ancient tombs in Egypt, and sent to England for manure. It is therefore not improbable that the bones of a Pharaoh may enrich the hop gardens of Kent, almost realizing Shakespeare's lines, that "Cæsar, dead and turned to clay, might stop a hole to keep the wind away.

THE NUMBER SEVEN.

This number is frequently used in the writings of the Bible.

On the 7th day God ended his work.

In the 7th month Noah's ark touched the ground.

In 7 days a dove was sent out.

Abraham pleaded 7 times for Sodom.

Jacob served 7 years for Rachel.

And yet other seven more.

Jacob mourned 7 days for Joseph.

Jacob was pursued at 7 days' journey by Laban.

A plenty of 7 years and a famine of 7 years were foretold in Pharaoh's dream by 7 fat and 7 lean beasts, and 7 ears of full and 7 ears of blasted corn.

On the 7th day of the 7th month the children of Israel fasted 7 days, and remained 7 days in tents.

Every 7 years the land rested.

Every 7th year all the bondmen were set free.

Every 7th year the law was read to the people.

In the destruction of Jericho, 7 priests bore 7 trumpets 7 days; on the 7th day they surrounded the walls 7 times; and the end of the 7th round, the walls fell.

Solomon was 7 years building the temple, and feasted 7 days at its dedication.

In the tabernacle was 7 lamps.

The golden candlestick had 7 branches.

Naaman washed 7 times in Jordan.

Job's friends sat with him 7 days and 7 nights, and offered 7 bullocks and 7 rams as an atonement.

Our Savior spoke 7 times from the cross, on which he hung 7 hours, and after his resurrection appeared 7 times.

In the Lord's prayer are 7 petitions, containing 7 times 7 words.

In the Revelations we read of 7 churches, 7 candlesticks, 7 stars, 7 trumpets, 7 thunders, 7 vials, 7 angels and a 7 headed monster, and 7 plagues.

LOSS OF A CONTINENT.—Plato sent down to posterity a tradition of his day that a great continent which occupied the place now covered by the Atlantic Ocean suddenly sunk down out of sight. He further says it was an island called Atlantis. On it were kingdoms and organized governments, wealth, arts, and civilization, instantly lost to human sight.

It is now the opinion of the leading geologists—those most advanced in science—that the American continent appeared when the Atlantic waters rushed into the enormous cavity or depression on the earth's surface now filled by salt water. The Rocky Mountains were then the rough bottom of an ocean which rose with marine plants, shells, and other products of an aquatic origin, that are found abundantly strewn there, and, in fact, all over North and South America. Remnants of Atlantis, the submerged continent, are believed by some scientists to be recognized in the Adirondacks, the White Mountains of Maine and a few other outcroppings belonging to the outer boundaries of that deluged and forever lost country. There is no knowing what astounding discoveries may yet be made in coming ages corroborative of Plato's narration.

A PECULIAR MUSICAL COMPOSITION.—

At a recent sale of musical manuscripts in London, a sonata in Mozart's own writing was bid off for ten guineas. An interesting story connected with it makes this sonata doubly valuable, for the blank paper upon which it was afterward written the composer achieved one of his greatest triumphs. He had promised to furnish a composition to be played by himself and the violinist Regina Strinasacchi, in 1784, before the Emperor Joseph, at Vienna. He failed to write his own part, having only time

to write out that to be played by the lady; but, remembering his theme, he did not hesitate to appear before the vast audience with only a few quickly written bars, and a blank sheet of paper set up before him as a "make-believe." He afterward filled it out, and it is a valuable souvenir of the magnificent performances of two artists.

ODD COLLECTION.—Not very long ago a poverty stricken old man drew his last breath in a miserable attic in Paris, who left little else behind him save a heap of corks, souvenirs of long-past

Reckless days and reckless nights,
Unholy songs and tipsy fights:

for he had been rich and gay once upon a time, and might have sung with Capt. Morris:

In life I've rung all changes through,
Run every pleasure down.

It had been a life long custom with him to preserve every cork drawn for the delectation of himself and friends, and inscribe upon it the date of drawing, and the particular occasion upon which the bottle was opened; so that his cupboard of corks was actually a record of his life. Upon a champaign cork was written: "Bottle emptied 12th May, 1843, with M. B—, who wished to interest me in a business; this affair cost me fifty thousand francs; by which I was to make ten millions. M. B— escaped to Belgium, a caution to amateurs!" Upon another was written: "Cork of Cyprus wine, of a bottle emptied on the 4th of December, 1840, with a dozen fast friends. Of these I have not found one to help me in the day of my ruin; their names are annexed below." This strange and sad autobiographical collection was methodically arranged in chronological order, ready for the place its unhappy owner hoped it would find in some public museum or philosopher's study.

MANUSCRIPT almanacs of the middle ages are to be found in the English and Continental libraries. The British Museum and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, have almanacs of the 1½th century. The earliest printed almanac, so far as is known is George Von Purbach's, printed in 1457. This famous astronomer died at Vienna in 1461. His pupil and successor, Regiomontanus [Johann Mueller.] in 1474, published at Buda, Hungara, his *Kalendarium Novum* for 1465, 1494, and 1513, at 12 golden crowns a copy. He died in 1475.

Later in the century the "Shepherd's Kalendar" was published at Paris, of which an English translation appeared in 1497. The style may be judged from the following specimen:

"Saturne is hiest and coldest, being full old,
And Mars with his bluddy swerde ever ready
to kyll
Sol and Luna is half good and half ill."

A WHAT IS IT?—A Scotch paper describes a curious animal, the like of which was never before seen in the United Kingdom, brought there by a gentleman just returned from Buenos Ayres. It is a nutria or copyr, an amphibious animal, holding a position between the beaver and rat, about two feet long, having the hind feet webbed and the claws of the fore feet divided, using the latter in dressing its coat, of which it takes excellent care. It is a strict vegetarian, and has a very gentle disposition.

CARRIER PIGEONS.—Carrier pigeons, like a navy, are not created suddenly. They have to be trained in a very particular manner, and accustomed by degrees to fly back to their homes from a distance of ten or twenty miles, then for a greater distance, and so on, till at last they find their way safely over a space of one hundred and two hundred miles.

NATURAL CURIOSITY.—The *Sacramento Union* describes a knot of manzanita roots, about a foot long, which has grown so as to represent a man resting upon the head of a dragon with one foot. The other foot and one arm are uplifted, as if the figure was in the attitude of hurling a javelin. The color of the wood is a rich brown. The representation was quite true, and very little carving is needed to make it almost perfect. The curiosity was formerly in the possession of an Indian chief, and was left to him by his ancestors. It grew somewhere in the Rocky mountains, and is supposed to have been in the possession of the Indians for centuries. What little carving was done on it was executed by them. During some war it was captured by the whites, and fell into the hands of a hunter. In 1849 he was offered \$100 for it, but refused to part with it and kept it till his death, which occurred about two months ago at Oregon Hill. He left the curiosity to Chas. Ehrlich, of San Jose.

LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

—This generation is not the only one addicted to the wholesale slaughter of birds; neither are laws for their protection new. They are at least as old as the time of Moses, and probably before his time known to the Egyptians. The law of Moses for the protection of birds may be found in Deuteronomy, chapter xii., verse 6.

A BIG DRUM.—The drum of a column from the temple of Ephesus—the most massive specimen of that famous edifice which has yet been received in England—arrived at the British museum on the 2d inst. The immense case, which had to be drawn by ten horses, caused great excitement among the museum visitors.

THE IRON MOUNTAINS.

In a recent paper on the resources of Missouri, Prof. Waterhouse gives an interesting description of the iron mountains, for which that State is celebrated.

The Professor says :

Shepherd mountain is 600 feet high. The ore contains a large percentage of iron. The height of Pilot Knob above the Mississippi river is 1,114 feet. Its base 581 feet from the summit, is 300 acres. The upper section of 141 feet is judged to contain 14,000,000 tons of ore. The elevation of Iron Mountain is 228 feet, and the area of its base 500 acres. The solid contents of the cone are 230,000,000 tons. It is thought that every foot beneath the surface will yield 3,000,000 tons. At the depth of 150, the artesian auger was still penetrating solid ore. The mountains contain enough ore above the surface to afford, for 200 years, an annual supply of 1,000,000 tons. The iron is strong tough and fibrous.

A CLERGYMAN of Cairo, Ill., expressed lately his contempt of nickels in his Sunday collection, and positively forbade any of his congregation from contributing anything under the denomination of five cents. "Save your cents," said the good man, "until you have five, before you put your hands in this box. The widow's mite business is played out here."

PANTHEON AT ROME.—A temple built by Augustus Cæsar, some say by Agrippa, his son-in-law, 25 B. C. It was in a round form, having niches in the wall, where the particular image or representation of a particular god was set up; the gates were of brass, and beams covered with gilt brass, and the roof covered with silver plate. Pope Boniface III. dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, and all the saints, by the name of St. Mary de la Rotunda.

BABYLON AND THE PYRAMIDS.

Some remains (though very slight ones) are still to be found. Even the "hanging gardens" of Babylon, as once described by Diodorus, have been recognized in the mound called El Kasr. In 1855 Sir Henry Rawlinson carried with him to England many relics of ancient Babylon, all of which are now in the British Museum. The town of Zittah, with 7,000 inhabitants, is now considered the modern representative of ancient Babylon. As for Thebes, the ruins comprise nine townships. Recent excavations have brought to light these constructions of the eleventh dynasty, although the most flourishing period of the history of Thebes was under the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth dynasties. The Nile flows through the midst of the ancient city. It is now inhabited only by a few Arab families or Fallaheen, who make a living by guiding travelers over the ruins. Tyre existed, amid all its destructive experiences, until A. D. 1516, when the conquest of Selim, together with the newly discovered route to Asia by the Cape of Good Hope, put an end to its wealth and commerce. Among its ruins from 3,000 to 4000 inhabitants now dwell and earn a livelihood by exporting tobacco, cotton, wool and wood. Nineveh was destroyed by fire about 605 B. C., and the slabs and statues found there show the effect of intense heat. The excavations exhibit many bas-reliefs representing war and hunting. The discoveries of Layard and others in the neighborhood of Mosul, the supposed site of Nineveh, since 1830, have in a manner disinterred and re-peopled a city which, for centuries, had seemed to be blotted from the map of the earth. In 1847, Layard published his "Nineveh and its Remains,"

and in 1853 gave an account of his second visit. The three principal pyramids are situated on a rock at the foot of some high mountains which bound the Nile. The first building of them was commenced, it is supposed, about 1500 B. C. The greatest is said to have been erected by Cheops, 1082 B. C.

LUMINOUS PLANTS.—It will be a new fact to many that plants emit light. From an article on this subject in the *Bowdoin Scientific Review* we learn that "vague ideas of the existence of luminous plants in India and the neighboring countries still float about, as in the days of the old Hindoos and Greeks." There is a vague report that in Afghanistan grows a bush which at night from a distance appears on fire. Baron Hugel says that he was told that the Auk river, when swollen with rain, brings down from Thibet pieces of timber which shine in the dark as long as they continue moist. The root of a grass in the Himalayas is said occasionally to be luminous at night during the rainy season. An inflammable atmosphere is generated about the European Dittany on a calm, still evening, due to the evaporation of a volatile oil. "If a candle be brought near it, this plant is enveloped by a transient flame, without sustaining injury." The tuberose is said, on doubtful authority, to have been observed of a sultry evening, after thunder, to dart small sparks in great abundance from such of its flowers as were fading.

In answer to a circular letter from the Director of Posts, Berlin, Germany, Postmaster General Creswell replies that the number of women employed in the postal service of the United States is about 700, and they discharge the duties of their respective positions to the general acceptance of the department.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN ENGLAND.

A correspondent writes :

"Two grave mounds recently explored by Mr. Woodruff, of Walmer, are interesting both from the nature of the interments discovered, and from the comparative rarity of celtic antiquities in that part of the county. These barrows are situated nearly midway between Dea and Dover, about a mile from the sea, on the ridge of high down, and form conspicuous object from a great distance. They are about eighty yards apart.

"The western one, which was first opened, is seventy two yards in circumference, slightly oval in form, and four feet six inches at its highest part above the natural soil. About the center of the mound, and at a depth of three feet from the surface, the laborers came upon a deposit of burnt bones, probably a later interment, without any traces of pottery or other remains. Further investigations at a greater depth revealed four large urns, about three feet apart from each other. The first that was uncovered stood in a neatly made niche, with an arched top, cut out of the solid chalk. The bottom of this niche had been carefully levelled, and on it lay a heap of burnt bones, covered by the inverted urn. The three other urns were placed in a similar position in kists formed by cutting cylindrical holes in the chalk to the depth of eighteen inches, but one of them had been crushed by the weight of the superincumbent soil. Within this later was lying a very small cup of the rudest workmanship.

"In another, with the burnt bones, were two small vessels, one above the other, of four and two inches in height respectively. The former resembles in shape, but in shape only, Romano-British ware, and is ornamented with cord-like

lines and a chevron pattern; the latter, of elegant form, is perforated with two holes near the bottom, and is of the kind usually described as incense cups. Four small beads were also found among the ashes. The large urns were about eighteen inches in height, of very imperfectly baked clay, and, unfortunately, with one exception, crumbled in pieces before they could be moved. Two of them were ornamented with incised lines and chevron pattern, and had small handles on the sides; the others were unornamented. Over the deposit was a layer of brick earth, covered by a layer of flint stones; all the interments were rather to the east of the center of the mound. The eastern tumulus was next explored; but after a careful investigation no traces of sepulture could be discovered. Near the surface was a fragment of an urn covered with a curious and unusual pattern."

SLEEPING FLOWERS.—Almost all flowers sleep during the night. The marigold goes to bed with the sun, and with him rises weeping. Many plants are so sensitive that they close their leaves during the passage of a cloud. The dandelion opens at five or six in the morning, and shuts at nine in the evening. The goats-beard wakes at three in the morning, and shuts at five or six in the evening. The English daisy shuts up its blossom in the evening, and opens its "day's eye" to meet the early beams of the morning sun. The crocus, tulip, and many others, close their blossoms at different hours towards the evening. The ivy-leaved lettuce opens at eight in the morning and closes forever at four in the afternoon. In the clover field not a leaf opens till after sunrise. Those plants which seem to be awake all night have been called "the bats and owls of the vegetable kingdom."

ILLINOIS MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

The officers of the State Museum of Natural History takes this method of calling attention to the collections under their care. These have now been thoroughly arranged and organized with special reference to the convenience of students; and large additions have been made to the library, both of general scientific works and those containing descriptions of species. Mineralogy, Geology, Conchology, Botany, and Ornithology, are represented by full and valuable cabinets, and measures have been taken to enlarge the already respectable collections in Entomology and general Zoology. The chemical laboratory connected with the Normal University will soon be refitted and supplied with abundant apparatus, and will be opened to all who wish to make a special study of chemistry and the allied branches.

Named sets of specimens, will be supplied to schools and public institutions as fast as possible; and to this end, contributions are solicited from all parts of the State. For the sake of more exactly defining what is required, it may be said that any of the following objects will be acceptable:

1. Minerals, rocks, petrifications and fossils.
2. Shells, land or water.
3. Insects, snakes, turtles, lizards and fishes.
4. Birds and their nests of eggs.
5. Bones or skins of animals.
6. Pressed plants, seeds and seed-vessels, woods, mosses, lichens, and fungi.

The museum is for the free use of the people of Illinois, and every needed facility and assistance, in the way of books, specimens and instructions, will be afforded those who wish to avail

themselves of it in studying our natural history. It is believed that nothing is now needed but the zealous co-operation of the friends of education to make this one of the most efficient educational forces in the State.

S. A. FORBES, Curator Museum.
NORMAL, ILL., Nov. 15, 1872.

CURIOSITIES OF THE BIBLE.—A man who was condemned to solitary confinement for life in a prison, relieved the tediousness of the years by ascertaining the following facts:

The bible contains 3,586,489 letters, 773,692 words, 31,173 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The word "and" occurs 49,377 times; the word "Lord" occurs 1,855 times; the word "reverend" occurs but once, which is in the 9th verse of the 111th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th verse of the 118th Psalm. The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters in the alphabet except the letter J. The finest chapter to read is the 26th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The 19th chapter of the II. Kings and the 37th chapter of Isaiah are alike. The longest verse is the 9th verse of the 8th chapter of Esther. The shortest verses is the 35th verse of the 11th chapter of St. John. The 8th, 15th, 21st and 31st verses of the 109th Psalm are alike. All the verses of the 136 Psalms end alike. There are no words or names of more than six syllables.

ROBERT C. WINTHROP, of Boston, has lately got possession of an old English clock made in London about 1630, expressly for Governor John Winthrop, and sent to him while he was Colonial Governor of Massachusetts. It is still in running order, and has been placed among many other valued relics, including family portraits which date back to 1400.

A PICTURE, which purports to represent the marriage of Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway, has lately come into the possession of Mr. Malam, of Sarborough. In the top corner, on the left hand, is the following legend :

Rare Lymninge with us dothe make appere
The marriage of Anne Hathaway with William Shakespere. 15,—

Two figures are in the foreground—a man and a woman, supposed by the owner to be the father and mother of Anne Hathaway. The former weighs, in a pair of scales, some gold and silver lying on a table, and the latter checks the process by counting the links of a chain. In an inner room, seen through a doorway, the marriage ceremony is going on. The theory put forward is that the picture, if not painted at the time of the event, was executed early in the seventeenth century, when Shakespeare had become famous. The *Athenæum* questions whether this idea be tenable. The two figures in the foreground are probably portraits; but it seems doubtful whether the marriage group formed a portion of the original work; and even if it did, whether the figures have not been considerably touched. The work will, we believe, be submitted to experts for examination.

PALATINES AND SUABIANS.—About 7,000 of these poor Protestants, from the bank of the Rhine, driven from their habitations by the French, arrived in England, and were encamped on Blackheath and Camberwell common; a brief was granted to collect alms for them. 500 families went under the protection of the government to Ireland, and settled chiefly about Limerick, where parliament granted them £24,000 for their support. 3,000 were sent to New York and Hudson's Bay, but not having been

received kindly by the inhabitants, they went to Pennsylvania, and being there greatly encouraged by the Quakers, they invited over some thousands of German and Swiss Protestants, who soon made this colony more flourishing than any other, 7 Anne, 1709.—*Anderson*.

It is a well-known fact in surgery, that when air gets the tissues in consequence of a perforation of a lung by a punctured rib, it does not excite putrefaction or suppuration, as it is apt to do when it acts on an external wound. In a letter to the *London Times*, Prof. Tyndall has connected with this fact his interesting and valuable observation, by means of a beam of light, that air expelled from the lungs by a forced expiration contains no floating particles, and considers that, together, these facts afford a complete demonstration that germs in the air, removable by filtration, are the cause of putrefaction and its associated phenomena of animalcular life.

ENGLISHMEN are beginning to discover the superior quickness of the mail service by way of the United States, over the service by way of India and Suez.—The last mail for England, by way of San Francisco, reached London from Yokohama in thirty-six days, while the Yokohama mail *via* the Suez Canal, was fifty-three and one-half days reaching its destination. The difference in favor of the American route is two weeks and a half, and a knowledge of this fact has induced parties in London, having relations with Japan, to direct the transmission of advices by way of the United States.

A FAMOUS rose tree in the island of Ceylon is 80 feet in circumference and 15 feet high. It has been known to bear 200 roses in full bloom at one time.

CATALOGUES of a valuable collection of Greek and Romans Coins, to be sold at auction by Messrs. Thomas Birch & Son, No. 1110 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, on Tuesday, February 11, 1873, are now ready. We are prepared to furnish catalogues and receive bids.

D. A. K. ANDRUS

GLACIERS OF AMERICA.—The Rocky Mountains are likely to afford the explorers of this continent the same opportunities of the investigation of the phenomena of glacier formation, and of meteorological occurrences at great altitudes, that Switzerland has so long given to Europeans. On Mount Ranier, in Washington Territory, there is a glacier ten miles in length by five in width, and many others are known to exist. The erudite weekly London publication, the Academy, suggests the Rocky Mountains to the Alpine Club, as a field new to its members, who are by this time well acquainted with all the accessible peaks of Switzerland.

An interesting trait of modern Japan figures in the last mail news. During his visit to Nagasaki, the Mikado waited upon the telegraph operators, with the intention of exchanging civilities with the crowned heads of Europe. On discovering that even electricity may keep a man waiting longer than he has time to spare, he relinquished the project.

UNPAID letters, as everybody knows, are not delivered by the post office authorities, but advertised. Now it occurred to Mr. John G. Chapman, a New Haven grain dealer, that some of these letters would be of value to the parties to whom they are addressed, and that a chance was afforded to the said Chapman, to advertise his business; so he went to the post office just before the

letter lists were to be sent to the papers, and affixed to each letter its proper stamp, together with another neat little label bearing his name and business address, with the added suggestion that he had paid the postage and would be happy to receive any return in the way of business patronage, in case the letter should be of value to the recipient.—This practice he has continued ever since last April, and he has profited largely by it. In nine cases out of ten his stamps have been returned to him, and have frequently been accompanied by more substantial favors.

PALM SUNDAY.—When Christ made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, multitudes of the people who were come to the feast of the Passover, took branches of the palm-tree, and went forth to meet Him, with acclamations and hosannas, A. D. 33. In memory of this circumstance it is usual in Popish countries, to carry palms on the Sunday before Easter; hence called Palm Sunday. Conquerors were not only accustomed to carry palm-trees in their hands; but the Romans, moreover, in their triumphs, sometimes wore *toga palmata*, in which the figures of the palm-trees were interwoven.

THE money-order business of the Post Office Department has rapidly grown to great magnitude. During the year ending June 30th, 1872, it exceeded \$98,000,000. Of this vast sum, sent in small remittances, none exceeding \$50, and the average not exceeding \$20, little or none was lost.

A PHILADELPHIA manufacturer is preparing a plan for a column a thousand feet high, to be constructed entirely of iron, in open work, from the summit of which the grounds of the Centennial Exposition are to be illuminated by means of a Drummond light. It will be the loftiest monument in the world.

OUR EXCHANGES.

"*The Philatelic Journal*."—This is the prince of all the stamp journals we have had the pleasure of receiving. The December No. announces that it will be hereafter issued as a quarterly, and will be devoted to Postage Stamps alone. It gives its usual "*Cream of the Magazines*," and through "our black list" handles without gloves a few more of those gentlemen (?) who persist in assisting our young collectors to rare stamps, at low prices, by sending out forgeries. These are supplemented by remarks on Novelties, Discoveries and Resuscitations. An article on the Stamped Envelopes of the United States, and other articles of equal interest and value to collectors. This journal, edited by Edward L. Pemberton, and published by Jas. R. Grant & Co., No. 18 Paradise street, Birmingham, England, should certainly find a place in the Library of every Philatelist in the country.

DEALERS will find articles of importance to them in B. B. Scott's "Monthly Circular."

"*The Canadian Philatelist*" is, as usual, filled with matters of interest to collectors of stamps, and is indeed one of the most valuable of our American philatelic journals.—Its articles are always fresh, and the items of news in stamp matters which it tenders its readers, are always reliable, and we can but wish its days of usefulness shall not be few. We lift our hat in acknowledgment of the kind words which you speak of us, and assure you that the hint tendered us in relation to stamp articles, is already proving fruitful, and we hope soon to present our readers among stamp collectors with articles from the best authorities in the Union.

The second number of "*The Western Philatelist*," a four-page paper devoted to stamps, and published in Chicago, at 50 cents per annum, postage paid—one of the best stamp papers in the Union.

"*The American Journal of Philately*."—The oldest stamp journal now published in the Union still flourishes, having reached volume seven. Success is certain.

The "*Numismatischer Verkehr*," published by C. G. Theime, Leipsic, Saxony, devoted to numismatics, consumes its entire 16 quarto pages in pricing some 1,300 varieties of coins and medals in stock, and for sale by the publisher, affords interesting and satisfactory evi-

dence of the success of European numismatics.

"*The Vassar Miscellany*," published quarterly by the Students Association of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., at \$1.00 per annum. A magazine reflecting credit alike upon the society publishing, the editors conducting, and the writers contributing to its pages. Certainly merits the success which its neat appearance, as well as its continuation for a second year, indicates that it receives.

"*The North Star*," under its new editorial management opens its second year with continued evidences of success.

"*The Star of the East*," Camden, N. J.

"*The Favorite*," New York.

"*The Virginia Gazette*," Norfolk, Va.

"*The Yankee Boy*," Manchester, N. H.

"*The Little Men*," Omaha, Neb.

SALE OF COINS AND MEDALS.

The large collection of Mr. S. W. Chubbuck, of Utica, New York, together with several small collections, will be offered at auction in Philadelphia, about the 18th of February, to continue three or four days.

The pieces have been carefully described, and I am sure will give satisfaction to purchasers.

I will here state that in every case, where I purchase coins at auction for customers, if found not to be in as good condition as represented, the money will be refunded, if they are returned to me within one week of their reception by the purchaser.

I will attend all sales in person, whether large or small, and will not send any bids that I may receive to a third party to attend to.

There will be about fifty copies of the Chubbuck Catalogue, with photographic plates, which will be sent (in addition to the common one,) to any one sending me fifty cents prior to the day of sale. Also, about twenty copies printed on one side of the paper only, at seventy-five cents each. Copies of the latter, with plates, one dollar.

I hope for a continuance of favors from my friends, and assure them that their bids will be carefully and impartially attended to.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN W. HASELTINE,

No. 512 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

January 24, 1873.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, MARCH, 1873.

No. 7.

THE ANCIENT COINAGES.

Some three thousand years ago, in that portion of the world known as Asia Minor, the first coin was struck. The inventor of coinage is unknown, but the invention has revolutionized the world. In place of barter and exchange there came the era of direct purchase, the "golden age" of commerce, manufactures, and the arts. Out of that invention of an unknown man in a doubtful country has sprung the civilization of succeeding ages, freighted with great deeds and the advancement of great peoples.

That the first coins of antiquity were rude in design and barbarous in execution is denied by none, but it is a noticeable fact that as the nations around the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean advanced in civilization their coins increased in number, and were marked by a greater beauty in design and a higher skill in execution. Five hundred years after the first rude coins had been sent out on their silent mission so pregnant with the fortunes of humanity, every civilized nation of Europe and Asia was possessed of gold, silver and copper money, varying in style from the magnificent coins of the Grecian and Sicilian cities, to the rude and ponderous *ases* of the early Romans; each piece bearing on it some design emblematic of the majesty of the gods; the resources of the country, or the progress of the peoples. To many of these early coins we are indebted for the names of cities and rulers concerning whom written history says not a word; whose deeds of valor or

acts of statesmanship would have been buried in the long oblivion of the ages but for the silent yet convincing testimony of these small memorials of otherwise forgotten times.

Some centuries before the Christian era, a race known as the Edoneans inhabited a portion of Thessaly. Concerning them, their customs, or their rulers there is scarcely a word of authentic history. Their country was unknown, their name was considered a fable, and their deeds a myth. However, within the last few years coins have been found establishing several points in their obscure record. Their habitation of Thessaly was proven by the pieces being found in that country alone. From the coins themselves the following historical data were obtained. The inscription is *Getas Edoneon Basileus*, "Getas King of the Edoneans." On the reverse are two oxen and a herdsman, showing that the Edoneans were a pastoral people, while the great weight of the coins, they are *octodrachmas*, clearly demonstrates that they were possessed of large quantities of the precious metals, and the science of comparative numismatics instantly places the data of the pieces and the rule of Getas 500 at years B. C.

However, in interest, in beauty, and in the length of the series, extending as it does through more than two thousand years of the world's most eventful history, the Roman coinage of the Kings, the Republic, the Consulate, and the Empire stand unsurpassed and unsurpassable. As among other peoples the Roman series underwent the usual transitions from rudeness to elegance, and, as the

Empire fell, from elegance to a rudeness more barbaric because less grand than that which marked the weighty coins of Servius Tullius and his successors.

First came the oblong *ases* stamped with the images of various animals and varying in weight from one to two pounds. These were in time replaced by the *ases* of circular form and reduced weight, bearing on one side the two faced Janus, and on the other the prow of a ship. Then follows in long succession the varied coinages of the Republic, bearing on them the records of the wars and conquests of her generals, the heroism of her citizens and the annals of the various *gentes* or Roman families; the coins of the Saminite, Social, and Punic wars being especially interesting. This period ends with the subversion of the Republic by Julius Cæsar and the establishment of the Empire by Augustus. From the reign of that Emperor to the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, a period of 1,400 years, the imperial series forms a history, complete voluminous, and lucid. On the coins were stamped the images of the Emperors and the records of their exploits. From them we learn the lesson of Roman disgrace and complete humiliation; for scarce one hundred years after the downfall of the Republic we find a servile Senate decreeing that the coins of Faustina, the most profligate woman of her age should bear the image and attributes of *Modesty*, simply because she was the wife of the Emperor. As the Empire gradually yielded to the pressure of the barbarians, the coinage lost, all traces of the beauty which characterize the splendid first bronzes of the early Cæsars. After the fall of Rome, the Byzantine series partook greatly of the oriental style. The image of the Emperor no longer appeared

in the armor of a Roman soldier, but with flowing robes, ear rings and necklaces. At last in the reign of John Zimisces, 995 A. D. the portrait of the ruler was replaced by that of Jesus Christ, whom the Greek hoped would watch over the sinking fortunes of the Byzantines whose Empire was fast tottering to its fall. Four centuries later the blow came, the Turk trod in triumph through the streets of the city of Constantinople, and from that time onward the Roman Empire was but a remembrance of the past. The last Emperor Constantine, Palæologus conscious of coming ruin, and imbued with something of the old Roman spirit devoted his short and disastrous rule to the defense of his city and the care of his people, and of his reign no coinages exist. "The last of his line, foreseeing his doom, he refused to exercise the privileges of sovereignty, except in dying as became an Emperor resisting to the death a relentless enemy."

INTERESTING SILVER COIN OF QUEEN ANNE.

Obverse has the bust of the queen, around *Anna Dei Gratia*. Below is the word *Vigo*. Reverse, four coats of arms in the form of a cross and crowned, of England above, Scotland to the left, France below and Ireland to the right. In the centre a cross, surrounded by a circle and rays. Around, *Magæ, Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ regina* 1703. My specimen is a sixpence. There are also crowns, half crowns and shillings. On the edge of the crown is the inscription, *Decus et Tutamen, Anno Regni Tertio*. Grace and protection. In the third year of the reign. The first part shows the design of the inscription, that it should serve as well for grace or adornment, as for protection against the dishonest practice of "clipping." The last

part shows the year of the reign. The word Vigo beneath the bust makes these coins remarkable, they being struck from silver captured at the siege of Vigo, which the following history will serve to explain:

After the war of the Spanish succession had begun, England and Holland prepared, in 1702, an immense fleet with which to attack Spain. Admiral Rook commanded the English, and Admiral Allemonde the Dutch fleet, counting, in all, 145 sail. The fleet was accompanied by the Duke of Ormond with 10,000 troops. They set out for Cadiz—which place was once captured under Queen Elizabeth—and arrived there August 26. They were unsuccessful, and were returning, when news reached them that the French war vessel and the Spanish silver fleet had arrived at Vigo. Here was a chance for a glorious triumph. A council of war was immediately held, and the project found favor with all. They arrived at Vigo Oct. 22, and under cover of a thick mist, entered the harbor before they were observed. A large portion of the silver had been conveyed inland, and the ships were about six miles up the river, in a narrow bay near Rodondillo. The Spanish had strongly obstructed the river with masts, ropes and chains. On the north side were occupied heights, on the south Ft. Raute. On the 23d 2,000 troops were landed without opposition, the English vessels soon forced their way through the obstructions, and the fort surrendered in a few minutes. The Spanish destroyed a portion of their vessels, but a large number were taken, together with 100 cannon, 500 soldiers and many officers. The English and Dutch soon after sailed joyously home with their booty. In the six galleys taken to England were found many rich jewels, 22 bars of silver each

weighing 700 pounds, several chests full of silver ore, and two large chests full of silver vessels, which were coined by order of the queen. Large quantities of cochineal, campeche wood, cocoa, tobacco and powder were also obtained, so that the English share alone was over two million pounds sterling. I am indebted for the principal facts in this to Kundman's *Nummi Singulares*, and Lochner's *Somlung Merkwürdiger Medaillen*. E. W. H.

THE MONEY PHASES OF COIN AND PAPER.

It is a rather curious fact that the only coin now in current use on this continent which is not round, is the fifty dollar gold piece struck for California, which is octagonal in shape. All the coins in Europe are round. In Japan they have oblong wedges of silver. It is curious, too, that for many years money has been made out of paper, when leather or cloth would seem to be much more durable. Yet paper, when representing coin, lasts a great while, and not unfrequently the Bank of England receives a note of extraordinary age; and the Bank of Bengal, in India, recently was called upon to pay several thousand pounds of notes so old that none of the present generation remembered the pattern.

It is also worthy of remark that gems or precious stones have never been used for money, nor has platinum or any other metal taken the place of gold. In Africa a species of shell forms the circulating medium, the value of which fluctuates sometimes twenty per cent. a week. But all civilized countries have gold as the standard of money value, and all other circulating medium is but a representative of the great standard. Only the Hindoo has ever learned to test coin accurately by the hand.

Of all gold coinage that of England is perhaps the most beautiful. A new, fresh gold sovereign is probably as graceful and attractive a coin as exists. Next to it, the American eagle is the most elegant gold coin. The twenty-franc pieces of the present kingdom of Italy are also very neat. Probably the smallest gold coin in use is the French 5-franc piece, although a few quarter dollar gold pieces have been struck off in California. At present there are current in France in everyday traffic, coin bearing the noble face of the first Napoleon, both as consul and emperor; the heavy, round heads of Charles X and Louis XVIII; the shrewd countenance of Louis Phillippe, and the familiar features of the last Emperor. In some cases Napoleon is represented with, and in others without, a laurel wreath.

The most beautiful silver coinage is that of Russia, each piece being in itself a work of art, so finely and elaborately is the die cut. On the other hand, the ugliest silver coinage is that of the city of Hamburg; cash piece, adulterated and poorly cut, is usually to be found encrusted with dirt and filth, and looking like a refuse fragment of tin. The silver coinage of Germany is also very bad. In Italy—excepting portions subject to the Pope and the Emperor of Austria—the franc piece is taking the place of former coins, though the local coinage of the duchies of Parma and Modena still infests these portions of the country. Naples also retains in retail traffic the complicated coins in use under the Bourbon rule.

Perhaps the neatest paper money in the world is that of Greece, which is manufactured by American engravers and workmen. The old bank currency of this country is often very elegant. The worst and most wretched paper

money in the world is the five-kreutzer note of Austria, printed on a soft, thick, grayish paper, which has a faculty of washing and rubbing away like ordinary blotting paper. But nearly as bad is the postal currency with which, for our sins, we are now afflicted. He who steals a purse full of our five and ten cent notes—frayed, dirty, worn and illegible—does, indeed, steal "trash."—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

THE BULLION PRODUCT.

The United States Commissioner of Mining Statistics presents the following estimates of the bullion products of the country for 1871, as compared with the two previous years:

	1869.	1870.	1871.
Arizona.....	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$800,000
California.....	22,500,000	25,000,000	20,000,000
Colorado.....	4,000,000	3,675,000	4,663,000
Idaho.....	7,000,000	6,000,000	5,000,000
Montana.....	9,000,000	9,100,000	8,056,000
Nevada.....	14,000,000	16,000,000	22,500,000
New Mexico.....	500,000	500,000	500,000
Oregon and Wash- ington.....	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,500,000
Wyoming.....		100,000	100,000
Utah.....		1,300,000	2,300,000
Other sources.....	500,000	525,000	250,000
Total.....	\$61,500,000	\$65,000,000	\$66,663,000

The Commissioner claims that, with the exception of Idaho, the estimates are founded upon correct information. The total gold and silver coinage for 1871 was \$24,070,323, and the total exports \$26,233,912. It is to be regretted that, owing to there being no appropriation the Commissioners' report, now in the hands of the printer, will not be completed until next year.

In the different countries of Europe there are the following number of theatres: Italy has 348; France, 337; Spain, 168; England, 150; Austria, 152; Germany, 191; Russia, 44; Belgium, 34; Holland, 33; Switzerland, 20; Sweden, 10; Norway, 8; Portugal, 16; Denmark, 10; Greece, 4; Turkey, 4; Roumania, 3; Servia, 1.

ANTIQUITY OF THE PENNY.

The penny is a coin of vast antiquity. Its familiar copper shape, as may be generally known, is a comparatively modern alteration of the silver form in which it was known to our forefathers.

In the curious, though whimsical little work called "An Essay on the Roman Denarius and English Silver Penny," it is shown to be derived from the Greek *drachma*, of Ægina, which has been traced to a date six hundred years antecedent to the Christian era. The drachma was afterward coined, not only in Greece, but in Sicily, Syria and Persia. The same coin, under the name of *denarius*, was struck by the high consular families during the Roman Republic, and by the Emperors. The author of the work just quoted, states that it must have been a *denarius* of Tiberius to which Christ drew the attention of the Jews when answering their questions as to the lawfulness of paying tribute. He also mentions a very interesting circumstance respecting the Aureus, or larger gold coin of the Roman Emperors—namely, that in 685, under Justinian II., one was struck with a head of Christ, giving him the usual placid countenance, with a full round forehead, and ringlets hanging down each side of the face, and the beard parted below in the middle.

From Rome, the *denarius* was transferred to Saxon England, in 650, being there coined by the Kings of Kent, Mercia, and the other departments of the Heptarchy. Under the name of penny, and comparatively rudely executed, it was kept up by the Saxon, Spanish and Norman dynasties, in succession, and was the chief coin in circulation down to the reign of John.

David I. is the first King of Scotland

that is known to have issued the penny. In this kingdom it continued to be coined till the reign of James IV.

In the course of its existence from Roman times to the present, the penny has been gradually reduced much in bulk. In the day of the Republic, it weighed from two pennyweights ten grains to two pennyweights thirteen grains. In the reign of the Emperor Trajan, it weighed barely two pennyweights two grains. The later Emperors reduced it nearly one half; and the earliest Saxon specimens weigh less than a pennyweight. The penny of Edward IV. weighed fifteen grains; that of Henry VIII., ten grains; and that of William IV., seven grains.

THE COIN OF TWO CENTURIES AGO.—The Annapolis Md. *Republican*, gives the following description of an old coin recently found in that place:

On the face, in the outer circle, is the word "Massachusetts," and three half destroyed letters, one resembling "M;" in the inner circle a leafless tree, with partly visible roots. On the reverse, the outer circle bears the words, "New England, An. Dom;" in the center are the figures "1652." This ancient silver coin is about the size of an old English shilling, the edge of the rim is worn in three places about the sixteenth part of an inch, and with this exception it is in a fine state of preservation, which fact gives weight to the supposition that it had been coined but a brief time previous to its loss or burial.

THERE is a shell mound near San Pablo, Cal., which is nearly a mile wide. Numerous Indian skeletons, implements of stone, bones of dogs, birds, &c., have been found in it. The skeleton of a babe wrapped in red silk, is one of the curiosities unearthed.

The New Postal-Card System in Canada.

A correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* writes from Toronto:

When a few weeks ago, the telegraph flashed the news that the Hon. John Hill, member of Congress of the United States, had introduced a bill authorizing the issue of cheap postal or correspondence cards, it would surely have puzzled the general reader to know how or in what manner such seeming unimportant information could in any way interest or affect the Canadians.

Yet the news was electrical, and put a life into the veins of these thoroughly phlegmatic, partly British and altogether blue-nosed Canadians, which was wonderful. Friend met friend on the street and congratulations were passed. "I always told you" said Jones to Brown, "that those Yankees were not as 'cute as represented." "Ah!" said Brown, we'll teach them, my boy; we'll show them how to advance with the age." All this, no doubt, will puzzle your readers as much as the actions and words themselves puzzled your correspondent; but when I explain that postal cards have now been in use in these provinces for many months, and that it is the opinion of the Canadians that the Hon. John Hill borrowed his idea from them, a gleaming may be had of the reason for the congratulations.

As a matter of present interest to the United States, I propose to give a few particulars as to the system here.

CANADA POST CARDS.

The card issued by the Canadian government is four and a half inches long by three inches wide, and in thickness is but little more substantial than heavy letter paper. On its face are the words, "Canada Post Card;" a *fac simile* of a one-ounce cent stamp, and, "The address

only to be written on this side." Below are three lines upon which to write the direction and that is all. The reverse of the card is perfectly blank, and upon this may easily be written legibly from twelve to eighteen lines of correspondence. The card indeed is an exact copy of those issued by the English government, and now so extensively in use in Great Britain, and, therefore, if the praise for originating is to be rendered in any country, it is farther off than Canada to where the United States must remit it.

Although not many months in operation the cards are general favorites here. Merchants buy them by the thousands, and having had their cards, circulars or prospectuses printed on the back, scatter them broadcast. Hitherto they had to buy envelopes, stamps and paper, and pay besides for folding the circular and placing the stamps on the envelopes, at a total cost per circular of fully three cents. Now it is but one cent. As a consequence it is safe to estimate that the transmission of circulars by the mails has increased over five hundred per cent.; such, at least, is the estimate of the Post-office Department, and I believe these figures to be below the mark. Besides merchants, every conceivable sort of business is benefitted by these cards. Schools send out their circulars thereon, newspapers their prospectuses for coming volumes; book publishers also do the same; railroad companies send their time-tables; and in almost innumerable numbers is the printed circular on the postal card sent forth by business firms. As such there can be no manner of doubt of their being an immense success.

AS A LETTER MEDIUM.

In the ordinary run of correspondence only about one letter in ten is necessari-

ly private, or such that it may not be seen by strangers, and perhaps in cases ninety-nine times out of a hundred even that letter may be so worded as to cause it to be ambiguous to all save the sender and receiver. I speak of ordinary correspondence and not such secret affairs as love-letters, tradesmen's bills, refusals of discounts from banks, and others of that sort. For such, even with the advent of open letters, will yet remain the old three cent private and closed envelopes. The opposition generally made to the cards on the grounds that tradesmen will send dunning demands thereon, banks will make known your lack of credit, and that threats will be forwarded couched in language particularly intended so that your servants, or others through whom the cards may pass, may be informed of certain of your actions, or possibly be informed of what you never did or said, is not verified by the working of the system here. Tradesmen never send such notices unless their customer refuses to treat them in any reputable way; banks, for their own sakes, are civil to the extent of three cents to every one, as a habit of selling open letters would injure their business; and to the blackguard and blackmailer the card offers no better facilities for his insults than did an open letter before, or the exposed back of an envelope.

These oppositions overruled, the card proves itself an invaluable aid to correspondence. A pencil has been introduced, the writing of which is almost indelible. With a dozen cards in his coat pocket, the bulk of which is not equal to two letters, the traveller by rail is enabled to report his doings as goes along, and at each station a postoffice box awaits his missive, besides the mail messengers on many of the trains. With these conveniences of the correspon-

dence the mail matter of the Canadas has increased nearly five hundred fold. As regards secrecy in large cities, the reading of the postal cards by the post-office clerks is an impossibility, and even in the smaller offices the postmaster is not willing to wade through fifty or sixty documents, all of them ambiguously couched, to glean literally nothing.

Punch takes off the cards by making a post-mistress answer an inquirer who wanted to know "why the mail was delayed so much of late?" "Indeed, ma'am, there is so many of these post-cards now for me to read off that it takes my whole time, so that I can't attend to the office." But *Punch* treats, generally, the utmost extreme.

How They Treat Broken Packages in the London Post Office.

There is no savor of Yankee baggage-smashing in this account of the tender manner in which accidentally broken parcels are treated in the London Post Office; and this was at Christmas, too, when there is a great rush of mail matter. They are borne away to a side table, which is called "the hospital;" and in this Post Office infirmary two clever surgeons dexterously stitch up their wounds, set all their broken limbs in splints, and in fine cure such of them as are at all curable in a marvelously short space of time. Some of the patients see n past cure.

Alas! for the pretty box of bonbons that has burst open, and the contents of which are brought by piecemeal into the hospital, where the surgeon receives them with a shake of his head. In extremis seems this doll, whose integuments have been torn off, whose nose has been stove in, and one of whose nether limbs arrives some time after the

frame to which it belongs. A bit of string tinkers up a box containing a lump of plum cake half cased in sugar, but there is no care for this package of Taddy's snuff, addressed in a woman's hand-writing to a woman, and the contents, pervading the atmosphere generally, set everybody a sneezing. Decidedly "open for inspection" is the doll in this parcel; the head sticks up out of the paper, and something or other has given madame a black eye.

A box of real roses sent from France to Scarborough, has got broken, and some of the leaves fall on the surgeon's table as the delicious odor scents the air. With tender fingers he handles the beautiful bouquet, and let us hope the fair one whose bosom it will adorn to-morrow night, will scarcely be cognizant of the mishap. The trussed fowl in this package has not been seriously injured, nor has the snipe in this other, but the surgeon sniffs disgust at its high condition, as he makes it fit for the road again.—After all, it is not so bad as the dead puppy which passed through his hands the other night. There is a smashed scent-bottle whose contents have been mainly absorbed by a chignon addressed to a married lady. A woolly dog that barks snappishly when he is handled, is half out of his paper kennel. A box of mistletoe has seriously suffered, but the doctor Gehulfe is dexterously to the front, and cherry lips may yet be kissed under it to-morrow night. Why didn't the gentleman who sent the beautiful bouquet to the lady in Surry, enclose it in a better box; and why, oh! why was not the dish of larks forwarded in something more substantial than a fragile case of paper, so as to avert the amalgamation into which they had entered with the contents of Master Jack's paint box?

THE NEW POSTAL CARD OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE.—We have just seen a specimen of the new postal card of the German Empire, which was sent by Mr. H. B. Goodwin (now residing in Bonn) to a friend in this city. It appeared about January 1st.

It is printed in dark brown on light buff, or cream colored card, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The stamp in the upper right hand corner has the national coat of arms in oval in centre, around which appears "*Deutsche Reichs-Post, ein halber groschen*" (German Imperial postage, one-half groschen), with " $\frac{1}{2}$ " in small circle on each side; to the left we read "*Deutsche Reichs-Post, Postkarte; Auf die vorderseite ist nur die adresse zu schreiben,*" (German Imperial Postage; Postcard. Upon the face only the address is to be written.) Below "An," (To), followed by three dotted lines crossing the card lengthwise; and "*Bestimmungsort,*" (place of destination), and "*Wohnung,*" (residence), each followed by a shorter dotted line. The whole is enclosed in a neat ornamental border. The reverse is blank.

THE Chatham Monitor says: "Captain Josiah Hardy, 2d, recently picked up on the beach just south of the lights several pieces of money bearing old dates. An English copper piece bearing on the side a profile of Wellington, with the inscription, 'The illustrious Wellington half-penny, 1816.' Another copper bearing the words, 'Independence, liberty, 1787, Connecticut.' Two Spanish silver pieces dated 1778 and 1807."

ENGLAND is going in for postage stamps of a simple design, and printed on inferior paper, and soon counterfeiters will be going in to manufacture bushels of them.

THE CHAMPION NUMISMATIST.

We clip the following from the *Evening Star*, Philadelphia:

THE CHAMPION NUMISMATIST.

The *Visalia (Cal.) Delta*, says:—It may not be generally known that Dr. Charles Spier, of this place, is the oldest living and most successful numismatist in the world. He has been engaged in the collection of coins for over fifty-seven years, and has now over 14,000 pieces, representing every species of coin ever produced in any year, or under the dominion of any sovereign or government, from the days of Semiramis and the Pharaohs down to the present time.—His collection is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

THE CHAMPION NUMISMATIST.

Editor *Evening Star*:

The article in your issue of January 1, under the above caption, is calculated to mislead the public and do injustice to the numismatists of our city and country. The slip you have quoted from the *Visalia (Cal.) Delta*, asserts that Dr. Charles Spier, of Visalia, has "a collection of over 14,000 pieces, representing every species of coin ever produced in any year, or under the dominion of any sovereign or government."

To our certain knowledge Dr. Spier lacks many of the gold, silver and copper coins of the United States; he has very few of the pattern or experimental coins of our country, and his collection would not bring ten thousand dollars in the numismatic market.

The ridiculous assertion that 14,000 coins embrace all the different pieces issued in the world, is on a par with the estimated value of Dr. Spier's cabinet at "hundreds of thousands of dollars."—Davis, Jenks, Maris, Haseltine, and a score more of Philadelphians—amateur

collectors—could multiply Spier's collection by two and beat him on the quotient.

E. MASON, JR., *Numismatist*.

SALE OF RARE COINS.—A very choice collection of Greek, Roman and other rare coins were sold at Birch's auction rooms yesterday afternoon, Dec. 19, 1872. A pair of "Nova Constellatio" pieces brought \$540, bought by Mr. Henry S. Adams, of Boston. The pieces are no doubt unique, and should have been bought for the cabinet at the U. S. Mint.

PRES'T GRANT AND POSTAGE STAMPS. Some time ago, says the *Swiss Times*, two youths of Berne addressed a letter to President Grant, asking him to aid them in gathering a collection of American postage stamps. A few days ago the said youths unexpectedly received, through the American envoy at Berne a fine assortment of United States stamps, accompanied by a letter, in which the President said that his many duties had prevented him undertaking the collection himself, and that therefore his youngest son had taken the matter in hand.

THE NEW POSTAL CARDS.—We have received from the Post-Office Department at Washington specimens of the new postal cards which are soon to be issued for the convenience of the public. The card is five by three inches in size, of a light buff tint. On the right hand side is printed the one cent stamp, which passes it through the mails, and on the other corner is the designation, "United States Postal Card," with instructions for use. On the lower part are ruled spaces for the address, while the reverse side is left entirely blank for the message.

SUMMARY OF ENGLISH HISTORY.

ENGLAND BEFORE THE CONQUEST.

In the ancient times, when Rome was a republic and Jesus Christ yet unborn, this beautiful Eng'and was a desolate waste of marsh-land and forest, inhabited by a savage people who fought with clubs and tin swords, clothed themselves in skins, and stained their bodies with the juices of a plant called woad. These barbarians went by the name of Britons, and they believed in a horrible idolatry that sanctioned battles and revenge, and human sacrifices. Huts, rudely constructed of wicker and mud, and erected in little clusters here and there over the country, were called towns. These towns were generally situated upon small clearings in tracts of woody land, and were surrounded by a trench, which served for defence in time of war. One such hamlet, built upon the shores of a great river, and protected on the north by an impenetrable forest, abounding in every species of game, was called Llyn-Din, or the "town of the lake," and is now known by the name of London.

UNDER THE ROMANS FROM B. C. 55 TO
A. D. 449.

Eager for conquest, and tempted by the rich pearls and tin mines for which the island was famous, but pretending only to punish the poor savages for having helped the Gauls, with whom he was at war, Julius Cæsar came over from Italy with his ships and soldiers, plundered and killed in every direction round about Sandwich, and made the first conquest of Britain. This happened just 55 years before Christ. Scarcely a hundred more had gone by when the Emperor Claudius came with fifty thousand men, and subdued it over again (A. D. 43). It was during the reign of this emperor that Caractacus, a patriot Brit-

on, made the first effort to free his country from the Roman yoke. After nine years of conflict he was taken prisoner, but afterwards released by the clemency of Claudius. Suetonius Paulinus, in the reign of Nero (A. D. 61), landed on the Isle of Anglesea, and destroyed the sacred groves and altars of Druidical superstition, which, in addition to the cruel treatment offered to Boadicea, Queen of the Icenî, once more roused the Britons to rebellion. They won a splendid victory over their powerful masters, and slew 70,000 of them; but in the course of the same year were again defeated with great loss. For Julius Agricola,—a very good and clever general—was reserved the establishment of the Roman power in Britain. He took possession of the country for the third time,—A. D. 78—founded the arts of peace, and made the people happy and civilized. He also delivered them from the fierce incursions of the Picts and Scots, and helped them to erect a great wall of separation across the island between the Tyne and Solway, known in history as the Wall of Severus, because Severus, some hundreds of years afterwards, assisted to repair it. This rampart, however, proved ineffectual against the savage inroads of the northern tribes, and a second was constructed between the Firths of Clyde and Forth, A. D. 138. On the death of St. Lucius, A. D. 179, the first Christian king of Britain—indeed, the first in the world—he bequeathed the island to the emperors of Rome, whose property it was virtually all the time; for, under their rule, the native sovereigns were but governors, or lieutenants. The Romans remained masters of England for nearly four centuries, at the end of which period, having lost much of their own power and dignity, they were compelled to

withdraw their forces to defend themselves against the Goths, A. D. 410. No sooner were they gone than the marauding Scots poured in upon the defenceless Britons, who, not knowing what better to do in their distress, applied for assistance to the Saxons, a people of North Germany.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"—In the Post Office Directory recently published, we find justification for a good many smiles and some broad laughs in the address of post offices. A few of these we copy: You Bet is, of course, in California; Zip is in Illinois, and Zig is in Missouri; Zebulon is in Georgia; Zeno Zenn is in California; Yellville is in Arkansas; there are three Wildcats, in South Carolina, Kansas and Illinois; Whippoorwill is in Kentucky; Whistler is in Alabama; We Wo Ka is in Indian Territory; Weogutka is in Alabama; Wapwallopen is in Pennsylvania; Wah Wah Suk is in Kansas; Wahaghbosy is in Iowa; Uwchland is in Pennsylvania; Utsalady is in Washington Territory; Twin Sister is in Texas; Tobacco Stick is in Maryland; Sopchoppy is in Florida; Snickersville is in Virginia; Smootsdell is in Indiana; Smitten is in Pennsylvania; Smoky Ordinary is in Virginia; Scokumchuck is in Washington Territory; Skinquarter is in Virginia; Skull Valley is in Arizona; Slabtown is in Indiana; Scuffletown is in Kentucky; Poy Sippi is in Wisconsin; Pee Pee is in Pike Co., O.

THE PRUSSIAN military band has made over \$60,000 in America. Of this sum five per cent was given to the business manager, leaving a little over \$57,000. This amount has been deposited with Consul General Roesing, to be paid to the individual musicians of the band upon their arrival at home. The money

will be divided in fifty-three equal parts; of these the leader, Mr. Saro, receives about \$4,300 or \$4,400; Melvhase, the business man of the band, two parts, about \$2,200; two other musicians, who as a business committee assisted Weivhase, receive one and one half part, or \$1,650. Every other member of the band gets one part, or nearly \$1,100 apiece.

A BULL GIVING MILK.—La Navista Medica of Santiago publishes an extraordinary statement, signed by Dr. R. A. Philippi, of a bull giving milk. He says: "Don Felipi Huldboro, who lives in the subdelegation of Chimbrango, has a bull of eight years of age or under, which, when it was three years old, had milk in the teats, and from that time has been milked as a cow, giving, however, only a small quantity of milk. Senores Don Alberto and Don Ismael Uladec Vergar, to whom I am indebted for the information, brought me a sample of the milk. The fact of one of the masculine sex giving milk is very curious. The king of Prussia received, during the time the writer studied in Berlin, a present of a kid of the male sex which gave as much milk as a female; and in the annals of medicine there are noted various instances in which men have had milk and suckled their children."

DURING the siege of Paris 64 balloons left that city. Of these five fell into the hands of the Germans, two were lost at sea, and one landed at Norway after crossing the North Sea, sailing about 1,000 miles in 45 hours. Besides the 64 aeronauts whom the 64 balloons conveyed out of Paris, they took 91 passengers, 354 carrier pigeons, and about 3,000,000 letters, besides numerous despatches.

OUR AMERICAN BIRDS.

THE WOODCOCK.

If you should happen to be in a low, swampy or wooded tract of land, very early in the morning, or during early twilight, you may, perhaps, notice that the soft earth is full of round holes, as if some one had been industriously occupied in probing the whole marshy flat with a small walking stick.

These are called by sportsmen, "borings," and are an infallible indication of the presence of woodcock. If you will remain still for a length of time in the vicinity of these borings, you will find this to be true, and discover that what at first seemed to be a deserted solitude is peopled by a busy multitude of these timid creatures, who, when they are persuaded they have the forest to themselves, again recommence moving about in the undergrowth, or start up from unexpected places, with a quick, sharp, "chipper-chipper," or "bleatta-bleatta."

Perhaps a pair of shining black eyes will meet yours from a bed of dead leaves, or covert of low bushes, and the little brown head of a young woodcock peep out from the feathers of the old one's breast; or you may chance to see on a bed, rather than a nest, of grass or ferns, three or four cream colored eggs, marked with fine spots and blotches of two shades of brown, and obscure spots of lilac.

But, you must be up and out bright and early, if you wish to visit the woodcock; by the time it is fairly light, they have flown away, and hid themselves in the most secret shelter of the forest, where the day is passed, and flight resumed only in the obscurity of evening.

During the hours of dusk, however, between the coming of the morning and the darkness that precedes it, or at early

twilight, the woodcock devotes itself to getting its living in its own peculiar fashion. How it discovers the exact locality of the hidden worm, larva, or beetle, upon which it lives, under a bill's length of deep mud, has not been positively ascertained; but it never makes a mistake, or brings its bill up empty. There is, indeed, a special adaption to its manner of life in the bird, with its mallet-like head, stilted legs, and eyes placed far back, to be out of the way, and allow the head to be buried more deeply in the ooze.

At the end of the bill is a short barb or notch, which secures the bird's larger prey while such prey is being drawn from its deep bed of earth, and the tongue within the bill is coated with a sticky saliva, to which adheres insects, or animalculæ too small to be held by the bill.

The American woodcock is a distinct species, and differs from the European in several particulars; one of which is, that its breast is destitute of the bars that form so conspicuous a marking in its English cousin. It is a hard bird to shoot, as it has a swift and peculiar flight, and a partiality for dodging under cover that is apt to baffle an inexperienced sportsman.

The woodcock is one of our earliest Spring arrivals—coming about the 1st of March, or even earlier.

It remains with us until the 10th of November.

At the latter part of September, and during the whole month of October, it is in its prime, and during that time affords as fine sport as can be had in the Atlantic States.

Woodcocks have been tamed, and, although the most timid of wild birds, and quite unsocial even with other birds, or with each other, they make very affectionate and interesting pets.

AMERICAN WONDERS.

The greatest cataract in the world is the falls of Niagara, where the water from the great upper lakes forms a river of three-quarters of a mile in width, and then, being suddenly contracted, plunges over the rocks in two columns, to the depth of one hundred and seventy feet each.

The greatest cave in the world is the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, where any one can make a voyage on the waters of a subterranean river, and catch fish that are as without eyes.

The greatest river in the world is the Mississippi, four thousand one hundred miles long.

The largest valley in the world is the valley of the Mississippi. It contains five hundred thousand miles, and is one of the most fertile and profitable regions of the globe.

The greatest city park in the world is in Philadelphia. It contains over 2,000 acres.

The greatest grain port in the world is Chicago.

The largest lake in the world is Lake Superior, which is truly an inland sea, being four hundred and thirty miles long, and one hundred feet deep.

The greatest newspaper establishment in the world is the *Herald*, New York.

The longest railroad in the world is the Pacific Railroad, over 3,000 miles in length.

The greatest natural bridge in the world is the Natural Bridge over Cedar Creek, in Virginia. It extends across a chasm eighty feet in width and two hundred and fifty feet in depth, at the bottom of which the creek flows.

The greatest mass of solid iron in the world is the Iron Mountain of Missouri. It is three hundred and fifty feet high, and two miles in circuit.

The best specimen of Grecian architecture in the world is the Girard College for Orphans, Philadelphia.

The largest aqueduct in the world is the Croton Aqueduct in New York. Its length is forty and one-half miles, and cost twelve and a half millions of dollars.

The largest deposits of anthracite coal in the world are in Pennsylvania, the mines of which supply the market with millions of tons annually, and appear to be inexhaustible.

GOLD.—A cubic inch of gold is worth \$210—a cubic foot \$362,880; a cubic yard, \$9,797,762. This is valuing it at \$18.69 an ounce. At the commencement of the Christian era, there was then in the world \$427,000,000 in gold. This had diminished to \$57,000,000 at the time America was discovered. Then it began to increase. Now, the amount of gold in use is estimated to be \$6,000,000,000. Yet all this welded into one mass, would be contained in a cube of *twenty-six feet*. This, in the case of a man perishing from disease, would not, of itself, avail him so serviceably as some little shrub growing by the wayside, which was especially calculated as a remedial agent, in his particular case.

IS THERE such a bird as the American partridge? is a question that has provoked wide discussion among Kentucky sportsmen. An old bird-hunter takes the writers on ornithology to task, and says there is a general misnaming of American game. Our rabbit, he says, is no longer a rabbit, but a hare; our pheasant is a grouse; our buffalo is a bison; our elk is a stag, and our moose is an elk, while the trout of the West and North is a bass, and the partridge denominated quail even by gentlemen sportsmen.

THE ROMAN EMPERORS.

For the assistance of collectors of Roman coins, we insert the following list of the Roman Emperors, together with the length of time for which each one reigned :

	Length of reign.
Augustus, commenced 30 B. C.,	43 years.
Tiberius,	22 "
Caligula,	4 "
Claudius,	14 "
Nero,	14 "
Galba,	7 mos.
Otho,	3 "
Vitellius,	8 "
Vespasian,	10 years.
Titus,	3 "
Domitian,	15 "
Nerva,	1 "
Trajan,	19 "
Adrian,	21 "
Antoninus Pius,	23 "
M. Aurelius Ant.,	20 "
Commodus,	13 "
Helvius Pertinax,	1 "
Sept. Severus,	17 "
Caracalla,	7 "
Hellogabalus,	4 "
Alexander Severus,	13 "
Maximianus,	3 "
Gordianus, Jr.,	6 "
Philip,	5 "
Decius,	2 "
Gallus,	3 "
Gallienus,	14 "
Claudius,	2 "
Aurelian,	5 "
Tacitus,	1 "
Probus,	6 "
Numerian,	2 "
Diocletian,	20 "
Constantius Chlorus,	3 "
Constantine the Great,	30 "
Constantius II.,	24 "
Julian the Apostate,	2 "
Jovian,	1 "
Valentinian, A. D. 364.	
Gratian,	
Valentinian,	
Theodosius the Great, died A. D. 395.	

A TRUNK TURTLE CAPTURED.—About one week ago some fishermen near Cape Cod captured a fine specimen of the leathery or trunk turtle (*sphargis coriacea*), and sent it to New York. It weighs, dead, about 450 pounds, but belongs to the largest species of turtle, which attains a length of eight feet and a weight of more than 1100 pounds. The head is very large, narrowed in

front of the eyes with small and circular nostrils, and large eyes with lids opening almost vertically. The jaws are very powerful and extremely sharp, cutting like shears. The mouth and throat are lined with sharp, horny teeth, projecting inward to keep food from escaping. The shell is strong, having seven longitudinal ridges, and looks like a clinker-built boat. The flesh is useless for food, but along the Mediterranean its shell is used for small boats, drinking troughs for animals, and bathing tubs for children. It will be sent to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

THE NUMBER OF EGGS FROM A HEN.—A German naturalist answers the question how many eggs a hen can possibly lay, as follows: The ovary of a hen contains about six hundred embryo eggs, of which in the first year not more than twenty are matured. The second year produces one hundred and twenty. The third, one hundred and thirty five; the fourth, one hundred and fourteen, and in the following four years the number decreases by twenty yearly. In the ninth year only ten eggs can be expected, and thus it appears that after the first four years hens cease to be profitable as layers.

CROWN DIAMONDS.—The crown of England contains 1,700 diamonds, and is valued at \$500,000.

The crown of Peter contains 887 diamonds.

The crown of Ivan contains 841 diamonds.

The Imperial crown of Russia contains 2,500 diamonds.

The crown of France contains 5,252 diamonds.

Among dealers and connoisseurs it is understood that the finest collection, as a whole, is that of the Emperor of Russia.

HOW A FRENCHMAN WANTED TO ASCEND
THE AMERICAN THRONE.

The following curious anecdote is related in Paine's "Rights of Man," at page 68 of the London edition of 1791 :

"I will introduce an anecdote which I had from Dr. Franklin. While the doctor resided in France as Minister from America during the war, he had numerous proposals made to him by projectors of every country and every kind who wished to go to the land that floweth with milk and honey—America; and, among the rest; there was one who offered himself to be a king. He introduced his proposal to the doctor by letter, which now is in the hands of M. Beaumarchais, of Paris, stating, first that as the Americans had dismissed or sent away their king, they would want another; secondly, that he himself was a Norman; thirdly, that he was of a more ancient family than the Dukes of Normandy, and a more honorable descent, his line never having been bastardized; fourthly, that there was already a precedent in England of Kings coming out of Normandy. And on these grounds he rested his offer, enjoining that the doctor would forward it to America. But as the doctor neither did this, nor yet sent him an answer, the projector wrote him a second letter, in which he did not, it is true, threaten to go over and conquer America, but only with great dignity proposed that, if his offer was not accepted, an acknowledgment of about £30,000 might be made to him for his generosity.

WONDERS.—Lewinbeck tells us of an insect seen with a microscope, of which twenty-seven millions would only equal a mite.

Butterflies are fully feathered.

Mold is a forest of beautiful trees, with branches, leaves and fruit.

Insects of various kinds may be seen in the cavities of a grain of sand.

Hairs are hollow tubes.

The surface of our bodies is covered with scales like a fish; a single grain of sand would cover one hundred and fifty of these scales, and yet each scale covers five hundred pores. Through these narrow openings the perspiration forces itself, like water through a sieve.

The mites take five hundred steps a second.

Each drop of stagnant water contains a world of animated beings, swimming with as much liberty as whales in the sea.

Each leaf has a colony of insects grazing on it, like cows in a meadow.

Moral.—Have some care as to the air you breathe, the food you eat, and the water you drink.

A FLORAL CURIOSITY.—A flower has been recently described by an eye witness at Constantinople, which is so great a rarity that one is apt to treat it as a fable, and wait for the confirmation of one's own eyesight. It belongs to the narcissus kind of bulbs, and bears the botanical name of *ephyrs mouche*. There were three necked flowers on the stalk hanging on one side; the underneath one was fading, while the two others were all in their beauty. They represented a perfect humming-bird. The breast of bright emerald green is a complete copy of this bird, and the throat, head, peak and eyes are a most perfect imitation. The hinder part of the body and the two outstretched wings are bright rose-color, one might almost say flesh-color. On the abdomen rests the whole propagation apparatus, of a deep, dark brown tint, in the form of a two-winged gadfly.

THE USE OF STORMS.—The wildest storms of the winter do great good by thoroughly removing any noxious gases that may lurk about our great cities, and carrying them out to the deep, there to "suffer a sea change," and replacing them with purer air. Air and ocean are the two great physical purifiers of the world. So, while we fasten our garments more tightly about us, and hurry along in the pelting shower flung at us by a boisterous wind, let us think of the health-giving oxygen that comes on the tempest, and while enjoying the shelter of our roof, think of the good work going on above us in the sky, alike whether we wake or sleep. We love to think of the mighty operations of the hand of God going on ceaselessly for the good of man and the mass of living things on earth, when we are passive and powerless; and this wind movement is one of these.

A Des Monies lady has received a letter superscribed as follows :

'To Sarah Jane Delancy,
Who married Peter Clansey
In 1869.
Send this letter quickly—
No limping, lame and sickly
Post will do in mine,
To Iowa's capital, county of Polk,
Care of John Dent, let it go;
And when she receives it she'll think it no
joke,
But in an old ink-horn a goose-quill she'll
poke,
And write me an answer, I know.'

THE intense hardness of the black, unclearable diamonds, which are used in boring machines and for dressing millstones, is such that a single one has been employed for more than a year in dressing a pair of French burr millstones, daily, without perceptible wear or diminution of cutting power. The application of the diamonds to borings and drilling is due to a Swiss engineer, M. Leschot.

SOME curious bones have been found at Bridgeport, Ct., which appear to be the skull and upper jaw of some extinct species of animal. They were found only four feet below the surface. The skull is large, and has a hole on each side as large as a man's fist. The jaw contains sockets for forty-eight teeth of enormous size. A committee of naturalists will do the *post mortem*.

GREEN TURTLE.—At Rockport, Texas, a company is putting fresh green turtle in hermetically sealed cans. They catch their turtles, put them in pens like cattle, feed them, and when ready slaughter them like hogs and put them up nicely in cans for market. They are selling these cans of green turtle in the hotels, the restaurants, on steamboats and to private families, and this will, doubtless, be ranked soon with the growing, and paying industries of the Gulf coast.

ORIGIN AND ADOPTION OF POST CARDS. A correspondent of the *Times* says that the post-card is not a British, but an Austrian institution, and that even the design of the English post-card seems to be copied from that of the Austrian. The German post office used the new means of communication before England, and our adoption of it was contemporary with its adoption by Denmark and Switzerland. Post cards are now either in use or preparation in Austria, Hungary, Germany, Wurtemberg, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Denmark, United States, Holland and Canada.

A **FLAT** stone about twenty-eight inches long and eight inches wide was found recently near the Mineral Springs, in Adams county, Ohio. It bore the inscription in plainly cut characters: "S. M. Daniel Boone, 1771." A similar stone was found near Mt. Olivet, in Kentucky, a year or two ago.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER,

Vol. I.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, APRIL, 1873.

No. 8.

APOLOGY.

Owing to an accident at the office where our Journal is printed the March number was so long delayed that we concluded to combine it with the April number. We hope to hereafter be on time.

ENGLAND UNDER THE ANGLO SAXON..

Egbert began to reign A. D. 800, Scarcely had peace and unity been established in the kingdom, when a horde of savage warriors, called Danes, who dwelt upon the shores of the Baltic Sea, lauded on the coasts, but were attacked on the coast of Devon, and forced to fly back to their ships for safety—only to return again about once in every year. After a prosperous reign, troubled only by these invaders. Egbert died A. D. 836, and was buried at Winchester. Egbert was succeeded by Ethelwolf, his oldest son. This king, undertook a pilgrimage to Rome, and married a daughter of King Charles the Bold, of France. He first granted titles to the Clergy, and instituted an annual tribute to the Pope, called Peter's Pence. The Danes now made themselves the terror of England, and though frequently repulsed, contrived to plunder the country, and occasionally to carry off the inhabitants for slaves. In the year 851 they sailed up the Thames with 350 ships; burnt the cities of London and Canterbury, and established themselves permanently upon the Isle of Thanet Ethelwolf died A. D. 857, and was buried at Sheyning, in Essex. Ethelbald began to reign A. D. 857, his reign was brief, unimportant and vi-

cious. He was succeeded by his brother, Ethelbert, who reigned only six years, during which time the Danes exacted tribute from the English, laid waste the whole county of Kent, and pillaged the city of Winchester, Ethelberg died A. D. 866, was followed by Ethebred, a brave soldier, whose reign was one long scene of valiant warfare with the Danes. It is said that he fought no less than nine pitched battles in one year with the enemies of his country. In all these he was assisted by his younger brother, Prince Alfred, afterwards illustrious as King Alfred the Great. Prince Alfred was the first Earl created in England. In this reign the invaders penetrated Mercia and took up their quarters at Nottingham, whither the King instantly marched to dislodge them. A great battle ensued, in which Ethebred was killed, leaving to Alfred the inheritance of a kingdom which had declined into an almost happpiless condition of weakness and distress. Alfred the Great was just twenty-two years of age, A. D. 872, when he ascended the throne of England, and for the first eight years of his reign was engaged in an uninterrupted and disastrous warfare with the D nes. They, in fact, at one time made themselves masters of the kingdom, so that Alfred was obliged to assume many humble disguises, and hide himself in the woods, and in the cottages of his peasant subjects. In Somersetshire, however he found friends and assistance, built a strong fort, assembled an army and once more took the field against the Danes. Assuming the disguise of a wandering harper, he then penetrated

to the enemy's camp, judged of the most favorable manner of attack, brought his soldiers unexpectedly upon them, and achieved a brilliant victory. Many years of peace ensued, during which this brave and good king applied himself to the improvement of his country and the happiness of his people. Alfred framed a code of laws, some of which exist to the present day—divided England into counties and hundreds—established the first regular militia—encouraged the arts and sciences, and instructed the English in the art of navigation and ship-building. He was the first Monarch who made England a naval power; and to state that he was the most accomplished man of his day, that he was the hero of fifty-six battles, that he established the system of trial by jury, and founded the University of Oxford, is but to relate a portion of his glory. After twelve years of peace, the Danes again invaded the coast; they came under the command of Hastings, their sea-king, with a fleet of three hundred and thirty-one ships, and landed on the Coast of Kent, making Appledone their head quarters. A protracted struggle ensued, at the conclusion of which they were again defeated. The wife and family of Hastings were taken captives, but Alfred, with his general moderation, restored them to the Danish Chief, on condition that he and his followers should leave the country. To these terms they readily accorded; but some few lingered till the year 897. Alfred died A. D. 901, at Stonington, in Berkshire, he was buried at Winchester, and has left behind him the most honorable reputation for learning, courage, wisdom, and generosity, of any English Sovereign.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

BURMAH.

There are no coins struck in the Burmah kingdom. Silver is paid by weight; and for the purpose of small change, lead is used, also by weight; the usual value of which is estimated as the one five hundredth part of silver. The silver is marked into small cakes, from four to twenty ticals in weight; and these are cut into bits as occasion may require. The fineness is not well ascertained, and is no doubt very irregular. There are, however, three kinds of alloy familiarly known; the basest is said to be three fourths silver; the huet-nee, or flower silver, is known by a crystalized appearance on the surface, near the centre of the cake; this is valued 15 per cent better than rupee silver of Hindoostan. A third kind called dyno, on which the crystallization is more spread over the disk, is considered five per cent better than huet-nee. When a customer is making a purchase the merchant asks to see what sort of silver he is going to pay in, and sets his price accordingly. Gold is not used as currency, all that can be obtained is employed in the manufacture of jewelry and gilding of temples. The late King of Burmah attempted to introduce a coinage of silver by the aid of British machinery; but such an excessive value was attempted to be set upon the coins, that the people could not be prevailed on even, with violent measures to adopt them in trade. At Rangoor, the principal seaport, the tical weighs 250 troy grains; at Pegu, it is 13 grains less.—*Rev. H Malcom's travels in S E. Asia.*

RELATIVE VALUE OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The relative value of gold and silver in the days of the patriarch Abraham was 1 to 8; the period B. C. 1000, it was 1 to 12; B. C. 500, it was 1 to 13:

at the commencement of the Christian era it was 1 to 9; A. D. 500 it was 1 to 18; A. D. 1100 it was 1 to 8; A. D. 1400 it was 1 to 11; 1613 it was 1 to 15½; which latter ratio, with but slight variation, it has maintained to the present. At the present time one ounce of United States standard silver coin is equal to \$1.162, 1 ounce pure silver is worth \$1.163 in coin. One ounce of United States standard gold coin is worth \$18.605 in gold. Pure gold is worth \$20.671 in coin per ounce.

All gold and silver coins of the United States, must consist of nine parts pure metal and one part alloy; they are, therefore, 21.6 carats fine. What is called *the new standard*, used by jewelers for watch cases, &c., is 18 carats fine. Standard jeweler's silver is therefore in value to coin silver as 18; 21.6 and an ounce is worth 97 cents in coin, nearly. An ounce of standard jeweler's gold is worth \$15.503.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY OF ROMAN COINS IN PARIS.

During some recent alterations in the grounds of the Lycee Napoleon, Rue Clovis, Paris, the workmen came upon a little pile of gold coins. They have been examined and classified:

"There are 20 coins of Nero, 64 of Vespasian, 67 of Titus, 79 of Domitian, 57 of Trajan, consisting of 54 with Trajan's head, 1 representing the emperor on a triumphant chariot, 1 of Trajan in the costume of a Parthian king, and 1 so called 'Restitution coin' [struck by later emperors to show their high appreciation of the noble deeds of their ancestors] of Titus with Trajan, with the inscription, 'A. Trajano Restitutus Titus;' 103 coins of Hadrian, of which 96 are portraits of Hadrian, 1 of Ælius, his nephew, 3 representing the emperor

rendering divine honors to Trajan, his predecessor and adopted father, 1 representing the Forum Traianum under the reign of Hadrian, and 2 with the portrait of Hadrian, and a reverse full of most delicately wrought details; 123 of Antonius and Marcus Aurilius; 29 of Lucius Verus, the Emperor's brother and colleague; 2 of the Empress Crispina, wife of the Emperor Commodus; 1 representing Commodus fighting in the Roman Circus; 3 of the Emperor Geta; 5 of Pertinax, 4 of Caracalla; 14 of Septimus Severus—one bearing the legend 'Victor Parthorum,' the other 'Restitutor Urbis; 8 of the Empress Julia Domna, wife of Septimus Severus; 48 of Faustina I., wife of Antoninus; 39 of Faustina II., wife of Marcus Aurelius, one of which, not hitherto known, represents her with the attributes of Ceres; 8 of Lucilla, the wife of Lucillus Verus; 1 with the combined portraits of Trajan and Plotina, his wife; 2 of Plotina alone; 1 of Plotina and Matidia, her daughter; 1 of Matidia alone; 1 of Marciana, sister of Trajan; 1 of Sabina, the wife of Hadrian; 1 of the Emperor of Claudius; 1 of Augustus, in the corner of a Trajan coin, [this single piece has been valued at 10,000 francs] 2 of Vitellius; 2 of Claudius Albinus, competitor of Septimus Severus in Gaul; and 140 other 'Aurei.' "

There are several theories as to the manner in which these coins happened to be where they were found. M. Fournier argues from the fact that the last emperor found in them is Severus, that they were hid during his reign; probably by some one implicated in the insurrectionary attempt of Albinus, just on the eve of flight. M. Fallure, on the other hand, thinks the money belonged to a chief tax-gatherer of Paris. His reason is the great number of Faustina

coins in the hoard. These coins being much heavier than those of a later period, were rigorously demanded in payment by the tax-gatherers, who pocketed the surplus value, until a special edict stopped the abuse. The collection has been placed for safe keeping in the Paris Museum of Antiquaries at the Hotel Carnavelet.

WHERE THE GOLD GOES.

In the reign of Darius gold was thirteen times more valuable, weight for weight, than silver. In the time of Plato it was twelve times more valuable. In that of Julius Cæsar, gold was only nine times more valuable, owing, perhaps to the enormous quantities of gold seized by him in his wars. It is a natural question to ask, what became of the gold and silver?

A paper read before the Polytechnic Association, by Dr. Stevens, recently, is calculated to meet this inquiry. He says, of our annual gold product, fully fifteen per cent. is melted down for manufacture; thirty-five per cent. goes to Europe: twenty-five per cent. to Cuba; fifteen per cent. to Brazil; five per cent. to Japan, China and the Indies; leaving but five per cent. for circulation in this country. Of that which goes to Cuba, the West Indies and Brazil, fully fifty per cent. finds its way to Europe, where, after deducting a large per centage used in manufacturing, four-fifths of the remainder is exported to India.

Here the transit of the precious metal is at an end. Here the supply, however vast, is absorbed, and never returns to the civilized world. The Orientals consume but little while their productions have ever been in demand among the Western nations. As mere recipients, these nations have acquired the desire of accumulation and hoarding, a

fashion common alike to all classes among the Egyptians, Chinese and Persians.

A French economist says, in his opinion, the former nation alone can hide away \$20,000,000 of gold and silver, annually; and the present Emperor of Morocco is reported as so addicted to this avaricious mania that he has filled seventeen large chambers with precious metals. This being the passion of princes, and it is in the predeliction that we discover the solution of the problem as to the ultimate disposition of the precious metals. This absorption by the Eastern nations has been uninterruptedly going on since the most remote historical period. According to Plinny, as much as \$100,000,000 in gold was, in his day, annually exported to the East. The balance of trade in favor of those nations is now given as \$80,000,000.—*U. S. Economist.*

NOAH'S OWN ACCOUNT OF THE DELUGE AS RECORDED IN THE CHALDEAN CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTION.

(From the London Telegraph.)

We have received from the accomplished discoverer, Mr. George Smith, of the British Museum, the subjoined most interesting account of the record of the deluge; which, as we announced a day or two ago, he has lately deciphered from the Assyrian monuments:—“The cunifform inscription which I have recently found and translated, gives a long and full account of the Deluge. It contains the version of tradition of this event, which existed in the early Chaldean period at the city of Erech (one of the cities of Ni nrod,) now represented by the ruins of Warka. In this newly discovered inscription the account of the Deluge is put as a narrative into the mouth of Xisuthuus or Noah. He relates

the wickedness of the world, the command to build the ark, its building, the filling of it, the resting of the ark on a mountain, the sending out of the birds, and other matters. The narrative has a closer resemblance to the account transmitted by the Greeks from Berosus, the Chaldean historian, than to the Biblical history, but it does not differ materially from either. The principal differences are as to the duration of the Deluge, the name of the mountain on which the ark rested, the sending out of birds etc. The cuneiform account is much longer and fuller than that of Berosus, and has several details omitted both by the Bible and the Chaldean historian. This inscription opens up many questions of which we knew nothing previously, and it is connected with a number of other details of Chaldean history, which will be both interesting and important. This is the first time any inscription has been found with an account of the event mentioned in Genesis."

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Sound travels at the rate of 1,142 feet per second in the air, 4,960 in the water, 11,000 in cast iron, 17,000 in steel, 18,000 in glass, and from 4,636 to 17,000 in wood.

Mercury freezes at -38 deg. Fahrenheit and becomes a solid mass, malleable under the hammer.

The greatest height at which visible clouds ever exist does not exceed ten miles.

Air is about 816 times lighter than water.

The pressure of the atmosphere upon every square foot of the earth amounts to 4,160 lbs. An ordinary sized man, supposing his surface to be 14 square feet, sustains the enormous pressure of 30,340 lbs.

Heat rarefies air to such an extent that it can be made to occupy 5,5000 times the space it did before.

The violence of the expansion of water when freezing is sufficient to cleave a globe of copper of such thickness as to require a force of 28,000 lbs. to produce a like effect.

During the conversion of ice into water 140 degrees of heat are absorbed.

Water when converted into steam, increases in bulk 18,000 times.

One hundred pounds of Dead Sea water contains 46 lbs. of salt.

The mean annual depth of rain that falls at the equator is 96 inches.

Assuming the temperature of the interior of the earth to increase uniformly at the rate of 1 deg. for every 45 feet, at the depth of 60 miles the degree of heat would be sufficient to fuse all known substance.

The explosive force of close-confined gunpowder is six and a half tons to the square inch.

The greatest artificial cold ever produced is—91 deg. Fahrenheit.

Water obstructs one-half of the perpendicular rays of the sun in 17 feet, and three-fourths in 34 feet, and less than one-thousand part reaches the depth of 200 feet, hence the bottom of deep water is total darkness.

Paris has about two thousand artists, one-fourth of whom are said to be occupied manufacturing spurious pictures. These are signed with well-known names, and then sent over to America and sold as genuine pictures.

Probably the finest museum of paintings in the world is that of Madrid, containing over forty original Murillos, ten Raffaels, sixty Rubens, forty Titians, sixty Valasquez, etc.

FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The following table shows the age and cause of death of thirty-five kings and queens of England, from William the Conqueror down to William the Fourth :

<i>Names:</i>	<i>Age at Death.</i>	<i>Cause of Death.</i>
William 1.,	60.	Rupture and fever.
William 2.,	43.	Shot by an arrow.
Henry 1.,	67.	Surfeit of lampers.
Stephen,	49.	The piles.
Henry II.,	55.	Grief.
Richard 1.,	43.	Killed by an arrow.
John,	49.	Poison, or grief.
Henry III.,	55.	Age.
Edward I.,	67.	Diarrhœa.
Edward II.,	43.	Murdered.
Edward III.,	65.	Course of nature.
Richard II.,	33.	Consumption.
Henry IV.,	46.	Apoplexy.
Henry V.,	38.	Pleurisy.
Henry VI.,	49.	Murdered.
Edward IV.,	41.	Ague.
Edward V.,	12.	Smothered.
Richard III.,	55.	Killed in battle.
Henry VII.,	53.	Consumption.
Henry VIII.,	55.	Ulcerated leg.
Edward VI.,	15.	Consumption.
Mary,	42.	Small-pox.
Elizabeth,	69.	Course of nature.
James I.,	58.	Ague.
Charles I.,	48.	Beheaded.
Charles II.,	54.	Apoplexy.
James II.,	67.	Course of nature.
Mary II.,	37.	Small-pox.
William III.,	52.	Fall from his horse.
Anne,	49.	Apoplexy.
George I.,	67.	Paralytic attack.
George II.,	77.	Died suddenly.
George III.,	82.	Course of nature.
George IV.,	68.	Bursted blood-vessel
William IV.,	27.	Course of nature.

TREASURES FROM THE SEA.

A portion of the treasure recovered from the remains of the steamer *America* by divers persons and brought to San Francisco, on the *Colorado*, was tracked to the office of the San Francisco, Assaying and Refining Works, No. 614 Montgomery street, yesterday, and exposed to the gaze of a few reliable persons. The scene was novel beyond conception. Twenty-three boxes of melted coin, weighing from two to four hundred pounds each, were scattered about the floor of the room, and besides there were

piles of bars and irregular masses of valuable metal lying around loose. Two pieces of the melted mass, with a length each of about three feet, a width of eighteen inches, and weighing one hundred pounds, looking like a section of frozen clay bristling with oysters. These oysters were twenty dollar pieces, Mexican dollars and half dollars of American coinage, with dimes and half dimes for young oysters, and iron spikes, bits of brass and steel, to represent the shell fish that are wont to burrow in the bed of the ocean, the whole forming a valuable specimen of crustacea. In some instances the coins are only welded together in rolls, and at other times they form one lava like gob. The melted matter and the coins are of a deep green color. The large bags of bullions were less affected by the fire than the coins, and do not appear to have lost much in weight. The metal is to be re-coined. Two twenty-dollar pieces in the lot were kindly donated to the representatives of the press, who were among the reliable persons present, and had not the coins been welded to a bar, they would have been taken away. Three hundred thousand dollars worth of treasure, half melted, colored by fire and the action of the water, is a curiosity that few people have ever had an opportunity to see. Even an audacious and enterprising Barnum could not give such a show.

A SAD TRUTH.—The rose of Florida, the most beautiful of flowers, emits no fragrance; the bird of Paradise, the most beautiful of birds, gives no song; the cypress of Greece, the finest of trees, yields no fruit; dandies, the shiniest of men, have no sense; and ballroom belles, the loveliest creatures in the world, are very often ditto. Perfection exists not under the sun.

DIGITAL ARITHMETIC.—The following paragraph is going the round of the Indian papers: "The Chinese have the most ingenious method of reckoning by the aid of the fingers, performing all the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, with numbers from one up to one thousand. Every finger of the left hand represents nine figures, as follows: The little finger represents units, the ring finger tens, the middle finger hundreds, the fore finger thousands, the thumb tens of thousands. When the three joints of each finger are touched from the palm toward the tip they count one, two and three of each of the denominations above named. Four, five and six are counted on the back of the finger joints in the same way; seven, eight and nine are counted on the right side of the joints from the palm to the tip. The fore finger of the right hand is used as a pointer. Thus, 1, 2, 3, 4 would be indicated by first touching the joint of the fore finger, next the hand on the inside; next the middle joint of the middle finger on the inside; next the end joint of the ring finger on the inside, and finally the joint of the little finger next the hand on the outside. The reader will be able to make further examples for himself."

IMPORTANT NOTICE—We will issue about April 1st, the *Amateur Journalist's Companion*, a book of one hundred pages which is intended to be the finest, best, and most complete Amateur Guide ever issued. Fifteen portraits of distinguished Amateurs will be presented. Besides the above, it will contain a complete history of Amateur Journalism. A full list of all the Amateur Authors, Editors, Printers, Publishers and Engravers in the United States, with *nom de plume*, &c., &c., besides much more interesting

matter. Notwithstanding all these attractions, the price has been fixed at the extreme low price of 50 cents per copy. All Amateurs, Editors, Authors, Printers, Publishers and Engravers are respectfully requested to send their name, age, *nom de plume*, (if any,) name of paper, (if any,) and what position they occupy as an Amateur.

Address all communications to

CROPPER & MADDEN,
LOUISVILLE, Ky. No. 461 Fourth St

Speaking of the statue which, it has been decided, is to be erected in Vienna to Beethoven, the Brussels Guide Musical says that some persons affirm it may possibly be inaugurated during the approaching Grand Exhibition year. This assertion, however, is open to considerable doubt. Our contemporary goes on to remark: It must be acknowledged that the city of Vienna is as fitting a locality for a statue of Beethoven as Bonn. Beethoven quitted his native town at a very early age. It was at Vienna that he terminated his musical studies; it was at Vienna that his genius was developed; it was at Vienna that he lived, that he produced his immortal works, and that he died. His statue could not be erected more appropriately anywhere else. All Europe will take part in this act of homage, as it took part in that at Bonn. Such an artist as Beethoven may well be glorified twice. Bonn had but one reminiscence, and one date of which to boast. At Vienna everything will speak of Beethoven himself, of his career and of his works. Beethoven is not the only composer to whom a statue has been raised in other places than his native town. Long before Mons paid such tribute of admiration and gratitude to Lassus, a bronze statute of the author of the "Peniten-

ithential Psalms" was erected in one of the public squares of Munich, at the expense of the king of Bavaria. Munich was the adopted city of Lassus, as Vienna was that of Beethoven. As a chapel-master of Albert III. and William, dukes of Bavaria, it was in their capital that Lassus spent the greater part of his long and laborious career. Munich is, as it were, his home; but, for all that, Mons has not forfeited the right of honoring his memory. In a word, the home of a great man is every spot where he has left grand memorials, and where his genius was properly appreciated.

EARLY DENTISTRY.—The practice of dentistry can hardly be included in the modern arts; for as early as 500 years B. C., gold was used for filling teeth, and gold wire was employed to hold artificial teeth in position, and does not seem to have been a new art. A fragment of the teeth of the Roman tables, 450 B. C., has reference to the burial of any gold with the dead, except that found around the teeth. Herodotus declares that the Egyptians had a knowledge of the diseases of the teeth and their treatment 2000 B. C. In Martial, Casseifus is mentioned as either filling or extracting teeth, but he specified that he would not polish false teeth with tooth powder. Lucian mentions an old maid who had but four teeth and they were fastened in with gold.

About seven miles from Mount Vernon stands the ruins of Pohick Church. The site on which the building stands was selected by George Washington, who for years regularly rode over from his estate and attended church there, and took a deep interest in the affairs of its parish. At present there is an effort being made to restore the edifice to its or-

iginal simple beauty, thus preserving from complete decay one of the relics of the past with its pleasant associations. During the war, when Fairfax County was so long occupied by both armies, the old church furnished shelter for the Union soldiers. The chancel, communion table and tablets of the laws still remain quite perfect, but the roof is giving way, the wide door stands open, and through it the "beast of the field and the fowl of the air" pass in and out. It will cost but a few thousands to repair it, and this amount is rapidly being raised.

In the Jardin des Plantes a favorite has died, and its death has been followed by real mourning—an acacia tree, taken from America and planted there two hundred and thirty seven years ago, and under whose branches one generation of children after another has played. This spring it died, but from one of its roots came up a fresh, vigorous shoot, much to the delight of the children, who formed a procession to the dead tree to tell of the discovery. Another old favorite was a swan, which was brought from Stuttgart by Louis XVIII, and which has lately died. She at one time belonged to the Countess Diana de Maurepas, from which she received the name of Diana. Charles X took her to Compiègne, but she suffered so with home sickness that she had to be returned to the Tuileries.

Thomas Moran will soon be represented in Queen Victoria's gallery at Windsor. A series of water-color drawings from the Yellowstone region, and which includes in parcels the principal features of Moran's landscape lately purchased by the government for the Capitol, with many other studies, in all some two score, have been obtained by an English purchaser with the intention of ultimate presentation to Queen Victoria. They are rapid, racy, powerful, romantic specimens of water-color sketching, showing in each example facilities that any artist ought to glory in.

COIN AND PAPER.

It is a rather curious fact that the only coin now in current use on this continent, which is not round, is the fifty dollar gold piece struck for California, which is octagonal in shape. All the coins in Europe are round. In Japan they have oblong wedges of silver. It is curious, too, that for many years money has been made out of paper, when leather or cloth would seem to be more durable. Yet paper when representing coin, lasts a great while, and not unfrequently the Bank of England receives a note of extraordinary age; and the Bank of Bengal, in India, was recently called upon to pay several thousand pounds of notes so old that none of the present generation could remember the pattern.

It is also worthy of remark, that gems and precious stones have never been used for money, nor has platinum or any other metals taken the place of gold. In Africa a species of shell forms the circulating medium, the value of which fluctuates sometimes twenty per cent. a week. But all civilized countries have gold as the standard of money value, and other circulating mediums are but the representatives of the great standard. Only the Hindoo has ever learned to attest the coin accurately by the hand.

Of all gold coinage, that of England is perhaps the most beautiful. A new, fresh gold sovereign is probably as graceful and attractive a coin as exists. Next to it, the American eagle is the most elegant gold coin. The twenty-franc pieces of the present kingdom of Italy are also very neat.

The most beautiful silver coinage is that of Russia, each piece being in itself a work of art, so finely and elaborately is the die cut. On the other hand, the

ugliest silver coinage is that of the free city of Hamburg; each piece adulterated and poorly cut, is usually found encrusted with dirt and filth, and looking a refuse fragment of tin. The silver coinage of Germany is very bad also. In Italy—excepting the portion subject to the Pope and Emperor of Austria—the franc piece is taking the place of former coins, though the local coinage of the former duchies of Parma and Modena still infests these portions of the country. Naples also retains in retail traffic the complicated coins in use under the Bourbon rule.

Perhaps the neatest paper money in the world is that of Greece, which is manufactured by American engravers and workmen. The old bank currency of this country is often very elegant. The worst and most wretched paper money in the world is the five-kreutzer note of Austria, printed on a soft, thick, grayish paper, which has a faculty of washing and rubbing away like ordinary blotting paper. But nearly as bad is the postal with which, for our sins, we are now afflicted. He who steals a purse full of our five and ten cent notes frayed, dirty, worn and illegible—does, indeed, steal “trash.”—*Evening Post.*

ALBIGENSES.—A name common to several sects, particularly the Cathari and Waldenses, who agree in opposing the Romish hierarchy, endeavoring to restore the simplicity of primitive Christianity. They endured the severest persecutions, and after the middle of the thirteenth century the name of Albigenses altogether disappeared; but fugitives of their party formed, in the mountains of Piedmont and Lombardy, what is called the French Church, which was continued through the Waldenses, to the era of the Reformation.

MAKING MONEY.

Double Eagles and Half-Dollar Pieces by the Million--
An Hour in the San Francisco Branch Mint.

One of the most interesting places in the city is the branch mint, where the wealth of our miners receive the stamp of Uncle Sam before it goes abroad to infuse new vigor into the channels of trade and commerce. Having passed the ordeal of a sentinel seated at the entrance of the building a *Chronicle* reporter entered and proceeded to inspect the various processes through which the precious metals pass before becoming gold and silver coin of the United States.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Here deposits are received and accounted for. There are two ponderous pairs of scales, on one of which are weighed heavy deposits, and on the other light ones, although the richest of our readers would not be discontented on receiving as a gift all that the smaller scales can weigh. The greatest capacity of the large scales is 5,000 ounces, and that of the smaller, 2,000 ounces; either, however, will weigh a particle as small as the one thousandth part of an ounce.

The bullion having been weighed by the clerk, and its weight being recorded, is delivered over to the treasurer, from whose possession it passes down stairs to the smelting room, where it is melted and re-weighed, and sent up stairs to the assaying room. Its fitness being ascertained, it is again sent to the treasury department, its value calculated, and the amount paid to the depositor. Deposits of any amount over six ounces are received. On the day of our visit there had been received eight bars, aggregating in value \$26,000.

THE MELTING ROOM,

hot enough to deserve its name, is a

small apartment, crowded with workmen, and containing various fierce furnaces and utensils. The floor is covered with grating, which can be taken up. This is to allow the fine particles of gold that may be separated during the process of melting, etc., to collect on the floor beneath, which is swept at stated times, and the value of the gold thus saved is said to amount to a large sum annually.

The deposit furnaces are twelve feet long, with four openings tended by two melters. In each opening are placed two cupels. The melting occupies from ten minutes to an hour, according to the quantity. The melted metal is then poured into molds, and the bars are returned to the treasury department, weighed, assayed, sent to the refinery on Brannan street to be refined, and thence returned to the melting room and melted in the ingot furnace for purpose of alloy. The alloy of gold is made up of two parts of silver, eight parts of pure copper and nine parts of gold. The alloy for silver consists of one part of copper and nine parts of silver. Having the proper alloy, and being now fitted to be made into coin, the metal next undergoes the process of

ROLLING AND ANNEALING.

The rolling is done in an apartment in the rear of the melting room. The visitor is bewildered at first by a multitude of machines. The first two are called the rolling mill, which are used to convert into flat pieces like ribbons, of the thickest coin to be made.

Annealing is done in an apartment in the basement. The process is a very interesting one. The golden ribbons or "planchets," as they are called, are put in furnaces till they become of a white heat, when they are taken out and immersed in a bath.

After being rolled and annealed, these planchets are taken to the

CUTTING ROOM,

where they are prepared for milling and coining. They are first weighed, then run through a pointing machine, then through a drawing bench. They are then cut into the proper size and shape by a die, which cuts 150 in a minute. They then go to the

COINER'S ROOM

in the second story, and are subjected to the process of milling, which is no other than thickening the edges and giving the unstamped coin the proper shape. The machine will stamp 240 double eagles a minute. Being milled, each coin has to be stamped with the insignia of Uncle Sam. The dies has a pressure of 185 tons on double eagles. The coin is stamped on both sides at the same time.

In an adjoining room are twenty-five female employes who are employed in testing the weight of the newly made coins, their work being enlivened with merry chat and musical laughter. If the coins are found to be of proper weight they are ready for the use of commerce; otherwise they are sent back to be remelted.

DEPOSITORS

receive in coin the value of the bullion they deposit, less the expenses of the coinage. It is popularly supposed to be the coin made from the bars or dust they have handed in, but this, of course, is a fiction. Thus it is that there is always a stream of unrefined bullion passing into the mint and a stream of coin passing out. Its coffers are continually being depleted and replenished.

Our branch mint furnishes the

COMMERCIAL LIFE BLOOD

of the coast, and, in a large degree, of the nation. Of \$800,320,000.16 in gold coin issued from the mints of the United

States since 1798, the San Francisco mint, from 1854 to 1872, issued \$311,757,218.28, or more than three eighths of the total amount—a sum much more easy to name than to comprehend. During the year 1871 our mint turned out \$24,880,241.27, or more than two thirds of the total coinage of the United. By far the greater proportion of it was gold, the silver coinage only amounting to \$518,351.91. The whole number of double-eagles coined was 383,000, worth \$17,660,000.

The mint was first opened in 1854, and since then the total amount of gold and silver coinage has been \$321,374,185.47. Last year was the most active of all, save 1856. The silver coinage was done in 1855. The greatest amount of silver coin was issued in 1863. The total number of coins issued to the end of 1871 was 33,377,548, including 2,607,450 half dollars and 14,283,151 double eagles. The total coinage of the mint from its inauguration to September 30th, 1872, has been \$332,793,185.48, of which \$322,927,218.28 was gold. The comparative smallness of the silver coinage is accounted for by the fact that the greater portion of the silver product of the coast has been exported in the form of bullion to the East, Great Brittain and China.

During the year money has been minted here for the Government of Japan, and it is probable that this city is destined to be one of the great coinage centers of the world, and that the immense amount of bullion now exported to China and Japan, will in the future be coined before being sent to their destination.

ABOUT two and a half feet of coal gas are consumed in an hour from an ordinary burner.

DECLINE IN THE GOLD YIELD OF CALIFORNIA.

The yield of this State in precious metals is decreasing slowly but steadily. Numerous claims that have been worked by sluicing and the hydraulic process are exhausted every year, and very few are opened. The productive auriferous quartz mines are not increasing in number and importance, perhaps because many of the most intelligent and enterprising miners and mining engineers find a larger profit in the Nevada silver mines, which more than compensate by their rising importance for the decline in the yield of California. At the present the Ely District is the favorite of both miners and speculators, and the wonderful productiveness of a few mines and the richness of the ores found in a number of others contribute, with the rapid increase of yield for the last two years, to excuse, if not fully justify, the expectation that Pioche will in 1873 export more silver than Virginia City.

COST OF PROVISIONS 500 YEARS AGO.

In 1314, according to ancient records, the following prices were paid for agricultural produce in England:

A corn-fed fat ox, \$6; one not corn-fed but fat, \$5; a fat cow, \$3; a three year-old fat hog, 80 cents; a fat sheep, 27 cents; a goose, 5 cents; a hen, 2 cents; a pair of chickens, 5 cents; eggs, one cent per dozen. At the same time a laborer earned $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents per day. At the present price of labor—not quite 50 cents per day—an English laborer is not nearly so well off now as five hundred years ago.

LIGHT comes from the sun in about eight minutes; hence, light travels at the rate 200,000 miles per second. According to La Place, the motion of gravitation is 50,000 times swifter than the motion of light.

THE PRICE OF REBELLION.

The whole cost of the war to the Northern and Southern States, from 1861 to 1865, is estimated as follows: Lives 1,000,000; property by destruction, waste, etc., \$9,000,000,000. The gross expenditures of the United States from June, 1861, to July, 1866, were \$5,792,257,000. Of this the actual war expenses were about \$5,352,237,000. The expense of State, counties, cities and towns in the Northern States not represented by funded debts have been estimated at \$500,000,000. The increase of State debts on the war account was \$123,000,000. The increase of city, town and county debts is estimated at \$200,000,000. Total war expenses of the loyal States and National Government, \$6,165,237,000. The estimated direct expenditures of the Confederate States on account of the war were \$2,000,000,000. Aggregate estimated expenses of the war to the country, North and South, \$8,165,237,000.

A CORNER IN GEOGRAPHY.

From the Concord (N. H.) Patriot.

The little island in the Connecticut at Woodsville is a piece of patchwork so far as geography is concerned. The Vermont and New Hampshire State line runs through it. Grafton, Caledonia and Orange counties corner there, and towns of Bath and Haverhill in New Hampshire, and Ryegate and Newbury in Vermont. One can sit down at a certain point in that island and be in two States three counties and four towns at the same time, that is, if he gets exactly on the "certain point."

LAKE Superior is 240 miles long in diagonal, 170 broad, 900 feet deep, and 624 feet above the level of the Atlantic at high water; or 64 feet above Lake Erie.

ANABAPTISTS.—This sect rose about A. D. 1525, and was known in England before 1549. John, of Leydon, Muncer, Storck, and other German enthusiasts, about the time of the Reformation, spread its doctrines. The anabaptists of Munster (who are, of course, properly distinguished from the existing mild sect of this name in England,) taught that infant baptism was a contrivance of the devil, that there is no original sin, that men have a free will in spiritual things, and other doctrines still more wild and absurd. Munster, they called Mount Zion, and one Mathias, a baker, was declared to be the king of Zion. Their enthusiasm led them to the maddest practices, and they, at length, rose in arms under pretence of gospel liberty. Munster was taken about fifteen months afterwards, and they were all put to death. The anabaptists of England differ from other Protestants in little more than their not baptizing their children, as appears by a confession of faith, published by the representatives of above 100 of their congregation, in 1689.

FACTIONS.—Among the Romans, factions were parties that fought on chariots in the cirque, and who were distinguished by their different colors, a green blue, red and white, to which Demitian added two others, one in coats, embroidered with gold, a second wearing scarlet, about A. D. 90. Both the emperors and people had generally greater inclination for some particular color than upon the rest: but upon a quarrel happening in Justinian's reign, between the blue and green, when 40,000 were killed on both sides, the name of faction was abolished. With us, faction means a party or sect in religious or civil matters, and is always taken in an ill sense.

SALT MINES.—The salt springs of Cheshire and Droitwich, of England, contain 22 per cent. of salt. At Norwich, also, is a bed of solid salt. In most countries salt rock is below the surface; but in Spain, &c., it is above. The salt mountain of Cordova is 300 feet high. In the Tyrol, the salt galleries are horizontal in a mountain. In Peru, salt mines exist 10,000 feet above the sea. The Cheshire (England) beds of red salt rock are 20 to 30 yards thick, between immense beds of limestone, sandstone, clay, and other thick mineral bodies. At Cracow, the mines extend several miles in vast caverns, sustained by pillars of salt, and have been wrought for twelve centuries. Salt is either a result of dissipation of salt lakes, or an accumulation of horizontal strata carried into recesses by tides.

HUMAN STRENGTH.—Absolute force of pressure with the hands was found by the dynamometer of Regnier, to be on an average, equal to 110 lbs., and the absolute force of man, lifting with both hands, 286 lbs. The greatest average load which a man can support on his shoulders for some seconds is reckoned at 330 lbs., and it is supposed he can exert the same force in drawing vertically downwards. The mean absolute strength of man in drawing or pulling horizontally, is found by the dynamometer, to be 110 lbs. The force of pull in the strongest man was found to be only 20 lbs more than the average.

AMEN.—This word is as old as the Hebrew itself. In that language it means *true, faithful, certain*. Employed in devotions at the end of a prayer, it implies *so be it*; at the termination of a creed, *so it is*. It has been generally used, both in the Jewish and Christian churches, at the conclusion of prayer.

GAS.—The inflammable aeriform fluid was first evolved from coal by Dr. Clayton, in 1739. Its application to the purposes of illumination was first tried by Mr. Murdock, in Cornwall, in 1782. The first display of gaslights was made at Boulton & Watt's foundry, in Birmingham, on the occasion of the lamps and candles at the cotton mills of Phillips & Lee, Manchester, where 1,000 burners were lighted, 1805. Gaslights were first introduced in London, at Goldenlane, August 16, 1807. They were used in lighting Pall Mall, in 1809; and were general through London in 1814. They were first used in Dublin in 1816, and the streets were generally lighted in 1825. The gas-pipes in and around London extend to 1,160 miles. The streets in New York (the first in the United States) first lighted with gas, 1823.

FAIRS AND WAKES.—They are of Saxon origin, and were first instituted in England by Alfred, A. D. 886. They were established by order of Gregory VII, in 1709, and termed *Feria*, at which the monks celebrated the festival of their patron saint; the vast resort of people occasioned a great demand for goods, wares, etc. They were called wakes from the people making merry during the vigil, or eve. Fairs were established in France and England by Charlemagne and William the Conqueror, about A. D. 800 in the first, and 1071 in the latter kingdom. The fairs of Beaucaire, Falaise and Leipsic are the most famous in Europe.

EPHORE.—Powerful magistrates of Sparta, first created by Theopompus to control the royal power, 760 B. C. They were five in number, and acting as censors in the state, they could check and restrain the authority of the kings, and even imprison them, when they were guilty of any irregularities.

FABII.—A noble and powerful family at Rome, who derived their name from *faba*, a bean, because some of their ancestors cultivated this pulse; they were said to be descended from Fabius, a supposed son of Hercules, and were once so numerous that they took upon themselves to wage war against the Veientes. They came to a general engagement near the Cremera, in which all the family, consisting of 306 men, were slain, B. C., 477. There only remained one, whose tender age had detained him at Rome, and from him arose the noble Fabii in the following ages.

AMENDE HONORABLE, originated in France in the ninth century. It was first an infamous punishment inflicted on traitors and sacrilegious persons: the offender was delivered into the hands of the hangman; his shirt was stripped off, a rope put about his neck, and a taper in his hand; he was then led into court, and was obliged to pray for pardon of God, the king and the country. Death or banishment sometimes followed. *Amende honorable*, is now a term used for making recantation in open court, or in the presence of the injured party.

EPICUREAN PHILOSOPHY.—Epicurus of Gargettus, near Athens, was the founder of it, about 300 B. C. and taught that greatest good consists in happiness, springing not from sensual gratifications or vicious pleasures, but from virtue, and consisting in the peace and harmony of the soul with itself. His disciples had all things in common; and the pleasantness of his system, and its ease and luxury, made him many followers.

AN active man, well skilled, and working under every advantage, can raise 10 lbs. 10 feet in a second for 10 hours in a day, or 100 lbs. one foot in a second.

EPOCHS.—These are periods in history which are agreed upon and acknowledged by the respective historians and chronologers, and which serve to regulate the date of events. The following are the epochs thus particularly adopted:

Creation	- - -	B. C. 4004	Building of Rome	B. C. 753
Deluge	- - -	2348	Nabonassar	- - - 747
Calling of Abraham	1921	The Seleucidæ	- - -	312
Argonautic expedition	- - -	1225	The Christian era	A. D. 1
Destruction of Troy	1184	Diocletian	- - - -	281
1st Olympiad	- - -	776		

ALUM, is said to have been first discovered at Rocha, in Syria, about A. D. 1300; it was found in Tuscany, in 1460; was brought to perfection in England, in 1668; was discovered in Ireland, in 1757; and Anglesey, in 1790. Alum is a salt used as a mordant in tanning; it is used also to harden tallow, and to whiten bread. It may be made of pure clay exposed to vapors of sulphuric acid and sulphate of potash added to the ley; but it is usually obtained by means of ore called allum-slate.

FABLES.—Jotham's fable of the trees is the oldest extant, and as beautiful as any made since. Nathan's fable of the poor man is next to antiquity. The earliest collection of fables extant is of eastern origin, and preserved in the Sanscrit. The fables of Vishnoo Sarma, called Pilpay, are the most beautiful, if not the most ancient in the world. The well-known Æsop's fables were written about 540 years B. C.

AMAZONIA, discovered by Francisco Orellana, in 1580. Coming from Peru, Orellana sailed down the river Amazon to the Atlantic, and observing companies of women in arms on its banks, he called the country Amazonia, and gave the name of Amazon to the river, which had previously been called Maranon.

EPITHALAMIUM.—Tisias, the lyric poet was the first writer of a nuptial complimentary song, or epithalamium. He received the name of Stesichorus from the alterations made by him in music and dancing, 536 B. C.

EPISCOPACY.—The government, by its bishops, of the Christian church. It may be said to have been instituted A. D. 33, when Peter sat in the bishop's chair at Rome. Episcopacy commenced in England in the second century; in Ireland about the same time, and in Scotland about the fourth century; but historians dispute with the theologians upon this point. In Scotland episcopacy was finally abolished at the period of the revolution, 1688-9. The sect called Episcopalians first appeared about the year 500.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH, in the United States.—Episcopacy established in New York by law, 1603; introduced into Connecticut, 1706. The first bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America were Bishop White of Pennsylvania and Provost of New York, consecrated in London, in 1787. First Episcopal convention in 1789. Bishops of Vermont, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Ohio consecrated at New York, Nov. 2, 1832.

SOUND.—Sound travels through 1,142 feet in a second, or 13 miles in a minute. The time taken for the passage of sound, in the interval between seeing a flash of lightning or that of a gun and hearing the report, may be observed by a watch or a seconds pendulum; or it may be determined by the beating of the pulse, counting on an average, about 70 to a minute for persons in moderate health, or $5\frac{1}{2}$ pulsations to one mile.

ABYSSINIAN GOLD—This alloy consists of ninety-one parts copper and eight parts zinc. It is beaten out in sheets, and very thin layers of gold are made to adhere by hammering; the articles are then worked in the ordinary way. Articles plated in this manner have won a superiority over galvanically plated ones.

A ROD of wrought iron one inch square and three feet long, weighs 10.08 lbs. A rod of cast iron of the same dimensions, weighs 9.663 lbs. A circular rod of wrought iron, an inch in diameter, and 3 feet long, weighs 7.89 lbs., and of cast iron, 7.567 lbs. In converting iron into steel, a hundred weight of iron combines with from 4 to 12 ounces of carbon; the former proportion producing very mild steel, and the latter being the maximum dose for any useful purpose.

EPHESUS.—Famous for the temple of Diana, which magnificent structure was one of the seven wonders of the world; it was 425 feet long and 200 broad, and cost 220 years of labor. Ctesiphon was the chief architect, and 127 kings contributed to its grandeur. The temple was burnt by Erostratus, solely to perpetuate his memory, 356 B. C. It rose from its ruins, and was richer and more splendid than before; but it was again burnt A. D. 260.

ANCHORITES.—Paul, Anthony, and Hilarian were the first anchorites. Many of the early anchorites lived in caves and deserts, and practised great austerities. Some were analogous to the fakirs, who impose voluntary punishments upon themselves as atonement for their sins, and as being acceptable to God; and their modes of torture were often extravagant and criminal. The order first arose in the fourth century.

FUR.—The refined nations of antiquity never used furs; in latter times, as luxury advanced, they were used by princes as lining for their tents. They were worn by the first Henry, about A. D. 1125. Edward III. enacted that all such persons as could not spend £100 a year should be prohibited this species of finery, 1337.

ROUNDELAY.—A sort of ancient poem, consisting of thirteen verses, of which eight are in one kind of rhyme, and five in another. It is divided into couplets; at the end of the second and third of which, the beginning of the poem is repeated, and that, if possible, is an equivocal of punning sense. Roundelay also signifies a song or tune in which the first strain is repeated, and a kind of dance.

AGRARIAN LAWS.—Statutes which forbid the possession of more than a certain extent of land by any single individual. The law of the Romans, called, by way of eminence, the agrarian law, was published by Spurious Cassius about the year of Rome 268, enjoining a division of the conquered lands, in equal parts, among the citizens, and limiting the number of acres that each might enjoy.

ALBINOS, OR LEUCAETHIOPS.—A variety of the human species that frequently occurs in Africa. The Portuguese first gave the name of Albino to the white negroes, and they formerly described them as a distinct race but modern naturalists have discovered them in various countries in Europe, viz, in Switzerland, among the Savoyards in the valley of Chamouni; in France, in Tyrol, &c.

EPITAPHS.—They were used by the ancient Jews, by the Athenians, the Romans and most of the nations of antiquity; their date is referred in England to the earliest times. In the epitaphs of the ancients arose the epigram.

BODIES which refract most, reflect most, or are most splendid. The local atmosphere, which increases one, increases the other. Impressions on the eye are permanently continuous which are repeated seven times in a second.

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THE MONEY OF ANTIOCHUS VI, KING OF SYRIA.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL.D., SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN HOLY LAND EXPLORATION.



At the request of my esteemed friend, Mr. Andrus, I take pleasure in furnishing for the columns of the CURIOSITY HUNTER, a first-class cut of a coin struck by the renowned king of Syria, born, about B. C., 156. His father, Alexander Batas, was murdered B. C., 146, and the next year Antiochus was brought forward by Tryphon, his father's chief general, to the throne. References to the young ruler are found in *I. Maccabees*, XI., 54: "After which returned Tryphon, and with him the young child Antiochus, who reigned; and was crowned."

The name usually given to this prince was Ephanes signifies the Illustrious. He also took the sir-name of Theos (God) or claiming descent from Antiochus Theos of that name.

The unhappy youth was but a tool in the hands of his ambitious general, who put him to death after two years reign, and assumed the throne in his stead.

The history of this is sufficiently stated in *I. Maccabees*, XIII., 31, 32: "Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully with the young King Antiochus and slew him,

and he reigned in his stead and crowned himself King of Asia; and brought a great calamity upon the land of Judea." Josephus gives the same history in *Antiquities XIII*, 1: "Tryphon was no longer firm to Antiochus, but contrived by subtilty to kill him and then take possession of his kingdom."

Look then upon the head of this young king adorned with a radiant crown, facing to the right, as it appears stamped upon a stater, or 60 cent silver piece. The coin is a perfect one in every respect, even to the date, and displays the first-class talent of the Greek artist who made it. How beautiful the beading in the border; what an ingenious expression upon the face of the youth! No money of the present day can make such a piece of work.

On the reverse or tail side of our tetradrochm, we have first the date in Greek letters under the border TH. E. R. As our friend Mr. Andrus has no ancient form Greek in his cases, we will give the names: *Theta, Eta, Rho*. That stands for 169, as everybody knows, this means the 169th year of the *Selencidum* Era,

which began October 1, B. C. 312 the establishment of the Syrian Empire by Selencus Nicomars. This makes our coin to be dated B. C. 148; the same year the poor prince was murdered. Its present age, therefore, is 2016 years, a venerable piece of money.

The name of the king is seen in the four remaining lines—I give it in Roman letters: Basileos, Antiochou, Epeitiphous, Dionusius; that is to say: The money of the King Antiochous, Epi-phonos, Dionysius.

The letters of Tryph(on) show that his aspiring general, Tryphon, was preparing, even then to dispossess him.

The two horsemen represent the Dioscuri, or the twins Castor and Pollux, seen very frequently upon Roman money, and always denoted by a star over the horsemen.

The sign of Castor and Pollux, it will be remembered was that of the vessel on which St. Paul embarked from Malta to Rome. "And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle (of Malta) whose sign was Castor and Pollux—*Acts' XXVIII, I.* In the margin it reads—from the Greek *Dioscuri*—that is Jupiters sons. As this was A. D. 63, or 206 years after our coin was struck, it will be seen how common was the use of that emblem.

Did time and space permit, it would be easy to enlarge our remarks upon this beautiful coin.

COINS AND THEIR RELATION TO HISTORY.

BY MISS CLARA DAY,
Of West Rockford High School.

As soon as nations emerge from a state of barbarism, when simple barter no longer suffices to meet their wants, they invent some common standard of value by which to exchange their products, or carry on their commerce.

In some countries in former times, salt was the standard of exchange, in others shells. Coined money is not mentioned by Homer, which he would not have omitted, had it then existed, for his great poem is a sort of encyclopaedia of the state of civilization in his time, but instead he says that an ox was exchanged for a bar of brass three feet long, and that a woman who understood several useful arts was considered worth five oxen. But as the necessities of nations multiplied, and their commerce extended, they desired something less bulky and more durable as a medium of exchange. From a very early period metals, possessing that character in a high degree, were chosen to perform these important functions. The Angel was the name of a gold coin first used in France, and introduced into England in the reign of Edward IV. It was impressed with the image of St. Michael and the dragon, whence its name. The Angel was well known in the days of Shakespeare, who used the term in various plays, as, "Here are the Angels that you sent for to deliver you,"—*[Comedy of Errors, Act IV., Scene III.]* As historical records, coins have proved themselves of the highest importance.

The Greeks if not inventors of coinage were the means of the early extension of a circulating medium in this form, and on their earliest coins we find records of the migration, mythology, manners and state of civilization of this great and interesting people. On one of the most ancient gold coins, the migration of the Phocian colony to Asia Minor, is recorded in an unmistakable manner, by what has been termed a "speaking type." Stephen, of Byzantium, relates that the ships these Greeks were on their voyage, followed by an immense number of seals, and it was

probably on this account, that the city they founded, received the name of Phocæa, from the Greek name of a seal, and they adopted the seal as the type or badge of their coinage. Thus from a single coin, we obtain the corroboration of the legend of the swarm of seals, of the immigration of the Phocians, and also contemporary evidence of the state of Greek art at that period.

At a later period it became customary to place the name of the chief magistrate, on the public money, and we have thus preserved to us, many names of great interest. Some Athenian coins record the performance of national games, especially those having a torch on the reverse, which is an allusion to the games celebrated three times a year, in honor of Prometheus and Vulcan, on which occasion such coins were struck.

In the late coins of the Greek series more purely historical interests are awakened, and when we examine the coins of Alexander the Great, and of the chiefs who reduced the vast province of his empire into independent kingdoms, we feel the reality of those great events, brought more vividly before us, than by any written records.

Those relics, with the portraits and names of the great Ptolemy, Seleucus, and Lysimachus, open up a striking picture of that age, and bear indisputable testimony to the truth of the principal written records, which have come down to us. They have also, brought to light other events of which no written record exists. Such of the Greek domination in Bactria, a nearly complete series of the coins of Greek princes of that portion of Asia, having been recently discovered, restoring to the world a lost history, and possibly the means of deciphering a lost language. Some of the inscriptions on this im-

portant series being in two languages. But the Roman series, may perhaps, from the number of undoubted portraits and the variety of great events recorded on its coins be considered of the highest historical importance. In addition to the illustration of history and of general civilization which they convey, the coins of Greece and of Rome form in themselves a complete history of art, from its earliest development to the highest excellence it ever attained in the age of Grecian splendor. We may trace on the Roman series the gradual decline of art, with the decay of the empire, until, with the complete prostration of Roman power in the West, art became nearly extinct, to revive after a dormant period, in the quaint but energetic character known as the Gothic.

The great interest of the study of ancient coins, began to be perceived with the revival of learning in the fifteenth century, and small collections were made at this early period; the first on record being that of the celebrated Petrarch.

Francis the first of France, laid the foundation of the great French collection, now the finest in Europe.

HONORS.

Greece, in the heroic times, rendered to all her great generals and captains some liberal reward as a proof of the public approbation and respect. This was sometimes offered in the shape of a vase of gold, or of silver tripod, or some other valuable article either of utility or of mere ornament. Similar rewards were conceded to the victorious Roman leaders in the shape of a triumph or ovation. Nor was it to military merit alone that the ancients decreed honors; the Fine Arts were made objects of national regard and encouragement. Phil-

osophy, eloquence, painting, poetry, music, sculpture, architecture, were each enabled to aspire to the highest distinction. The Lacedæmonians, ever, although their education was decidedly warlike, erected statues to the poet Tyræus. At the celebrated public games in Sparta, prizes were distributed to the most successful amongst the poets and musicians. Athens erected a statue to Solon, to Socrates, and an infinity of others. To Homer temples were raised; and various poets and artists received crowns, prerogatives, and often the rights of citizenship. The Athenians inscribed upon the front of their temples the names of the able architects who designed them. The town of Pergamus purchased with the public funds a place for Apelles. The Eleans, for whom Phidias executed the statue of Jupiter Olympus, in honor for the memory of the artist, and in respect for the surpassing beauty of his work, erected, in favor of his descendants, a lucrative office, of which the only duty consisted in taking care of, and keeping free from blemish that celebrated piece of art. In the times of the republic, by the Romans, amongst whom the use of arms constituted the chief, nay, the only species of merit few testimonies of esteem were awarded to the practisers of the Fine Arts. They affixed no honorable distinction to the successful architect, painter, or sculptor, inasmuch as these peaceful avocations were, for the most part, cultivated either by slaves or freedmen. It was not until the reign of Augustus Cæsar that the Arts were duly honored. On the revival of intellectual energy, after the darkness of the middle ages, the Arts were liberally encouraged. Michael Angelo was high in favor with the fierce Julius II. Raphael was greatly beloved

by Leo X.; and the emperor Maximilian became the warm patron of Albert Durer, whom he ennobled. Leonardo da Vinci died in the arms of Francis I. Rubens enjoyed the highest consideration, and was entrusted with important negotiations both by Philip IV. of Spain and Charles II. of England. Even the stern Henry VIII. was a mild and kind master to Holbein; and the illustrious name of Medici will at once recall the zeal of that princely family for the cultivation of Fine Art.

HUGUENOT, a French word used after the year 1560, as an appellation for a Protestant. Its origin, and consequently its liberal meaning, has received various explanations. Their history forms an important feature in the annals of persecution. The religious prejudices of the people were kept alive by contending political factions, till France was nearly desolated by what was termed "religious wars," and at length a dreadful massacre of the Huguenots took place on St. Bartholomew's day, 1572. Henry IV., 1598, protected them by the edict of Nantes; but Louis XIV., 1685, revoked this edict, in consequence of which 500,000 Huguenots fled to Switzerland, Germany, Holland, England and America, where their industry and wealth found a welcome reception.

CHICK IN THE EGG.

The hen has scarcely sat on the egg twelve hours, when we begin already to discover in it some lineaments of the head and body of the chicken that is to be born. The head appears to beat at the end of the day; at the end of forty-eight hours, two vessicles of blood can be distinguished, the pulsation of which is very visible. At the fiftieth hour, an auricle of the heart appears, and resem-

bles a lace, or noose folded down upon itself. At the end of seventy hours, we distinguish the wings, and on the head two bubbles for the brain; one for the bill, and two others for the fore part and hind part of the head; the liver appears towards the fifth day. At the end of one-hundred and thirty hours, the first voluntary motion is observed. At the end of one-hundred and thirty-eight hours the lungs and stomach become visible; at the end of one-hundred and forty-two, the intestines, the loins, and the upper jaw. The seventh day, the brain, which was slimy, begins to have some consistence. At the 190th hour of incubation, the bill opens and the flesh appears in the breast. At the 194th, the sternum is seen, that is to say, the breast-bone. At the 210th, the ribs come out of the back, the bill is visible, as well as the gall bladder. The bill becomes green at the end of two hundred and thirty-six hours; and if the chick is taken out of its covering, it evidently moves itself. The feathers begin to shoot out towards the 240th hour and the skull becomes gristly. At the 264th hour the eyes appear. At the 288th, the ribs are perfect. At the 331st, the spleen draws near to the stomach, and the lungs to the chest. At the end of three hundred and fifty-five hours the bill frequently opens and shuts; and at the end of four hundred and fifty-one hours, or the eighteenth day, the first cry of the chick is already heard; it afterwards gets more strength, and grows continually, till at last it sets itself at liberty, by opening the prison in which it is shut up. Thus it is by so many different degrees that these creatures are brought into life. All these progressions are made by rule, and there is not one of them without sufficient reason. No part of its body

could appear sooner or later without the whole embryo suffering; and each of its limbs appear at the proper moment. How manifestly is this ordination—so wise, and so invariable in the production of the animal—the work of a Supreme Being!

THE ARCHITECTURAL SKILL OF BIRDS.

When the writer resided in Central New York, a pair of Baltimore orioles were accustomed to build a nest every season on the swaying branch of some tree near the dwelling. A ladder was once ascended simply to inspect their architectural operations. The birds had chosen a forked horizontal branch from which to suspend their nest. They had found a few pieces of wrapping cord about a yard in length, one end of which had been put three times around one branch, while the other end was securely attached to the other branch, making a miniature swing. Another piece of yarn was attached to the same branches, but at different points, so that the pending portion crossed the first cord, and hung down as low.

The ends of the cords were wrapped around the branches with as much skill as an expert sailor secures the ends of his lines and hawsers. The extremities were tucked beneath the supporting cord, at the upper side of the branch, so that it was impossible for either end of the cord to slip, as the greater the weight applied where the nest was to rest, the tighter the ends of the suspension cord would be held. After these cords were secured to the branches, other cords, strings, spears of dried grass, long horsehair, and tow were woven and interlaced from cord to cord in a circular form, in a most ingenious manner. When the nest was finished, it appeared like a miniature sack about ten inches deep, suspended beneath a

forked branch. The birds entered at the top of the sack.

Naturalists assure us that the "tailor bird" of India, performs even more skillful feats than the oriole, by making the beak subserve the purpose of a needle when building a nest. After having chosen a place for a nest, and having selected two leaves of a size suited to its wants, and picked up a bit of cotton thread, it makes a hole in the leaves with the beak, and then, with the same instrument, passes a bit of the thread through the orifice, and afterwards forms a knot so as to prevent the thread from coming out. The leaves are then secured at one pair of the holes. The same operation is repeated with each set of the holes, until a sufficient number of leaves is joined to form a nest. Fastening a knot at each pair of holes, instead of uniting all by one thread, as a human seamstress would do with her needle, is a tedious task; but, as the bird has no needle, it has to work with his natural tools. Surely this operation is evidence of the existence of the excellence of some power of reasoning.

PUNS AND PUZZLES.

Stupid people who cannot make a pun, guess a riddle, or comprehend a joke without the aid of a dictionary and a day of leisure, often ridicule those who have a weakness for them. But—

"Justly the wise man thus preached to us all,"
"Despise not the value of things that are small."

Homer, it is said, died of chagrin at not being able to expound a riddle propounded by a simple fisherman: *Leaving what's taken, what we took not we bring*: Aristotle was amazingly perplexed, and Philetas, the celebrated grammarian and poet of Cos, puzzled himself to death in fruitless endeavors to solve the sophism called by the ancients, *The Liar*: "If

you say of yourself, 'I lie,' and in so saying tell the truth, you lie. If you say, 'I lie,' and in so saying tell a lie, you tell the truth." Dean Swift, who could so agreeably descend to the slightest badinage, was very fond of puzzles. Many of the best riddles in circulation may be traced to the sportive moments of men of the greatest celebrity, who gladly seek occasional relaxation from the graver pursuits of life, in comparative trifles.

Mrs. Barbauld says: Finding out riddles is the same kind of exercise for the mind as running, leaping and wrestling are for the body. They are of no use in themselves; they are not work, but play; but they prepare the body and make it alert and active for anything it may be called upon to perform. So does the finding out good riddles give quickness of thought and facility for tarring about a problem every way, and viewing it in every possible light.—*N. Y. Observer.*

THE MONSTER BELLS OF THE WORLD.

In making large bells, loudness rather than pitch is the object, as the sound can be conveyed to a much farther extent. This accounts for the enormous weight of some of the largest bells. St. Paul's, London, weighs 13,000 pounds; and the bell of Antwerp, 16,000 pounds; Oxford, 17,000 pounds; the bell at Rome, 19,000 pounds; Mcchlin, 20,000 pounds; Bruges, 23,000 pounds; York, 24,000 pounds; Cologne, 25,000 pounds; Montreal, 29,000 pounds; Erfurt, 30,000 pounds; "Big Ben" at the House of Parliament, 31,000 pounds; Sens, 34,000 pounds; Vienna, 40,000 pounds; Novgorod, 69,000 pounds; Peking, 139,000 pounds; Moscow, 141,000 pounds. But as yet the greatest bell ever known is another famous Moscow

bell, which was never hung. It was cast by the order of the Empress Anne in 1653. It lies broken on the ground, and estimated to weigh 443,772 pounds. It is nineteen feet high, and measures around the margin sixty-four feet. There are few bells of interest in the United States. The heaviest is probably the alarm bell on the City Hall, in New York, weighing about 23,000 pounds.

LAWS FOR THE MILLION.

A note dated on Sunday is void.

A note obtained by fraud, or from one intoxicated, cannot be collected.

If a note be lost or stolen, it does not release the maker—he must pay it.

An indorser of a note is exempt from liability, if not served with notice of its dishonor within twenty-four hours of its non-payment.

A note by a minor is void.

Notes bear interest only when so stated.

Principals are responsible for their agents.

Each individual in partnership is responsible for the whole amount of the debts of the firm.

Ignorance of the law excuses no one.

It is a fraud to conceal a fraud.

The law compels no one to do impossibilities.

An agreement without consideration is void.

Signatures in led pencil are good in law.

A receipt for money is not legally conclusive.

The acts of one partner bind all the others.

Contracts made on Sunday cannot be enforced.

A contract made with a miner is void.

A contract made with a lunatic is void.

At a late meeting of the California Academy of Sciences a communication was made by Mr. William H. Hall, upon the recent explorations made by him in the Amaknak Island, on the shores of Captain's Bay, in Oonalaska. While making certain excavations for the location of a signal station on the northern end of the Amaknak Island he became satisfied, from the nature of the materials brought out, that he had found the site of an ancient village, although the oldest inhabitants in the vicinity were entirely ignorant of the existence of anything of the kind.

He considers that the village must at least have antedated the Russian discovery of the Aleutian Islands in 1760; and possibly, indeed, it may be very much older. A careful examination revealed to Mr. Hall the existence of three depressions, each of which he considered to be the site of an Aleutian house of the ancient fashion—that is to say, half underground, and of sufficient size to accommodate a number of families, each having a compartment to itself. The houses were entered by a notched stick through an aperture in the middle of the roof, which afforded the only admittance to the light.

On digging the hole for the signal-staff, two stone lamps for burning seal-oil were found, made of soft porphyritic rock. When used they were filled with dry sphagnum soaked in seal-oil, which supplied both light and heat. A bone arrow-head was also obtained. Several skeletons were procured which had been partially walled up in a compartment of the house, it being the custom of the Ancient Aleuts to make this disposition of the bodies of the dead, the survivors still inhabiting their share of the house as before.

Various bones of walrus, seals, sea-li-

ons, ears, etc. together with shells of edible mollusks, were found.

Other articles of interest were bone implements, brought to a sharp edge, and probably used for dressing skins; and certain knives of a dark slate stone, shaped like a chopping-knife, spoons of carved bone with a grooved handle, awls made from the wing bones of birds, and various other objects, were secured. There was no ornamentation seen upon these articles except straight lines.

In all, Mr. Hall discovered the sites of seven villages on the island of Anan-knak alone, of which one or two only were known to tradition.

Another mode of burial detected among these prehistoric people consisted in building a wall at the foot of an overhanging cliff until the rock above was reached, and outside a bank of earth or turf covered this wall. From the cavity inside the debris was removed, and in this space, upon layers of small sticks, the bodies were piled. In one place he found six skeletons, one above another. —*Harper's Weekly*.

CLEOPATRA BEFORE CÆSAR.—There is a pretty historical legend (which may or may not be true) that when Julius Cæsar was in Egypt, fomenting civil war between the two factions of Egyptians, over one of whom Cleopatra was the head, the young and beautiful queen resorted to a stratagem to procure the sympathy and help of the Roman general. After having craved an interview with him, which had been denied, she was determined to gain access to his presence in order to work upon him through her charms. Accordingly she bade one of her slaves wrap her like a bundle, and bear her into the general's palace hall as a gift of some precious goods to be cast at his feet. She was thus admitted into Cæsar's presence—

gift-taking being a ready passport to Cæsar's heart. Then suddenly flinging off her disguises, she stood before the astonished man, invested with all the naked charms which nature gave her, set off with a few slender ornaments that served rather to enhance the richness of her perfect presence, and then and there smote him with the sweet agony of love at first sight. In other words she came; she was seen; she conquered. She out-Cæsared Cæsar.

NATIONS WITHOUT FIRE.—According to Pliny, fire was a long time unknown to some of the ancient Egyptians, and when a celebrated astronomer showed it to them, they were absolutely in raptures. The Persians, the Phoenicians, Greeks, and several other nations, acknowledged that their ancestors were once without the use of fire, and the Chinese confess the same of their progenitors. Pompanion, Mola, Plutarch, and other ancient writers, speak of nations who, at the time when they wrote knew not the use of fire, or had just learned it. Facts of the same kind are also attested by several modern nations. The inhabitants of Marian Islands, which were discovered in 1551, had no idea of fire. Never was astonishment greater than theirs when they saw it on the desert in one of their islands. At first they believed that it was some kind of animal that fixed to and fed upon wood.

A BLOOD FOUNTAIN.—Kentucky has a wonderful spring of water that in summer looks like blood. The bloody looking water runs from it twice a week, but for only a few moments at a time. During the fall the bloody water runs but once a week, and after the disappearance of the bloody hue, the water assumes a purplish hue, which soon passes off.

NOVELTIES.

To Oscar Ulex, Hamburg, Germany, we are indebted for several novelties in the line of stamps.

NORWAY

presents us with a new two skilling blue envelope, the design being the same as on the current issue of three skilling envelopes.

SWEDEN

greeted Philatitists with two new denominations of post cards, the six and ten ore bearing the same general design as her former card. The entire impression on the six ore card is in a beautiful lilac ink, the stamp on the ten "tio" ore is in rose, while the border and inscription is lilac, the same as in the six.

NEW ZEALAND

issues a half penny, red and white, perforated adhesive, for newspapers.

COSTA RICA

asks from collectors renewed homage to her beautiful set of stamps by the addition of the denomination of "Un Real," of delicate tinted brown, which color seems peculiarly adapted to display the intricate fineness of engraving for which the American Bank Note Co. have justly received their reputation.

A new card comes forth from Austrian Italy, of the value of four soldi, the design and color being the same as that of the five soldi adhesive of the present issue.

For these and several other stamps, (telegraph and revenue) which we acknowledge our inability to place, Mr. Ulex has our most sincere thanks.

A STATUTE has just been erected to the memory of Sir Humphrey Davy at Penzance, in Cornwall, at a cost of £800. This is of massive granite, and is placed in front of the post office, a few yards from the house in which he was born.

INTELLIGENCE OF THE LARK.—A pair of larks had built their nest in a grass field, where they hatched a brood of young. Very soon after the young birds were out of their nest, the owner of the field was forced to set the mowers at work, the state of the weather forcing him to cut his grass sooner than usual. As the laborers approached the nest, the parent birds seemed to take alarm, and at last the mother laid herself flat upon the ground with outspread wings and tail, while the male bird took one of her young out of the nest, and by dint of pushing and pulling got it on its mother's back. She then flew with her young one over the fields, and soon returned for another. This time the father took his turn to carry one of the offspring, being assisted by the mother in getting it firmly on his back; and in this manner they carried off the whole brood before the mowers had reached their nest. —*Rutledge's Illustrated Natural History.*

EARLY GEOLOGICAL FORMATION OF THE UNITED STATES.—Professor Gunning, of New York, has recently put forth an interesting history in regard to the Northern borders of the United States, which he believes were originally through the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico. The Niagara river, according to his statement, has an existence of not more than 250,000 years. Before that period a barrier more than thirty feet high, across the Niagara plateau, threw the waters of Lake Erie back upon Lake Michigan, and further west to the Mississippi. Western geologists have found an old river channel from the lakes to the Illinois River, and a great barrier once stretched across the plateau. The old river bed in Illinois, and the broken ridge across the Niagara plateau account for the comparative recent creation of the falls. Such is the theory of Professor Gunning.

DERVISE, or DERVIS.—A name given to various Mahometan priests or monks. Many of the dervises travel over the whole of the Eastern world, entertaining the people wherever they come with agreeable relations of the curiosities and wonders they have met with. There are dervises in Egypt, who live with their families, and exercise their trades, of which kind are the dancing dervises at Damascus. They are distinguished among themselves by the different forms and colors of their habits; those of Persia wear blue; solitaries and wanderers wear rags of different colors; others carry on their heads a plume, made of the feathers of a cock; and those of Egypt wear an octagonal badge of a greenish white alabaster at their girdles, and a high stiff cap without anything around it. They generally profess extreme poverty, and lead an ascetic life.

A very remarkable microscopic animal is described in the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopic Science*, by Dr. Hudson, under the name of *Pedalion mira*, being a rotifer, with six large appendages, like the limbs of a crustacean, terminating in plumose hairs, and worked, as locomotive organs, by transversely striped muscles attached inside the appendage, which are, therefore, hollow, and indential in type with limbs of insects and crustacea. The animal possesses at the same time a fine ciliated trochal disk, and a gizzard similar to that of other rotifers. The editor of the *Journal* was supplied with specimens by their discoverer, and confirms his statements in every particular.

ORTHODOX, or ORTHODOXY.—These terms are restricted in application to right judgments in matters of religious faith; and although every sect maintains of course the exclusive correctness of its own views, yet the title of ortho-

doxy is appropriated by ecclesiastical historians to the standard maintained by the Catholics or universal church. The term orthodox is generally restricted also to those principal tenets which have been always held by the great mass of the professing Christians: large bodies of dissenters in England are allowed by the church to be orthodox, inasmuch as they hold the three creeds, and therefore profess the principal articles of the Christian faith in common with those who differ from them in matters of church authority and discipline.

REMARKABLE ECCENTRICITIES OF GREAT MEN, AS REGARDS ANTIPATHIES AND SUPERSTITIOUS IDEAS.—Domitian believed in dreams.

The Duke of Epernon fainted at the sight of a leveret.

Marshal Albert, of France, used to flee at the appearance of hogs.

Candon predicted the year of his death and verified the prediction.

Bacon fell into a syncope every time there happened to be an eclipse of the moon.

Bayle fell into convulsions whenever he heard the noise that water makes when coming from a spigot.

James II., king of England, could not look at an unsheathed sword without becoming pale, and without falling into a kind of faintness.

LONG LIVED FISH.—Fish have tenacity of life. It is believed that the carp has attained the age of 150 years, and the pike a still greater age. A pike was caught in a lake in South Germany, on which was found a ring bearing this inscription: "I am the fish which was first of all put into this lake by the hands of the Governor of the Universe, Frederick II., the 5th of October 1230." It weighed 350 pounds, and was 19 feet long.

THE DOME OF THE CAPITOL.—The dome of the Capitol, at Washington is the most ambitious structure in America. It is 108 feet higher than the Washington Monument in Baltimore, sixty-eight feet higher than Bunker Hill, and twenty-three feet higher than Trinity Church tower at New York. It is the only considerable dome of iron in the world. It is a vast hollow sphere of iron, weighing 8,000,000,000 pounds. How much is that? More than 4,000 tons, or about the weight of 70,000 full grown people, or about equal to 1,000 laden coal cars, which holding four tons each, would reach two miles and a half.

Directly over your head is a figure in bronze, "America," 14,985 pounds. The pressure of the iron dome upon its piers and pillars is 13,477 pounds to the square foot. St. Peter presses nearly 20,000 pounds more to the square foot, and St. Genevieve, at Paris, 66,000 pounds more. It would require to crush the supporters of our dome a pressure of 557,270 pounds to the square foot. The cost was about \$1,000,000. The new wings cost \$6,500,000. The architect has a plan for re-building the old central part of the Capitol and enlarging the park, which will cost about \$3,200,000.

THE old elm tree under which Washington took command of the armies of the United States, is still standing at Cambridge, Mass., with an iron railing around its ancient trunk and a granite monument beneath its branches, but it is begining to show the effects of old age. Last week one of the largest branches, measuring upwards of thirty feet in length and a foot in diameter, fell to the ground. The venerable tree will soon disappear with other relics of the revolutionary period.

LOFTY STRUCTURES.—The following are the hights of the principal monuments, domes, etc., in the world: St. Antoine column at Rome, 135 feet; principal tower of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, 145; Trajan's column at Rome 145; Napoleon's column at Paris, 150; Washington Monument at Baltimore, 180; the great obelisk at Thebes, 200; Bunker Hill Monument at Boston, 223; column of Delhi, 262; Trinity Church steeple at New York, 264; the contemplated new dome of the Capitol, 300; dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, 320; tower of Manlius, 350; tower of the Cathedral at Strasberg, 460; dome of St. Peter's Cathedral, Rome, 465; Great Pyramid of Egypt, 481; National Washington Monument, 517½.

THE velocity of electric waves through the Atlantic cable has been ascertained by Prof. Gould to be from 7,000 to 8,000 miles per second. Telegraph wires upon poles in the air conduct the electric waves with a velocity more than double the rapidity of the transmission, increasing with the height. Wires slightly elevated transmit signals with a velocity of 12,000 miles per second, and those at a considerable height give a velocity of 16,000 20,000.

THE different ocean steamers may be recognized by the colors painted on the smoke funnels; the Cunard, red, with black top; National, white, with black top; Guion, black, with red ring; Inman, black, with white ring; White Star, white, with black ring; Anchor, black, as also the German lines. The funnels of the French line are similar to those of the Cunard.

10 varieties of Foreign Coins of China, etc.,	50
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Those priced in *Italics* we have not always in stock. For the rare ones we will take a limited quantity in good condition, at half our list prices, in exchange, or if preferred will purchase for cash.

Allen, Mrs. S. A., 4 cent, black.....	15	Hall's Hair Renewer, 4 cent, black.....	15
Ayer, J. C. & Co., 1 cent, black.....	6	Harter, Dr. & Co., 1 cent, black.....	4
" " 4 cent, blue.....	8	Hazeltine, E. T., 4 cent, black.....	10
Barnes, D. S. long, 1 cent, red.....	1 50	Helmhold's Preparations, 2 cent, blue.....	10
" " 2 cent, red.....	1 50	" " 3 cent, green.....	20
" " 4 cent, red.....	1 50	" " 4 cent, black.....	6
" " 1 cent, black.....	15	" " 6 cent, black.....	10
" " 2 cent, black.....	50	Henry, Jno. F., 1 cent, black.....	8
" " 4 cent, black.....	50	" " 2 cent, violet.....	1 00
Barnes, Demas, 1 cent, black.....	10	" " 2 cent, blue.....	10
" " 2 cent, black.....	20	" " 4 cent, bistre.....	1 50
" " 4 cent, black.....	20	" " 4 cent, red.....	15
Barnes, Demas & Co., 1 cent, black.....	10	Herrick's Pill's, 1 cent, red.....	5
" " 2 cent, black.....	12	" " 1 cent, black.....	6
" " 4 cent, black.....	15	Holloway's Pills, 1 cent, blue.....	15
Barry's Tricopherous, 2 cent, green.....	8	Hostetter's Bitters, 4 cent, black.....	20
Barr, T. H. & Co., 4 cent, black.....	20	" " 6 cent, black.....	1 00
Bennett, D. M., 1 cent, lake.....	1 00	Howe's Arabian Milk, 4 cent, blue.....	25
Bennett, Pieters & Co., 4 cent, black.....	10	Hull & Co., 1 cent, black.....	10
" " 6 cent, black.....	1 50	Husband, T. J., 2 cent, red.....	20
Blow, W. T., (Stevens' eye water) 1c., green.....	1 00	" " 2 cent, purple.....	2 00
Brandreth's pills, 1 cent, black.....	3	Jackson's Stomach Bitters, 4 cent, green.....	15
Brown, Dr. C. F., 1 cent, blue.....	12	Jayne, Dr. D. & Son, 1 cent, blue.....	10
Brown's Bronchial Troches, 1 cent, black.....	8	" " 2 cent, black.....	10
" " 2 cent, green.....	5	" " 4 cent, green.....	10
" " 4 cent, brown.....	15	Johnson, I. S., 1 cent, red.....	4
Brown's Jamaica Ginger, 2 cent, black.....	6	Kelley's Old Cabin Bitters, 4 cent, black.....	50
Brown's Vermifuge Comfits, 1 cent, black.....	8	Kensett, T., 1 cent, green.....	1 50
Bull, Dr. John, 1 cent, black.....	6	Kennedy's Family Medicine, 2 cent, green.....	6
" " 4 cent, blue.....	15	Kerr, Dr. J. C., 4 cent, blue.....	1 50
Burnett, Joseph, 4 cent, black.....	10	" " 6 cent, black.....	1 00
Cheeseman, Dr., Pills, 4 cent, green.....	50	Laird's Bloom of Youth, 3 cent, black.....	15
Collins Bro's., 1 cent, black.....	25	Lee's Chas. Pills, 1 cent, blue.....	4
Crook's Wine of Tar, 4 cent, black.....	15	Lippman's German Bitters, 4 cent, blue.....	20
Dalley's Horse Salve, 2 cent, green.....	10	Littlefield's Alvah, 1 cent, black.....	4
" Pain Extractor, 1 cent, black.....	6	" " 4 cent, green.....	10
Drake, P. H. & Co., 2 cent, black.....	30	Lyon Manufacturing Co., 1 cent, black.....	5
" " 4 cent, black.....	12	" " 2 cent, black.....	10
Davis, Perry & Son, 1 cent, blue.....	4	Mansfield & Higbee, 1 cent, blue.....	5
" " 2 cent, black.....	10	McLane's Liver Pills, 1 cent, black.....	1 50
" " 2 cent, mauve.....	10	" " 1 cent, blue.....	5
" " 4 cent, brown.....	10	" Vermifuge, 1 cent, black.....	5
Daponce's Pills, 4 cent, black.....	30	McLean, Dr. J. H., 1 cent, black.....	3
Fahnestock, B. A., 1 cent, lake.....	4	McMunn's Elixer of Opium, 1 cent, green.....	5
Fetridge & Co., 2 cent, red.....	60	Merchant's Gargling Oil, 1 cent, black.....	10
Fowle, Seth W. & Son, 4 cent, black.....	8	" " 2 cent, green.....	15
Hall & Ruckel, 1 cent, green.....	4	Mercuro & Scully, 2 cent, black.....	1 50
" " 3 cent, black.....	6	Mishler's Herb Bitters, 4 cent, black.....	40
		" " 6 cent, black.....	75
		Morehead's Magnetic Plaster, 1 cent, black.....	15
		Pierce, R. V., 1 cent, green.....	5
		" " 2 cent, black.....	8
		Poland's White Pine Comp., 4 cent, black.....	40
		Radway's Ready Relief, 2 cent, black.....	5
		Ransom & Co. D., 1 cent, blue.....	4
		" " 2 cent, black.....	8
		Ring's Vegetable Ambrosia, 4 cent, black.....	8
		Roback, Dr. C. W., 1 cent, yellow.....	8
		" " 1 cent, orange.....	20
		" " 1 cent, white.....	25
		Rose, J. P. & Co., 2 cent, black.....	25

Rose, J. P. & Co., 4 cent, black.....	10	Byam, Carleton & Co., small, 1 cent, black..	3
Rush's Medicines, 1 cent, green.....	10	" 1 head on large white wrapper, 1c. blk.	3
Redding & Co., 1 cent, black.....	10	" " " buff " " "	40
Schenck's Mandrake Pills, 1 cent, green.....	5	Byam, 2 heads to left, buff wrapper, 1c. blk.	60
" Pulmonic Syrup, 6 cent, black.....	8	" " " white " " "	1 00
Scovill, A. L. & Co., 1 cent, black.....	4	" " " to right, buff " " "	3
" " " 4 cent, green.....	8	Chicago Match-Co., 1 cent, black.....	1 00
Seelye, Dr. D. H. & Co., 8 cent, black.....	1 00	Clark, Frank E., 1 cent, carmine.....	5
Soule's Oriental Pills, 1 cent, blue.....	50	Cramer & Kemp, 1 cent, black.....	8
Swain's, Jas., Panacea, 8 cent, orange.....	30	" " 1 cent, blue.....	3
" Wm. " 6 cent, orange.....	1 50	Curtis, W. D., 1 cent, green.....	6
" " " 8 cent, orange.....	25	Daily, M., [head of Franklin] 1 cent, blue....	5
Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient, 4 cent, red.....	15	Doolittle, W. E., 1 cent, blue.....	2 00
Thompson, J. L., 1 cent, black.....	3	Eaton, James, 1 cent, black.....	4
U. S. Prop. Medicine Co., 4 cent, black.....	20	Eichell, Aug., 1 cent, black.....	25
" " " 4 cent, black.....	1 00	Eichell, P. & Co., 1 cent, blue.....	5
Walker's Vinegar Bitters, 4 cent, black.....	8	Farr, Geo. & Co., 1 cent, black.....	25
Wildner, Edward & Co., 1 cent, green.....	20	Gates, Wm., 1 cent, black.....	4
" " " 4 cent, red.....	25	" " 3 cent, black.....	10
" " " 4 cent, orange.....	50	" " 6 cent, black.....	25
Winslow's, Mrs., Syrup, 1 cent, black.....	25	Gorman, Thos. & Bro., 1 cent, black.....	2 00
" " " 2 cent, black.....	10	" " " 1 cent, green.....	10
Wright's Indian Pills, 1 cent, green.....	5	Greenleaf & Co., 1 cent, green.....	5
" R. G. & A., 1 cent, blue.....	5	" " 3 cent, carmine.....	10
" " " 2 cent, black.....	5	" " 5 cent, orange.....	15
" " " 3 cent, red.....	5	Griggs & Scott, 1 cent, black.....	5
" " " 4 cent, green.....	5	Henning & Bonhack, 1 cent, blue.....	25
Woodworth & Son, C. B., 1 cent, green.....	4	Howard, B. & H. D., 1 cent, blue.....	6
Zellin, J. H., & Co., 2 cent, green.....	10	" " 1 cent, carmine.....	12
" " 2 cent, red.....	50	Hunt, L. G., 1 cent, black.....	8
MATCH STAMPS.			
Ætna Match Co., 1 cent, blue.....	10	Ives, P. T., 1 cent, blue.....	4
" " 1 cent, green.....	1 50	" 8 cent, blue.....	25
Akron Match Co., 1 cent, blue.....	1 00	Kyle, W. S., 1 cent, black.....	5
Alexander's, 1 cent, orange.....	20	Lacour's Matches, 1 cent, black.....	3
Allen, Thos., 1 cent, green.....	15	Metropolitan Match Co., 4 cent, green.....	1 00
American Match Co., [eagle] 1 cent, black.....	50	New York Match Co., 1 cent, red.....	4
" " " 1 cent, green.....	2 00	" " 1 cent, blue.....	3
" " " [Cleveland, O.] 1c. black	4	" " [long] 1 cent, green.....	4
" " " " 3c. black	15	" " " 5 cent, blue.....	1 00
Beecher, A. & Sons, 1 cent, orange.....	3	Orono Match Co., 1 cent, blue.....	3
Brockett & Newton, 1 cent, carmine.....	5	Park City Match Co., 1 cent, green.....	5
Baltimore Ex. Waterproof, 1 cent, blue.....	6	" " 3 cent, orange.....	40
Barber & Peckham, 1 cent, blue.....	1 00	Pierce Match Co., 1 cent, green.....	1 00
" " 3 cent, black.....	2 00	Portland Match Co., [small] 1 cent, black.....	15
" Geo. & O. C., 1 cent, blue.....	2 00	" " buff wrapper, 1 cent, black.....	1 00
" " 3 cent, black.....	2 00	Powell, V. R., 1 cent, blue.....	4
" Match Co., 1 cent, blue.....	3	" " wrapper, 1 cent, black.....	1 00
" " 3 cent, black.....	15	Rock Island Match Co., 3 cent, green.....	2 00
Bauer & Bendel, 1 cent, blue.....	12	Richardson, D. M., 1 cent, red.....	75
Bent & Lea, 1 cent, black.....	30	" " 3 cent, red.....	1 00
Bentz, H. & M., 1 cent, blue.....	2 00	" " 1 cent, black.....	6
Bousfield & Poole, 1 cent, black.....	4	" " 3 cent, blue.....	12
" " 3 cent, black.....	2 00	Roeber, H. & Co., 1 cent, blue.....	5
" " 1 cent, brown.....	4	Russell, E. T., 1 cent, black.....	5
" " 3 cent, brown.....	2 00	San Francisco Perens'n Match Co., 12c. blue.....	50
Bock, Schneider & Co., 1 cent, black.....	4	Stanton H., 1 cent, black.....	6
Brown & Durling, 1 cent, black.....	2 00	Star Match Co., 1 cent, black.....	6
" " 1 cent, green.....	50	Swift & Courtney, 1 cent, blue.....	3
Buck, L. W. & Co., 1 cent, black.....	30	Thompson, E. R., 1 cent, green.....	5
Burhans, D. & Co., 1 cent, black.....	6	Underwood, Alex., 1 cent, green.....	20
CARD STAMPS.			
	15	Dougherty, A., 2 cent, orange.....	15
	15	" 4 cent, black.....	15
	5	" 5 cent, blue.....	5
	20	" 10 cent, blue.....	20
	5	Goodall, Chas., 5 cent, black.....	5
	5	Hart, Samuel & Co., 5 cent, black.....	5
	5	Lawrence & Cohen, 2 cent, blue.....	5
	5	" " 5 cent, green.....	5
	10	Levy, Jno. J., 5 cent, black.....	10

This month we offer the following

COINS AND MEDALS

We have but few of each. First come first served. All orders of \$5.00 and over will be forwarded free of charge. Less than that amount, add 5 per cent. for postage.

Size 17. Obv., bust of Washington, surrounded by a wreath, over which, "Washington" Rev., "The hero of American Independence," surrounding a wreath within which, "Died Dec. 14, 1799." Copper proof. Scarce in this condition.....	\$ 50
End of Pain. Rev., a number of combustibles with labels intermixed, issuing from the top of the globe, on which is a dagger, fraternity. On the labels is inscribed "Reicide, Robbery, Falseify, Requisition, French Reforms; 1799. Rare.....	75
Size 35. Gothic medal, "Catholic Young Men's Society".....	1 75
Size 48. Bronze. Frederick, Duke of York and Albany.....	1 50
Solid Electrotyp of large Virginia cent.....	1 00
Size 21. Silver. George I, scarce.....	1 25
Size 20. Odd Fellows' medal, copper; obv., two faces united, one weeping, the other laughing; (said to be intended for Fox and Pitt), rare.....	75
Size 12. Bronze. Washington, "Central Fair,".....	15
Size 23. Hardy, Tooke and Thelwall. Rare.....	1 00
Copper Dealers of Charles XII, Sweden. "Flink och Farden," Saturnus, each.....	40
Size 12. Washington, silver proof. "Born and died".....	50
Gloucester pennies, uncirculated, each.....	30
Size 25. Silver. "Micas inter Omnes," "Alter ab Illo." Bust obv. and rev. Rare.....	1 50
1860 U. S. dollar, Orleans mint. Fine.....	1 75
Size 29. White metal. Frederick, Duke of York, born and died.....	40
Size 12. Washington and Jackson. Silver.....	50
Size 28. Tayleur Fund for the Succor of Shipwrecked Sailors. Bronze.....	50
Size 19. Bronze proof. Allegianc medal, bust of Washington.....	75
Size 28. Silver Marriage Medal, German inscription. Very rare.....	2 00
Size 23. Copper proof. Pilgrim Memorial Jubilee. Scarce.....	75
Size 29. White metal. Obv., busts of Victoria and Prince Albert. Rev., Leed's Hall.....	40
Size 29. White metal. Welch medal.....	40
Size 34. White metal. Victoria crowned.....	50
Size 26. Bronze. Louis XVIII, King of France.....	75
Size 32. French Exposition. Scarce.....	50
Size 12. Bronze. Washington, "Central Fair,".....	15
15 Sols. Louis XVI, 1791. Silver.....	30
Size 20. White metal. Franklin and Washington.....	1 50
Size 34. Bronze. Victoria and Albert's sojourn at Paris, 1856. Scarce.....	1 50
Size 38. Swiss medal of General Grant, struck by Hugues Bovy Geneva. Obv., splendid bust of Gen. Grant. Rev., "I intend to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer." "Patient of toll, serene amidst alarms, Indeflexible in faith, invincible in arms." In fine proof condition, and something new to the collectors of this country. A MAGNIFICENT PROOF.....	1 75
Size 43. Medal of the Paris Exposition, 1858. Struck by Caque.....	75
Size 35. George, Prince of Wales. A fine proof.....	1 00
Size 30. Obv., "Frederick the Great, King of Prussia," etc. Rev., a winged Victory kicking the crown from the head of prostrate Austria. 1757. Rare.....	75
Size 31. Obv., same as above. Rev., armed warriors, "Breslau, 1742,".....	75

Size 30. Obv., Francis I and Maria Theresa, of Austria. Rev., "Aeternitas Imperii" and busts of two children.....	75
Size 28. Obv., Maria Theresa. Rev., two Amazons presenting weapons to a youth, 1741, rare.....	75
Size 28. Obv., same as above. Rev., the kneeling Queen receiving a child from the hands of an angel, 1747.....	75
Size 26. Brass medal of William, Prince of Orange.....	50
Size 28. Obv., Charles VII, Emperor of the Romans. Rev., in the background, the city and walls of Rome; in front, a hand issuing from the clouds is crowning the Emperor, and Fame flies through the air with a trumpet and banner inscribed "Vivat Carol, VII," 1742.....	75
Size Obv., head of Charles I. "Cujus Est," Rev., Great Britain, surrounded by war ships and boats. Above, "Reddite." Rare.....	50
Size 31. Obv., "William, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland." Rev., various figures, and the motto "Restituturi Britannia 1689,".....	75
Size 35. Obv., "William III," etc. A winged Victory crowning the King, who holds a rudder in his left hand, while a pilgrim stands on one side and a harper on the other. Rev., "Solis Iter," the sun journeying through the 12 signs of the zodiac; underneath a sea fight is raging, and below all "VICT. NAV. DE GALLIS MAX. DIE 29 MAY, MDCCXII." Somewhat battered but very rare.....	1 00
Size 28. Funeral medal of William III, fine.....	50
Size 26. Franklin and Montyon medal, fine and rare.....	75
Size 32. Obv., Charles I, of England. Rev., a hand extending a crown from the clouds.....	50
Size 26. Medal of George IV.....	50
Size 33. Medal in commemoration of the visit of George IV to Scotland in 1822, very fine.....	75
Size 28. Hanoverian medal of George IV.....	75
Size 32. Medal of the Ohio State Agr'l Society. Coins of Haiti, Geffrard, President, 1863, each.....	10
25 foreign coins, all different.....	1 00
25 advertising coins, all different.....	1 00
25 Roman coins, all different.....	1 00

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1 dollar, 1799, ".....	2 25
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½ dollar, 1835, ".....	80
½ dime, 1795, ".....	40
Maximilian ¼ dollar.....	1 50
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" " ½ dime.....	25
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Tituria, Tarpeia and Sabine soldiers.....	1 75
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Galerius Maximianus.....	" " " 20
Gratian.....	" " " 15
Lucius Verus.....	" " " 20
Maxentius.....	" " " 15

Maximianus Hercules.....	"	"	20
Magnentius.....	"	"	20
Nerva.....	"	"	15
Tiberius.....	"	"	40
Vespasian.....	"	"	40
Constantine.....	3d	"	15
Diocletian.....	"	"	15
Gallienus.....	"	"	15
Licinius, Sr.....	"	"	15
Probus.....	"	"	20
Victorinus.....	"	"	10
Constantine, struck after his death.....	"	"	15
Faustina, rev., Modesty, rare, silver.....	"	"	40
Gordianus Plus.....	Billon,	"	25
Gallienus.....	"	"	20
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rev. female figure.....	05
Gallienus, rev., eagle, poor.....	05
" " fine.....	10
Maximianus, rev., standing figure.....	05
Claudius, various reverses.....	10
Cornelia, rev., eagle.....	10
" " standing figure.....	10
Phillip, rev., figure.....	10
Valerianus.....	15

ROMAN 3d—Brass.

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Gallienus.....	05
Maximianus, rev., standing figure.....	05
" " " ".....	05
Claudius, " " " ".....	05
Constantian, " " " ".....	05
Constantine, various devices.....	05
Licinius, standing figure.....	05
Diocletian, female figure.....	05
Maxentius, rev., Temple.....	10
Tetricus, standing figure.....	10
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THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILL., OCTOBER, 1873.

No. 10.

THE GREAT WATERLOO MEDAL.

In the year 1819, his Majesty King George IV., then Prince Regent, conceived the idea of commemorating the important victory of Waterloo, by causing a medal to be engraved, which should, as a work of high Art in itself, illustrate its attainment during his reign; and for surpassing magnitude, become to future ages an enduring type of the great event.

As a matter of routine, the members of the Royal Academy were invited to offer designs for the medal. After several consultations among themselves, it was decided that Flaxman alone should undertake the Royal Commission, and prepare the sketch; all the other Academicians wisely abstaining from competition with their accomplished member.

Mr. Pistrucci had then but recently arrived in this country, and been appointed principal engraver at the Royal Mint. His fame, as a sculptor of gems, had preceded him in England. Mr. Payne Knight, the most learned virtuoso in this class of Art at that time living, attributed an exquisite example of his skill to the best epoch of Greek Art; and the Baron Denon, keeper of the Imperial Museum of Antiquities of Paris, &c., &c., closed therein a gem from Mr. Pistrucci's hand, as one of the finest antiques of the Augustan period.

Educated as an artist from his youth in the intense study of the great examples of ancient Art existing in Rome, and received as a distinguished member of the Academy of St. Luke, Mr. Pistrucci, from his previously acquire

fame, and in proud reliance of his own talent, at once refused, when applied to, to execute a medal from any other design than his own. The design made by Flaxman, beautiful as it undoubtedly was, became cancelled; and in twenty-four hours after the refusal, one was prepared in wax, and submitted to the Prince Regent, by the principal engraver of the Royal Mint. This model was instantly honored by the fullest and most flattering approbation of Royalty, and Mr. Pistrucci was commissioned forthwith to engrave the dies for the Great Waterloo Medal, from the design he had submitted to the Prince Regent.

As soon as the Treasury formalities were perfected, forming the contract for the undertaking, it became of the first importance to secure blocks of steel of the utmost perfectibility, on which to engrave the two sides of the medal.—Some idea of the difficulty may be formed, from the fact that each matrix weighs twenty pounds; this unusual weight required also the invention of new mechanical means for applying the graver to the mass of metal. All difficulties were finally overcome, and a couple of blocks of steel chosen out of twenty that were prepared for the purpose.

All this time Lord Maryborough was Master of the Mint, and as Mr. Pistrucci had the duty of making the dies for the coinage, the work on this medal advanced but slowly, from these continued interruptions, Lord Maryborough was superseded in his office by Mr. Herries, and during the control of the latter over the Royal Mint, the principle was pro-

mulgated that no foreigner could legally hold the appointment of principal engraver. With each successive change of the ministry the mastership of the Mint changed hands; and without entering into the history of the variations of management, and the internal disputes engendered thereby in the establishment, it is sufficient to say that Mr. Pistrucci was finally displaced as principal engraver, but was continued in the service as principal medallist. All these intrigues and difficulties renewed with every change of administration, and frustrating the progress of the medal, were terminated by Mr. Pistrucci abandoning the official residence on Tower Hill, and removing to a cottage at Old Windsor, where, in quiet retirement, he at length completed the pair of dies for the great medal on the first of January in the present year, (1849.)

Before entering upon its artistic qualities, it is necessary to say that the medal when struck, will be five and a half inches in diameter. No medal of this important dimension has hitherto been perfected; the two dies among the so-called Napoleon medals by Andrieu, although of similar extent of surface, were only formed for striking separate medallions in soft metal. It will be recollected besides, that these contained in one the profile bust of Napoleon, and the Maria Louisa. In elaboration of subject there exists not the remotest comparison with the work of the Waterloo medal. Mr. Pistrucci's dies contain full sixty figures, resembling, somewhat in scale of proportion, the St. George on the crown piece, of his execution; the border, on the reverse side, is in unusually high relief, and the entire performance has been achieved by engraving alone, without punching whatever, in any part. The time which

has been employed in this immense labor, is calculated to have amounted together to twelve years of continuous working, at Mr. Pistrucci's rate of eighteen hours daily out of the twenty-four, being an extent of application which the veteran engraver continues to exercise, unless interrupted by indisposition, in the enthusiastic pursuit of his art at the present day. The labor on the pair of dies contain alone as much work as any previous medallist has ever executed in a life-time.

The intention of his Majesty King George IV., was to have the medal struck in gold, and one of each of these presented to the allied Sovereigns who contributed to the downfall of Napoleon, and one also to be presented to each of the two great commanders. Wellington and Blucher, when military prowess consummated the glorious event. Some others were intended to be struck in silver, for presents to lesser dignities, as well as some in bronze.—Those of the two latter classes were to be purchaseable by the public.

The dies have now been completed ten months, a copy in soft metal has been placed before the Lords of the Treasury, but difficulties of routine and ceremony have, to this moment, retarded any procedure to harden the dies and strike the medal; it is only necessary merely to allude to this, as it will probably come before the public officially in a short time.

The subject of both sides of the medal is treated allegorically, excepting the central part of the obverse, which represents the busts of the four allied sovereigns seen grouped together in profile. Around this group of actual portraits, the figures constitute an allegorical mythological allusion to the treaty of peace which was consequent upon the

great triumph on the field of battle.—The summit of the surrounding groupings presents Apollo in his car restoring the day; the rainbow-zephyr and Iris follow the chariot of the sun in succession, but the zephyr is tending towards the earth, and scattering flowers as the emblem of peace and tranquility. On the opposite side, the car of Apollo is seen closely approaching the constellation Gemini, personified as usual by a pair of graceful youths, indicating the month in which the great contest took place. Castor and Pollux, each armed with spears, are intended to elucidate the apotheosis of Wellington and Blucher. Themis, the goddess of Justice appears on earth, as in the golden age. This figure is placed in front of the profile busts of the sovereigns, to show that Justice is a greater security to government than Power. The goddess is seated on a rock, a palm-tree waves over her head, she is prepared to reward Virtue with its branches in one hand, and in the other holds a sword for the ready punishment of crime. Power is personified by a robust man of mature age, bearded and armed with a club; he is seated under an oak tree, and forms the corresponding figure at the back of the group of busts of the allied sovereigns, to that of Justice facing it. Beneath Themis, the Fates are introduced, to indicate that henceforward human actions will be controlled by Justice alone. These actions and passions are represented by the Furies, which being placed beneath the emblematical figure of Power, are subjected to its influence, and no longer suffered to quit the infernal regions, or Cimmerian caverns, in which, at the base of this side of the medal, the allegory is completed by the figure of Night; the mother of the Fates receding into darkness, from the ruling

daylight of Phœbus car of the summit.

The Reverse. The central group on this side consists of a couple of equestrian figures, classically treated, but having the countenances of Wellington and Blucher. They are full of action, the figure personifying the hero of Waterloo is galloping in advance, and that of the veteran Blucher is rushing to the aid of his companion in glory, to complete the enemy's destruction. They are guided by a female figure of a flying Victory, placed between them, conducting their horses to the conflict.—Quite detached from the central group and forming a border round it, a composition of many figures represents the battle of the Giants. They are struck down by the thunder of Jupiter; the youngest one being the most daring in the assault of heaven, are the first to receive the divine punishment. In their descent they tumble over one another in every variety of attitude, symbolical of the confusion of the defeated enemy.—The number of the figures of the giants is nineteen, illustrative of the nineteen years duration of the war; and in grouping these figures, they are represented following each other in succession.

There is at present no inscription on any part, and it is proposed to place solely on the edge of the medal, the words, "*Waterloo. June 18, 1815.*"

The artistic achievement of this unparalleled performance in medallic engraving remains to be considered, and there can be no hesitation in saying it is commensurate with the event it is intended to celebrate, worthy of the nation which ordained it, and honorable in the highest degree to the talent of the artist to whom it was confided. The public will naturally expect that no further delay than is absolutely necessary will take place, and that the illus-

trious HERO now full of years, to whose honor and glory it is mainly dedicated, may yet receive in person the golden testimonial from the hands of his revered and beloved SOVEREIGN.

The dies remain in the possession of Mr. Pistrucchi, at his rural abode called "Fine Arts Cottage," at Old Windsor, Berkshire. He is there happily occupied in his favorite pursuit of the arts, along with the two accomplished young ladies, his daughters, whose proficiency in gem engraving merited the prizes recently given by the Art-Union Society of London, for a class of art not worthily encouraged or properly appreciated among us.—*Art-Journal*.

Egyptian Bricks.

The German savan has been at work again, and the result this time is very extraordinary. He subjected a brick taken from the pyramid of Dashour to the microscope, and, it is said, has discovered many interesting particulars connected with the life of the ancient Egyptians. The brick itself is made of the mud of the Nile, chopped straw and sand, thus confirming what the Bible and Herodotus have handed down to us as the Egyptian method of brick making. Besides these materials the microscope has brought other things to light, among them the *debris* of river shells, of fish and insects, seeds of wild and cultivated flowers, corn and barley, the field pea, the common flax and the redish, together with many others known to science. The irrepressible savan is indefatigable, and it would not at all surprise us if he found some means of extracting the seeds from the bricks, and, after planting them, treat his countryman to pea soup and radishes. Nothing would surprise us from the hands of the German savan.

Turtles in Brazil.

The immense size of Brazilian turtles may be imagined when the statement is made that the flippers and feet of one in crawling over the sand leave a track of two irregular grooves, three or four feet apart, as though a great wagon with immense cog-wheels had been driven over the ground. It is an easy matter to find a turtle's nest by this track. She comes out of the sea and travels far up on the beach to lay her eggs in the sand, digging a hole a foot and a half or two feet deep for the nest. Prof. Hartt, who was in Brazil with Agassiz, says that he saw one turtle deposit 143 eggs in one of these nests. The eggs are all laid at one sitting, then covered up closely with the sand and left to hatch. The eggs are rather larger than hen's eggs, round, and covered with a tough white skin. The Brazilians eat the eggs and also the flesh of the turtle. The creature is captured in a curious way. Two persons go behind it, and taking hold of the shell, turn the animal on its back, in which position it is impossible for it to turn over on its feet again. The hunters are obliged to creep up behind it cautiously, for as soon as it is alarmed it thrusts its fore paddles into the sand and throws it behind, so that if the pursurers do not quickly close their eyes they are likely to be blinded.

POETIC SUPERScription.—A letter was received at the Buffalo Post Office, from New York, Friday afternoon, directed as follows:

Zis ledder is for a liddle pow-legged man,
 He llyves somevare up in Buffalo, py tamn;
 L—M— is his name, I'm dolt;
 He drinks lager and eats cheese dot's old;
 He vares a "nobby" "tile" on his head,
 And butts pricks in it before he goes to bed.
 If he is the same veller vot he used to pe,
 He will pe glad zis ledder to see,
 For zis is from his old chum, SAM,
 Anodder veller vot no cares a tamn.

ENGLAND UNDER THE SAXONS
A. D. 449 TO A. D., 827.

Continued from page 86.

The Saxons accordingly came across the channel between six and seven thousand strong, under command of two brother chieftains, named Hengist and Horsa, (A. D., 449). They speedily routed the Scots, but rewarded themselves for their trouble by taking possession of the country they came to deliver. They were followed by the German tribes. The Saxon tongue became the national language, and the native Britons fled to Wales, Cornwall, and the coast of France. After the death of Hengist (A. D. 488), the Saxons poured in upon Britain faster than ever, and it was opposing these tribes that the famous Arthur King, of Britain won his great renown. He succeeded in securing to his people forty years of peace, but valor alone was of no avail. The natives, in time, were all overpowered or expelled, and the land was divided into seven small kingdoms, each governed by a Saxon tyrant. This period is known as the Saxon Heptarchy. The following was the order of distribution: The kingdom of Cantia or Kent, comprised the fertile country of Kent, and was founded by Hengist (A. D., 457).—The kingdom of South Saxon comprised the countries of Sussex and Surrey, and was founded by Ælla (A. D., 490). The kingdom of West Saxon, or Wessex, comprised the countries of Hampshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire and Devonshire, and was founded by Cerdic, (A. D., 519). The kingdom of East Saxon comprised the countries of East Middlesex, and part of Hertfordshire, and was founded by Escenwin, (A. D., 527). The kingdom of Northumbria comprised the countries of Northumberland, Cumberland, West-

morland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancaster and a part of Scotland. It was founded by Ida (A. D., 547). The kingdom of East Anglia, comprised the countries of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge, and was founded by Uffa, (A. D., 576). The kingdom of Mercia comprised all the midland countries, namely: Cheshire, Stafford, Derby, Warwick, Worcester, Shropshire, Hereford, Gloucester, Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon, Northampton, Rutland, Leicester, Nottingham, Lincoln, and a part of Hertfordshire. It was founded by Crida (A. D., 582). As it may readily be supposed, these seven kings of Britain did not at all times reign in perfect friendship with each other, but on the contrary, distracted the country with perpetual quarreling, and warfare. Despite even these drawbacks, the nation, however, began to experience the blessings of industry. Property received the protection of the law, and no part of the island was without an acknowledged ruler. The people were still idolaters and heathens, worshiping the false gods of ancient Rome. In the year 596, a good monk, named Augustine, came over from Italy with forty of his brethren, and converted the two powerful Kings of Kent and Northumberland, (A. D., 599). A great church was then built at Canterbury, (A. D., 604). Sebert, King of Essex, became a proselyte, the Temple of Apollo at Westminster was pulled down, and a church dedicated to St. Peter was erected where the Abbey is now standing, the Temple of Diana was destroyed, and the original Cathedral of St. Paul raised on its site, and the University of Cambridge was founded in the year 644. Soon after this the whole of Britain embraced Christianity, and the seven kingdoms were united into one by the conquest of Eg-

bert of Wessex, receiving the collective name of England, which it has ever since retained. Winchester was at this time considered to be the capital of the country.

Indian Relics in Indiana.

The New Albany (Ind.) *Ledger* of a recent date contains the following:

Mr. Samuel Jones, near New Amsterdam, Harrison county, sends us an account of having drained a lake on his place covering over 70 acres, which has probably existed there for hundreds of years. The work was one of great labor and expense, but restores to use a fine body of land, and Mr. Jones is certainly entitled to great credit for the work performed. He informs us that after the draining had been completed, he found that the bed of the lake had at one time been occupied as an Indian camping ground, probably the site of one of their villages. As evidence of this, he states that in digging a cellar large quantities of bear and deer bones were thrown up. At other points on the place, when digging holes for posts, bones of Indians were found. Several Indian graves have been discovered on the place which appear to have been covered with mussel-shells, taken from the bed of some of the neighboring creeks, or the Ohio river. Indian implements of various kinds have also been found on the place, and in the immediate vicinity. From the statement of Mr. Jones there can be no doubt that the locality at one time has been the home of a large tribe of North American Indians, every trace of which has disappeared except the relics thus accidentally discovered. This is an interesting field for the investigations of archæologists.

The Watch.

"Watch" is from a Saxon word signifying "to wake." At first the watch was as large as a saucer; it had weights, and was called the pocket-clock. The earliest known use of the modern name occurs in a record of 1542, which mentions that Edward VI. had "one larum, or watch of iron, the case being likewise of iron-gilt, with two plummets of lead."

The first great improvement, the substitution of springs for weights, was in 1556. The earliest were not coiled, but only straight pieces of steel. Early watches had only one hand, and required winding twice a day. The dials were either silver or brass; the cases had no crystals, but opened back and front, and were four or five inches in diameter. A plain watch cost the equivalent of \$1,500 in our currency, and after one was ordered it took a year to make it.

A STONE AGE.—Some curious revelations have been made by the excavations on the supposed site of ancient Troy. Nothing has been discovered, indicating a civilization and culture such as the Trojans must have attained; but all the relics point to a stone age, like that with which antiquarians are already familiar from European remains. The stone utensils differ widely, however, from those found in Europe, showing better workmanship. There are broken vases of clay, finely made, and fragments of pottery, clay and hard black stone, perforated by means of sharp flints. It seems impossible that these could have been fashioned by stone tools, for some of them are highly ornamented. The explorer has come to the conclusion that the inhabitants of this stone period must have lived centuries before the Trojan war.

Wonderful Discoveries in the Troad, Delos and the Fortresses of Attica—The Palace of Agamemnon to be Explored.

[From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Aug. 5.]

Our mention yesterday of the extraordinary success of Prof. Schliemann's excavations and searches on what he believed (and now appears to have proved) to be the site of Homer's Troy, are corroborated by Greek papers just at hand. The *Clio*, a paper published at Athens, in modern Greek, speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Schliemann, and recognizes the great importance of his discoveries. The study of Hellenic antiquities has latterly been taken up with great zeal in Greece. The French School of Arts at Athens has done much to stimulate these pursuits, and the Greek government and people, though with little money to give, are well disposed to lend a helping hand to the archæologists. On the Island of Zelos, many of the glories of the chief shrine of Apollo have been unearthed, and the inspired hand of Phidias and Praxiteles are supposed to be traced in many fragments of statuary that have been found in the sacred isle and elsewhere within the past few years. The *Clio* dwells particularly upon recent discoveries in Decelia, a peninsular village of Attica, famous in the history of the internecine wars of Greece, and fortified by the Athenians at the instance of their greatest statesmen as the key of Attica. The king of Greece has his summer residence exactly, he believes, in the ancient *demos* of Decelia. Since the success recently noted has become known, it is popularly believed that a sort of Captain Kidd treasure underlies the soil of each historic spot in Hellenic territory, and that the earth will yield up the treasures of the conqueror and

the conquered as the stubborn spade shall persevere.

The *Clio* says that, above all, the attention of archæologists is directed to the many antiquities which Mr. Schliemann has brought from Troy. He identifies the spot where he has wrought by many close correspondences with the topographical descriptions of the Iliad, and is confident that he has at last found the sombre and high-towered portals of the temple wherein sat the council of the elders of Troy, in the day of the famous duel between Paris and Menelaus.

Encouraged by his successes in the Troad, Mr. Schliemann now asks permission of the Grecian government to excavate at Argos and Mycenæ, the capital of Agamemnon. He proposes to do this at his own expense. He asks that the Grecian government allow him the privilege, with the understanding that all the treasures of antiquity discovered by him in the past and in the future shall belong to him during his life, and that at his death they shall revert to the Greek government. He proposes, further, to establish a museum for the exhibition of Homeric antiquities, at an expense of 200,000 francs, to be paid by himself. The sentiment of the people is represented to be in favor of the proposition, notwithstanding that other archæologists have deceived them upon similar understandings. The journals of Athens express the utmost public confidence in Mr. Schliemann.

Mr. A. F. Davis, of this city, has a collection of nearly 3000 papers and magazines, no two copies of which are alike. He desires us to say that he will pay liberally for any papers or magazines he has not got, and will exchange Rockford papers for those of any other city or town in the world.

A Shawl Factory in Cashmere.

John B. Ireland, who has travelled a long time in India and Cashmere, gives some curious facts about the manufacture and cost of a real Cashmere scarf or shawl. While in Cashmere he visited Mooki Shah, who is the best and greatest manufacturer of shawls in that city. The factory was a miserable dirty building; the workroom measuring 60 by 30 feet. here he found some forty men and boys, of all ages, from six to fifty, arranged in twos and threes, at different looms, each one having a loom to himself, for all the most valuable shawls are made in looms, in small pieces, according to the pattern, and then sewed together. The pattern is not put in colors and squares like our patterns of worsted-work for chair backs, seats, or slippers, but the directions are written. When the patterns are made, they are all sewed together. At some looms in operation there appeared to be four or five hundred small pins of wood, with rolls of different shades of woollen thread to be used in different parts of the pattern. It was astonishing to see the dexterity with which the small children worked these hand-looms, and understood the written directions before them.

The traveler bought a shawl which took 15 men seven months to make, the workmen receiving $4\frac{3}{4}$ cents per day! Mr. Ireland cannot understand where the one, two, and three hundred dollar shawls come from—certainly not from Cashmere. Mooki Shah makes none that could be bought in London or in New York for less than \$800 or \$900. Our author, upon application to the trade, would have learned that a large portion of the shawls sold as real India ones are actually made in France; for the Thibet goat was introduced into

that country more than 40 years ago, and Cashmere shawls are also imitated with considerable skill. There was a magnificent shawl made at this factory for Eugenie, while Empress of the French. It had a white ground or centre, and was the most magnificent article ever produced by Mooki Shah. For nine months 30 men were kept steadily at work upon it. That is, 8,250 days' work were bestowed upon that one shawl. The price, when finished, was 1,300 rupees, or \$650. Such a shawl would sell in London or New York for about \$1,000. So the shopkeepers, even if they do not visit India to make money, are able to realize a little when they stay at home.

Relics from Georgia.

Mr. Wm. M. Kinley has forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, some valuable antique relics, with the following explanatory letter:

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., Aug. 8, 1873.

Joseph Henry, Esq., Secretary Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR—By express I send you a precious box containing one simple Indian pitcher (Oconee); two thrice-perforated augur-bored stone implements; ancient stone work, showing that these ancients had the spiral augur, had enough to bore the hardest flint. The augur, used even to bore wood, is one of the highest evidences of civilization. What shall we say of the augur to bore flint? Above all, I send you my Oconee funeral urn, about which I before wrote you. I held it back to gratify public curiosity here, and to get the missing fragments of the broken lid. When plowed up it still contained human relics, distinguishable pigeon's feet and toes, which soon perished by exposure to air, showing that air had

never had any access before, and that it was hermetically sealed, and both air and water tight. I call your special notice to the structure of the urn. 1st, its graceful form, equal to any pottery; 2d, its composition, very thin, and yet consisting of three very distinct layers; inside white, hard, thin enamel, perfectly air and water tight; the middle layer about the thickness of fine calf-skin leather; a foundation for the inner and outer coatings consisting of black, sandy matter, hard; 3d, the outer coat, graphic clay, kept in condition for writing on during the whole process of the writer's elaborate work, until he could write the whole record. This written surface, if translated, would be as large as the page of an ordinary newspaper. These three layers, strata and coatings, are united by the highest science.

Fearing this precious American antique may get burned, or worse, broken here, I send it to you and the Smithsonian Institute as the best depositories thereof, hoping that your future collections will enable some new Champillion or Young to read and translate the lost language whose characters, I think, are written on this vase. I beg you to deposit it with the Georgia collection in the museum of the institution.

Very respectfully yours,

WM. M. KINLEY.

The Grand Geyser.

A letter writer who has been on the Yellow Stone thus speaks of Geysers, and the Grand Geysers in particular:

The most striking exhibition of Nature's forces in this wonderful region is that of the "Grand Geyser." While we were in the Fire Hole Valley this Geyser played only at intervals of about thirty-two hours; but when it was in active operation the display was grand

beyond description. As we stood near the carter or basin, it threw up, with scarcely any preliminary warning, a column of hot water eight feet in diameter to the height of two hundred feet; and so steady and uniform did the force act that the column of water appeared to be held there for some minutes, returning into the basin in millions of prismatic drops. This was continued for about fifteen minutes, and the rumbling and confusion attending it could only be compared to that of a charge in battle. The steam poured out in immense masses, arising in clouds a thousand feet or more in height. After the Grand Geyser had ceased playing, the water of the basin retired from the surface, and the temperature fell gradually to 15°. Another Geyser in the same group, and named by the Langford party "Old Faithful," was far more accommodating, and played at intervals of only an hour, throwing up a column of water at least six feet in diameter and one hundred and fifty feet high, for a period of fifteen minutes. The ease with which this column of water was sustained at the great height during the period of its operation rendered it a marvel of beauty as well as of power.

THE GREAT AMERICAN LAKES.—The following statement regarding the dimensions and altitude of the great American lakes will give the reader a general idea of their relative extent and elevation.

	AREA.	ELEVATION.
Lake Superior.	32,000 sq miles.	600 feet.
" Huron.	20,000 " "	579 "
" Michigan.	22,000 " "	576 "
" Erie.	9,600 " "	565 "
" Ontario.	6,300 " "	334 "

The area drained by these lakes according to Prof. Silliman, is 335,515 square miles, and the average quantity of water passing over Niagara Falls is 22,440,000 cubic feet per minute.

An Imense Factory.

A writer in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, gives some figures in connection with the immense steel works belonging to the Messrs. Krupp, at Essen, Germany. They cover about one square mile, one-fourth of which space is under cover. Mr. Krupp employs 10,000 workmen, 8,000 in the steel-works, and the rest in mines and blast-furnaces. Nothing but steel is made at Eseen. The product in 1866 was 61,500 tons of cast-steel. The works contain over 50 steam-hammers, from 120 lbs. weight up to 50 tons; there are several of 25 and 15 tons. The great 50 ton hammer is the largest in the world; it cost \$580,000. The foundations for it are 100 feet deep, in three parts, of masonry, large oak trunks and cylinders, bolted together. The anvil and frame rest on these, the rest of the hammer having separate foundations, to save the jar. Four cranes, each capable of bearing 200 tons, at the four corners of the hammer, serve it with the red-hot masses. Krupp intends to build a hammer of 100 tons! At these works are made the immense cannon of the Prussian army.

A HUGE SKELETON.—The following description is given of a skeleton recently found at Otisville, Orange county, N. Y.:

“The upper jaw and main portion of the head weigh 500 pounds, and measures three feet and seven inches across the top. There are four teeth in the upper jaw, two on each side. The back teeth extend seven inches along the jawbone, and are four inches across. The openings where the tusks have been are three feet and eight inches deep, and eight inches in circumference. The vertebrae was found in forty pieces, but

lying altogether, while the pelvis was taken out whole and uninjured. The channel where the spinal cords lay when the monster was alive is five inches in circumference. Among the missing bones are the tusks, the lower jawbone, and those of the hind legs. One bone of a leg that has been found weighs alone over 350 pounds. When the skeleton is reconstructed it will measure fourteen feet from the bottom of its feet to the top of its head, and over twenty-five feet from head to tail.

“A singular incident connected with the skeleton is, that in its stomach was found a quantity of undigested matter. Among it were fresh-looking and very large leaves, of odd form, and blades of strange grass, of extreme length, varying from an inch to three inches in width, and looking as if freshly cropped from the earth.”

SPOTS ON THE SUN.—There is now a large, pear-shaped spot on that side of the sun that is turned toward us. It is about 40,000 miles in diameter, which is equal to three-quarters of a minute of arc; equivalent to the angle subtended by $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the distance of one mile from the eye. It is a very good test of the vision through smoked glass, requiring an eyesight of a little more than average penetration to see it without a magnifier. The spot is a little to the left, and about the same distance from the apparent center of the solar disc.

There is a curious relic to be seen in the Holy Trinity church, Minorities. It is nothing less remarkable than the head of the duke of Sussex, the father of Lady Jane Gray. It is kept in a small tin box. There is a mark as from a cut with an axe on the neck. The skin is very like thick parchment.

A Buried City in Maine.

The last "field day" of the Maine Historical Society was enlivened by an address from Mr. R. K. Newhall, who said that at a special meeting of the Society held at Augusta in February, 1869, the question of the existence of paved streets at Pemaquid was discussed, some alleging ocular demonstration and others denying the fact. On motion of Hon. J. W. Bradbury, a large committee of the Society was appointed to visit the spot. On the 26th of August following, that committee proceeded to Bristol, and found the half had not been told. Sections of pavement, artistically built of beach cobble stones, with perfect gutters and curbs, were opened and examined, unearthed from the depths of a foot or more of soil, above which the tall-grown grass had long waved and often been shorn down and converted into hay.

Farther examination disclosed other facts, showing that Maine has a mysterious but buried history, to unearth which the citizens of Bristol were promised a field-day exercise in two years from that date by this Society, on condition that they would make fuller explanations of their ancient remains, and gather up for the use of the Society all the fragments of history within reach; and a special committee was organized to take this duty in charge, the remarkable results of whose efforts in developing the archæology of this spot have seemed to justify the recommendation that a granite shaft here be raised in the interests of the history of Maine, to mark the "beginnings" of New England here uncovered.

J. H. Hackleton, of Pemaquid, as the organ of the sub-committee, having in charge the exhibit of newly discovered

remains, gave a most full and intensely interesting detail of facts, relics, and traditions, supported by affidavits of living eye-witnesses, showing that in 1836 a fragment of a gravestone was turned out by the plow near the ancient burial-ground of Jamestown, marked with the date of 1606. He exhibited a leaden ornament, apparently a tag to a roll or piece of cloth, dug up at North Harbor in 1858, bearing date 1610, and English letter H in the centre. The affidavit of Mr. Fasset that in 1753 the ancient canal showed remains four feet high, deep and wide, bearing at that date maple trees 18 inches in diameter. He also exhibited pipes from the apparent ruins of an ancient factory there of the patterns of pipes of clay, in all respects like pipes classified, marked and arranged in a museum of tobacco pipes at Guildhall, London, belonging to the times of James I. and Charles II. of England, seen there by Mr. Dean, and now compared with the specimens exhibited. Spoons of the patterns of the Elizabethan period, and in all respects like those dug up at Gosnold's Landing on the Elizabeth Islands, and found here, were shown. Mr. Hackleton also exhibited shot lead found in a locality of N. Harbor where heaps of shot from the size of a bullet to a No. 2 have been taken out, 50 lbs. at a time, and 35 lbs. by weight within the past five years by his affiant, Joshua Thompson, of N. Harbor.

At this place are the remains of an ancient fort, 52x51 feet, walls 5 feet thick, which 47 years ago was covered with very large oaks, now cleared off. Full descriptions of the streets of Jamestown, pavements, remains of smitheries, as they were half a century ago, were given by eye-witnesses and laborers who had been employed to remove the ruins, level the streets, fill up the cellars, dig up the pavements, and erase the remains.

The Lost Arts.

The monuments, the paintings, and even the woven fabrics of Egypt, all attest the enduring nature of their workmanship and their capability of resisting the corroding and wasting effects of time. The pyramids appear but little the worse for the storms of ages, and the traveler regards them with the awe and reverence inspired by the mystery of their creation, and the almost equal mystery of their continued existence unharmed after the lapse of almost four thousand years.

Mementoes of our own Republic, not yet one hundred years old, may be seen in the patent office at Washington in a condition of hopeless decay, while the mummy cloths of Egypt, although woven over three thousand years ago, seem as firm of texture as when fresh from the ancient looms. The far-famed purple dye of Carthage, supposed to have been obtained from a small shell-fish of Mediterranean, has never been equalled by modern chemists, who have thus far failed to find anything possessing its peculiar brilliancy and permanency of color.

The frescoes of Mitchael Angelo are the wonder and admiration of every appreciative person who has looked at them on the lofty ceilings of the Sistine chapel at Rome; but compared with the mural paintings of Egypt, traced centuries before, they look dim and almost lusterless. The mural paintings are as bright as the Nile itself, and still appear likely to claim the admiration of visitors for the thousands of years to come. The colors of the ancients when exposed for years to moisture, do not lose their brightness, while their woven fabrics, long buried in the ground, resist decay, and even timber, preserved by some unknown process, defies the action

of the elements, and remains nearly as sound as in the time of the Pharaohs.— It is said that numerous experiments have been tried, of subjecting the ancient paintings to the flames of a gas jet, but the heat thus imparted failed to destroy them. Egyptian cement, as is well known, is almost imperishable, uniting wood, glass, stone, iron and other articles together so firmly as to resist all efforts to sever them at the point of union. Fire and water will not destroy this cement, and it is practically indestructible. This substance is supposed to have been used in embalming their dead, preserving their works of art, and making their fountains durable.

Even in our own country have been found implements evidently made by an ancient but now extinct race, the manufacture of which may be properly classed among the lost arts. In the copper mines of Lake Superior, in old pits long since abandoned, are found copper tools with a temper and hardness not excelled, if equaled, by the best steel tools of the present day. Chisels and hammers, specimens of wood, indestructible pipes, and other articles are found here and elsewhere, denoting the superiority of this ancient people, in many of the arts, and also affording abundant evidence that they were highly proficient in the working of metals.

About Quicksilver.

One of the most curious properties of quicksilver is its capability of dissolving or forming amalgams with other metals. A sheet of gold-foil dropped into quicksilver disappears almost as quickly as a snow-flake when it falls into water. It has the power of spreading or of readily dissolving those refractory metals which are not acted upon by our most power-

ful acids. The gold and silver miners pour it into their machines holding the powdered gold-bearing quartz, and although no human eye can detect a trace of the precious substance, so fine are the particles, yet the liquid metal will hunt it out and incorporate it into its mass. By subsequent distillation it yields it into the hands of the miners in a state of virgin purity. Several years ago, while lecturing before a class of ladies upon chemistry, we had occasion to purify some quicksilver by forcing it through chamois leather. This scrap remained upon the table after the lecture, and an old lady, thinking it would be very nice to wrap her gold spectacles in, accordingly appropriated it to this purpose. The next morning she came to us in great alarm, stating that the gold had mysteriously disappeared, and nothing was left in the parcel but the glasses.—Sure enough, the metal remaining in the pores of the leather had amalgamated with the gold, and entirely destroyed the spectacles! It was a mystery, however, which we could never explain to her satisfaction.—*Dr. Nichols's Fireside Science.*

Making Dwarfs.

China is a curious place, and divers and various are the customs of that celestial country. A common business there is the making of dwarfs and beggars. The process of making dwarfs is beautiful in its simplicity. In the first place, a child three or four years old is taken and a heavy porcelain vase put over him, so that the head alone is free. With an unexpected consideration for the prospective dwarf's feelings, this vase is removed at night so that he may sleep (the child, not the vase); but both are restored to their former relationship in the morning. The child thus advances in age in his inflexible mould until he can no longer grow, when the vase is broken.

FLASHING THE NEWS.—Here is a man sitting in a darkened room at Heart's Content. The ocean cable terminates here. A fine wire attached thereto is made to surround two small cores of soft iron. As the electric wave, produced by a few pieces of copper and zinc Valentia, passed through the wire, these cores become magnetic enough to move the slightest object. A looking-glass, half an inch in diameter, is fixed on a bar of iron one-tenth of an inch square, and half an inch long. On this tiny glass a lamp is made to glare, so that its light is reflected on a tablet on the wall. The language on the cable is denoted by the shifting of this reflected light from side to side. Letter by letter is thus expressed in this fitting idiom in utter silence on the wall. There is no record made by the machine except as the patient watcher calls out to a comrade the translated flashes as they come, and which he records. It seems a miracle of patience. There is something of awe creeps over us as we see the evidence of a human touch 3,000 miles away, swaying that line of light by such a delicate process as this.

It takes 65,000 cochineal insects to make one pound in weight, and the amount imported into the United States last year was 1,849,842 pounds. The annual slaughter of these harmless insects, therefore, to supply carmine for American ladies' toilets, and the various dyes and tints of their ribbons, feathers and dresses of red, crimson, scarlet.—Megenta, solferino, and other similar colors, actually reaches 120,239,730 in number. These figures are perfectly awful, but some of the uses of carmine are worse.

What They Found in the North River.

It seems unnecessary that Agassiz should go to dredging the South American rivers to obtain curiosities, when he might procure more wonderful ones by fishing in the North River. A New York paper says:

The attention of people passing through Barclay Street yesterday, was attracted to a large, strange marine monster hanging over a fish stand. The fish was captured in the North River, opposite Weehawken, by Capt. Samuel Ludlow. The fish had become entangled in the meshes of a shad net. The monster, including his tail, measured nearly five feet in length; his horny head is one-third as large as its body; its jaws are armed with rows of teeth running down into its gullet; its mouth is immense, and when the jaws are extended the fish could easily swallow a good sized infant. The back and head is a dirty black, while the belly is a dull yellow color. Two immense flops, not unlike in color, size and appearance, the ears of an elephant, hang from the sides of the head. The body is irregularly shaped, terminating in a tail similar to that of a lion, a web-like fin forming the tuft. —Several fins, shaped like the human hand, the five fingers distinctly marked, project from the body. "See there," said Mr. Baker to a man, drawing out a couple of feelers a foot long from near the eye, "notice that tuft upon the ends; those are his baits. He will bury himself partially in the sediment at the bottom of the river, and lifting these over its mouth set them in motion. They attract fish which he draws between his jaws. Here is a big shad we took from his maw." Mr. Barker here displayed a four-pounder pretty well mangled. "The shad is lively while the devil fish is slow; and he had to set his trap for him."

A TEN-THOUSAND DOLLAR BOOK.

A Wonder of Literature.

From the Oswego (N. Y.) Times.

In *Appletons' Journal* for the 25th of January, we find the following description:

"The most extraordinary book ever seen on this side of the Atlantic is now on exhibition at the store of Mr. Bouton, of this city. It is a copy of the Bible, 'expanded' by inlaying and illustration, to sixty imperial-folio volumes. This remarkable monument of patience and zeal is the work of Mr. James Gibbs, of London, who occupied nearly forty years in collecting and arranging the materials for it. The illustrations, numbering some thirty thousand in all, comprise numerous drawings by Raphael, Caracci, and a dozen others of the celebrated masters of the old times, and some also by famous modern artists; engravings and etchings from the most noted hands; early wood-cuts; and illuminations of missal paintings, on both paper and vellum, some of which date as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century. This wonderful book is a vast gallery of Christian art, in which every master of the earlier times is worthily represented, and contains, besides, some of the best works of modern artists. The price of the work is ten thousand dollars."

This most remarkable of all known editions of the Bible was lately bought by Theodore Irwin, Esq., of this city, who is becoming widely known as a book fancier and collector. It is in sixty enormous volumes and as much a curiosity in appearance as in contents.

Precious Stones—The Ruby.

No stone, after the diamond, can approach the hardness, beauty and value of the ruby; in fact, a beautiful Oriental ruby is more rare and costly than a beautiful diamond. The perfect ruby has a deep, brilliant red; others have the paler tint of gooseberry jelly, and some are of violet color. For the last 150 years no rubies have been dug from the earth, so there has been no addition to the stock already in the hands of man, except such precious (cheap) stones as are manipulated at Attleborough. Ceylon, India and China have supplied the finest, and France claims to have in her possession the largest of known rubies. It came to the crown in such an outlandish shape that no lapidary could make anything of it without cutting it down to an ordinary size, as it projected sharply on opposite sides. But the genius of one Mr. Gue was the angel of royalty in the unshapely mass, and cut accordingly, giving the stone the form of a dragon with open wings, who had taken so much fire-broth in the paternal palace that it made him sick, and he now vomits flames. The ruby dragon has been placed in the order of the Fleece, as a hint that all royal fleecers of the people consort with the dragon.

The Oriental ruby produces a double refraction of light, and will bear a great amount of heat without injury to form or color; hence its fitness for an image of the old dragon that has so long turned light into darkness in the royal palaces, and now awaits the final fire of revolution.

The spinel ruby has less alumina, less color, is softer, and of less specific gravity—is, in fact, an inferior ruby, though Webster's former editions declare it to be a true ruby. Its color is due to chromic acid, while that of the

perfect ruby is produced by the oxide of iron.

The balas ruby is a variety of the spinel, still less valuable, though a very pretty stone, winy, or violet, or of various other shades, but worth little unless very large and fine.

Genuine rubies, differing nothing in substance, density, and color from the natural crystals, have been produced by art; but, owing to the great difficulty in maintaining perfect fusion, and a very slow crystalization, the artificial gems do not preserve the clearness of the natural gems. In the fluid state the substance has all the limpidity of the best stones, but becomes cloudy in chilling. With a greater mass of material, and consequently a more prolonged process of calcination, the produced crystals are larger; and those obtained by a French savant, M. Gaudin, were even harder than the natural ruby, as was proved by a skillful stone-cutter, who used them to drill the jewels for pivots in his watch-making. M. Gaudin used for his experiment ammoniacal alum, with a little yellow potassium chromate, melted by the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe. Besides the separate minute crystals, he obtained a geode of corundum—that is, a hollow pebble, internally lined with crystals, giving the sextuple cleavage peculiar to this mineral. As rubies are no longer found in nature, these experiments offer the only hope of a continued supply, which thus far is not of very brilliant promise, as it needs a strong microscope to see what has been done in the way of artificial rubies.—*Oliver Optic's Magazine.*

Extraordinary Freak of Nature.

We have it from the undoubted authority of a highly respectable citizen of Port Deposit, that a negro appeared

at that place a few days ago who is most singularly constituted in his "make up." He possesses the power of changing the location of his heart, and of doing some other wonderful things with his internal improvement. Drs. Avans, Broomall and Shure examined him. He caused his heart to drop down from its place on the left side, then moved it across his stomach, then up the right side and across the chest, remarking—

"There, she's gone home!"

The doctors followed the heart in its singular circuit, marking its pulsations as it progressed. Then the colored brother dropped his ribs; then he put his bowels in motion, causing the whole mass to revolve twenty-one times. He then suspended the action of his heart, the doctors not being able to detect the slightest pulsation.

The negro is a powerfully-built and muscular man. He says he was born in Italy; shows scars where he says he was opened twice by a doctor in Europe.—Dr. Evans offered him one hundred dollars if he would let him "go for him" again, but he said he believed he wouldn't try that any more. The doctor made up a sum of money, and he went on his way rejoicing. This is, perhaps the most wonderful case on record.

A Mysterious Skeleton Clock.

A watchmaker in an Illinois town has constructed a peculiar timepiece, and the local journal describes it as follows:

"It is simply a dial-plate with two hands—an hour hand and a minute hand. The dial is 24 inches in diameter, with a large opening in the center. The minute hand is twelve inches in length, and the hour hand nine and a half inches, fastened in the center on a small pivot. That is all that can be

seen by looking at it. By looking closely on the large ends of the hands, or ends toward the center of the dial, and on the reverse side, you will see what appear to be weights intended to balance the hands, but which in reality contain the secret of the movement of the hands. Within these small weights are miniature works like those of a small watch, strong enough to control the large hands. A person may whirl the hands until they spin around like a top, but each will invariably return to its proper place and indicate the time of day correctly. The hands may be taken off and laid away for an hour, or two hours, or ten, or any length of time, and upon being replaced on the pivot they will instantly point the precise hour and minute. There is no electricity, or anything of that sort. The dial hangs by a tiny hook from a nail. It may be suspended by a string, or held in the hand, and the movements are all the same. The hands do not move with the regularity and precision of those of a regulator, but the correct time of day is always indicated; and when the hands of the regulator, or any properly regulated clock, are upon the figures or minute marks, those of this strong timepiece will agree exactly. It is really a remarkable piece of workmanship, and excites much comment. Nothing is seen by looking at it or examining it, save the rim of the dial and the hands. That is all; and when they move so correctly and mark the time of day, it seems as though some unseen spirit must represent and impel their movements.

"Gracious me!" exclaimed a lady in a witness-box, "how should I know anything about anything I don't know anything about!"

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILL., NOVEMBER, 1873.

No. 11.

Hongkong Coinage.

HONGKONG, Oct. 11th, 1873.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Esq., ROCKFORD:

Dear Sir :—I am in receipt of your favor of Aug. 8th, as well as of the "Curiosity Hunter," for which I am obliged. Please continue mailing me the latter regularly.

Accompanying are a lot of postage stamps, collected in a hurry, also an article on the Hongkong Coinage, and some *mills*, which may perhaps prove interesting, of Hongkong revenue stamps. There are besides sundry bill stamps, only the three cent stamps for receipts upwards of \$10, of which I enclose a few, and will endeavor to send you some other things by the next steamer.

I have in my possession eighteen different Arracanno Silver Coins, collected during a residence of five years at Ah-yal, some fifteen years ago. They are extremely rare, ranging in date from 1610 to 1783, A. D., and ought to be purchased for some national collection. An account of them is to be found in the Bengal Journal of the Asiatic Society, vol. xv. pp. 232 and 238. I am willing to accept \$250—min. for the same.

I have also two Annam Dollars, likewise extremely rare, an account of which I will forward you by the next steamer. Price \$25—min. each.

In C. H. No. 4 I find "A descriptive list of Advertising Coins."

I have the following in my possession:

1. Copper. Obverse, female seated on a bale with scales and cornucopia,

ship, Ambralia, 1855. Reverse, A. Too-good, merchant, Pitt and King street, Sydney.

2. Copper. Obverse, coat of arms shielded by kangaroo and emeu. Motto "Advance Victoria," Victoria, 1862; T. Stokes, maker, 100 Collins street, East Melbourne. Reverse, grocers, iron mongers, china and glass ware merchant.

3. Copper. Obverse, emeu and kangaroo, Tasmania, 1855. Reverse, Lewis Abrahams, draper, Liverpool street, Hobart Town.

4. Copper. Obverse, female standing with scales and cornucopia; ship Tasmania. Reverse, R. Andrew Mother, family draper, &c., Hobart Town.

5. Copper. Obverse, female seated as No. 1 Van Dieman's Land, 1855. Reverse, house with toll-gate.

6. Copper. Obverse, female standing as No. 4, established in 1836. Reverse, Smith, Pente & Co., grocers, tea dealers, &c., wine merchants, 258 and 260 George street, Sydney.

7. Copper. Obverse, female seated on a bale with scales, to facilitate trade, 1855. Reverse, portrait without inscription.

8. Copper. Obverse, Holloway's trade mark, Holloway's pills and ointment, 1858. Reverse, head of Prof. Holloway, London.

No. 1 to 5 size of an English copper penny; No. 5 to 8 size of a half-penny.

BANK TOKENS.

1. Copper. St. George and the Dragon; Bank of Upper Canada, 1852. Reverse, crown, anchor, &c., two cornucopias, bank token, one half-penny.

2. Copper. Obverse, house, Province of Canada, bank of Montreal. Reverse, coat of arms, motto, "*Concordia Sabis*," bank token 1844, half-penny.

COINAGE OF HONGKONG.

The attempt to provide Hongkong with a local coinage, to put an end to the dishonest practices of compradores, sheoffs and money changers, has been a failure, and the Mint, erected at great expense to the title of colony, subsequently found its way to Japan. The mint machinery is run in perfect working order at Osaka, under the superintendence of the same mint master, and the mint premises in Hongkong have been turned into a sugar refinery.

Previous to the erection of the mint, in fact from the very beginning of the settlement, so-called Spanish Dollars, of which there were several kinds, all more or less liked by the Chinese, formed the principal currency of the colony; they have been getting scarce for some time, and the Dollar of the Mexican Republic has supplied their place.

The greater proportion of Dollars having the Spanish Kings insignia on them, formerly current in Hongkong, was colonial money, coined when Spain possessed the South American colonies, and though most of them were Mexican, they went in China by the general name of Spanish Dollars.

Though of the same weight and purity, Dollars were not received alike by the Chinese, and what was preferred in one place, was refused altogether in another without perceptible reason, unless taken at a discount. The favorite Dollar, however, was the old Pillar Dollar, which has not been coined since the Spanish were turned out of Mexico, and which used to bear all over China a premium of from 1 to 1½ per cent,

and in certain districts at certain times of the year, it bore a premium as high as 4 and even 6 per cent on the older Dollars called "flowery rimmed."

After the Pillar Dollar, the "old heads" of the colonial coinages of Charles 3d and 4th, and of Ferdinand 7th enjoyed a certain degree of preference, and were received in payment by rate, or reckoned by number, but were rejected if "the King's shoulders were without epaulettes," in which case they were considered "new heads."

The different kinds of Spanish Dollars may be known by the following mint marks:

M.	coined at	Madrid,	with a crown,
s.	"	"	Sorilla, [old Spanish.
Mc.	"	"	Mexico City.
T.	"	"	Potosi.
So.	"	"	Santiago.
G.	"	"	Gundalara.
NG.	"	"	New Guatamala.
M.	"	"	Lima.
Zs.	"	"	Zachytaskes.
Do.	"	"	Dorango.
Go.	"	"	Guanaxto.
Ca.	"	"	Chihuahua.
Ga.	"	"	Gaydaluxana.
P.	"	"	San Luis Potosi.
ME.	"	"	Halpard, State of

[Mexico.

There may be some others, but not of any importance. Those least esteemed were the Gundalara and New Guatamala Dollars, and were never received but at a discount; they were called by the Chinese Cowhin, and the inferiority of the Gundalara Dollar was fixed by authority of an order from the Hoppo at Canton.

On the disappearance of the Spanish Dollars, the first issue of the Mexican Republic came into general circulation, and the objectionable practice of "chopping," that is stamping them, was renewed with a vengeance. As a rule the coin was defaced to such an ex-

tent that the surface on both sides was covered with Chinese characters, often to the entire obliteration of the original engraving. Besides this pieces were chipped or punched out of them, and filled up again with lead, or left open, so that the coin degenerated into bullion, and payments had to be made by weight. To improve matters considerable quantities of false issues turned up, and "clean Mexicans," that is unstamped Dollars, owing to their scarcity, have risen to a premium. Private Mints, it is said, were established at Shanghai, and at Canton, where Dollars were made of different degrees of purity for the purpose of keeping the market supplied with clean coin, which had no sooner fallen into the hands of the Chinese, than it was disposed of in the usual manner. The Roman Catholic missionaries in Annam have also been credited with turning their hands at times to the manufacture of Mexicans. As small change to the above delectable currency served the Rupee, the United States half-dollar, Spanish quarter, shilling, franc, or any other silver coin of about the size wanted; the thousands of Chinese money changers, in their small way, reaping a rich harvest.

At present matters have improved a little, but the Mexican is still "chopped," and as a future relic of the barbarous times the usual notification in the Hongkong Auctioneers advertisements will be pointed out as follows: Terms of sale, cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars, weighed at 7. 1. 7., that is, the Mexican may be "chopped," and have as many holes in it as you please, not filled up with lead, through which the sheoff looks, but the amount of purchase money must weigh in silver 7 Mace, 2 Candareen, and 7 cash to the Dollar. At some of the ports on

the coast, for instance at Amoy, Dollars weighing 7 Mace and 2 Candareens, are usually disputed for.

The above system being open to so many abuses, of which the Chinese availed all they could, and the smallest denomination of notes issued by the local branch banks at that time five Dollars, an improvement in the currency was at last considered necessary, which led to the Hongkong Mint being established, and which, for some unaccountable reason, unfortunately failed to give the satisfaction expected from it, in consequence of which it has since been sold to the Japanese.

During the operations of the mint the following local currency was issued:

Silver One Dollar pieces,	} Coined at		
" Half " "		} the Mint.	
" Twenty cent "	} Subsidiary		
" Ten " "		} coins sent out	
" Five " "			} from England.
Bronze One " "			
" One Mill "			

Since the stoppage of this coinage the Hongkong Dollar and half-dollar are becoming scarce, which is to be regretted; since, by authority, they were no legal tender, unless unstamped, which power the local government does not possess over the Mexican Dollar.— A one Dollar note since been issued, with the consent of the government, from one of the local branch banks, and the subsidiary coins continue to be supplied from time to time from England, but not in such quantities as required. Revenue payments to government are made in local bank notes.— Hongkong currency, or unstamped Mexican Dollars of full weight, old or new issue.

The second issue of the Mexican Dollar, that of 1870, has also since then made its appearance, and naturally was the cause of another financial combina-

tion, or attempt at squeezing at Canton, on the part of Chinese sheoffs and traders to depreciate the value of the same. After having been assayed in the usual manner, and not found inferior to the first issue, it required, at the instigation of the British Consul, a proclamation from the Grand Secretary, President of the Board of War, and Governor General of the Two Kivang Provinces, and sundry other officials posted at the city gates and elsewhere, to insure its acceptance in payment of duties, and to sanction its general circulation, for the convenience of traders and people, which was done on the 30th of November, 1872, and the said proclamation ended with—"Rogues and vagabonds, and such-like, are moreover hereby strictly forbidden to secretly fabricate counterfeit imitations of the above mentioned coin, with a view to their own profit; and should they dare to set this prohibition at defiance, they will most assuredly, upon discovery of the fact, be at once punished with the utmost severity. Tremble and obey! Let there be no disobedience?" a warning, as a rule, very little thought of by the Chinese.

In September a few specimens of the new Trade Dollar issued from the San Francisco Mint in August last, were seen in Hongkong. Whether it will ever be adopted by proclamation, as the last Mexican issue, time will show.

J. H. G.

A New York Bird-Shop.

Of all the bird-shops in New York, the one that soonest catches the artist's eye is kept in Center-st. by a veteran pigeon-fancier, who is snugly domiciled in the corner of an old brick mansion, now forlorn and battered, though once doubtless an aristocratic mansion. A

flight of time-worn brown-stone steps leads up to a doorway which is blocked with piles of square cages, red, green, and blue, till only the narrowest defile is left for entrance. A bevy of snow-white chickens, a family of restless bantams, and two or three martial game cocks, share these cages with some dozens of pigeons, pure white or diversely marked with iridescent shades of gray or brown. Some of them are preening their glossy plumage, while others are puffing out their fluffy bosoms and sleepily winking their lustrous eyes, and others, still, with tails spread out, peacock fashion, are chasing their companions furiously around the cage, and pecking them with a comic appearance of the most vindictive rage.

Inside, the walls of the small triangular room are crowded from the sandy, corn-sprinkled floor to the dingy, cob-webbed ceiling, with tiers of the rudest green cages, full of cooing and quarrelsome tenants. Here and there a stray thrush sits speechless and solitary, while in a large double cage a dozen of the yellowest canaries are merrily hopping and twittering and feasting at intervals upon a hemisphere of savory apple. In a distant corner a small, green, white-billed parades soberly to and fro on a wire-roofed cage, while his red-billed, imprisoned for misconduct, crouches on a black perch and moodily munches a cracker, promoting digestion by an occasional screech. In two or three cages sleepy rabbits are penned up, while others of the long-eared tribe fearlessly run about the floor, nibbling cabbage leaves, or napping peacefully in convenient nooks. The shaggiest of black and white dogs walks slowly around with the air of one in authority, or stretches himself on the floor and crosses his forelegs in an attitude of the

most dignified repose. Another smaller dog, with thin legs and black silky hair, seems chiefly intent on keeping out of harm's way, and yet seeing all that goes on, while a third sturdy white fellow with a black nose barks and whimpers at the end of a slender cord which restrains his liberty in a way he evidently despises. A black and yellow cat stalks deliberately along the tops of the cages, dividing her parental solicitude between the feathered occupants and a solitary white-nosed kitten, which betrays a furtive disposition to arch its back at the smallest and most inoffensive of its canine companions. So well trained are these cats and dogs that the perching of a stray canary on their backs does not incite them to hostile demonstrations.—*Scribner.*

Indian Cotton Cloth.

The marvelous delicacy of touch possessed by the Indian women (says an English writer) counterbalances the inferiority of Indian cotton in weaving the fine and delicate muslins to which the names of "webs of woven hair," "dew of night," "running waters," etc., are given by the natives. They now use the spinning-wheel generally for the ordinary fabrics, but "the spindle still holds its place in the hands of the Hindoo women when employed in spinning thread for the finer muslins. For these the Hindoo women first cards her cotton with the jawbone of the *boalee* fish; she then separates the seeds by means of a small iron roller, worked backward and forward upon a flat board. An equally small bow is used for bringing it to the state of downy fleece, which is made up into small rolls, to be held in the hand during the process of spinning. The apparatus required for this consists of a delicate

iron spindle, having a small ball of clay attached to it in order to give it sufficient weight in turning, and imbedded in a little clay there is a piece of hard shell, on which the spindle turns with the least degree of friction."

Very great attention is paid to the temperature of the air during the process of spinning, and the spinners in the dry climate of northwestern India work underground to secure a moist and uniform atmosphere. The cheapness of English manufactured goods seems to have greatly depressed the cotton fabrics of India, but the fine muslins of the latter country yet maintain undisputed celebrity, and are valued as highly as ever. The Dacca muslins are the very finest of all. One of the best pieces which found its way to England was ten yards long by one yard wide, weighed only three ounces, two pennyweights, and could be drawn through a very small ring.

Raining Fish.

It seems recently to have rained fish in Scotland. A Scotch paper says that an unusually large number of herrings were lately observed swimming near the shore in Granton harbor. Their presence was attributed to a heavy sea driven shoreward by a strong easterly wind. Next, however, great quantities were found washed on the beach and the harbor bulwark, where they attracted flocks of sea birds and crows. Finally, hundreds of these small herrings were found lying on the roads near the coast. One gentleman found several in his garden. The Phenomenon is attributed to a waterspout which occurred just previously, and is supposed to have lifted the fish from the sea high into the air, whence they were conveyed to the land by the easterly wind which prevailed at the time.

The Bucket of Bologna.

In the tower of the Bologna Cathedral, carefully protected by an iron cage, stands an historic and costly treasure which has been thus jealously guarded for 800 years.

It was worth, perhaps, when new, a few shillings; but, bearing not only the marks of centuries of decay, but also traces of long and hard service, the water-soaked, battered old bucket of the town well of Bologna is now accounted a relic of rare value.

In the year 1005, this bucket descended for the last time into the well in the market-place of Bologna to satisfy the thirst of a party of soldiers from Modena, who were returning from a midnight revel, and who, in their tipsy frolic, thought it would be a fine joke to carry off this faithful public servant, to the wonder and dismay of the city folk when they came to draw the morning supply.

It was a foolish trick, but the retaliation was more foolish still; for, instead of buying a new bucket and thinking no more about it, the government sent an angry requisition for the thieves to the neighboring State, which was as angrily refused. Crimination was followed by recrimination, insult by insult, until at last both parties flew to arms, open war was declared, blood was shed on both sides—all for an old bucket!

Battle after battle was fought, leaving the ground strewed with the dead, and the air filled with the groans of the wounded and dying; towns were besieged and sacked, crops destroyed, women and children driven penniless from their burning homes—all for an old bucket!

Nor was this the end. The neighboring state of Sardinia was drawn into

the quarrel, and its young and gallant king, coming to the aid of the Modenese, was made prisoner. In vain his father, the emperor Henry II., made every effort to effect his release, even offering a gold chain long enough to encircle the city, which was seven miles in circumference; but the incensed Bolognese refused. So, for 22 years this young life, which might have been a useful one to his country and the world, languished in prison, until at last, aged before his time, forgotten, perhaps, by both friends and enemies, death, kinder than his jailors, came to his relief.

Truly the beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Origin of Familiar Words.

The word "quiz"—to make fun of, or poke fun at a person—was the coinage of a theatrical manager in Dublin, who at a drinking party with his friends one Saturday night, when the conversation turned upon the subject of words, offered to bet the wine that he could then and there coin a word that would be in the mouths of all Dublin the next day. The bet being taken and the party dispersed, the manager called up his call-boys and runners, gave them pieces of chalk, and ordered them to run all over the city, chalking the word "quiz" on every door, shutter and fence they saw. This was done, and, as a matter of course, the new word was in every one's mouth the next day. The manager won his bet, and his word is now in all respectable dictionaries.

The slang expression for death, "kicking the bucket," had its origin from one Bolsover, who, in England, committed suicide by standing on a bucket

until he kicked the bucket from under him.

The word "bumper," meaning a full drink when friends are drinking, is a corruption of the toast offered in French to the Pope when the Catholic religion was in the ascendent in England—*au bon pere*.

To "dun," to press for money due, comes from one Joe Dunn, a famous bailiff of Lincoln, England, during the reign of Henry VII. He was so uncommonly successful in the collection of money that when a man refused to pay, the creditor was asked why he did not Dunn him.

"Humbog" is a corruption of the Irish words *uim bog*, pronounced "oom-bog," signifying soft copper, or pewter, or worthless money, such as was made by James II. at the Dublin mint, twenty shillings of which was worth only two pence sterling. At first applied to worthless money, the words became the general title of anything false, or counterfeit.

The sign "viz." signifying namely, or to wit, is an abbreviation of *videlicet*, but the third letter was originally z, and was the mark used in medicine for a drachm.

The Wonder's of Solomon's Cave.

Further discoveries have recently occurred in Solomon's Cave, Ophir Gulch, Montana, which point to the conclusion that it was once the hiding-place of men. In the words of the explorer, who was accompanied by three others, "leaning against the wall was a huge plate of copper, fifty-seven inches in length and thirty-six inches in width, and about one-fourth of an inch in thickness. This we took to be a shield, as near the center were two holes, eight inches apart, used, doubtless, for inserting a strap

through which to slip the arm. It was wrought by hand, as the marks of a sledge or other heavy instrument were plainly visible on it.

"About ten feet beyond where the shield was found, and eight feet from the floor, was a cavity in the wall ten feet in length and over four feet high. Placing a few large stones one upon another, Barnard climbed up and held his light in to see the extent of the opening, but he immediately turned towards us with a frightened look, and it was some seconds before he could explain the nature of the discovery he had made. But when he assured us that in that niche lay a petrified giant, all were eager to look, at him. He was found to be nine feet seven and a half inches in length, thirty-eight inches across the breast, and two feet deep. He was covered from head to foot with a coating from one to two inches in thickness, similar to that found on the roofs and pillars in a number of places, hard as limestone, and along the sides this casting, as it appeared at first to be, had united with the rock on which it lay, leaving this relic of the stone age, or some other distant age, literally incased in. A helmet of brass or copper of gigantic proportions was upon his head, which the corrosive element of time had sealed to his brow. It is the most perfect petrification I have ever seen, and the whole body being as solid as though cut out of a block of marble." The party also found lots of pictures chiseled in the walls; also, a primitive quartz-crusher. The next time they are going into the inner chambers of the cave, where they suppose there are vast deposits of money.

The Nelson monument in Sackville street, Dublin, was arrested in 1808.

Old Books.

A curious fact, not generally known, perhaps, is that there are several church vestries in the Kingdom which contain libraries which have been formerly left to them by bequest, or by some other means. The original fashion was to chain or fasten the books to the shelves. The vestry of the Church of All Saints, at Hereford, may be taken as one example. It possesses an almost unique evidence of the middle ages, when books were chained to shelves, and a money pledge required before the sacred volume could be obtained for perusal. This collection, which goes by the title of Dr. Brewster's library, probably after the name of the donor, was given to the parish in the last century. The books have been removed but once from their holding.

This method of diffusing knowledge was only short-lived, occurring as it did in the time of a thrifty and generous church-warden who sold the books to a London biblioplist at what was deemed a large figure, and the profit was intended to be carried to the year's receipts. The Hereford *Journal*, however, took up the matter in correspondence, and the books were saved from the impending confiscation. They have since remained on the shelves of the vestry. There are some interesting works in the collection, and a catalogue of them was published in the same paper at the time of their sudden removal to London. Luther's "Common-place Book" is one, and it affords an interesting memento of the great reformer. Another valuable book is a fine specimen of early printing, in 1541, in rubric black letters. The books, however, are too thickly covered with dust to invite any but an enthusiastic searcher after old volumes to attempt unearthing whatever other secret treasures may be there concealed.—*Once a Week*.

A Curious Literary Production.

The following is one of the most remarkable compositions ever written. It evinces an ingenuity peculiarly its own. The initials letters spell "My Boast is in the Glorious Cross of Christ." The words in *italic*, when read on the left hand side from top to bottom, and on the right hand side from bottom to top, form the Lord's Prayer complete.

Make known the gospel truth, *our* Father king;
Yield up thy grace, dear *Father* from above;
Bless us with hearts *which* feelingly can sing,
"Our life thou art for ever, God of love."
Assuage our grief *in* love for Christ, we pray,
Since the Prince of *Heaven* and *Glory* died,
Took all sins and *hallowed* the display.
Infinite *be-ing*, first man, and then was crucified.
Stupendous God! *thy* grace and *power* make
In *Jesus' name* let all the world rejoice, [known
Now labor in *thy* heavenly *kingdom* own—
That blessed *kingdom* for thy saints the choice.
How vile to *come* to thee, *is* all our cry;
Enemies to *thy* self, and all that's *thine*.
Graceless our *will*, we live for vanity;
Loathing the very *be-ing*, *evil* in design—
O God, thy will be *done* from earth to heaven;
Reclining on the gospel let us live,
In *earth*, from sin *deliver*-ed and forgiven.
Oh, *as* thyself, but teach us to forgive;
Unless *its* power *temptation* doth destroy,
Sure *is* our fall into the depths of woe.
Carnal in mind, we have not a glimpse of joy
Raised against *heaven*; in us no hopes we know.
O, *give* us grace and *lead* us on the way;
Shine on *us* with thy love and give *us* peace.
Self, and *this* sin that rise against us, slay.
Oh, grant each *day* our *trespass*-es may cease;
Forgive *our* evil deeds that oft we do.
Convince us *daily* of *them*, to our shame;
Help us with heavenly *bread*, *forgive* us, too,
Recurrent lusts; and *we'll* adorn thy name.
In thy *forgive*-ness we *as* saints can die,
Since for *us* and our *trespasses* so high
Thy Son, *our* Savior, died on Calvary.

We knew the fool would turn up somewhere who would put his postal card in a stamped envelope and mail it that way. Covington, Ky., is responsible for him, and he thinks the cards are a great convenience.

Petrels and Gulls.

Dr. S. Kneeland furnishes some interesting facts concerning these birds, which he gathered while on trip from San Francisco to Panama. Large petrels (*puffin cinereus*), he says, followed the vessel on the way out. On alighting in the water, which they often do, they put forward their webbed feet, checking their headway in such a manner, backing water as it were with the wings spread, before settling upon the surface. They came round and near the steamer in considerable numbers, but never alighted on it, as the booby of the Atlantic does. On account of the great length of their wings and the shortness of their legs, they cannot rise like the gull, directly from the water, but are obliged to run along the surface, like the smaller petrels, beating the water with their feet until sufficiently elevated to use their wings. As the coast of Gulf of California was neared, the petrels disappeared, and were replaced in an hour or two by white gulls about the size of Bonaparte's gull, but either entirely white or with a very slight lavender-blue tinge on the wings and back. These had an entirely different way of alighting and rising from the water; they did not push forth their feet to arrest their course, but circled round like pigeons until their headway was stopped, then quietly settled upon the water and immediately folded their wings.

✍️ WE issued no numbers of THE CURIOSITY HUNTER between May and October, in order that our Volume XI. might begin with the year 1874.

✍️ S. G. Drake, 17 Bromfield street, Boston, sends us his Fall catalogue of rare and unique books which he has for sale.

A Double-Headed Snake.

A strange reptile has been added to the already known singular zoological existence of Australia. A double-headed snake has been discovered. Professor Halford thus describes it: "Each head was perfect in its own anatomy—muscles, bones, poison glands, and fangs. Each neck was perfect for about ten vertebræ, when they blended with one body and tail of the snake. There were two gullets, two wind-pipes, and two breasts, of which the right was the largest, as was the right head. The distribution of the blood vessels I have not yet traced. There were two intelligences belonging to one progressive apparatus, and the result was very interesting to witness. The right head wished to go one way and the left the other; as the neck vertebræ of each departed from the other at a very acute angle, the result was a simple onward movement of the common body. When a common danger threatened, then the left head twisted itself round the right one so as to be in the same line, and then progression was tolerably quick." Since the above snake was caught another of the same tribe answering the same description has been captured.

The number engaged in the battle of the Alma, fought 20th September, 1854, were about 50,000 French and English against 46,000 Russians. The fight lasted four hours, and the Russians were beaten, being about 4,000 killed and wounded and 900 prisoners.

Covent Garden Theatre, London, was last destroyed by fire on the 5th of March, 1856. A new theatre was built, and opened for the performance of Italian Opera on the 15th May, 1858.—Madame Grist made her last appearance at this theatre on the 3d August 1861.

FOLLOWING close upon the recent auctions of picture-galleries at the Hotel des Ventes, Paris, collectors of ancient moneys will be attracted in large numbers to the coming sale of the valuable Gallo-Roman treasure discovered beneath one of the courtyards of the Lycee Napoleon in 1867. This sale is rendered necessary by a judicial decision as to the quotient distribution of the treasure-trove between the city of Paris and the workmen who lighted on it. The collection comprises 800 coins known as *aurei*, each worth something more than a 20-franc piece, and forming a complete series of the numismatic history of Lutetia during the reign of the Roman emperors from Claudius to Septimus Severus. These *aurei* are all in an excellent state of preservation, and those found nearest to the surface, dating from Commodus, Pertinax, and Septimus Severus, look as fresh as if they had just come from the mint. Coins of the Antonine epoch are largely represented in this collection; the "Faustinas," young and old; the "Vespasians," and the "Titus," one with the inscription "Divus Titus," and on the reverse the curule chair surmounted by a thunder-flash, among the number. There is also a "Julia Domna," the wife Septimus Severus and Caracalla, a "Restitutio Augusti per Trajanum," an "Ælius Cæsar," five or six of the time of Pertinax, and three "Plautinas." On the reverse of a coin dating from the reign of Commodus, the Emperor of the Circus is represented in the act of making his horse leap over a lion. Rarer still is an *aureus* of the time of Antonius Pius, with two figures on the reverse, and the inscription "Concordiæ Eternæ." These are some of the gems of the treasure, and there can be little doubt that the French Department of

Fine Arts will be ready to bid very high for every item in the collection rather than let it be dispersed throughout Europe.

Rains of Fire and Blood.

In the south of the Decan those rains known as rains of fire and blood, about which our ancestors were so deeply superstitious, still sometimes occur. Those who have had the opportunity of witnessing them state that the illusion is complete. On one occasion it is recorded that the sun was setting in an almost cloudless sky, while in the east there were thick and sombre clouds; in the zenith, however, the sky retained all its purity. Suddenly a storm burst, and it appeared as if a fiery rain was falling, the sparks being on the point of setting the world in flames. No sooner had the sun set behind the horizon than this scintillating and brilliant appearance was transformed into a deep red, bearing a strong resemblance to blood.—This singular phenomenon, considered by the ancients as the presage of terrible misfortune, is merely owing to the reflection of the polar rays of light at a certain angle of incidence.—*Casell's "Illustrated Travels."*

—A dangerous half-eagle (coinage of 1872) has recently made its appearance in New York and Boston, which so closely resembles genuine as almost to defy detection. In weight and color it corresponds with the legal coin, and is made up of 848-1000ths gold, alloyed with copper and a minimum of silver, its intrinsic value being 4.70-100. The outlines of the letters and the eagle are not as sharp, square and angular as those on the genuine. Colonel Whitley, chief of the U. S. Secret Service, offers a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the capture of the dies from which the coin is made, and to the conviction of the parties guilty of making and putting it on the market.

Origin of Amber.

Professor Zaddach shows that the trees which yielded the amber must have grown upon the green-sand beds of the Cretaceous Period, flourishing luxuriantly on the marshy coast which then surrounded the great continent of Northern Europe. Probably the temperature was then much higher than it is now; and this even at that epoch extended to the now frost-bound Arctic regions, a fact which has been proved by the remarkable plant-remains of temperate climes which have been recently discovered there. The amber flora of the Baltic area under review contains northern forms associated with plants of more temperate zones; and thus camphor trees (*Cinnamomum*) occur with willows, birches, beech and numerous oaks. A species of *Thuja*, very similar to the American *Thuja occidentalis*, is the most abundant tree amongst the conifers; next in abundance, *Widdringtonia*, a great variety of pines and firs, including the amber pine; thousands of these, it is supposed by the professor, might have perished; and while the wood decayed, the resin with which the stem and branches were loaded might have been accumulated in large quantities, in bogs and lakes, in the soil of the forest. If the coast at that time was gradually sinking, the sea would cover the land, and in due course carry away the amber and masses of vegetable *detritus* into the ocean, where it was deposited amidst the marine animals which inhabit it. But in higher districts the amber pines would still flourish, and so amber still continues to be washed into the sea, and deposited in the latter formed green-sand, and still later overlying formation of the "brown coal."

A Singular Tradition.

Among the Seminole Indians, there is a singular tradition regarding the white man's origin and superiority.—They say that when the Great Spirit made the earth, he also made three men, all of whom were fair complexioned, and that after making them, he led them to the margin of a small lake, and bade them leap in and wash. One obeyed, and came out of the water purer and fairer than before; the second hesitated a moment, during which time the water, agitated by the first, had become muddied, and when he bathed, he came up copper-colored; the third did not leap till the water became black with mud, and he came out with its own color. Then the Great Spirit laid before them three packages, and out of pity for his misfortune in color, gave the black man the first choice. He took hold of each of the packages, and having felt the weight, chose the heaviest; the copper-colored man then chose the next heaviest, leaving the white man the lightest. When the packages were opened, the first was found to contain spades, hoes, and all the implements of labor; the second enwrapped hunting, fishing, and warlike apparatus; the third gave the white man pens, ink and paper, the engines of the mind—the means of mutual, mental improvement, the social link of humanity, the foundation of the white man's superiority.

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The phenomenon known as the "milky sea," is confined wholly to the tropics, and almost entirely to the East Indies. It occurs at night, the sea appearing a vast surface of snow, rather than milk, and being partially luminous. It is very rarely seen, but its occurrence is well authenticated.

Earth Eaters.

To the list of earth-eating people the Japanese must be reckoned; and Professor Funchs has given a full account of the edible earth in use by this people. One deposit, possessing an intensely red color, exists in the neighborhood of Sura Baja, between strata referable to the time of the latest tertiary. This earth is formed into thin cakes, having a diameter of from one to one and a-half inches; it is then dried over an open fire, and in this condition is brought into the market. It is perfectly smooth to the touch, and is composed of materials in the finest state of subdivision. By a chemical analysis, it is found not to contain the slightest trace of an organic substance. It is apparent that the earth consists of a clay rich in iron, in which is still retained small quantities, yet undecomposed, of the minerals from which it derived its origin. Upon rubbing it, not the slightest grittiness is perceptible, and on being moistened with water it forms a smooth and unctuous mass. The enjoyment derived from eating it seems to reside in the similarity of the sensations it produces with those derived from the eating of fatty substances. In many parts of Wurtemberg the quarrymen have the habit of eating the smooth unctuous clay which collects in the fissures of the rocks. The term "Mondschmaiz," which they apply to it, would seem to refer to the enjoyment they experience in the process of eating.

On a recent trial in South Wales, to test the validity of a will, it was proved that in 1867 the testator became impaired in intellect to such an extent that he went to the post-office with a postage stamp on his forehead, and requested to be sent by mail to a place he mentioned

Instinct of Reason.

A naturalist travelling in the West of Scotland, observed a singular mode of obtaining food adopted by the Arctic tern, of the island of Benbecula. He says: On coming within sight of the first ford, I observed between twenty and thirty terns quietly sitting on the banks of the salt-water stream; but the moment they saw us approaching they rose on wing to meet us, and then hovered gracefully above our heads as the pony stepped into the water. As soon as the whole of the conveyance were fairly into the stream, the terns poised their wings for a moment, then precipitated themselves with a splash exactly above the wheel tracks, and at once rose; each with a wriggling sand-eel in its bill. At the next ford a similar scene was repeated by another group of Arctic terns, which we found there awaiting the arrival of some friendly travellers. In both these cases the bird showed no fear, but dexterously caught their prey, though repeatedly struck at with the whip. Twice over, by stretching out my arm, I nearly caught one of them as it poised itself for a plunge. On making particular inquiry, I was told by many of the inhabitants of both islands that this habit of the tern is a constant entertainment to those who cross the fords in wheeled conveyances.

The English Trinity House was established in 1512, in the reign of Henry VIII. The English navy then consisted of the Great Harry, 1,200 tons, two ships of 800 tons, and six or seven smaller vessels. Chatham Dockyard was commenced by Queen Elizabeth.—In the last year of that queen's reign, 1603, the English navy consisted of 42 ships, whose united tonnage was 17,056, manned by 8,346 men.

The Ancient Lystra.

Separated from the sea coast, and from all intercourse with Europeans by the Taurus range, this region is wild and extremely unsafe. Consequently no modern traveler has visited it, so far as we are aware, until the Rev. Mr. Adams, the intrepid Missionary of the American Board of Missions at Tarsus, did so at the beginning of 1871. Accompanied by Mrs. Adams, he made a tour throughout this region, and conferred a lasting benefit upon Biblical geography by identifying the sites of both Lystra and Derbe. Mr. Adams says: "The present ruins extend over a space a mile in length and about three quarters of a mile in breadth; besides a countless number of ruined houses, the ruins of more than twenty large buildings may be counted. Some are not seriously injured, and are of all shapes—circular, oblong, octagonal, and square—with wings, porticoes, arches, and *bay windows* in some. The friezes, cornices, and mouldings show great beauty of design. These buildings were all constructed of a hard, reddish-stone, polished and cut with exquisite neatness. Many of the walls are perfect, presenting a face that would shame some American 'brown fronts,' while there are few more handsome. A magnificent massive tomb, 20 by 15 feet, is a striking object; its polished walls are perfect as ever."

The Royal George.

About 1750 was built the Royal George, a vessel which was regarded at that time as a "paragon of beauty, and the *ne plus ultra* in the science of marine architecture." Her length was one hundred and seventy-eight feet—less than that of a modern gun-boat—and yet she carried one hundred guns! This

vessel during her existence was the pride of the English navy; she carried more guns, had seen more actions, borne more admiral's flags, and done more service to that country than any other vessel in the navy. She was lost by the melancholy accident, which has no parallel in history, Laying at anchor off Spithead, she was heeled over by the guns being run to one side, when a sudden squall from off the land caused her lower tier of ports to go under water, when she immediately filled and went down, carrying with her the admiral (Kempenfeldt) and nearly nine hundred others. At the time of the disaster there were on board not only the crew of the ill-fated vessel, but many of their wives and children. Attempts were made some years after to raise her, but they were not successful.

Old Ships.

There is a ship now sailing from Holland built in 1568, when the Prince of Orange was fighting Phillip II of Spain, then at the zenith of his power. She was sailing to the Indies when the Hollanders organized themselves into the "Beggars of the Sea," and as privateersman earned a reputation which astonished the world. This Dutch ship is called the "Commissaries des Koning von der Heine." She passed the Cape of Good Hope October 1864, from Batavia for Holland, then two hundred and ninety-four years old. A few numbers back in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* is a notice that the whale ship Rouseau (another of Stephen Girard's ships, built at Philadelphia, in 1801) was then undergoing repairs at New Bedford.—Her planking is being removed, the first time in seventy years. The live oak-timbers underneath are reported to be as sound as they were the day they were first put together.

More Rare Coins.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, Nov. 22, 1873.
To the Editor of the *Inter-Ocean*.]

SIR:—Having seen the statement in your paper that a silver dollar of the date of 1804 was worth \$800, and also having noticed several communications subsequently relative to the ages and value of other coins, I desire to ask you if you can tell the value of an English silver coin dated 1773, and about the size of a United States silver dollar. It bears the inscription "Carolus III."—My mother thinks it is a quarter, but I think it is worth more. Please answer
G. M. GOULD.

DEFIANCE, Ohio, Nov. 24, 1873.
To the Editor of the *Inter-Ocean*.]

SIR.—I see in your issue of some days ago (the 13th, I think) mention made of a gentleman who has a silver dollar bearing date 1804, supposed to be worth \$800 and another gentleman of Illinois who has one of the date 1800. I would ask, if the first is worth \$800, what is the second worth? And by the same rule, what is the one bearing date of 1798 worth? Which the same I have.

B. L. ABELL.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Nov. 25, 1873.
To the Editor of the *Inter-Ocean*]

SIR:—In your paper of the 24th, I see a few communications about "old-coins." As I have a few that I think are older than any mentioned as yet, permit me space in your paper to join with the rest on the coin question. I have an English piece dated 1762, and marked George III. I also have a few other foreign pieces that are not so old; and some colonial paper money. The oldest is a twenty shilling piece, dated 1759; also two more of 1867 and 1774. On the twenty shilling piece is printed,

in large letters, "To Counterfeit is Death," something we don't see on our money at the present day. For any further information address

J. R. BROWN.

BIG RAPIDS, Mich., Nov. 26, 1873.
To the Editor of the *Inter Ocean*.]

SIR:—As it seems to be in order to inventory "old coins" in the *Inter-Ocean*, please add two more to the catalogue. I am in possession of one which the Irishman would call the "father of all pennies." It bears on one side the arms of Russia, with an inscription underneath which (not being acquainted with the Russian alphabet of some forty letters) I am unable to decipher. On the reverse is the monogram, J. E. H., surrounded with a wreath, and the date 1765. Its weight is two ounces, avoirdupois. Has the appearance of having seen much service. I also have an English farthing dated 1675—coined, I believe, in the reign of Charles II. I have known its past history for the last century. I have two \$6 notes given by my grandfather, and paid to him for service during the revolutionary war. On the back of each is inscribed, "'Tis Death to Counterfeit."

F. A. HOWIG.

The Oldest Yet.

CHICAGO, Nov. 28, 1873.
To the Editor of the *Inter-Ocean*.]

SIR:—As you seem to be holding an exposition of rare old coins in your columns, please add the following to the collection: I jingle in my pocket a silver stater, on one side of which appears the head of Philip of Syria. On the reverse is what appears to be a bird of some kind. The history of the coin shows that this was coined in the year

95 B. C. It was found while making an excavation at Rome, in what proved to be an ancient tomb. The coin may be one of the thirty pieces that one Mr. Judas received from the judicial authorities for his testimony in a certain case. A sight of the old relic carries one's thoughts back to a period long before Treasurer Spinner's inimitable autograph had been invented. I also have another rare coin of more recent date, very few of which are in existence. It is known as the Elizabeth silver penny of 1568. The coins can be seen at my office.

A. M. SMITH,
General Passenger Agent Chicago,
Rock Island and Pacific Railway.

—A valuable relic of antiquity, says the *Levant Herald*, has lately been discovered in the grounds of the Russian pilgrim's monastery outside the walls of Jerusalem. It is a monolith cut out of a single block, and only half complete. From a description in the history of Flavius Josephus, it is believed to be a column intended for the decoration of the ancient temple of Solomon; but as the column split while being worked, it was left unfinished, the lower part of it being in a rough, unhewn state. The monolith, which is about 39 feet in length by six in diameter, will prove an object of keen interest to archaeologists, and it is to be hoped that it will be retained in a place of safety—the pillage of monuments of antiquity in the East being now systematic.

—Daniel Boone's rifle, shot-pouch, powder-horn, hunting-knife, and a section of a beech log on which he cut his name and the date, 1774, are in the public library at Louisville, Ky. The wooden stopper of the powder-horn still bear the marks of his teeth.

Historical Items.

Sir Richard Whittington served the office of Lord Mayor of London three times, said to be the greatest number of times that the functions of Lord Mayor have been held by any individual.—There are several instances of the duties being performed by the same person in two successive years. The first Mayor of London, Henry Fitz-Alwhyn, was elected for life in the year 1189, and he held the office for twenty-four years, but then he was simply Mayor, and not Lord Mayor, which prefix was not given to the chief magistrate of the city until 1354. Whittington's last year of office was 1419.

The site of the battle of Nevill's Cross is about three miles to the north of the city of Durham. The date of the battle is 17th October, 1346. The English were under the command of Queen Philippa, the wife of Edward III, who was assisted by Lord Percy; the Scots were commanded by their king, David Bruce, who, in the course of the fight, was taken prisoner. The Scots were defeated with a loss of some 15,000 men.

The battle of Solferino was fought in June, 1859. The killed and wounded on both sides amounted to about 38,000. The combatants were the Austrians on the one side, against the French and Sardinians on the other. The Emperors of France and Austria and the King of Sardinia were present. The slaughter on the battle-field of Leipzig in 1813 was at least double the above number.

Of the European cities, London contains the greatest number of inhabitants. Paris ranks second in point of population, Constantinople third, and Berlin fourth.

St. Leonard the patron saint of prisoners, was born in Le Mans, in France. He got an order from Clovis, the king, whom he had converted, for the liberation of all the prisoners he should see. This caused a pretty general jail delivery.

Louis XVI., King of France, was executed by the guillotine on the 21st January, 1793. He was among the first victims of the great French Revolution. His consort, Marie Antoinette, was tried, condemned, and beheaded in the following October.

The father of Napoleon III., was Louis, who was made King of Holland in 1806; by his marriage with Hortense Beauharnais he had three sons, the youngest of whom, Charles Louis Napoleon, born April 23, 1808, became Napoleon III. in 1852.

St. Giles, the patron of cripples, was born in Athens. He visited France, where he lived a hermit's life. A monastery was built upon the site of his hut. He became its Abbot, and died in 725.

There still exist in English counties houses which were built some five hundred years ago. They often bear the name of Court, or Grange, or the name of some ancient occupant who was Lord of the Manor.

Pianofortes were first made at Dresden in 1717. They were invented by an inhabitant of that town. They were introduced into London by the Germans in 1776.

The present Princess of Wales enjoys the title in virtue of her marriage.—Mary, daughter of Henry VII., was created Princess of Wales in her own right.

The age of the Troubadours commenced in the year 1000 and declined toward the latter part of the 13th century.

Sir Colin Campbell, G. C. B. and Knight of the Order of the Star of India, who died in 1863, was raised to the peerage as Baron Clyde of Lucknow on account of the eminent service he rendered in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, which commenced in 1857, culminating in the capture of Lucknow.—He had previously distinguished himself in India and the Crimea.

—Emigration from Italy to the United States has increased to such an extent that the attention of the Italian government has been called to it. Sig. Lanza, president of the Council and minister of the Interior, has written to the Prefects of the Italian provinces, inquiring into the cause of so many persons leaving their homes.

—The exportation of watches from Switzerland to the United States shows larger proportions every year. From January 1st to September 30th, of the current year, 11,077,213 francs worth of watches have been exported to this country.

The British under Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown, Va., October 19, 1781. This event decided the contest for independence in favor of the Americans.

St. Jerome was one of the most learned of the ancient fathers. He translated the books of the Bible into Latin, and died at an advanced age of the year 120.

The wreck of the steamship Atlantic is fast breaking up. Thirteen bodies of her passengers were recently washed ashore and were buried. Heavy rains have exposed the bodies of many of those interred at the time of the disaster in April last.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 1.

ROCKFORD, ILL., DECEMBER, 1873.

No. 12.

CLOSE OF VOLUME I.

With this number we close our First Volume, hoping that our endeavors to give our subscribers a magazine that would be of interest to them has not been entirely unsuccessful; and we feel that it has not, inasmuch as nearly all of our old subscribers have renewed their subscriptions for 1874. With our experience in the past, and our promises of assistance in the future, from some of the best authorities on numismatics, philately, antiquities and curiosities in general, that the country can boast of, we feel warranted in promising a much more interesting work for the coming season. We wish to call attention to our Chromo, which is pronounced by all who have seen it as worth more than the price we charge for both magazine and Chromo. Trusting that our endeavors to instruct and please during the coming season, will meet the approval of all, and wishing you all the compliments of the season,

We are faithfully yours.

The Oldest Relic in the World.

There is an anecdote on record of some English visitors of one the continental churches which boasted of its relics, having been shown a very old sword as one of its rarest treasures.—“What is this?” asked one of the party. “That sword, sir,” said the custodian, “is one with which Balaam smote his obstinate ass.” “Ass!” retorted the questioner; “why, Scripture does not mention that Balaam had a sword, but only that he wished for one.” “O, sir,” was the ready reply, “this is the very sword which Balaam desired to have!”

Without laying too much stress upon the authenticity of this sword, we can offer satisfactory proof that England possesses a genuine relic of antiquity, full six centuries older than the age of Balaam, which the late Baron Bunsen justly declared to be “the oldest royal and human remains to which a date can be assigned in the world.” In a large glass case, standing in one of the upper chambers of the great National Museum, is to be seen the skeleton, decently encased in its original burial clothes, of one Pharaoh Mykerinus, and surrounded by fragments of the coffin, whereon the name of its occupant can be easily read by the Egyptologists of the present day; affording thereby conclusive evidence that it once contained the mummy of a King who was reigning in Egypt more than a century before the time of Abraham.

The proof of this may be thus explained. About two years ago, Herr Dumichen, a German explorer of the mountains of Egypt, following up the indications pointed out by M. Mariotte, a distinguished archæologist, discovered on the buried walls of the Temple of Osiris, at Abydos, a large table containing the names of the ancient Pharaohs from the time of Mizriam, the grandson of Noah, and founder of the Egyptian monarchy, unto that of Pharaoh Seti L., the father of the well-known Rameses the Great, including thereby the chronology of nine centuries, viz: from B. C. 2300 to B. C. 1400. This historical tablet, by far the most important ever yet discovered, may be compared to the sculptured figures of

the Kings of England at the Crystal Palace, from William the Conquerer to her Majesty Queen Victoria, which, we presume, will afford sufficient evidence to the wanderer from New Zealand, when, in the year of grace 1866, he may be exploring the ruins of ancient London, of the order of the succession of the monarchs of England.

Astronomical evidence, moreover, enables us to determine the time of two important epochs in the history of Egypt, one of which is connected with our present subject. Sir John Herschel has fixed the age of the Great Pyramid of Ghizeh to the middle of the twenty-second century B. C. The tablet of Abydos shows that the Pharaoh, whose bones we now possess, succeeded the builder of the Great Pyramid, with only two intervening kings. The tropical cycle has been calculated by the Astronomer Royal at B. C. 2006, a date which coincides with Abraham's sojourn in the country. We are, therefore, warranted in assuming that the remains of Pharaoh Mykerinus belong to the age to which we have assigned them. About forty years ago, the Pyramids of Ghizeh were explored under the direction of Colonel Howard Vyse, whose work affords much valuable information to any one interested in the subject of Egyptian archaeology.—As he was not present when these identical remains were discovered, he gives the account of their being found in the words of his superintendent, who thus minutely records the details:

"By your request, I send you the particulars of the finding of the bones, mummy-cloth, and parts of the coffin in the third pyramid. In clearing the rubbish out of the large entrance room, after the men had been employed there several days, and had advanced some

distance towards the southeast corner, some bones were first discovered all together, and no parts of the coffin or bones could be found in the room. I, therefore, had the rubbish, which had previously been turned out of the same room, carefully re-examined, when several pieces of the coffin and the mummy were found. There was about three feet of rubbish on the top of the lid; and from the fact of the bones and part of the coffin being all found together, it appeared as if the coffin had been brought to the spot, and there unpacked."

It is known that the Saracens broke into and plundered the Pyramids during the thirteenth century of the Christian era. Edrisi, an Arabian author of repute, who gives an account of the opening of the pyramid, on the authority of one who was present on the occasion, says: "After they had worked at it for six months with axes, in great number, hoping to find treasure, they came at last to a long blue basin. When they had broken the covering of it, they found nothing but the decayed, rotten remains of a man, but no treasures by his side, excepting some golden tablets, inscribed with characters of a language nobody could understand. Each man's share of these amounted to one hundred dinars.

"The golden tablets," inscribed in an unknown language, were, of course, carried off by the plunderers, who, though unable to comprehend the mysteries of hieroglyphics, well understood that universal tongue which had been the circulating medium of all ages and all people from the beginning of the world. "The long blue basin," in other words the sarcophagus, which once held the coffin of King Mykerinus, remained in its original position, until six centuries

later the explorations of Colonel Vyse took place. The sarcophagus was then found to be composed of basalt, which bore a fine polish of a mixed blue and brown color. The exterior was very beautifully carved in compartments not unlike the Doric style, which confirms the opinion that Grecian architecture owes its origin to Egypt.

Unfortunately, the ship containing this beautiful tomb was wrecked off the coast of Spain, and thus what was destined for England became irrevocably lost in the depths of the sea. But its more precious contents, which Edrisi so ignobly describes as "the decayed, rotten remains of a man," and which are in reality the veritable bones of good King Mykerinus, whose interesting history proves him to have been one of the best and greatest of the ancient Pharaohs, are visible to the present generation; in the estimation of some, the most valuable, as they certainly are the most ancient, of all the archaeological treasures contained in the British Museum.

The gods of Egypt have long passed away—the tombs of her kings have been rifled—"son of Pharaoh" has become a byword and reproach in the land which once was ruled by the greatest monarchs of antiquity, but which no longer possesses a prince of its own—Egypt has become "the basest of kingdoms,"—the so-called towns of Upper Egypt consist of mud-walled huts, built up beside her former gorgeous temples, and the most magnificent palace-tombs which the world has ever seen—desolation is visible on every side; but the corpse of the good old King Mykerinus, to use the language of a distinguished foreign scholar, "reposes at this hour in greater security than it did four thousand years ago, in

the island, the mistress of the world, whose freedom and free institutions are stronger bulwarks than the ocean which encircles her, among the treasures of all the realms of nature, and the most exalted remains of human art. May its rest never be disturbed, so long as the stream of history shall roll on?"

[From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

A Splendid Collection of Coins and Medals---The Curiosities possessed by a Chicagoan.

To the Editor:

SIR—Being a subscriber to your valuable paper, I have, as a reader, noticed several articles which have appeared therein on the subject of old and rare coins. I have watched with interest both the facts so brought to light, and the ideas and varied information of the writers. Numismatics is to many a delightful study, proving both interesting and instructive; for one cannot read up and become well posted in coins without becoming familiar with the history of the various nations. As a study it is increasing the number of its votaries, for there is not a place of any size in the land that has not some one or more persons who are interesting themselves in this direction. Thus, while the number of coin collectors is constantly increasing, good coins, especially the earlier ones of our own country, are rapidly disappearing. The wearing-away process will soon leave no good specimens outside the cabinets of collectors. As a natural sequence the price of such coins are advancing, and those who are wise will purchase while they may.

For a period of nearly twenty years I have been collecting coins, and have at this time a valuable cabinet of both American and foreign pieces, to the number of 1,500. During this twenty

years I have made the acquaintance of collectors in many States, and have become familiar with their cabinets, and believe that I know a good piece when I see it.

There are several collectors and some good collections in our own city of Chicago, and with your permission I'll speak of one—the cabinet of X. L. Otis, Esq. I select this because it is the largest and most valuable, and because I believe that very few of our citizens are aware that there is in their midst a cabinet so great as to numbers, so varied as to nationalities, so fine in condition, and so unexceptionably rare, as are many of the pieces contained in this cabinet.

Here are colonial pieces, issued previous to any United States coinage proper, representing the Colony of Vermont—three distinct varieties—two of them the rarest patterns; of Massachusetts—both 1787 and 1788; six varieties of the Connecticut, including the rare "Et Lib. Inde.;" Nova Eborac (New York); and three varieties of New Jersey. All the foregoing were struck in this country. Of those struck in England for circulation in this country are the Virginia, Rosa Americana, and Georgius Triumpho, and the Louisiana struck in France. There is also the rare Pitt Token, "No Stamps," the Auctori Plebis, and the U. S. A., or 13-bar cent, in splendid condition. In fact, every coin relating the early history of this country is represented, except the Immune Columbia, Excelsior, and Kentucky pieces, which will be added very soon.

There is a beautiful specimen of the first authorized coinage of the United States—date 1787, known also as the Fugio and Franklin and "Mind your business" cents. A copy of the very

rare "Higley" is also here, the original of which was struck by the hand of a blacksmith, who gave the coin his own name. It was made from copper mined in Granby, Conn., and an original was sold twelve years ago for \$130. Higley's success led him to tamper with the coinage of the country, which brought him into difficulty.

There is the "pattern cent" of 1850, "one-tenth silver"; not being adopted it made rare the few copies extant. The nickel cent of 1856, and Indian head of 1858; and the composition cent (1837) issued by Dr. Feuchtwanger, of New York, which embroiled him in difficulty with the United States authorities. The set of American cents, the first issue of which was in 1793, composed of eighty pieces, one for each year except 1815, in which year none were coined, every piece a gem, and, taken as a whole, the finest set west of New York city, with one exception, are comprised in Mr. Otis' collection. The value in dollars of this last mentioned set would require three numerals to express it. The 1793 is of the rare liberty-cap variety. With the exception of a few of the rarest there is a full set of one-half cents, and a Massachusetts one-half cent, which I believe to be the best in the country. There is also the oak tree shilling and the pine tree two-pence and three-pence, date 1652, coined by John Hull, mint master. These pieces are found in few cabinets. A nearly full set of dimes and half-dimes, and an entire set of 3 cent pieces are in the cabinet.

There are, besides, several hundred patriotic medalets pertaining to the late war, all of which are different; a full assortment of "hard times" currency, dates 1837 to 1841; and Jackson, Webster, "Van Buren metallic current,"

and "Bentonian currency," very rightly named, as "Old Bullion" was emphatically a hard money man. Among these pieces are the scarce "loco foco" and "plain system void of pomp" of President Jackson.

Not the least worthy of attention are several specimens, ranging from \$2 to \$50 in denomination, of the old Continental currency, taking us back in memory to Valley Forge and the times that tried men's souls.

Of American medals there is the elegant Washington Cabinet medal, and two other rare Washingtons, struck just after the war of the Revolution. In addition, there are the Pilgrim Jubilee, 1620-1870; the Sanitary Commission, and medals of all the Presidents, and many would-be Presidents.

Of foreign medals there are all kinds in silver, bronze, brass and white metal, among them the large (silver) King and Constitution medal of 1690, and the Martyr Constant medal, a beautiful specimen in cast-iron, and the only one that ever came under my observation. Of foreign coins there is a Maximilian dollar; the rare Erin-go-Braugh Wellington coin; a very large Japanese coin brought from that country by Bishop Williams, and by him presented to Mr. Otis; several specimens of Maunday money; five varieties of the Isle of Man (three legs) coins; one of the Isle of Sarawak, J. Brooke, Rajah—probably no other specimen in the country; an assortment of Papal coins, and specimens of East India, St. Helena, Mascuti (Portugese Africa), Ceylon, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Barcelona, Ionian Islands, Liberia, the new Hong Kong, and the French Republic under Thiers; Roman, both silver and copper, coined before our Savior's birth; and, besides these, English coins from James II. celebrated

Gun money down to the present time, an unbroken line of nearly two centuries.

The few pieces here enumerated comprise but a small part of the collection. There are some 1,200 additional coins, representing nearly all the nations of the globe. H.

Chicago, Nov. 22, 1873.

A Curious Riddle.

The last number of the *Historical Magazine* has the following ingenious piece of poetry, which one of its correspondents vouches to have been circulated in Philadelphia during the occupation of the British in the war of the Revolution. Its author is unknown.—Its peculiarity consists in the manner in which it may be read in three different ways, viz:

(1.) Let the whole be read in the order in which it is written; (2.) then read the lines downwards on the *left* of each comma in every line; and (3.) in the same manner on the *right* of each comma. By the first reading it will be observed that the revolutionary cause is deprecated, and lauded by the others:

Hark! hark! the trumpet sounds, the din of
war's alarms
O'er seas and solid grounds, doth call us to
arms;
Who for King George doth stand, their honors
soon will shine;
Their ruin is at hand, who with the Congress
join.
The acts of Parliament, in them I much de-
light;
I hate their cursed intent, who for the Congress
fight.
The Tories of the day, they are my daily toast:
They soon will sneak away, who Independence
best—
Who non-resistance hold, they have my hand
and heart;
May they for slaves be sold, who act a Whig-
gish part.
Old Mansfield, North and Bute, may daily bless-
ings pour.
Confusion and dispute, on Congress evermore;
To North—that British lord—may honor still be
done,
I wish a block or cord, to General Washington,

Historical and Antiquarian Collections in New York.

The museum and library of the New York Historical Society, in Second Avenue, is interesting, not only to the man of learning and the *savan*, but also to every man, woman and child of average intelligence.

Although several of the most valuable of the collections of curiosities and antiquities committed to the safe keeping of the Society (such as the Indian collection and the Peruvian antiquities), are at present hidden away from sight, owing to the want of space and sufficient accommodation, yet enough remain to occupy the attention and supply instructive and amusing food to the mind for weeks and months. The museum, as presented to the public at the present time, consists of a very rare and antique collection of Egyptian antiquities, together with a number of objects of national interest, called from the vicinity of New York, and the continent of America generally.

EGYPTIAN REMAINS.

The Abbott collection of Egyptian antiquities, although not so imposing in effect as those of London and Paris, owing to the absence of the colossal statues to be found in these cities, is richer than they by far, in specimens illustrative of the manners, customs and every day life of that ancient and mysterious people. The collection was formed under the most favorable auspices. Dr. Abbott, a well-known scholar, during a residence of twenty years in Cairo, had many opportunities of obtaining all that was most valuable, which came to the light, during the time of his residence there. It was his delight to occupy his spare hours in diving down into the ancient tombs, and when valuable relics were to be

had, he spared neither time nor expense in securing them. Many of these relics were taken out of their original deposits under the surveillance of Dr. Abbott, and their genuineness has been vouched for by Sir Gardner Wilkinson, J. Penning, Lepsins, Poole, and other well known Eastern scholars. To the student, the antiquary and the divine there is a vast field presented for verification, illustration and comparison.

One of the most startling of the relics is the remains of three mummied bulls, of the sacred breed Apis, found in the tombs at Dashour. It is believed, with good reason, that they are the only specimens known of in the world at present. The Egyptians honored this animal as an image of the soul of Osiris, and believed that this soul migrated from one Apis to another in succession. The death of the animal was the signal for general mourning, and its obsequies were performed with much pomp.

Two earrings and a necklace found in a jar at Dendera, bear the name of Menes, the first Pharaoh of Egypt, who reigned 2750 B. C., and who has been considered to be the oldest king of whom we have any record in history. The ornaments are made of gold, and there are three pendants of lapis lazuli attached to the centre, where is also an oval amethyst head, capped at each end with gold.

There is a very fine sandstone head, which at one time must have formed part of a colossal statue of Thothmes III, the Pharaoh of the Exodus and the tyrant of the Hebrews. A gold signet ring bears the name of Shoofoo, the Cheops who built the first pyramid. The hieroglyphics engraved upon it are distinct, and in some respects peculiar.

The iron helmet of Shishak, along with his breast plate and armorial bearings, are in a very fair state of preservation. This king is understood to be the same that carried Rehoboam captive from Jerusalem 971 years before Christ.

It has been related by Herodotus that, at the entertainments of the rich Egyptians, just as the company were about to rise from the repast, a small coffin was carried around containing a perfect representation of a dead body, and the bearer exclaimed: "Cast your eyes on this figure; after death you yourself will resemble it; drink then and be happy." Accordingly, the Society has one of those mummies, in a coffin which was used for this singular purpose.

A battle-axe formed of bronze, and firmly bound to a handle by means of slender interlaced thongs, is worthy of attention on account of the beauty of the workmanship, as is also a bronze dagger beside it, with a horn handle attached to the blade with silver rivets.

Seventeen Chinese vases, a padlock, and other articles found in Egyptian tombs in Thebes, Sakarah and Ghisch, prove the communication which existed at an early date between Egypt and the Flowery Land. A beautiful little figure, in gold, of a bird, with a human head and the wings expanded, was taken from the breast of a mummy, and typifies the departure of the soul from the body.

A magnificent funeral papyrus, twenty-two feet long, is covered with hieroglyphics and finely illuminated. Upon it is sketched out the whole belief of the Egyptians of the life after death, their ideas of a future state and of rewards and punishments. From it is learned the reason of the strict attention

which they paid to preserving and mummifying the bodies of the dead, believing as they did, that the soul after purification in purgatory was allowed to return to earth and to re-occupy the body, if this last has been preserved in a perfect state.

A caricature painted upon a fragment of limestone is a sample of what humor was in those ancient times. The caricature represents a lion seated as a king upon a throne, and a fox officiating as high priest, and making an offering of a plucked goose and a native fan.

An oblong box, with a drawer for containing twenty-one porcelain pieces, has two separate series of squares upon the lid, evidently intended as a field for the working out of several games.

When we come next to inspect the smaller and less important implements of every-day life, nothing is more striking than the fact of their similarity in ancient times in many respects to those of the present day.

Here is a maiden's foot, well preserved, of great symmetry, with the toe nails distinctly marked as if she had died but yesterday. The foot is encased in a tight fitting white kid shoe, such as might be purchased to-day in a fashionable boot-maker's in Fifth avenue; and there are many such in the museum, of various colors, such as red, purple, buff, etc., with gilding upon them. Household jars with long pointed ends to stick in the mud, very elegant in form, were used for containing wine; one of those now in the museum, contained a number of eggs at the time of its discovery, which are still in an excellent state of preservation.

A unique example of primitive ingenuity is to be found in six conical stamps used by the Egyptian Government for sealing the locks of the publi

granaries. The locks were covered with the mud of the Nile, and were stamped while wet with the Government stamp, after which they could not be opened without breaking the impression of the Government seal. Besides those specimens of home life three thousand years ago in the "cradle of knowledge" which have all been noticed, there is a perfect host of others too numerous to mention.

The bread which that ancient people ate, their grain, the bricks of Egypt, (made with and without straw), needle-work, children's toys, dolls, woollen and linen cloth, toilet stands for ladies when darkening the margins of their eyelids, chignons almost identical with those of 1871, false hair, chessmen, rings, beads and porcelain ornaments of every description; also, a large number of mummied animals, such as cats, snakes, monkeys, etc.

It is worthy of note that Louis Napoleon, when resident in America, came to the museum, especially for the purpose of seeing the mummied animals, and exhibited great interest while inspecting them. At that time the sacred bulls stood upon their feet, but having decayed much from exposure to the air, they are now preserved in a glass case. Another memento of a different kind must have made a deep impression upon him, being none other than the chair in which his great uncle Napoleon I., presided as First Consul over the meetings of the French Assembly. The chair is plain and yet handsome, the seat being covered with crimson tapestry and the wood work partially gilded.

Besides these foregoing antiquities, there are those of other nations, chief among which are the Aztec statuary, the Lennox collection of Assyrian sculptures, and many objects of his-

torical interest, both ancient and modern. The historical gallery of portraits is a chief feature in the museum, and will become more valuable every year. The works of fine art, especially the Bryan collection, would require a day to be devoted to themselves, and there is employment to a connoisseur for a month. The Crawford marbles have gained a standard celebrity.—*N. Y. Times.*

Deep Sea Beds.

In a communication to the London Geographical Society, Captain Osborne states that the bottom of the North Atlantic is occupied by two valleys, the eastern extending from ten to thirty degrees west longitude, and traceable as far as the equator, with an extreme depth of less than thirteen thousand feet. The western valley, he says, reaches from the thirtieth to the fiftieth degree of west longitude, and they are separated by a ridge in thirty degrees west longitude, along which the average depth is only sixteen hundred fathoms, and which can be traced northward to Iceland and southward to Azores, so that it is volcanic in character at both extremities. Its extreme breadth is found to be somewhat less than five hundred miles, and the depth of water is found to increase on both sides of it according to the distance from the axis. From Captain Osborne's researches in regard to deep sea beds generally, he is inclined to believe that there are no rough ridges, abrupt chasms, nor bare rock, and that the sea bottom at great depths is not affected by currents or streams, even by those of the magnitude of the gulf streams, and that it rather resembles the American prairies in general appearance, and is everywhere covered by a kind of mud.

Ancient Art and Modern Discovery.

It tends much to limit the eclat which attends modern discoveries and inventions, the knowledge of which every now and then comes to us of the skill and knowledge of centuries now past. The earth has swallowed up and hidden forever much of the evidence of ancient art, but enough remains or has been rescued from the tomb to show how bright was the genius and how refined the tastes of the men who lived at a time so distant as to be regarded as barbaric.

Here, for example, in Humboldt's great work, "Cosmos" we have the evidence that one thousand years before our era, the Chinese had magnetic carriages on the principle of the mariner's compass to guide them across the great plains of Tartary. It is well known that the temple of Solomon was constructed in such a way that its towers acted the essential part of lightning rods on the principles of the most recent requisitions for safety. So of the steam engine, which finds its first prototype in the æoliple of Hero of Alexandria, ages ago. So also the printing, for it has been well ascertained that the Romans used movable types to mark their pottery and endorse their books. In the ruins of Ninevah a magnifying lens of rock crystals was found, which are of the most noted of Scotch scientists a true optical lens and the origin of the microscope. Even the stereoscope, invented by Prof. Wheatstone of England, a year or two ago, was known to Euclid, was minutely described by Galen fifteen hundred years ago, and still more completely in the works of Baptista Porta in the year 1599. And the science of photography, originating apparently in the discoveries of Diguerra and first made known to the Euro-

pean Academy of Sciences in 1839, has been found clearly described by M. Jorbad in his *Nouvelles Inventions aux Expositions Universelles*, 1857, taken from a translation from the German three hundred years old. In 1774 the rays of the sun were used to write on glass, and in 1802 an account is published of a method of copying paintings on glass and of making profiles by the agency of light, upon nitrate of silver.

And so it has been of the telegraph itself. For a hundred years and more it has been occupying the thoughts of men. As long ago as 1793 we find a mechanic corresponding by a wire and electrometer with his wife in a distant apartment, and even in the wilds of Africa sound signals uttered from great distances were easily translatable into language.

All these facts prove the correctness of what Prof. Morse so properly acknowledged in his reception address, that the merit of discovery is seldom due to a single mind. It is the result of cumulative thought. But the man whom the world honors is not the dreamer who guesses at coming gifts from science to mankind, not even those who first detect new powers capable of being harnessed to the world's industries, but to him who, with faculties for combination, skillfully clusters the thoughts fermenting in other minds, and constructs an implement to place in the hands of labor for the good of all. Fame demands something done before she will put a laurel upon any brow; and notwithstanding all that may be said to the contrary of the world's ingratitude, genuine and lasting honor will finally rest on the head of him who has conferred a practical benefit on his race.

Coin Values of Foreign Money.

An act was passed in the last hours of the forty-second Congress which provided that the value of foreign coin, as expressed in money of the United States, shall be that of the pure metal in such coin of standard value.

The duty of determining the actual value of the standard coin in circulation of the various nations of the world is developed upon the Director of the Mint, who is directed to fix such values annually, and whose estimate shall be proclaimed on the first day of each January by the Secretary of the Treasury.

As the greater portion of the dealings of the Government and the people of this country with foreign nations is based upon British exchange, the law provides that the value of the British sovereign or pound sterling shall be deemed equal to four dollars eighty-six cents and six and one-half mills; and in all payments by or to the Treasury, whether in this or foreign countries, this value shall be the one upon which all computations are made.

The estimated value of the pound sterling heretofore has considerably varied. The government contracts, or business of exchange with foreign houses, has been at times based upon an assumed par of exchange of fifty-four and four-ninths cents to the pound sterling. All contracts, however, made upon this assumed basis, after January 1, 1874, are invalid and void.

The old valuation of the sovereign, as estimated in determining customs values of goods imported, was four dollars eighty-four cents, while the commercial value was four dollars eighty-four and four tenths cents.

As above stated, the determination of these values is placed in the hands of

the Director of the Mint; and to obtain the necessary information to enable him properly to perform that duty, Dr. Linderman, the new Director, has addressed the following circular of inquiry to the various diplomatic and consular representatives of the government abroad:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, April, 1873.

1. What is the unit of the money of the country to which you are accredited?

2. Is gold or silver, or both metals, at fixed rates, the standard of value?

3. What quantity of fine gold or silver is contained in the coin of exact standard weight and fineness representing the monetary unit?

4. What is the fineness, respectively, of the gold and silver coins?

5. What is the "tolerance," or "remedy of the mint" in coinage, both as to fineness and weight?

6. Are there any legal provisions continuing the coins current when reduced by abrasion below the standard and tolerance allowed in manufacture and issue? if so, what is the limit allowed!

7. What are the legal provisions as to the recoinage of gold and silver coins the weight of which is reduced below the least current weight; and is the loss and expense of recoinage defrayed by the State, or individual holders?

8. If practicable, transmit a copy of the mint laws, and the regulations affecting the coinage of the country.

H. R. LINDERMAN,

Director of the Mint.

Approved: William A. Richardson, Secretary of the Treasury.

W. B. TERRY, Janesville, Wis.—Will be pleased to exchange microscopic specimens mounted.

Curious Facts about Spiders.

Some very curious observations regarding spiders have lately been communicated to the French Academy of Sciences by Father Babaz, who has been 15 years engaged in these researches. It happened one day, as he was reading in a garden, that a small spider suddenly lighted upon his book, and crawled over the very line he was reading. He tried to blow it away, but instead of allowing itself to be carried off by the blast, it raised its abdomen, and swung itself up to a leaf overhead. This appeared strange, as there was no thread to be seen. Our observer caught the spider again, put it on his book, and this time placed himself directly in the sun, with the insect on a level with his eyes. In this position he at length discovered the evolution performed by the little creature. On receiving the blast, it raised its abdomen, and in doing so projected a thread of inconceivable tenuity to a considerable distance, and raising itself in the air disappeared from view. This unexpected discovery induced Father Babaz to examine the question thoroughly; every spider that came in his way had to contribute to his researches, and in this manner he at length ascertained a fact hitherto unknown to naturalists, viz: that most spiders possess not only the faculty of spinning a thread, but also that of projecting one, or several, sometimes to a length of five or six metres, which they use to traverse distances with, and affix their thread to a second point for the support of their web. They even seem to have the power of directing the extremity of the ejaculated thread to a given point; they seem to feel for the place where it is most desirable to affix it. But this is not all; spiders can fly and swim in the air, though they are

heavier even than alcohol. To perform this feat they turn their backs to the ground, and keep their legs closely folded on the body, and in this posture sail about with perfect ease. Their flight is often very rapid, especially in the beginning, and they will sometimes escape from the observer's hand quite suddenly and soar high up into the air.

An Extinct Family.

It is a curious fact that there are no descendants of Christopher Columbus. He had two sons, one of whom, Don Diego, rose to the distinction of an Admiral, and the other, Fernando, as a scholar. Fernando was a great traveler. He not only thrice visited America, but subsequently traversed the whole of Europe, and every accessible portion of Asia and Africa. He appeared to have been a profound scholar, and a thoroughly good man. In his will he stipulated that his library, containing twenty thousand volumes, which he gave to the Cathedral of Seville, should be free to the people, and it is to this day.—From books in this collection, the late Washington Irving obtained a considerable portion of the information on which his *Life of Columbus* was founded. The following quaint epitaph, almost obliterated by time, appears on the tablet which marks the site of his tomb:

“What doth it profit to have sprinkled the whole world with my sweat; to have three times crossed the New World discovered by my father; to have embellished the shores of tranquil Guadalquiver, and preferred by simple tastes rather than riches, or that I have assembled around the divinities from the source of Castalia, and offer to thee the riches offered by Ptolemy, if passing in silence over this stone, thou shouldst fail to address a single salutation to my father's memory.”—*Exchange.*

What Coin is It?

CHICAGO, Nov. 22, 1873.

To the Editor:

SIR—I have read with much interest the several communications on numismatic and old coins that have recently appeared in the columns of your paper, and desire to contribute my mite to the cause. There is in my possession a silver coin, about the size of an English half-crown, which, previous to the suspension of specie payments, evidently did yeoman's service in doing the vast business of the country. The obverse is in good preservation, but the reverse is badly worn. On the former is the effigy of a bird of the condor family hiding behind a conical-shaded grating, a portion of the bars being almost perpendicular, and the remainder crossing at right angles. In one claw is a branch—probably intended as an olive branch, while the other grasps three Apache arrows. Beneath the eagle is an inscription in Roman letters, which are considerably blurred. With the aid of a good glass I can make out what I suppose to be the letters, H A L E R O I. If these be correct, might they not signify Henry the King? Almost encircling the bird is a badly-worn inscription, of which I can only decipher UNITA SOFA RICA. The reverse bears the figure of a woman seated; in her left hand is an instrument shaped somewhat like an old grubbing hoe, while at her side is a heraldic emblem on which I can trace the letters L—Y. Encircling the female are about a dozen six-pointed figures, resembling microscopic cake-cutters. What seems to be the date are four figures, two roman and two italic (1855), inclosed within two spearheads. By weight the coin is worth about four bits. Can any of your readers tell me by what government it was issued? *

Spiders.

May some inventive genius take a hint respecting new modes of conveyance from the spider? or has the spider only copied, in its own peculiar fashion the example of man? Last October, as a party of excursionists were crossing Lake Seneca, some moving peculiarity was observed near the center of the lake. Upon investigation it was found that three spiders were gliding over the surface of the water, and attached to them was a single thread, the size of a knitting-needle, extending in the air to the height of thirty feet, at an angle of sixty degrees, and terminating with an enormous balloon-shaped web. This latter was judged to be eight feet long and five feet wide, which stays fastened to the main thread, something similar to those of a balloon, and it was managed, apparently, by an innumerable number of insects stationed at proper intervals. A near view was attempted, but the spiders had no notion of having their patent rights infringed, and the web began to rise onward and upward until out of sight. A vigorous use of the oar caused one spider to fall out of his carriage, but he was true to his party, and revealed no secrets.

—A remarkable instance of the influence of discipline in the Russian army is said to have occurred recently at a fire in the small town of Bardosek, in which 192 houses were burned. A sentinel who was on duty, having been forgotten, remained at his post. His watch-box was consumed, and his uniform was already on fire when a corporal arrived to relieve him. The emperor, when he heard of the circumstance, sent the man 50 roubles, decorated him with the order of St. Anne, and gave instructions for him to be made a non-commissioned officer.

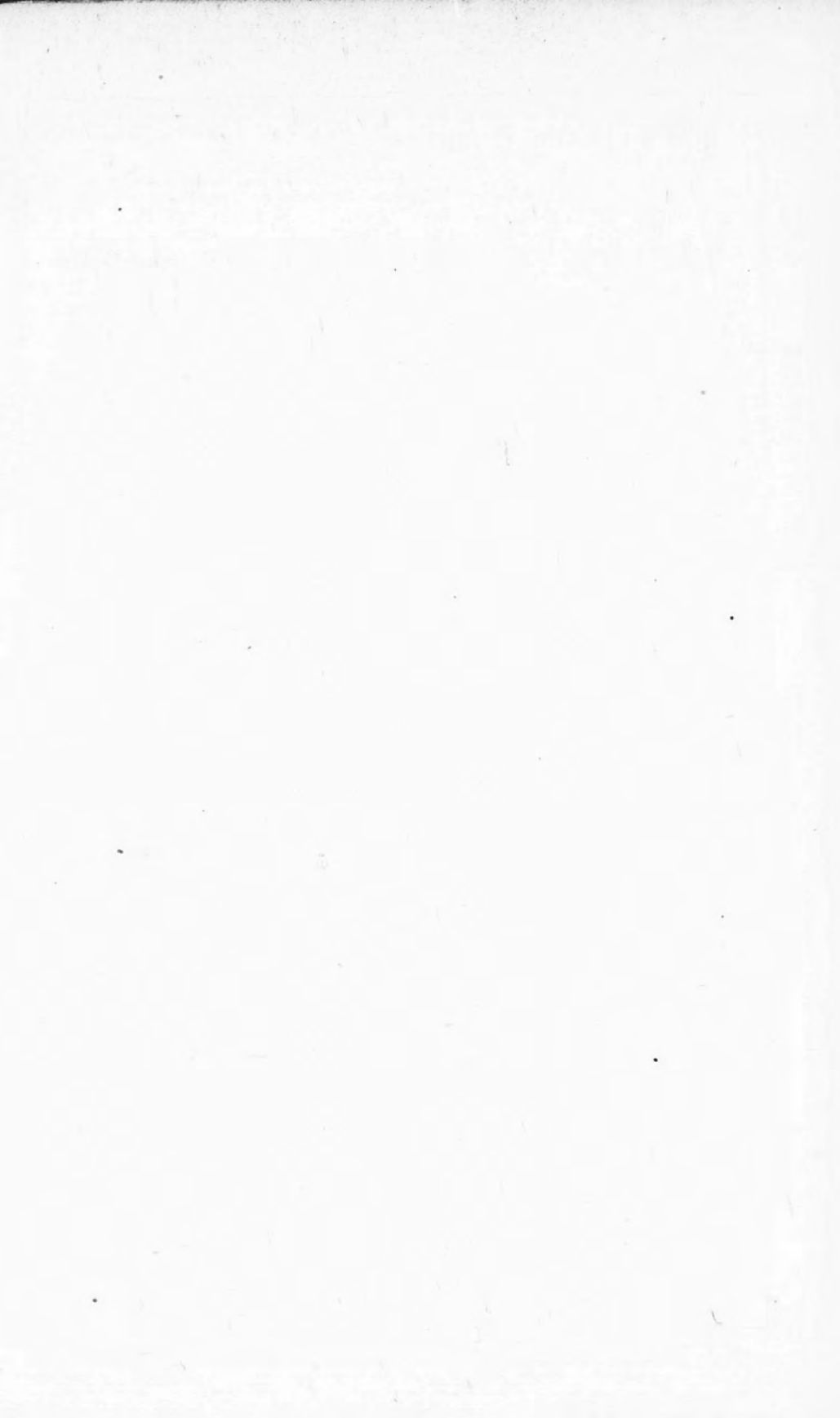
THE

Curiosity Hunter.

NOVEMBER, 1872.

Journal Print, Rockford, Ill.





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YOURS, &c.,

D. A. K. ANDRUS.

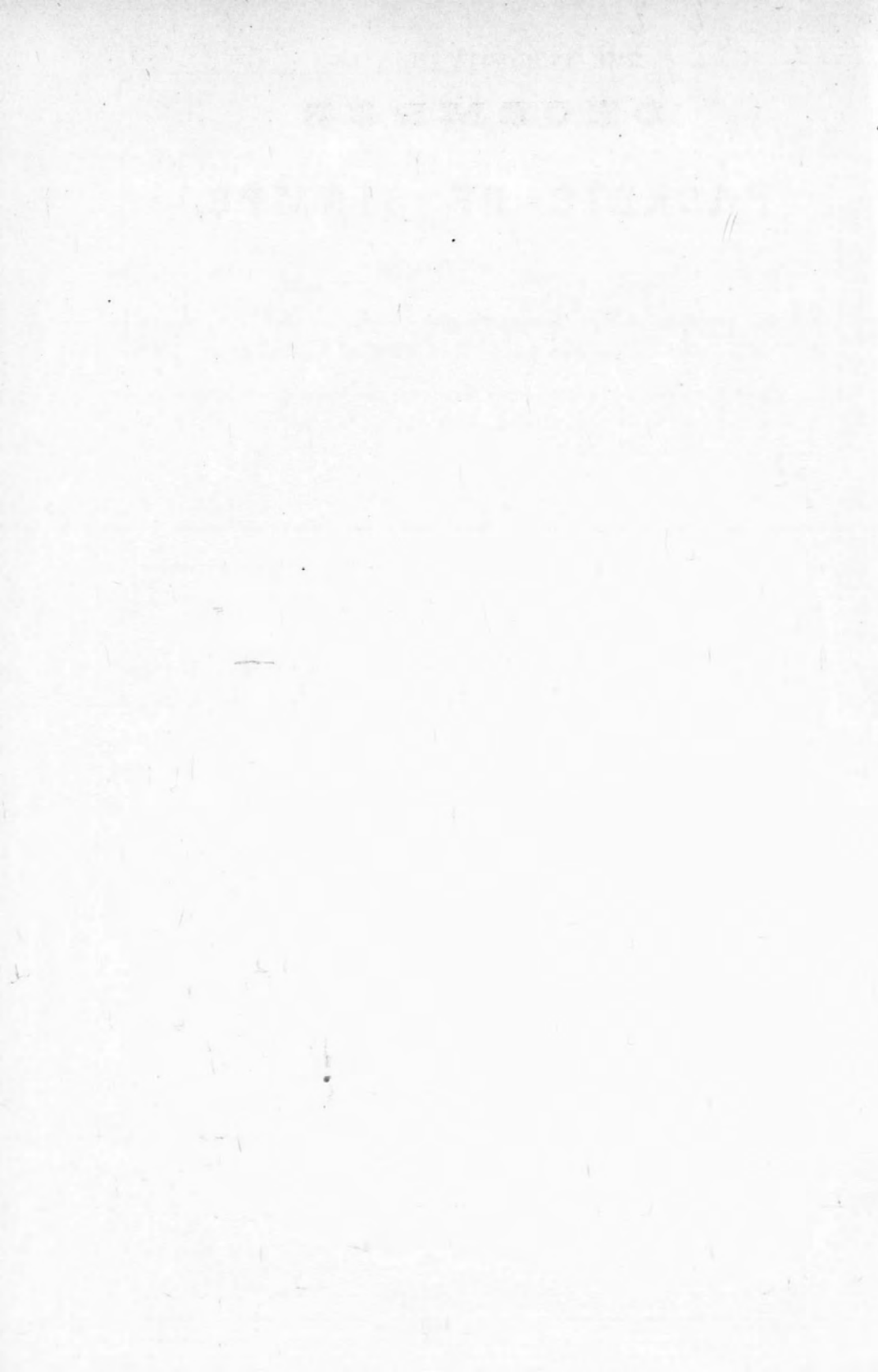
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Journal Print, Rockford, Ill.



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- 10 " " Probate of Will.
- 15 " blue, Mortgage.
- 20 " orange, Conveyance.
- 20 " " Probate of Will.
- 25 " red, Mortgage.
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		24	25	50	50
1	Obv., Independence Hall, 1776; rev., the liberty bell, &c.,	24	25	50	50
2	Obv., bust, Georgius Washington, pres; &c.; rev., figure, Natus and Obit,	34	50	1	50
3	Obv., Abraham Lincoln; rev., with malice towards none,	16	15	25	25
4	Obv., bust, Grant; rev., may he in wisdom rule the country,	16	15	25	25
5	Obv., bust, Jackson; rev., the stern old soldier,	16	15	25	25
6	Obv., Washington on horseback; rev., wreath, siege of Boston, 1775-76,	20	20	25	25
7	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States, 1864; rev., the Union must and shall,	18	15	25	25
8	Obv., bust, Grant; rev., wreath, for president, Gen. U. S. Grant, 1868,	12	10	15	15
9	Obv., bust, Seymour; rev., wreath, for president, H. Seymour, 1868,	12	10	15	15
10	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, 1865; rev., broken column, he is in glory and the Nation in tears,	32	50	1	50
11	Obv., bust, Maj. Gen. G. K. Warren, 1864; rev., Maltese cross, commander fifth corps, &c.,	24	20	50	50
12	Obv., bust, Pres't U. S. Grant; rev., surrender of Gen. Lee, April 9, 1865,	18	15	25	25
13	Obv., eagle, Massachusetts, 1866; rev., Lexington, April 19, 1775, Balto., April 19, 1861,	18	15	25	25
14	Obv., bust, Andrew Johnson, president United States; rev., National Union Convention, August 14, 1866,	20	15	25	25
15	Obv., compass and square, O. U. A. M.; rev., put none but Americans on guard, &c.,	13	10		
16	Obv., bust, Jefferson; rev., equal and exact justice to all men,	16	15	25	25
17	Obv., bust, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan; rev., wreath, Monitor, 1862,	17	15	25	25
18	Obv., Wm. Penn's treaty with Indians; rev., wreath, Penn's treaty, 1689,	19	20	25	25
19	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, 1864; rev., born Feb., 12, 1809, assassinated April 14, 1865,	14	10	25	25
20	Obv., bust, Gen. U. S. Grant; rev. inaugurated president of the United States,	32	50	1	50
21	Obv., Philotechnic Institute, Camden, N. J.; rev., sun rising, &c.,	16	15	25	25
22	Obv., bust, Thomas Wildey, born Jan. 15, 1783; rev., Nat. Semi-Centennial Anniversary of Odd Fellowship, &c.,	24	20	50	50
23	Obv., bust, R. Fulton; rev., wreath, awarded to,	32	50	1	50
24	Obv., bust, Maj. Gen. Geo. B. McClellan; rev., wreath, Nec Que. rere Nic Sperraire, &c.,	21	25	50	50
25	Obv., bust, Maj. Gen. J. W. Geary, &c.; rev., star, I vote as I fight.	20	15	25	25
26	Obv., bust, Gen. U. S. Grant, Rep. candidate for President U. S.; rev., I intend to fight it out on this line, &c.,	20	15	25	25

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27	Obv., bust, William, Emperor Germany; rev., in commemoration, return of peace, 1871,	18	15	25
28	Obv., statue, Stephen Girard; rev., friend of orphans, &c.,	20	15	25
29	Obv., bust of John Wesley, the world is my parish; rev., date of first conference, &c.,	32	50	1 50
30	Obv., steamer, hook and ladder, &c.; rev., in peace firemen, in war soldiers,	32	50	1 50
31	Obv., sea fight; rev., wreath, Constitution and Guerriere, 1812,	19	20	25
32	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, prest. of U. S., 1864; rev., born Feb. 12th, 1809, assassinated April 14th, 1865,	18	15	25
33	Obv., bust, Count Von Bismarck; rev., list of battles,	20	15	25
34	Obv., bust, Horatio Seymour; rev., democratic candidate for pres.,	18	15	25
35	Obv., bust, Washington, born Feb. 22d, &c.; rev., General of the American armies,	11	10	15
36	Obv., bust, Bishop J. Soule, &c.; rev., Randolph College, &c.,	32	50	1 50
37	Obv., bust, David M. Lyle, chief of fire department; rev., elected Sept. 12th, 1860, re-elected Sept. 8th, 1862, &c.,	24	20	50
38	Obv., bust, Gen. U. S. Grant; rev., in honor of the 15th amendment, &c.,	18	15	25
39	Obv., eagle, Massachusetts, 1866; rev., list of Springfield antiquities	18	15	25
40	Obv., bust, J. Wesley, founder, &c.; rev., Wesley chapel and parsonage, John street, N. Y.,	32	50	1 50
41	Obv., flag, long may it wave; rev., shield, National Union League of U. S.,	16	15	25
42	Obv., bust, Washington; rev., Geo. Washington, first Pres't, &c.,	16	15	25
43	Obv., bust, Lincoln; rev., Emancipation, the great event, &c.,	16	15	25
44	Obv., bust, Thomas Brainerd, D. D.; rev., 3d Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa., &c.	24	20	50
45	Obv., bust, Washington; rev., stars,	9	6	10
46	Obv., coat of arms, Pennsylvania, &c., Gettysburg, July 3d, 1863; rev., trophy of flags, return of State flags,	24	20	50
47	Obv., Mrs. Susanna Wesley teaching her son; rev., Dickinson College, 1866, &c.,	26	25	50
48	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, 1864; rev., emblems of war,	11	6	10
49	Obv., coat of arms, Pennsylvania volunteers; rev., list of battles,	24	20	50
50	Obv., boy ascending rock, exbelsior, &c.; rev., whatever thy hand findeth to do, &c.,	24	20	60
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52	Obv., bust, Webster; rev., the able defender of the Constitution,	16	15	25
53	Obv., eagle on shield, &c., V; rev., 25th anniversary of Philadelphia Rifle Club, 1871,	16	—	—
54	Obv., bust, Gen. Peter Lyle; rev., Cedar Mountains to Ream's Station, 28 battles,	18	15	25
55	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, 1864; rev., Republican candidate for President,	18	15	25
56	Obv., Mrs. Susanna Wesley teaching her son; rev., Wesley Chapel, &c., John street, New York,	26	20	50
57	Obv., bust, Abraham Lincoln, Republican Candidate; rev., protection to American industry,	17	15	25
58	Obv., bust, A. Lincoln, President, 1860; rev., wreath, the Constitution and the Union now and forever,	17	15	25

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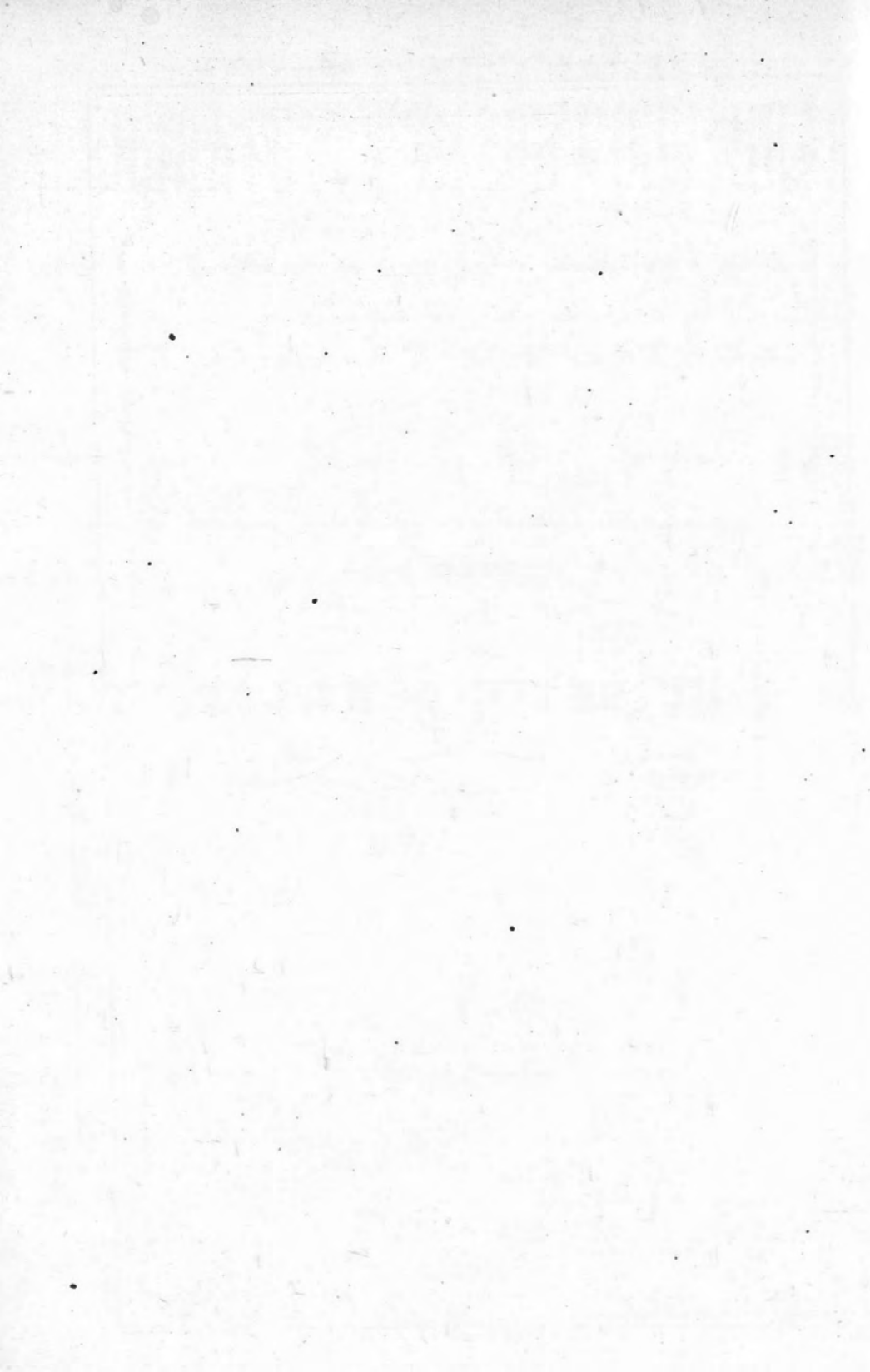
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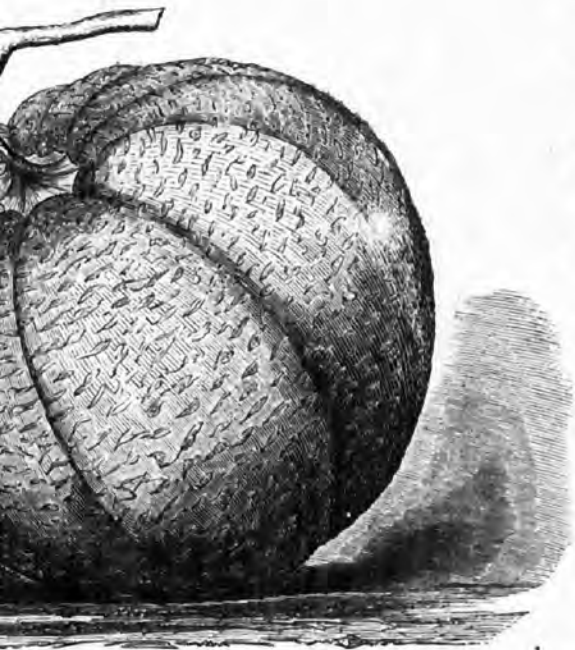
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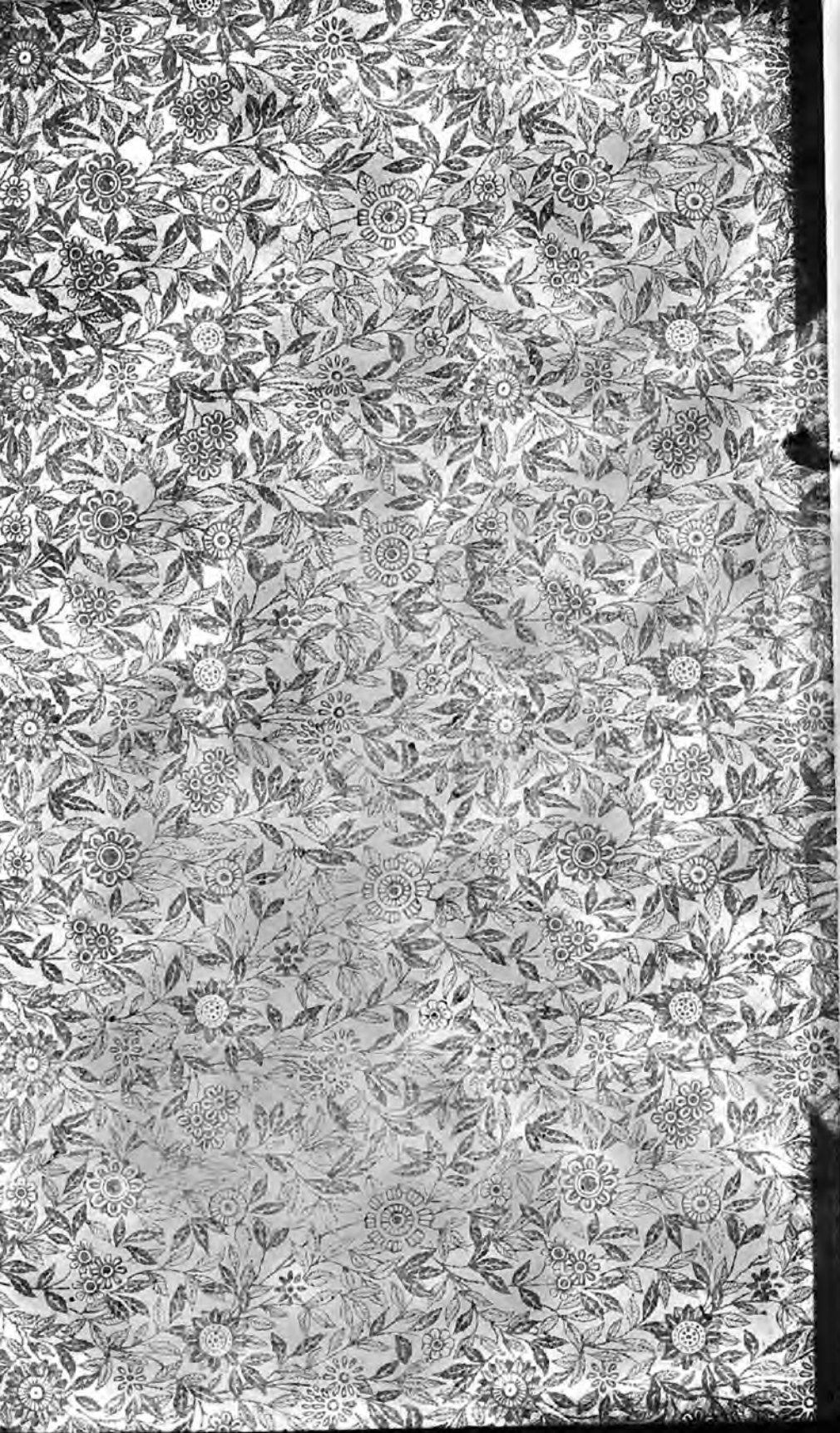
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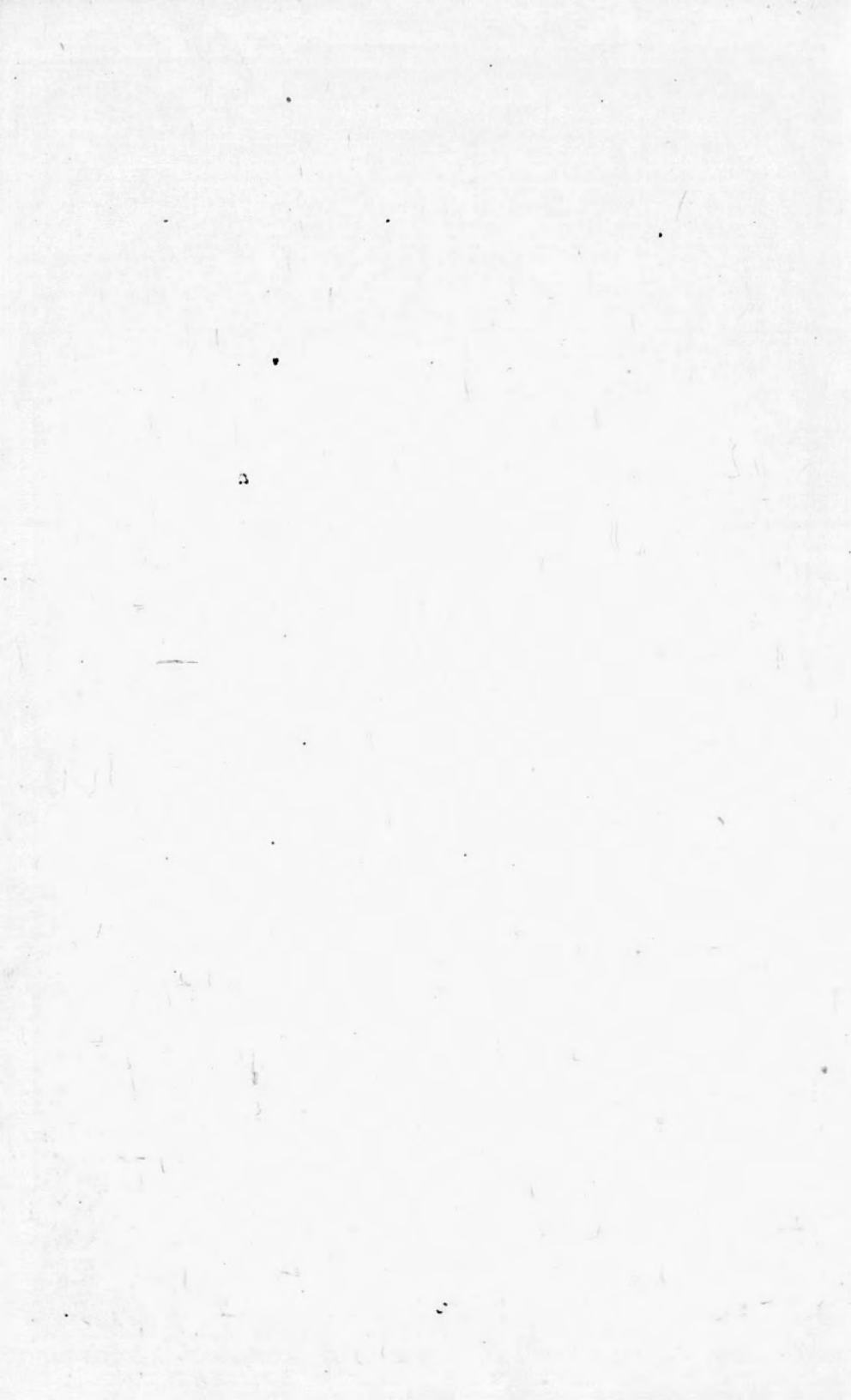
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issue, 25 per 100. Canada Revenues,
20 cents per 100, Canada Postage, 10
cents per 100.

Prince Edwards Island Stamps, used,
we will give \$1.50 per 100.

Nova Scotia Postage and Revenue,
\$1.75 per 100.

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and LOCAL STAMPS.**

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THE PHOTOGRAPH

Family Record.

The Photograph Family Record is an Elegant Oil Chromo. Photograph Album and Family Record combined, and as its name indicates is designed for the insertion and preservation of the pictures of the family as well as the names. It is something entirely new, combines beauty and utility, and should ornament every home in the land. All who see it pronounce it superb, and are lavish in its praise. The faces of dear ones appear in a tasteful setting of gold and beautiful colors, and it is at once and forever a household treasure. And its low price places it within the reach of all. Send for it and you will be gratified when you shall see it. It is something long needed, but never before attainable. Size 12x15 inches. **\$1.50.** Mailed, post paid, to any address on receipt of price.

\$200 A MONTH clear profit made easily by agents. Agents wanted everywhere. Men and Women, Boys and Girls. Future time, or spare moments; day-time or evenings. Everybody wants it, and every family will buy it. Big cash pay. Pleasant employment. Exclusive territory. In fact, the best agency ever offered. Circulars and terms free on application. **Complete outfit** mailed, post-paid, on receipt of **\$1.50.** Send for it and make money. Address,

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OLD COINS!

A Conn. or New York cent, 1787.

POST PAID FOR 20c 5 VARIETIES
OF U. S. HALF CENTS, 50c.

Continental Scrip. 1764 to 1780, 25c

Each. Indian Tomahawk, \$1.00,

Post paid.

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TONTOGANY, OHIO.



THE

Curiosity Hunter

MARCH, 1874.

TERMS—\$1.00 Per Annum. Single Copy 10 Cents.

Register Steam Print, Rockford, Ill.



CHAS. H. HUNTER

ADVERTISING RATES,
10 Cents per Line.
CASH IN ADVANCE.

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American & Foreign Stamps,
COPPER COIN, & C.
Norfolk, Conn., U. S. America.

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SANTA ROSA, Sonoma Co., CAL.

THE Stamp Advertiser.

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OUR EXCHANGE LIST.—For all U.
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in trade. U. S. Private Revenues 30 cts.
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first issue 16 cents per 100. U. S. Internal
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4.57

THE

Curiosity Hunter

APRIL AND MAY, 1874.

TERMS—\$1.00 Per Annum. Single Copy 10 Cents.

Register Steam Print, Rockford, Ill.



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6.7.8.

THE

Curiosity Hunter

JUNE AND JULY, 1874.

673

TERMS—\$1.00 Per Annum. Single Copy 10 Cents.

Register Steam Print, Rockford, Ill.

ADVERTISING RATES,
10 Cents per Line.
CASH IN ADVANCE.

ALL wishing to make money
can hear of something
to their advantage by sending stamp
to THE BEVERLY CO., 284
Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ills. No
Humbug.

A. F. WOOSTER,
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THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 2. ROCKFORD, ILL., JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 1874. Nos. 1 & 2.

Numismatics.

Medal of Ian Van Leyden, King of the Anabaptists at Munster.

Obverse, his bust, with beard, and around in two circles the inscription: IAN VAN LEYDEN, KONICK DE WEDERDOPER TO MVNSTER; ZYN OVERDOM XXV IÆR. That is, Ian Van Leyden, King of the Anabaptists at Munster; his age twenty-five years.

Reverse, in eleven lines: IM IÆR MCCCCXXXIV. OP DEN ERST DAGH MARCH, IS DE STAT MVNSTER, IM WESTFALEN, BELÆGERT ENDOR, GOD S HALP OP DEN XXIV DAGH MONAT IVNY IM IÆR XXXV EROVERT WORDEN.

(In the year 1534, on the 1st day of March, the city of Munster, in Westphalia, was besieged, and by God's help was captured on the 24th day of the month of June, in the year '35.)—Among the bigots and fanatics arising shortly after the commencement of the Reformation, were the Anabaptists, teaching that Infant Baptism was a contrivance of the Evil One, and that there was no original sin. In many places, particularly in Holland, they caused great excitement.

In 1533, they left Amsterdam, and went to Munster. Chief among them were John Benckelsen, or Bocold, as some call him, born at Leyden, Holland; therefore commonly called John Van Leyden, as on this medal; Bernhard Knipperdolling and Herman Krichling. At first they worked by night, but were soon discovered, and expelled from the city. However, they came secretly back, saying that they were

commanded by God to remain. One of them—John Matthiesen—a baker, who told that he was sent by Moses, shortly after became so bold, that he ran openly through the city, crying:

“Repent, and let yourselves be baptized anew, or God's wrath will destroy you.”

Many allowed themselves to be baptized, when they were immediately possessed with a like spirit, and ran around as crazily as their master. Ian Van Leyden, seeing his sect increasing, came into the street, saying, that it was the will of the Heavenly Father that all those who were not baptized, should be destroyed. They took possession of the Senate House and Armory, and the citizens were obliged to retire to another part of the city and fortify themselves. There were several skirmishes, in one of which, John Matthiesen lost his life. Finally, they agreed that each should be free to have his own opinion in religious matters, and peace and quiet were again restored. It did not continue long, however, for their sect being proscribed in other cities, they became so numerous that at Lent, in 1534, all the rich citizens left the city; for the community of goods was an important article in their creed, and whenever they could, they established it by force. Thus they did at Munster. As soon as the rich citizens departed, they chose Knipperdolling for Mayor. They burned St. Moritz church and surrounding houses, and drove young and old, sick and well—all not of their belief—out of the city. They made all property common, and burned all books but

the Bible; and all this was done, they said, according to the Will of God.— Ian Van Leyden chose twelve apostles, and wrote some articles of faith; one being that every man should marry more than one wife, threatening those who did not comply, with God's everlasting anger. He, himself, as their head, married fifteen, and all the others faithfully followed his example.

July 14th, 1534, Ian Van Leyden declared himself King, with the title—"King of New Jerusalem;" also, "King of Justice and of Israel." He had two golden crowns made, and rode through the streets with a gold scepter in his hand. Behind him rode two richly dressed youths; the one at the right carried in one hand a crown, in the other a Bible; the other had a naked sword in his right hand, and the Imperial apple (*Reichs apple*,) in his left. Then followed twelve halbardiers, in green and blue livery. In the middle of the market was a golden throne, upon which he sat to hold judgment.

The Bishop of Munster, obtaining aid, besieged the city, and watched it so closely that nothing could pass in or out. This soon caused great suffering, and dogs, cats, rats and mice were considered the greatest delicacies. One of the Queens told the King during this time, that she did not believe that it was the Will of God, that so many should die of hunger. This angered him so, that he cut off her head with his own hand, and his other wives danced around and sung—"Glory to God in the highest!"

Ian Van Leyden's kingdom lasted less than a year: for on the 24th of June, 1535, the city was captured, and the King, Knipperdolling and Krichling taken alive. When brought before the Bishop, Jan Van Leyden was asked

why he had brought destruction upon himself and so many others. "Priest," he answered, "if I have injured you, I can advise you how to become rich again. Take an iron cage, place me therein, take me through the country and let every one who wishes to see me pay you a stuber, (a small copper coin,) and you will have more money than ever before."

The Bishop partly followed this advice; for on Jan. 2d, 1536, they were tortured and hung in iron baskets on the highest tower in the city. Such is the history of the man whose portrait we have on this medal. That it was not struck by the Anabaptists themselves, but by some one to commemorate their overthrow, is evident. It is probable that it was struck while he lived; for no mention is made of his death, while it states that his age is twenty-five years. The medal is highly prized, and is rare. E. W. H.

MAKING MONEY.

Converting English Bullion Into American Coin.

The partial resumption of specie payment by the exchange of silver, in the quantity of five dollars to each applicant, for greenbacks, and the very large importation of gold and silver in coin and bulk from Europe, have created an activity in the main Mint at Philadelphia, quite unprecedented since the war. A special interest, too, has thus been excited in the methods of converting bullion into coin for the purposes of exchange and trade.

The shipments from Europe have been made on the vessels of the Cunard, White Star, National, German and Inman lines. The total amount received at New York from the first of October

to the first of November by these lines will appear in the subjoined tubular statement:

CUNARD LINE.

Iowa.....	£354 557
Parthia.....	20 257
Scotia.....	100 000
Algeria.....	32 000
	<hr/>
	£506 832

WHITE STAR LINE.

Adriatic.....	£35 000
Baltic.....	51 000
Celtic.....	600
Oceanic.....	1 100
	<hr/>
	£87 700

INMAN LINE.

City of Brussels.....	£146 000
City of Paris.....	105 000
City of Montreal.....	73 000
	<hr/>
	£324 000

GERMAN LINE.

Largest shipment.....	£95 000
Total, about.....	£2 000 000

NATIONAL LINE.

Egypt.....	£31 000
Total shipments, one month.....	£2 949 532
Or over.....	\$14,500,000

In addition to this amount, which was represented by English sovereigns, there was a very large quantity of both gold and silver shipped in bulk.

The bullion was forwarded direct to the Mint in Philadelphia, situated on Chestnut Street, and was there subjected to these processes of coining.

Entering the building, we go at once with our guide to

THE WEIGHING ROOM,

where each bag of dust or bar of the precious metal is carefully weighed in the presence of the depositor, who is handed a receipt for the total amount

in troy ounces. Each deposit is, after being numbered, sent into another department, where the mass is melted and cast into ingots, sharpened at one end like a chisel. These are twelve inches long, one-eighth of an inch thick, and from three-quarters to one and one-half inches wide. The object of

MELTING THE DEPOSITS

is to render the entire mass homogeneous, thereby enabling the assayer to determine the quality of pure metal by using a small quantity. From the melter the metal passes to the refiner, who, by means of the nitric acid process, parts the base substances from the pure. To the fine gold and silver thus obtained, the requisite quantity of copper alloy is added. The mass is then turned into pots, from which it is cast into ingots. Near this apartment is the

ROLLING ROOM,

filled with heavy machinery for rolling the ingots into thin strips. The rollers are placed four in a row. If the metal is gold, the ingot passes the rollers ten times before being reduced to the proper thinness for coining; if silver, eight times. The space between the roller is regulated each time by a peculiarly constructed dial. When the hands are at 12, the rollers are as far apart as they can be; at 1-30, the distance is reduced about the sixteenth of an inch; at 6-30, it is sufficient to make the strips thin enough for half-eagles.

The pressure is so great, that half a day's rolling heats the strips, rollers and iron stanchions supporting them to such a degree that they will burn the hands. Although each mill can be altered to run at any distance, it is customary to run the ingots through several mills, until the required thinness is secured, when the strips are pressed out to a length of about six feet.

ANNEALING THE INGOTS

has to be frequently resorted to, in consequence of their liability to break. This is done by means of a furnace. Silver can be annealed in the open fire; but gold has to be first put in boxes, to prevent oxidizing. The strips of gold are carefully waxed, and those of silver greased, and are then taken to

THE DRAWING BENCH,

and run through a steel gauge, which is the final process of making them straight and of uniform thickness. On being declared "true" they are washed, and taken into an adjoining department, where they are subjected to

THE CUTTING PRESS.

Here round pieces, called planchets, a little larger in size than the intended coin, are cut from them. They are struck by machines, of which there are six for the purpose, consisting simply of a vertical steel punch, the action of which is controlled by an eccentric wheel. The operator places one end of the strip under the punch and cuts out two planchets at a time. This process is so rapid that a skillful operator can strike off planchets for 220 double eagles or 250 smaller coin in a minute.—The planchets are sorted in another room by women. Those underweighted are thrown aside to be melted over; those overweighted, filed away to the standard; and those that appear true placed by themselves for the next operation, which is conducted in

THE MELTING ROOM.

The planchets are fed into a vertical tube, where, being caught one by one, they are caused to rotate in a horizontal plane in a channel formed on one side by a revolving wheel and on the other by a fixed segment of corresponding curve. This manipulation produces the

"rim." As this treatment discolors them, the planchets are taken to

THE WHITENING ROOM.

The pieces now known as blanks, are put into a copper box, and are annealed, they are then cleansed with sulphuric acid, which gives them a white color when washed. The next process is performed in the dyeing-room. In it is a copper machine looking like a squirrel-wheel. Sawdust is put on the bottom of this machine, and coins or blanks are rolled over and over again until they are dry. They are then washed and put into a warming-pan, when they come out looking clear. By this time the planchets are ready for the final operation, and are taken into

THE STAMPING ROOM.

The impressions are made on both sides at once by a system of dies, one, called a "steel cup," set firmly in the arch below, and the other placed in the knee-joint above, and called a "die stake." The coin is fitted on the lower die, and the upper die is brought down with tremendous force upon it by the operation of a crank upon the knee-joint. The pressure on the coin is from 75 to 150 tons, the latter being requisite on eagles and double eagles only.

After being carefully inspected by the coiner—who throws out all imperfect pieces, the coin are counted, tied up in bags and delivered to the treasurer to await the order of the depositor.

The business of the Philadelphia Mint, for the week ending October 25, 1873, was—Silver bars received from Chicago, \$25,167 60; silver bars received from St. Louis, \$4,267 22; silver bars received from Assay Office, New York, \$58,752 22. Total value \$88,187 32. Gold shipped from the Mint

to the United States Assay and Sub-Treasury Offices, New York, \$2,480,-053 76. Silver coin sent West from Mint, \$42,563 04; silver coin sent to Assay Office, New York, from Sub-Treasury, \$25,000. Base coin sent to various banks and parties throughout the country, \$8,110.

There is a heavy demand for silver from all sections of the country. In Texas alone the sum of \$300,000 is required to move the cotton crop. A large amount is asked for the West, not only for moving the usual cereal stock, but for other mercantile purposes.

Mr. Floyd, of the Assay Office in New York, reports that he has received instruction from Washington to make its bullion available, so far as practicable, in his carrying out the project of the Treasury Department for silver re-emption. This bullion fund includes about \$1,000,000 in silver. The Government can at any time obtain possession of five hundred thousand ounces of fine silver, which will make \$692,000 in coin. The officers of the Philadelphia Mint have been instructed to use two thirds of the entire capacity in the coinage of silver, until otherwise ordered.— Under this arrangement the Mint can turn out from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per month.

The officers of the Mint at present are, ex-Governor James Pollock, Superintendent; Professor James C. Booth, melter and refiner; Professor William E. DuBois, Assayer; Colonel A. Loudon Snowden, coiner; William Barber, Esq., engraver; Henry C. Hickok, chief clerk; M. H. Cobb, cashier.

—The nickel mine, from which comes all the metal used for our smaller coin, is located in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. It has been worked 17 years, and is 200 feet deep. The nickel lode is 3,000 feet long, produces 600 tons per month, and employs 175 men in its working.

Our Coinage—Annual Assay at the Mint by the U. S. Commissioners.

The Board of Assay Commissioners appointed by the President to make an assay of the coinage of the United States annually at the Mint, met yesterday morning and began their labors, which will require several days.

The commission comprises Prof. F. A. P. Barnard, president of Columbia College, New York; Prof. John Torrey, assayer at New York; Prof. Wm. P. Blake, of New Haven, and a member of the Centennial commission; Dr. H. R. Linderman and J. Gillingham Fell, of Philadelphia; Hon. J. J. Knox, comptroller of the currency; J. E. Hilgard, assistant superintendent of U. S. Coast Survey; Prof. Raymond, of New York, U. S. commissioner of Mines; Prof. R. E. Rogers; Judge Cadwalader, District Attorney Smith, and Collector Comly. According to the rules, Judge Cadwalader, of the U. S. District Court, occupied the chair, the Director's clerk, H. C. Hickok, acting as secretary.

The names of the commissioners as designated by the President were read, and the act of Congress of January 18, 1837, under which the commission was instituted.

The coins to be assayed will be distributed in parcels, with reference to their metallic character and places of coinage, as follows: Gold coins from Philadelphia Mint, silver coins do.; gold coins from branch mint at San Francisco, silver coins do.; gold coins from branch mint at Carson City, Nev., silver coins do.

The process of testing is precise and elaborate, requiring time and nicety in skill, as the amount of variation allowed by law is exceedingly slight, being one-fourth of a grain for gold coins, from a half to a grain and a half for silver, and one grain to a pennyweight for copper. All the coins tested are forwarded to Washington.

Manufacture of Gold Leaf.

Exquisite judgment, and much physical force and mechanical skill are demanded in the process of gold beating. The gold must first be properly refined. The mode of operation is so interesting, we believe all our readers will like to know it.

The coin is first reduced in thickness by being rolled through what is known as a "mill," a machine consisting of iron rollers operated by steam power. After being rolled, it is annealed by being subjected to intense heat, which softens the metal. It is next cut up and placed in jars containing nitro muriatic acid, which dissolves the gold, and reduces it to a mass resembling Indian pudding, both in color and form. This solution is next placed in a jar with copperas, which separates the gold from the other components of the mass.

The next process is to properly alloy the now pure gold, after which it is poured into iron moulds called ingots, which measure ten inches in length by one inch in breadth and thickness.—When cooled, it is taken out in the shape of bars. These bars are then rolled into what are called a "ribbon," usually measuring about eighty yards in length, of the thickness of ordinary paper, and retaining their original width. These "ribbons" are then cut into pieces an inch and a quarter square, and placed in what is called a "cutch," which consists of a pack of French paper leaves resembling parchment, each leaf three inches square, and the pack measuring from three quarters of an inch to an inch in thickness. They are then beaten for half an hour upon a granite block, with hammers weighing from twelve to fifteen pounds, after which they are taken out and placed in another pack of leaves called a "shoder." These

leaves are four and a half inches square, and the gold in "shoder" is beaten for four hours with hammers weighing about nine pounds.

After being beaten in this manner, the gold leaves are taken out of the "shoders." These "moulds" consist of packs of leaves similar to the other packs, and made of the stomach of an ox. After being made ready in the "moulds," the gold is beaten for four hours more with hammers weighing six or seven pounds each.

It will be noticed that the thinner the leaf becomes, the lighter are the hammers used, and it is also necessary in beating the gold, especially in striking the "mould," that the blow should be given the full flat of the hammer and directly in the center of the "mould."—Should the beater strike with the edge of the hammer, there is every chance that the leaf will be broken and the pack spoiled. The leaf, after being taken out of the "mould," is cut into squares of three and three-eighths inches, and placed in "books" of common paper. Each "book" consists of twenty-five leaves, and there are twenty "books" in what is known as a "pack."

The same process is used in the manufacture of silver leaf, the only difference being that the metal, being softer, requires less time to manufacture.

—To convert French currency, stated in francs, into U. S. currency, divide the number of francs by 5. To convert English currency, stated in pounds, multiply the number of pounds by 5. The above methods, although not exact, will be found approximately correct. Thus, 10,000,000 of francs equals about \$2,000,000, and £2,000,000 equals about \$10,000,000.

Pacific Gold Belts and Sea Deposits of Auriferous Sands.

The origin of these peculiar deposits has long been a subject of investigation and study among intelligent miners as well as among scientists. The character of the formation constituting the bluffs of auriferous sand and fine gravel which extend for many miles continuously along the beach, facing the sea, where the extensive deposits of rich sand exist—together with the recent discovery and partial development of an ancient deposit of auriferous black sand, at an elevation of nearly 200 feet above the level of the sea, of similar character to the deposit on the present ocean beach—furnish us, we think, a satisfactory explanation of the origin of these mysterious gold sands of our northern coast.

A glance at the map will show that the gold belt of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range of mountains tends westwardly, at the northern end, sufficiently to strike the ocean obliquely between the 41st and 44th deg. of north latitude, which reason is identical with our gold coast. Further examination will show that the same gold belt tends westwardly at its southern end, also, and again strikes the ocean in Lower California, where similar deposits of auriferous sands are known to exist. Thus it will be seen that the course of the Sierra Nevada is in the form of a crescent. The same feature, it may be remarked incidentally, distinguishes the Rocky mountain range, which forms a parallel crescent on the line of a larger circle.

The disintegration of the gold-bearing veins of the gold belt of the Sierra where it strikes the northern coast, as above-mentioned, and the washing of the debris for ages down to the sea at

their base, account for the formation of the auriferous black sand deposits upon the beach. They are precisely similar in character to the black sand and fine gold found in our placers along this belt, and are undoubtedly derived from the same source. The uniform fineness of the particles of gold (no coarse particles have ever been found on the ocean beach) may be attributed to the constant and long-continued trituration of the waves, and to the action of the streams that brought them down to the sea. If coarse gold does exist in these deposits, it is buried too deep to be affected by the action of the waves. Probably no shaft has ever been sunk to the bed-rock under the beach to test this question.

The New Silver Trade Dollar.

A design for the new silver trade dollar has been agreed upon, and work on the dies will begin at once. The device has for its obverse a female figure seated on a bale of cotton, the right hand extended and grasping an olive branch, toward the open sea. In the left hand is a scroll, bearing the word "Liberty," and at the base of the device is the motto, "In God We Trust." The date of the coinage (1873) appears on the obverse, together with the halo of thirteen stars. The reverse is the figure of an eagle, with the inscription, "United States of America," and the motto, "*E Pluribus Unum.*" The weight and fineness, with the words "Trade Dollar," are also appropriately inscribed on the reverse. The first lot of new coins will be ready in two weeks. The first million will go to New York, as the first deposit was made for them from that city. The whole sum is to be sent at once by private parties to China and Japan.

The American Eagle.

Another thing which the House struck out and the Senate restored, we should like to see again struck out, namely, the Eagle on the gold dollar and three dollar pieces, and on all the subsidiary coinage. As a bird, that Eagle is a failure; as an emblem of liberty he is inferior to the head of Liberty; and, moreover, there are mechanical objections to him. A device on both sides, obverse and reverse, of a coin, compels a sacrifice of relief or strength and clearness on the obverse or principal side, the metal of the blank or planchet being absorbed between them. The Eagle would really, as it were, "claw through" (to quote the poetical phrase of Rev. Mr. Stebbins, of San Francisco) and damage the head of Liberty on the other side. Moreover, the bird himself doesn't print very well. He is scarcely any better suited for coins than he was found to be for the celebrated "Patriotic American Eagle-Waffle Iron," of which the New England housekeeper complained that "when the beak and claws were done to a krips, the innards were 'most raw.'"

Finally, the bird ought to go, because we want to put the inscription of weight and fineness in its place. The eloquence of Senator Casserly led the Senate to stand by the Eagle and "let the figures be tucked under his wing." It would be a pretty picture, symbolical of Congress hatching a system of coinage; but the intimation thus conveyed of eternal incubation without result would be too depressing. Let the Eagle roost in peace on the coin that bears his glorious name, but let him fly from those on which his room is better than his company.—*Exchange.*

How Greenback Paper is Made.

All the paper for the money issued by our government is manufactured upon a 63-inch Foundrinier machine, at the Glen Mills, near Westchester, Pa. Short pieces of red silk are mixed with the pulp in the engine, and the finished stuff is conducted to the wire without passing through any screens, which might retain the silk threads. By an arrangement above the wire cloth a shower of short pieces of fine blue silk thread is dropped upon the paper as it is being formed. The upper side, on which the blue silk is being dropped, is the one used for the face of the notes, and from the manner in which the threads are applied, must show them more distinctly than the lower or reverse side, although they are imbedded deeply enough to remain fixed. The mill is guarded night and day to prevent the abstraction of any paper.

Curious Old Coins.

Mr. Charles P. Burrows, of Buckingham, Pa., is a collector of coins. In his collection are a copper Roman coin of about 600 years B. C.; two copper Masonic coins or medals, assumed to be as old as the building of Solomon's temple; two others dug from the ruins of Herculaneum, and almost two thousand years old; a curious copper coin dated 1190, but of what nation could not be made out; a Prussian coin of 1716; a copper medal in honor of Frederick the Great, struck in 1747; English coins of 1723 and 1735, and a curious copper calender of 1793. Mr. Ferdinand Franz, of Savannah, Ga., another collector, has cents of U. S. coinage from 1793 to the present time; French coins of the reign of Louis XVI., of Robespierre's reign of terror, and of the Napoleonic epoch. His assortment of modern coins from all over the world is singularly complete.

1343 CHESTNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1, 1874 }

DEAR SIR:

A number of the French residents of Philadelphia, desirous of giving form to their commendation of the course of M. Thiers, Ex-President of the French Republic, have had prepared a Testimonial Medal in gold, which has been forwarded to him. It is designed by Baily and executed by Paquet.

It is proposed to strike a limited number of these medals in bronze (price \$2.50), for subscribers only, the number to be determined by the amount subscribed, after which the dies will be destroyed. The medal will be ready for delivery about February 1, 1874.

DESCRIPTION.

The medal is about two and a half inches in diameter. On the obverse is the coat of arms of Philadelphia. Above is the word "Philadelphia." Below, "United States of America." In exergue. "MDCCLXXXIX."

Reverse, "Les Francais de Philadelphie reconnaissants," surrounding a beautiful laurel and oak wreath. In the center, "A. A. Thiers, pour services rendus a la Republique Francais, 5 Septembre, 1873."

The medal is really an artistic piece of work and does honor to the patriotism of the French residents of Philadelphia.

Those who desire to subscribe for this medal will please send their name and address, with price (\$2.50), to

JOHN W. HASELTINE.

1343 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

An Old Coin.

The Benares correspondent of the *Mussoorie Season* writes: "I have just seen a real curiosity of the olden time, which, as a relic of the palmy days of

Ind, I must describe to your readers. It is a hundred-mohur piece, a veritable gold coin worth 1,600 rupees, of grand and stately aspect, suited to its ancient descent and its great value. It is four inches in diameter, half an inch thick, and its disk is covered with cabalistic looking characters, some being bits of Persian poetry, and others, more prosaic, setting forth its date. It belongs to the reign of Aurungzebe, and bears a date of the Mohammedan era, which is about 1071 of ours. One wonders in how many hands—great, noble, and famous—the old coin has been since that date was first graven on its golden face. It looks very fresh and new, in spite of its 800 years, and it is not likely to have been knocked about, as 1600 rupees is not a sum which changes hands every day."

Value of Gold and Silver.

Prof. Schirmer, superintendent of the Branch Mint at Denver, Col., gives the following interesting notes on the value of gold and silver in bulk:

One ton (2,000 lbs. avoirdupois) of gold or silver, contains 29,163 troy ounces, and therefore a ton of pure gold is worth \$602,799.21, and a ton of silver \$37,704.84.

A cubic foot of pure gold weighs 1,218.75 lbs. avoirdupois; a cubic foot of pure silver weighs 655.25 lbs. avoirdupois.

One million dollars gold coin weighs 3,685.8 lbs. avoirdupois; \$1,000,000 silver coin weighs 58,929.9 lbs. avoirdupois.

If there is one per cent. gold or silver in one ton of ore, it contains 291.63 troy ounces of either of these metals.

The average fineness of the Colorado gold is 781 in 1,000, and the natural alloy: gold 781, silver 209, copper 10; total 1,000.

The calculations at the Mint are made on the basis that 48 ounces of standard gold, or 900 fine (coin) is worth \$800, and 11 ounces of silver 900 fine (coin) is worth \$12.80.

Old Coins.

The Rev. S. J. Knapp, of Paterson, N. J., has received from his brother in Spain a collection of rare coins, which are thus described by the *Guardian* of that city:

The two Roman coins were called Aureus, having the date A. D. 397, or 1150 from the foundation of Rome, 753 B. C.

One has the image of the Emperor Honorius, with the inscription, "D. N. Honorius, P. F. Aug."—that is, "Our Lord Honorius Augustus," Emperor.—On the other side is the picture of a Roman legionary soldier, with the Roman signum (or standard,) in the right hand, and the representation of "Victory" perched on a globe, and in the act of crowning the triumphant soldier—all held in the legionary's left hand. He is standing with his foot on the body of a prostrate Goth. The reading is, "The Victory of Augustus (the Emperor,) over the Goths." The date is below: "C. O. M. O. L." (C—100; M—1,000; L—50,)—1150—A. D. 397.

The other side is nearly the same, with the exception of the name Arcadius, instead of that of his brother Honorius.

These coins are in a handsome state of preservation. They are free from anything like tarnish, and the gold has a yellower, purer, clearer look than even the gold of to-day. The intricate representations upon them, with all the finest lines; the very expressions not only in the vignettes of the Emperors, but in the minute expressions of the smaller soldier and Goths are as perfect as can be. Indeed, there is no United States coin of the present day that begins to have as clear outlines and perfect engraving. It would put to shame a majority of the die-sinkers to

day. It is an evidence that in some respects—and this is one—the ancients possessed a knowledge of art superior to the present day. The edges of the coins are not so finely finished as those of to-day, but in all other respects they are more perfect.

The first two silver coins are of the reign of Augustus Cæsar, the first Emperor of Rome, who died A. D. 14.—He was called *Pater Patriæ*, or "The Father of his Country," by a formal decree of the Roman Senate about twenty years before Christ. Christ was born under him, and he is the Cæsar mentioned in Luke ii., 1. The picture of this Emperor appears upon the coins, as perfect as a fresh-taken photograph.

The third silver coin is of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, who died A. D. '37. It was under him that Christ was put to death. He was the second Emperor of Rome. This is the "penny" of which Christ said, "show me a penny!" (*Denarius*.)

The fourth silver coin is one of the reign of Nero, who died A. D. 68. It was him to whom Paul appealed, saying: "I appeal unto Cæsar," and before whom he was brought at Rome, and under whom he was put to death in A. D. 67—two years before the death of Nero himself. Judging from the coin, the features of Nero betray him as being precisely such a man as history records him. He was a heartless, blood-thirsty looking Emperor, holding his head up in a manner at once suggesting cruelty and arrogance. If there is any truth in the legend of Nero fiddling while Rome burned, this is the very man who did it.

All these coins are in a perfect state of preservation, the letters and pictures showing forth plainly, although a little worn. These coins appear to have been

in use; while the gold ones are apparently new (if new can be applied to anything 1,476 years old,)—we mean just from the "mint."

The silver coins of Augustus are 1,900 years old. That of Tiberius about 1,830 years old. That of Nero about 1,800 years old. All these were recently found in Spain, in a buried earthen jar, the latter, by the way, being apparently as perfect as when it was just molded.

Dr. E. C. Dunn's Collection.

We had the pleasure, a few days ago, of spending an hour or two in the room devoted by the Dr. to his fine collection of curiosities, gathered during his late trip around the world. Although we had heard much of the gentleman's curiosities, we were totally unprepared to meet with so extensive a museum, embracing as it does specimens interesting to every lover of the curious, whatever his or her particular taste.

To the numismatician his cabinet of coins would of course be the center of attraction. A hasty glance through this showed us a Jewish shekel, obtained in Jerusalem; Sasanian coins, struck by Alexander the Great on his march to the invasion of Persia; the Akbar rupee; antique Ammonian coins of Cochinchina; and other rare and valuable coins, some of which, as well as other portions of this collection, we hope to describe more fully in the future.

We noticed the bones of the leg of a "Moa," the extinct monster bird of New Zealand; also a photograph of a skeleton of this bird in the British Museum. This skeleton is ten feet in height.

Among his shells are a splendid specimen of the Paper Nautilus, the Map

Cowrie, the Euplectella Sponge, and many other beautiful specimens. The Dr., with the sauvity of a connoisseur, led us on from one rare beauty to something still rarer and more beautiful, listening with complacency to our remarks, and finally showing us the set of casts of the Poniatowski Gems, consisting of some 400 pieces. This set is supposed to be the only one in the United States, and is beyond our powers of description. Each piece is a perfect work of art, and the original antiques must be worthy the name of "gems" bestowed upon them by their owner. The originals of this set of casts are valued at \$200,000, and are not for sale. In the short time that we had to look over this collection we could not note many things which we were desirous of doing, but we shall certainly try to do so in the immediate future.

Numismatic.

Following closely upon the recent auctions of picture galleries at the Hotel des Ventes in Paris, collectors of ancient moneys will be attracted in large numbers to the coming sale of the valuable Gallo-Roman treasure discovered beneath one of the court yards of the Lycee Napoleon in 1867. This sale is rendered necessary by a judicial decision as to the quotient distribution of the treasure-trove between the city of Paris and the workmen who lighted upon it. The collection comprises eight hundred coins known as aurei, each worth something more than a twenty franc piece, and forming a complete series of the numismatic history of Lutezia during the reign of the Roman emperors, from Caludius to Septimus Severus. These aurei are all in an excellent state of preservation, and these found nearest to the surface, dating from Commodus, Pertinax and Septi-

mus Severus, looking as fresh as if they had just come from the mint. Coins of the Antonine epoch are largely represented in this collection; the "Faustinas," young and old; the "Vespasians," and the "Titus," one with the inscription "Divus Titus," and, on the reverse, the curule chair, surmounted by a thunder-flash, among the number.—There is also a "Julia Domuna," the wife of Septimius Severus and Caracalla, a "Restitutio Augusti per Trajanum," an "Ælius Cæsar," five or six of the time of Pertinax, and three "Plautianas." Upon the reverse of a coin dating from the reign of Commodus, the emperor of the circus is represented in the act of making his horse leap over a lion.—Rarer still is an aureus of the time of Antoninus Pius, with two figures on the reverse, and the inscription "Concordiæ Eternæ." These are some of the gems of the treasure, and there can be little doubt that the French department of the fine arts will be ready to bid very high for every item in the collection rather than let it be dispersed throughout Europe.

Treasure Trove.

On Tuesday, at Park Farm, Folkstone, the residence of the Deputy-Mayor, John Gambrill, Esq., there was discovered a quantity of treasure trove, consisting of fourteen gold coins, guineas, and half-guineas, with dates ranging between 1776 and 1779, seven half-crowns, and a shilling of the same date, some copper coins—date illegible, but apparently the same reign—and two gold mourning rings, beautifully chased—one almost plain with white ground and gold letters on it—"Eliz. Rolf, died Oct. 1779, aged sixty-seven;" the other set with a crystal stone resembling a diamond, bearing the following inscrip-

tion in gold letters on a black ground: "Sarah Bush, Ob, Nov. 29, 1731, æt. forty-two." Mr. Gambrill has given permission to some cottagers to break up a bank for gardens, and while doing so they came upon two spade guineas. Making more careful search, they found the articles mentioned above, besides articles which were not given up. The place was formerly a lane, with a high hedge and a bank. The most probable theory is that the articles are the proceeds of a robbery, and that the thief, being hard pressed, "planted" it where either he could not find it again or had not the opportunity.

Indian Relics.

The following request comes to us for publication:

H. N. Rust, 430 Belden avenue, Chicago, is anxious to obtain, by purchase or exchange, all kinds of stone or pottery Indian relics. He says: "I wish to make a good private collection, and would give in exchange such coins or medals, minerals or shells as I have. I will be pleased to communicate with any who have collections in the West, as my own have been gathered in the Eastern States generally."

—Tin is extensively employed for coating iron, brass, and lead. Sheet tin is merely sheets of iron coated with tin. The iron is previously scoured, so as to present a clean metallic surface, and then immersed in baths of molten tin, covered with a layer of molten tallow to prevent the oxidation of the metal.—On being removed from the tin bath, the sheets are immersed in a bath of molten tallow to remove any excess of tin, wiped with a brush made of hemp, next cleaned with bran, and packed.—

Philately.

[Written for the Curiosity Hunter.]

RETROSPECTIVE.

BY AN OLD COLLECTOR.

The past year, though perhaps not marked by any particularly striking event in philatelic circles, has nevertheless witnessed a steadily increasing interest in our pet hobby.-- The number of new collectors has really been surprising, and, taken altogether, business among stamp-dealers has (from all that we can learn) been very satisfactory. It is true that this branch of trade did not escape the financial storm through which we have recently passed, but the effects appear to have been only temporary, and the recovery more rapid than even the most sanguine could have expected.

So numerous have been the stamps issued during the past twelve months, that we cannot pretend to give any detailed list, and we must therefore content ourselves with briefly noticing a few of the most interesting varieties.

To begin with our own country, the abolition of the much abused "franking privilege" has given life to a set of Official stamps for the use of our various departments, but as the designs are so well known, we will dispense with a description. It is but due to the engravers to say, however, that so perfect is their execution in all its details, that even the most fastidious seem satisfied.

Nor must we forget to mention the post card with which the Washington authorities have at last seen fit to favor us (at one cent each, *bien entendu*).— We must confess, however, that in point of beauty, this latter does not rate very high and as to the quality of

paper employed, we think that some improvement in this direction would also be acceptable.

Newfoundland has given us decidedly the handsomest post card yet issued.

Ecuador has caused no little commotion by the emission of three stamps whose appearances are certainly not in their favor, but whose authenticity now seems to be fully established.

Fernando-Po has adopted the surcharging principle, taking for its victim one of the 1871 issue of Cuba, which has been converted into a "50 cent de esco."

Japan appears to be using every effort to make up for lost time, and we already have before us its third series.

Spain having discarded Amadeus (or to speak more in accordance with history, Amadeus having discarded Spain) Madame Liberty has again been called into requisition, and we have her on the postal labels placidly seated, holding the olive branch of peace, after the manner of those prepared for the "Queen of the Antilles" two years before.

Some over zealous philatelist, apparently anxious to establish a postal service for Don Carlos (and hoping, perhaps to turn an honest (?) penny) recently introduced stamps adorned with the hand of that illustrious adventurer, but the little game did not work quite as successfully as the fertile-brained inventor had anticipated.

The "local" stamps of the Confederate States continue to receive much attention, and we are glad to say that despite the clever frauds which have been attempted by numerous unprincipled parties, the difference between the genuine and the bogus is daily becoming more distinctly defined.

The long-debated question of "How shall we collect?" still remains unset-

tioned. We notice, however, that, during the past year fanciful "varieties" have been decidedly at a discount, especially in this country, where a majority of collectors look upon Philately as a pastime rather than an elaborate and complicated science. Although the collection of *distinct* shades of color, qualities of paper, sizes of perforation, may all be very well in its way, the extent to which it has been carried in Europe is simply ridiculous, and we therefore look upon the present reaction as a step in the right direction.

In regard to the coming year, the promises are most flattering. The firm held which Philately has taken upon all classes of society is evinced by the fact that not only have all the old established journals been maintained and even enlarged, but also that numerous additional cotemporaries are springing up in every direction—thus proving more and more fully that what was but a few years ago termed the "weakest of manias," is now recognized as one of the leading as well as one of the most instructive pursuits of almost every civilized nation.

Resume of Issues of 1873.

ANTIOQUA.

5 centavos, green.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

1 centavos, violet.

4 " brown.

30 " orange.

60 " black.

90 " blue.

BARBADOES.

3 pence, red violet.

5 shillings, pale pink.

BELGIUM.

10 cent, green envelope.

BOLIVAR.

5 centavos, blue.

10 " mauve.
20 " green.
80 " vermillion.

CONFEDERATE STATES.

We note the following locals discovered during the year:

5 cents, Goliad, black.

10 cents, Goliad, black.

5 cents, Helena, black.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

4 cents, blue.

DUTCH GUIANA.

Curacao—

2½ cents, green.

3 " gray.

5 " carmine.

10 " blue.

25 " orange.

50 " violet.

Surinam—

2½ cents, carmine.

3 " green.

5 " violet.

10 " gray.

25 " blue.

50 " carmine.

ECUADOR.

1½ real, blue.

1 " orange.

1 peso, rose.

FERNANDO PO.

50 cent de escudo, green.

GERMAN EMPIRE. (Envelopes)

¼ groschen, mauve.

⅓ " light green.

½ " vermillion.

1 " rose.

2 " blue.

2½ " brown.

5 " stone.

1 kreuzer, light green.

2 " vermillion.

3 " rose.

7 " blue.

9 " brown.

- 18 " stone.
HELIGOLAND.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ schilling, green and rose.
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " green and rose.
JAPAN.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ sen, brown.
1 sen, blue.
2 sen, rose.
2 sen, yellow.
4 sen, rose.
10 sen, green.
20 sen, mauve.
30 sen, rose.
NEVIS.
3 pence, violet.
NEW GRENADA.
1 cent, violet.
4 cent, brown.
NEW ZEALAND.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, pink.
1 penny,
2 penny,
3 penny,
4 penny,
6 penny,
1 shilling.
PERU.
2 centavos, blue.
QUEENSLAND.
1 shilling, claret.
SERVIA.
2 paras, black.
SPAIN.
2 cent de peseta, orange.
5 cent " pink.
10 cent " brown.
20 cent " black.
25 cent " chocolate brown.
40 cent " mauve.
50 cent " blue.
1 peseta, mauve.
1 cent de peseta, 4-4, green, for circulars.
SPANISH WEST INDIES.
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent de peseta, green.

- 25 cent " lilac.
50 cent " brown.
1 peseta, red brown.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

- 30 cent, rose.

SWITZERLAND.

(Newspaper Wrappers.)

- 2 centimes, rose.

- 5 centimes, rose.

UNITED STATES. (OFFICIALS)

Agricultural Department—1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, straw.

Executive—1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 cents, carmine.

Interior—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, vermilion.

Justice—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, purple.

Navy—1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, blue.

Post Office—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents, black. Envelopes: 2, 3 and 6 cents, black, on lemon-colored paper.

State—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, green; 2, 5, 10 and 20 dollars, head black, frame green.

Treasury—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents, brown.

War—1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, red. Envelopes: 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24 and 30 cents, red, upon white, lemon and salmon paper.

PRIVATE REVENUES.

Clark, R. C. & C. S.—4 cents, black
Haseltine, E. T.—2 cents, blue.

We note a change in the Duponco Stamp, it being now J. M'Cullough, instead of, S. D. Howe, who manufactures the pills; there is a change of the name on the stamp.

"THE STAMP ADVERTISER" is a neat little Philatirical Magazine, printed and published by Guyes Ledyard. See advertisement.

The Balloon Postal Service During the Siege of Paris.

Messrs. Letts, Son & Co., of London, have forwarded us an interesting memorial of the late siege of Paris, being a *fac simile*, except the name and address, of a letter sent by the *ballon monte* "*Celeste*," and with which this firm intends to supply the leading stationers in this country. The letter bears the postmarks and stamp of its original, and even the size and weight are identical. An epitome of "*Balloon Postal History*" accompanies the letter, the whole constituting a very attractive memorial of one of the most important historical events of the century. From the epitome alluded to, we gather the following statistics of the balloon postal service:

Sept. 30th.—The letter alluded to, was sent per the *Celeste*.

Oct. 7th.—The *Armand Barbes* took M. Gambetta and the first carrier pigeons out of Paris.

Oct. 14th.—The *Godefroy Cavaignac* took out M. de Keratry.

Oct. 27th.—The *Vauban* fell near Verdun, in the German lines.

Nov. 4th.—The *Galilee* was captured by the Germans.

Nov. 12th.—The *Daguerre* was also captured.

Nov. 21st.—The *Archimede* fell in Holland.

Nov. 24th.—The *Ville d'Orleans* (*ballon monte*.) fell in Norway, after a most extraordinary voyage, both for speed and adventure.

Nov. 30th.—The *Jules Favre* was lost at sea.

Dec. 15th.—The *Ville de Paris* fell in Nassau.

Jan. 28th, 1871.—The *General Cambroune* was the last officially despatched balloon.

In all, 54 official balloons, conveying 2,500,000 letters, were sent out during the siege; besides many private ones, of which there is no record.

—A letter has been received at the Treasury Department from the Treasurer of a street railroad company at New Orleans, in behalf of the united companies of that city, asking the Department if means cannot be adopted to relieve them of the floods of counterfeit nickle five cent pieces, which are current in that section. He stated that the entire amount of this spurious coin received in the last few years has been one per cent. of their entire receipts, and at certain seasons of the year far exceeds this amount. The companies have offered a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of any person guilty of circulating this coin. Three persons have been arrested in as many years.—One was convicted, one was acquitted through some legal informality, and the third is now awaiting trial. This last arrest was brought about through mere accident. A fire occurring in a block of tenement houses created considerable alarm, and, while removing the effects of one of the houses, a heavy box fell, burst open, and was discovered to be filled with base metal, and both finished and incomplete counterfeit five cent nickels. The occupant of the premises was arrested, and, further evidence being discovered, was fully committed for counterfeiting, and now awaits his trial.

—It has been discovered that many Londoners mistake old and disused pumps, in which there is a slit where the handle used to work, for letter-boxes, and put their letters in them.—In one in Great Titchfield street several

of these were discovered, and three are said to be still lying in the slit of a pump near Portland Place. It is assumed that this is mere blundering, but is it certain that some of these letters were not robbed of their stamps before being thus deposited? A very short time ago certain errand-boys who were intrusted with the posting of letters, did not scruple to annex the stamps and post the letters down the gratings of the common sewers—we suppose, under the impression that *that* was the safest way to get rid of the evidence against them, since they might have pleaded ignorance as to the distinction between one grating and another. Evidently, for such children as these, disused pumps with slits would be quite a godsend. Some people are indignant that the Post Office does not seal up all the available slits in London.

—●—
“Good Luck.”

From H. Werwick & Co., of Leipzig, we have received number one of their “*Illustraten Briefmarken-Journal*,” for which we are under many obligations. The first article in the paper is from the pen of the distinguished Philatelist, Dr. A. Moschkan. A translation of which we give as the best method of showing their promised endeavors in the interests of Philatelists, and simply echo the learned Doctors wishes of “*Good Luck*” to its publishers.

NEIDER-ODERWITZ, SAXONY, }
 Jan. 1, 1874. }

The publisher of the *Illustrated Briefmarken-Journal* requested me to write a few words for this, the first number, and I cheerfully comply, as I am doing both myself and many thousands of Philatelists a service.

A new German Journal which has marked out an honorable and trusted

programme is to be greeted; an honorable I say, because it promises to give satisfaction as a Philatelic publication, trusted because it is published by a person who has a genuine enthusiasm for the cause of Philately. He will receive friendly support from all the German authorities, and therefore will be able to follow up a rich programme.

We in Germany were long lacking a chronicle like this, which will not only mention briefly the new issue of stamps, but will also illustrate and describe them in detail. Water-marks, varieties, etc., as is done in English and French publications of this kind, and in addition, a clear, thorough, and brief description of the latest forgeries for the benefit of scrupulous collections, together with interesting essays on Philately and its literary aspects.

This, and communications of all the latest news pertaining to postage giving counsel, and information will be published in the *Briefmarken-Journal*, and therefore it will be heartily greeted by all Philatelists.

It is my sincere wish that everything will be done to advance the interests of the paper, and give it a large circle of readers.

DR. ALF. A. MOSCHKAN.

President of the United German Philatelists, Honorary member of the Philatelists Club, of Hamburg, and member of various learned societies.

—◆—
 WE have the January number of “*The American Journal of Philately*.”—This Magazine now beginning its eighth volume, comes to us in a neat new dress, and slightly enlarged, with a cover designed. We understand by its new editor, Mr. Joseph J. Casey, A. M., long favorably known to Philatelists. Success to you gentlemen.

*Miscellaneous,***After Two Thousand Years.**

Until within a few months the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, with its duplicate inscription in Greek and in Egyptian hieroglyphics, was the most noted event of the whole history of philological research. The Rosetta Stone furnished the key to vast wealth of hieroglyphic writing which had for ages baffled the investigations of the most patient scholar. But now a similar discovery has solved the problem of the origin of the Etruscans and the meaning of the Etruscan inscriptions. Two dice have been discovered in an Etruscan tomb with their six faces marked with words instead of pips. Those words were identical with the first six digits of the Etruscan; by this slender clue the family to which the Etruscan language belonged has been ascertained, and the 3,000 Etruscan inscriptions now in existence are no longer meaningless and apparently doomed to be forever untranslated.

The origin of that strange nation, which had developed a high degree of civilization in Italy before the foundation of Rome, has been the puzzle of historians. Niebuhr and Mommsen believed that the Etruscans reached Italy from the north by crossing the Rætian Alps, but they united in scoffing at the theory of Herodotus, that they had emigrated from Asia. And yet, Herodotus was, in this as in many other instances in which modern historians have doubted his assertions, much nearer the truth than any of his successors. The Etruscans are proved by the testimony of philology, now that we possess the key to their language, to have emigrated from that hive of swarming nations,

the steppes of Siberia. Centuries after their origin and language had been forgotten a new race of Etruscans entered Italy, but their relationship to the founders of Italian civilization was never dreamed of. Nevertheless, the Huns were of the same family as the Etruscans, and had but followed the path of their predecessors in marching from Asia to the hills of Central Italy.

The Etruscan inscriptions, which occur on the tombs and vases found on the sites of their ancient cities, have presented nothing in common with any of the other languages of Europe, or of the Indo-Germanic family. On one of the vases found at Cære is the following sentence: "Minicethumamimathumar-amlisiathipurenaietheeraisieeraiiscepanaminethunastavhelefa." Upon the work of deciphering this sentence scholars have labored in vain for two thousand years. It has been the despair of philologists, who have detected in it no trace of resemblance to any other known tongue. Hundreds of ingenious solutions have been devised for it, not one of which would stand the test of application to any of the rest of the Etruscan inscriptions. The suggestion of Greek, in the frequency with which the "th" sound occurs has misled certain students—among whom is Mommsen—and induced them to risk the assertion that the Etruscans, like the Greeks, were a branch of the Indo-Germanic family. It is long since, however, that the hope of ever gaining a clue to the Etruscan language was abandoned by all except the most ardent enthusiasts. The only possibility of means lay in the finding of a new "Rosetta Stone," and as two thousand years of search in a region lying close to the two great Italian capitals, Rome and Florence, had failed to discover such a treasure, there

was hardly a possibility of its existence.

But the recent paper read before the English Philological Society by the Rev. Isaac Taylor showed that the two recently discovered dice were the long-sought-for key to the Etruscan mystery. We now know that the Etruscans were Turanians, and can point to the very origin where they originated. They were a Tartar tribe, dwelling on the Altaic steppes, and from that far-off home wandered, in an unknown antiquity, across Russia, Hungary, and Germany, to their later home in Italy.— Their language was essentially the same as that of the Tartars who now roam over Siberia. Their mythology was that of the Kalevia, the great Finnish epic poem. Their curious civilization, that had ceased to make progress at the time when the Romans came in contact with them, presents a singular coincidence, in its changeless character, with that other great Turanian civilization, the Chinese. The Etruscans were literally the Chinese of Europe, and like them, were incapable of continued progress, but remained contented with the civilization to which, in their most prosperous period, they had attained.

No more important discovery has been made since that of the Rosetta Stone. The last great problem of history, ethnology and philology is suddenly solved. The theories of modern scholars are abruptly overthrown, and of all who have written of the origin of the Etruscans, the venerable Father of History, whom we have so long been in the habit of regarding as a credulous gossip, is shown to have made the nearest approach to the truth.

Now that we can read the Etruscan inscriptions, we shall doubtless gain new light as to the early history of It-

aly. It is quite probable that among them we shall find references to Rome which will explain much that is doubtful in the legendary history of the origin of the latter State. The tomb of Porsena, the Etruscan King under whose leadership Rome was probably overwhelmed by the Etruscans, was long ago discovered, and among the inscriptions found on its walls and vases we ought to find the true story of that war, the record of which Roman pride has so obviously falsified. Indeed, it is impossible to form too high expectations of what may be revealed to us by the unexpected unlocking of the records of the Etruscan tombs. Never again can such an event occur, for the Etruscan is the only language which philologists have not already mastered.

After the reading of the Egyptian hieroglyphics there remained but one more mystery for philologists to penetrate, and that, thanks to the discovery of two apparently insignificant dice, has ceased to be a mystery henceforth and forever.

Facts in the Natural History of the Honey Bee.

There are three classes of bees in a hive, the Worker, Queen and Drone.

Queens are raised by peculiar food and treatment from eggs which would otherwise produce workers.

The worker is an undeveloped female. Workers in the absence of a queen, sometimes lay eggs. These invariably produce drones.

The queen lives from two to five years. The worker lives two or three months in the working season, and from six to eight during the season of rest.

The queen is perfected in fifteen or sixteen days from the eggs, the worker

in twenty to twenty-one days, and the drone in twenty-four.

The queen usually commences laying from seven to twelve days after leaving the cell, and is capable of laying from two to three thousand eggs in a day.

The impregnation of the queen always takes place outside the hive, on the wing, and generally the fourth or fifth day after leaving the cell. Excepting in rare cases, one impregnation answers for life. The drone she has mated with dies immediately,

The eggs of an unimpregnated queen produce nothing but drones; and it is generally conceded that impregnation does not affect her progeny; consequently, the male progeny of a pure Italian queen is pure, without regard to the drone she has mated with.

The queen and worker are provided with stings; but while the latter will use it upon any provocation, the former will only use it upon her own rank.—The drones have no stings.

One queen, as a rule, is all that is tolerated in a hive; but previous to throwing off "after swarms," two or more queens are permitted in the same hive for a short time; but the extra ones are soon disposed of. In case of superseding a queen, the old one is preserved until the new one is fitted to take her place. Queens have a deadly hatred for each other, and will destroy, if permitted, all queen larvæ, or cells in the hive, and will fight each other until there is but one living queen left.

A frightened bee, or one filled with honey, is not disposed to sting.

A good swarm contains about twenty thousand bees.

A strong or medium hive, with a good laying queen, is never seriously troubled with the moth worm; but a hive without a queen, or the means of

raising one, is sure to be taken by them.

Bees recognize each other by their scent.

The first one or two weeks of the young bee's life is spent inside the hive, as nurse, or wax-worker.

The range of a bee's flight for food is generally within two or three miles; much greater range is of but little benefit to them.

Discoveries of Antiquities in Moab.

A correspondent of the *London Athenæum*, writing from Jerusalem, says:

The excavations in search of antiquities in Moab, have proved surprisingly successful. About six hundred objects in earthenware jars, lamps, figures of men and animals, inscribed slabs, &c., have been safely lodged in Jerusalem. Many of these are of the highest interest. One of the most striking is the figure of a calf, nearly life-size, in a sitting posture, and with a hole in the back, apparently to burn incense in.—There is no inscription upon this figure, but another calf's head, of smaller size, is placed upright upon an earthen disc, which has some letters inscribed upon it. The jars are of large size, and of somewhat rude construction, and are principally valuable for the writing with which they are covered.

The characters are, in some instances, stamped (some stamps in earthenware have been found,) in others engraved with a sharp instrument, whilst a third kind is in strong relief, and may have been moulded, or, as appears to be the case with one of the lamps, first formed in wet clay, and then stuck on. It seems also that some of these raised characters have been formed by scraping away the surrounding clay—a work requiring much skill and patience

where the inscription is copious and the character crowded. The letters are chiefly Phœnician; but others resemble "Nabathean," and others again are forms not previously known here.

The human figures are very numerous. Some are surmised to represent Moloch, having a cavity in the capacious abdomen, and a hollow space, perhaps, for fire underneath. But the most remarkable, and in some respects the most interesting of these antiquities, are the Phallic emblems. Some of these are of very unmistakable character.

It is, perhaps, fortunate in so far as the recovery of these valuable antiquities is concerned, that the American Exploring Expedition has been delayed, it being certain that no such party, however small and modestly equipped, can enter Moab without attracting the attention and exciting the cupidity of the Sheikhs, and putting a stop to all useful search for inscriptions, &c. It is reported that there are at present nearly a hundred Arabs employed in digging for antiquities. Each man is at work on his own account, and is paid only for what he finds.

Attention, Friends.

The CURIOSITY HUNTER is offered at such a low rate (\$1.00 per year, with chromo "Doe and Fawn"), that we can not but feel that if it is brought to the notice of collectors of curiosities it will meet with a welcome reception everywhere. We therefore ask each of our friends to secure us, if possible, one new subscriber, and thus rapidly enlarge our subscription-list. Each one of you must know some other collector whom you could interest, or at least send us the address, that we may forward them specimen copies. Try.

A Curiosity of House-Keeping in New Hampshire.

Within a mile of the city of Concord, N. H., on the free-bridge road leading to the "dark plains," on the easterly side of Merrimac river, is a newly-built miniature house, the dimensions of which are only about ten feet long, 8 feet wide, and 7 feet high. It has two small windows and a door on the front side, and a stove-pipe through the roof is substituted for a chimney. In this diminutive dwelling resides a man and wife, with four children from six months to six years of age, all of decent appearance, and of at least ordinary intelligence. Probably there is not another instance of such compact house-keeping among Americans out of large cities. The house is situated near a public water-trough, at a turn in the road. The oldest of the children mentioned (a bright little boy,) seems to make a business of standing on the top of the trough and unchecking the horses which come up, thus often receiving a reward of a few cents for his ingenious enterprise.—*Boston Trans.*, Nov. 10.

LANGUAGES INTO WHICH THE BIBLE HAS BEEN TRANSLATED.—The total number of dialects spoken in every part of the world is computed to be about 500, and of them somewhat more than 110 seem to constitute languages generically distinct, or exhibiting more diversity than semblance to each other. Into upwards of 150 of these languages the Bible has been translated, either wholly or in part, and not less than 60 of them are versions in the dialect and language of Asia. In 1563, the British Parliament ordered the Scriptures to be translated into Welsh.

The Continental Navy.

The war of the Revolution was commenced without a single armed vessel. The first in the service were fitted out by Rhode Island in 1775, which were two schooners in the defense of the coasting trade.

That state was also the first to recommend to Congress the formation of a naval force, and in December, 1775, Congress commissioned 13 vessels as a commencement of the navy.

In the spring of 1776, Massachusetts fitted out several armed vessels, the flag of which was white, with the figure of a pine or liberty tree and the motto: "We appeal to Heaven."

The first naval battle took place some three weeks after the battle of Lexington, a Capt. Wheaton being said to have caused the striking of the first British flag on the ocean.

No Congressional laws had been enacted for the creation of a navy, and when Washington undertook to get up and send to sea an expedition of six vessels, he was obliged to address them as "part of the army."

The earliest frigate from Philadelphia, the Alfred, Captain Hopkins, of which Paul Jones was the lieutenant, displayed a flag of 13 stripes of red and blue, with a rattlesnake in a running attitude, mouth open, with the motto: "Don't tread on me." This same flag was borne by the Alliance frigate, under command of Paul Jones, when she dashed through a British fleet of 21 war vessels in the North Sea, receiving their fire, and making good her escape. A London paper of July, 1776, commends the device of the snake, and regards it as peculiarly appropriate to our character and position.

The officers of the first navy were in many respects different from the pres-

ent. In their dress there was but little show or grandeur. They wore small cocked hats, without lace; hair curled and powdered; coats with ample skirts and foul-anchor buttons; small clothes, hose and shoes. Their dignity and sternness, when they aimed at any, was not before their countrymen, but before the enemy. They had not been bred originally for the drawing-room and courtly display, but they had no deficiency in polished circles when called to exercise their rules and usages.

Some Australian Scenes.

The society of the large Australian cities, such as Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, although cosmopolitan to an extent, is decidedly English in its manners and customs.

Sydney is without doubt one of the finest cities in the world, both as regards situation and climate. Its commerce is enormous.

Some of the wealthiest and most aristocratic families of Sydney are descendants of transported convicts, and the amount of style which some of them succeed in carrying is almost beyond belief.

Now that Wells' Australian line of steamers is an assured success, Australia will be a favorite point for travelers who make the tour of the world.

The passage from San Francisco to Sydney averages 35 days; the distance is about 11,500 miles.

The women of Australia are noted for their clear and beautiful complexion, their fine forms and perfect health. They are the finest-looking set of ladies the writer ever saw.

WE have not received any of the late Albums, and can say nothing for them as yet.

Shakspeare and the Bible.

Shakspeare constantly reminds us of the Bible, and when a passage comes to mind, the origin of which is uncertain, a common impression is that it must belong either to the Bible or the great poet, and no other author excites the same feeling in an equal degree. There are some curious parallel passages that show the Bard of Avon was familiar with the Scriptures, and drew from them many of his fine ideas. For instance:

Othello—"Rude am I in speech."

Bible—"But though I be rude in speech." 2 Cor. xi. 6.

Witches in Macbeth—"Show his eyes and grieve his heart."

Bible—"Consume thine eyes and grieve thine heart." 1 Sam. ii. 23.

Macbeth—"Life is but a walking shadow."

Bible—"Man walketh in vain show." Psalms, xxxix. 6.

Macbeth—"We will die with harness on our back."

Bible—"Nicanor lay dead in his harness." 2 Mac. xv. 28.

Banquo—"Woe to the land that is governed by a child."

Bible—"Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child." Eccles. x. 16.

Timon of Athens—"Who can call him his friend that dips in the same dish?"

Bible—"He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me."

Similar parallel passages might be quoted by the score, and we will finish by asking our readers to turn to the play of "Troilus and Cressida," 1, 3, and see what an admirable paraphrase it is of Luke xxi. 25, 26.

New Issues.

On New Year's Day, Italy presented her compliments to Philatelists in the shape of two new post-cards, each bearing as a stamp the portrait of Victor Emanuel in an elaborate frame, without values. The first bears the inscription of "CARTOLINA POSTALE, DICE CENTESIMI" (Post Card, 10 centimes). Beneath are the Arms of Savoy, surmounted by a crown; in the left lower angle an inscription in two lines, indicating that this side is reserved for the address.

The second, a reply-card, differs as follows: "CARTOLINA POSTALE, CON RISPONDA PAGETA, QUISI-DECI CENTESIMI" (Post Card with pre-paid Reply, 15 centimes). Ten centimes, brown on chamois; 15 centimes, brown on rose. These cards are about the size of the Newfoundland.

AUSTRIA

tints her twenty-five kreuzer a very deep brown.

NATAL

surcharges the six pence and one shilling with "Postage" in black on each side.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

colors the ninepence mauve, and watermarks the twopence, V., and crown.

GAMBIA

uses pale brown for its fourpence.

The Stones of the Great Pyramid.

According to Prof. Piazza Smyth, the finest specimen of one of the "casing stones" of the great Pyramid known at present to exist either in Europe, or even in Egypt, was received in Edinburgh a few weeks ago from Mr. Wayman Dixon, a young engineer who has recently completed an iron bridge across the Nile between Cairo and Ghizeh.—The specimen possesses, Prof. Smyth says, in a more or less injured condi-

tion, five of the anciently worked sides of the block, including the upper and lower horizontal surfaces, together with the leveled surface between. It was the exact angle of this leveled slope which led the late Mr. John Taylor to what Prof. Smyth calls "the immortal archæological truth, that the shape of the entire monument was so carefully adjusted and exactly fashioned in its own day to precisely such a figure, that it does not set forth the value of the mathematical term π , or does, vulgarly, demonstrate in the right way the true and practical squaring of the circle."—Whether this be the case or no, Prof. Smyth declares that the length of the front foot of the stone, or that line or edge from which the angular slope of the whole stone commences to rise, measures, "within the limit of mensuration error now unavoidable, the number of just twenty-five pyramid inches, neither less nor more. And twenty-five pyramid inches have been shown to be the ten millionth part of the length of the earth's semi-axis of rotation." Prof. Smyth is very severe on the Egyptologists of the British Museum for the manner in which they conduct their department.

Pianos In Ceylon.

Ceylon is a very bad climate for musical instruments. On entering a house in that lovely island it is a common thing to see a piano standing in saucers of water; this is to prevent the white ants from getting into the instruments. But a still greater annoyance,—at least so far as the performer is concerned,—is produced by the excessive dampness of the climate, which causes some of the keys to remain down when touched, so that they give no sound. To prevent an accident of this kind, the "action"

is sometimes taken out and placed in the sun for a short time, when there is to be a concert or musical party; but, notwithstanding this precaution, some of the keys may stick in the evening, and the effect of a brilliant solo played under these circumstances is exceedingly comical.

A Catalogue of Philatelic Publications.

John K. Tiffany, Esq., South West corner Fifth and Olive Streets, St. Louis, Mo., desires all Philatelists to send either copies of, or information concerning any stamp journal, album, price lists or circular relative to stamps, which they may possess or may have seen.—This gentleman's Philatelic Library consists of 250 bound volumes, besides numerous circulars and price lists. We hope that every one who may notice this will lend a helping hand to this laudable and difficult undertaking.

—We have received catalogues of the collection of coins, the property of the late John Campbell, to be sold by Messrs. Birch & Sons., 110 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 17, 18, and 19, 1874. Also the eighteenth sale of W. Woodward, to be held at the rooms of the Messrs. Levitt, on February 23, 24, 25, and 26.

—The oldest American skull is one found at New Madrid, Mo., and it must have belonged to a contemporary of the mound diggers. It came from a depth of thirty feet below the surface of a mound, on which were growing the oldest trees of the primitive forest. Near it were discovered the relics of a mastodon. Anthropologists have decided that it must have belonged to a very beautiful woman.

Illuminated Manuscripts.

The process of laying on and burnishing gold and silver, appears to have been familiar to the oriental nations from a period of remote antiquity, and although there are no instances of its use in the Egyptian papyrus, yet it is not unreasonable to believe that the Greeks acquired from Egypt, or India, the art of thus ornamenting manuscripts, which they probably conveyed to the Romans. The luxury thus introduced, was augmented by writing on vellum, stained of a purple or rose color, the earliest instance of which is recorded by Julius Capitolinus, in his life of the Emperor Maximinus the Younger, to whom his mother made a present of the Poems of Homer, written on purple vellum in golden letters.— This took place at the commencement of the third century. For upwards of a hundred years the practice seems to have continued of rare occurrence, but towards the end of the fourth century it had become more frequent; confined, however, solely to copies of the Scriptures and devotional books, written for the libraries of princes, and the services of the monasteries. The celebrated *Codex Argenteus* of Ulphilas, written in silver and gold letters on a purple ground, about A. D. 360, is perhaps the most ancient existing specimen of this magnificent mode of calligraphy, after which may be instanced the copy of Genesis at Vienna, the Psalter of St. Germain des Pres, and the fragment of the New Testament in the Cottonian Library, all executed in the fifth and sixth centuries.

Manuscript written in letters of gold on white vellum, are chiefly confined to the eighth, ninth and tenth centuries. Of these, the Bible and hours of Charles the Bold, preserved in the Imperial Li-

brary at Paris, and the Gospels of the Harleian collection, are, probably, the finest examples extant. Writing in gold was less employed in the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries, but it again came into usage in the fourteenth, particularly in devotional books of persons of rank. It then exhibits, however, a totally different appearance from the ancient art, and the gilding seems to be applied, not in a liquid state, but in leaves.

The initial letters of manuscripts in the earliest period were not distinguished in size from the rest of the text, (the whole of which was then written in capitals,) and when colored, were of a much simpler taste than began to be used at the end of the seventh century. From the eighth to the eleventh century occur in Greek and Latin MSS. initial letters of a large size, at the commencement of books and chapters, fancifully composed of human figures, animals, birds, fish, flowers, etc. In Montfaucon an alphabet is given, selected from MSS. of the ninth and tenth centuries, many of which are sufficiently singular and ingenious; such, for instance as an H composed of two men, each placing one foot on a blazing altar; a T represented by a fox on its hind legs, holding a pole in its mouth horizontally, etc. These letters are called by the Benedictines *historiées*, because they often bear reference to, or illustrate the text to which they are prefixed. Thus, a MS. of the thirty-fourth Homily of St. Chrysostom, commencing, "Yesterday we returned from battle," is headed by a capital E, in which is depicted a warrior armed with a spear. The imagination of the illuminator supplied an inexhaustible source for this species of letters.

Manuscripts of the eleventh exhibi

very beautiful instances of borders, particularly Greek MSS. executed for persons of rank, such as the copy St. Chrysostom's writings, illuminated for the Emperor Nicephorus Botoniata, between the years 1078 and 1081. In the commoner Latin MSS. of this period, written in England and France, the use of a very delicate light blue and green may be observed in the titles and initial letters, and continued until the middle of the succeeding century. The writing in general is extremely beautiful, in a fine Roman lower-case letter.

The twelfth century is remarkable for a profusion of ornament, and a graceful but intricate mode of illuminating, which, by the aid of gold and silver, was carried to an excess of extravagance scarcely to be conceived, and renders it more easy to recognize manuscript of this period than any other. About this time it became the practice of the scribes to leave blanks for the initial letters, to be filled up by one or more limners, and this accounts for the imperfect state, and sometimes total omission, of them which we find in manuscript volumes of this and the two succeeding centuries.

In the 13th century the art of illuminating in some respects deteriorated, and endeavored to supply in splendor what it lost in correctness of taste. The background of miniatures and initial letters seem like plates of solid gold, and the colors (chiefly red and blue, lightened with white) are worked up so as to frequently have the effect of oil painting. This style prevailed most from about the year 1190 to 1230, and in general manuscripts of this class are of French or German execution.

To the early part of the 14th century are to be ascribed the numerous MSS. executed in England and France, in

which appear large initial letters of purple, red and gold, containing figures of men and animals, and terminating in spiral scrolls, which extend along the upper and lower margins of the volume, often supporting small groups or single figures of dogs, horses, apes, etc. The colors used in these volumes, particularly the blues and the reds, are of a beauty and intensity which modern artists have never yet been able to imitate.

During the 15th century, the art of painting made rapid strides toward the perfection it attained in the subsequent age, and numberless examples remain in public and private libraries, exhibiting an endless variety of design and coloring. The ornaments and borders of manuscripts are of a completely different taste to those of the preceding century. Nature again began to be studied, and in lieu of grotesque forms we are presented with flowers of every hue, fruits, birds and insects, most delicately and minutely colored upon gold grounds, with a brilliancy of effect before unknown. The invention of printing, which took place in the middle of this century, produced for nearly fifty years no very sensible effect on the labors of the illuminatists. In Italy, particularly, great numbers of classic authors were written were illuminated at this time, and the talent of Francisco Veronese and Giralomo da i Libri was not only exerted in painting the magnificent choral books of the Vatican, but in executing for sovereign princes or prelates embellishments of the highest order to missals, or editions of favorite authors, printed on vellum. The art of coloring in what is termed *camieu gris*, afforded also to the artist fresh scope for his skill in the disposition of light and shade, and a volum

executed in this manner for Charles, Duke of Burgundy, containing the miracles of the Virgin, is so extraordinary a specimen of what could then be accomplished, that it rises superior to all the gorgeous and glittering decorations of more costly volumes. As a work of art, it is perhaps unrivalled.

The 16th century witnessed the final triumph of art produced by the successive pencils of Da Vinci, Raffaella, Julio Romana and Julio Clovio. Miniature painting received a new degree of lustre and dignity from its having been practised by artists who were also celebrated for works executed on a grander scale. Of these artists, the one who rose to the highest degree of eminence as an illuminator of missals, and who seems never to have been surpassed, was Julio Clovio. His paintings are inimitable, and must be seen to be appreciated. They were chiefly executed for the libraries of Cosmo de Medici, and the Cardinals Grimani and Farnese. A missal in the Grenville collection, that was painted expressly for Philip II. of Spain, is described at great length in the Bibliographical Decameron.

In the 17th century the art of illumination still existed, but was rarely practised, and almost wholly confined to the decoration of religious or heraldic volumes. Perhaps the latest specimen remaining is the magnificent missal in the public library at Rouen, nearly three feet in height, which occupied the labor of a monk for thirty years, and was completed in 1682.

—The reason why common salt sometimes becomes moist when exposed to the atmosphere is because it is not pure. Chloride of calcium and chloride of magnesium are impurities generally present in salt, and they absorb moisture.

Something About Yourself.

Supposing your age to be fifteen years or thereabouts, you can be figured up to a dot. You have 160 bones and 500 muscles; your blood weighs 25 pounds; Your heart is nearly five inches in length, and three inches in diameter, it beats 70 times per minute, 4,200 per hour, 100,800 per day, and 30,722,200 per year. At each beat a little over two ounces of blood is thrown out of it; and each day it receives and discharges about seven tons of that wonderful fluid. Your lungs will contain a gallon of air, and you inhale about 24,000 gallons per day. The aggregate surface of the air cells of your lungs, supposing them to be spread out, exceeds 20,000 square inches. The weight of your brain is three pounds; when you are a man it will weigh about eight ounces more—Your nerves exceed 10,000,000.

Your skin is composed of three layers, and varies from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch in thickness. The area of your skin is 1,700 square inches, and you are subjected to an atmospheric pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch. Each square inch of your skin contains 3,500 sweating tubes, or respiratory pores, each of which may be likened to a little drain tile one-fourth of an inch long, making an aggregate length in the entire surface of your body of 201,166 feet, or a tile ditch for draining the body almost forty miles long.

—The Indiana State Library has recently come in possession of a copy of the "Statutes of the Diocese of Ratispon," printed by John Pfiel, at Homburg, Bavaria, May, 1512. This volume is among the first ever printed; the paper is heavy linen, and the type very clear. The language used was Latin with German characters.

Curious Production of Veneers.

A foreign scientific journal mentions the employment as a substitute for ivory and veneers, in inlaid work, of artificial veneers, made from goat and sheep's bones, the fleshings of deer skins, parchment parings, etc. The bones are first treated for ten or fifteen days with chloride of lime, and then washed with water and dried. Thus prepared, the bones are put with the fleshings and parchment parings into a copper, and are dissolved by steam into a fluid mass. To each tenth of this is added one-fourth of a pound of alum, fire being made at the same time under the copper, that the alum may combine with the mass. As soon as the scum rises, it is taken off, until the appearance is clear and pure. Any desired color is added while the mass is yet warm, after which it is strained through a rough linen cloth, and poured into the mould, where it remains until it is cold enough to be turned out on cloths firmly stretched upon frames, and left to dry in the air. When the plates are quite dry, they are steeped from eight to ten hours in a cold solution of alum, or until they have acquired the requisite degree of hardness. For this steep, half a pound of alum is employed for every pound of veneer. When the artificial ivory is taken out of the alum solution, it is washed with clean, fresh water, and again dried upon the frames, after which it is considered to be in a finished state, ready for any of the uses to which the usual ivory veneers are applied.

Valuable Diamonds.

The Orloff diamond, bought by Catherine of Russia, is considerably larger than the Koh-i-noor of Queen Victoria, being about the size of a pigeon's egg, and weighing 195 carats. This splendid stone once formed, it is said, the

eye of a Hindoo idol in a temple of Brahma at Pondicherry, was stolen by a French deserter, and, after passing through various hands, fell into the possession of a Greek merchant, who sold it to the empress for half a million of dollars, an annuity of \$25,000, and a patent of nobility. Wilkie Collins, it is stated, founded in a measure his novel of "The Moonstone" on the history of this magnificent stone. The largest and most valuable diamond known is presumed to be the one so long owned by the Sultan of Matan, Forneo. Its weight is 369 carats, and its estimated value from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The celebrated Austrian diamond, weighing 139 carats, is nearly the size of the Koh-i-noor; but the fact that it is yellow and of rose form, renders it much less valuable. If it were white and cut in brilliant, it would be worth more than \$1,000,000; but as it is, less than two-thirds of that sum would be considered a fair estimate of its price.

—It is stated that peat will be introduced into London by a large company at the rate of 10s. or 12s. a ton at the utmost. It is said to fling out greater heat, to burn longer than coal, and is naturally more economical than coal for cooking purposes. This will be good news indeed for the laboring classes of the metropolis and elsewhere if it be only realized.

—Some fresh information has been found in the London Record office concerning Chaucer. It was already known that he was one of the household of Edward III. In 1366 the name Geoffrey Chaucer occurs among the "thirty-seven esquires" of the king who were each to receive a suit of clothes. We knew already that Chaucer was a valet of the king in 1367.

New Discoveries at Pomp.ii.

The *Unila Nazionale* of Naples, gives an account of some interesting researches recently made in the ruins of the buried city:

"In the porch of a small house two skeletons were found, one of them being incontestably that of a woman, as it had on a bracelet in massive gold of an unusual form, composed of thick rings soldered to each other, the whole being fastened by two pieces of wire on the same metal. The day after, in the garden of the same building, was discovered a small statue, seated, about two feet high, of a rather uncommon model. It is in terra cotta, but of no definite type. The head, in fact, is absolutely that of Jupiter; the figure is covered with a tunic, having short sleeves, which only cover the upper part of the arms; the legs and hands are crossed; a cloak falls from the lower limbs; the right hand holds a papyrus, so that the belief is, it must represent a philosopher. Two days after, however, a more important work of art was found at the bottom of another garden contiguous to the one above mentioned, namely, a marble *Venus*, measuring with the base more than a yard in height. It is in perfect preservation, as it only wants two fingers on the right hand; but the most remarkable characteristic is that it is colored. The excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum, have produced many other specimens of painted marble, but the tints have all more or less faded away. In the present work the hair is yellow, the eye-lashes and eye-brows black; the chlamys which form the left arm passing behind the shoulders, descends on the legs and covers the lower parts; it is also tinted yellow outside, whilst the interior folds show at the edges

some traces of blue and red. The nude parts are white. The left arm, the hand of which holds the apple of Paris, rests upon a similar statue, the drapery of which is also tinted yellow, green and black."

Blood-Colored Water.

From the remotest antiquity the red color sometimes observed in water appears to have attracted attention. In all ages there have been stories of rains of blood, and of rivers changed to blood. These phenomena have given rise to the most ludicrous apprehensions. In Exodus (vii. 20, 21) we read that "All the waters that were in the river were turned to blood, and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt."

Homer speaks of blood that preceded the Trojan war, and those which foreboded the death of Sarpedon, king of the Lycians. Pliny, in his "Natural History," (book ii., c. xxxvi.) tells of a reign of milk and blood which fell at Rome in the consulship of M. Acilius and C. Portius. Finally, the historian Livy mentions a rain of blood which fell in the Forum Boarium. In times much nearer to our own, phenomena of this kind have been observed in different parts of Europe, producing ridiculous alarms, and even leading to actual seditions.

The causes of these so-called rains of blood are now well understood. Every one knows that they are to be attributed either to mineral particles diffused through the air strata which are traversed by the rain, or to the dejections of certain moths in their last metamorphosis, or to the remains of infusoria carried up by the winds. But the ignorant multitude continue still to believe in rains of blood, and bow blindly before so-called miracles which have no existence save in the wild fancies of those who regard them as articles of faith.

Curiosity of a Fly.

Talk about the curiosity of women! We will back a fly against any woman. Just watch him as he gaily traverses a bald man's cranium, halts on the eyelid, and, taking a cursory glance about him, waltzes over to the end of the nose, peeps up one nostril, and having satisfied his curiosity there, curvettes over the upper lip, and takes a glance up the other. With a satisfactory smile at having seen all there is to be seen there, he makes a bee-line for the chin, stopping a moment to explore the cavity formed by the closed lips. Arriving at the chin, he takes a notion to creep under the shirt-collar, but suddenly hesitating, he turns about as if he had forgotten something, and proceeds to explore the right ear. This concluded, he carries out his original intention, and disappears between the neck—emerging after the lapse of some minutes with an air seeming to say that he had performed his duty. What matters the frantic attempts to catch him, the enraged gestures, and the profane language? He is not disturbed for a moment. Driven from one spot, he calmly alights on another. He finds he has got a duty to perform—and he does it.—[Lawrence American.

WE take great pleasure in calling especial attention to the list of advertisements in this number. They are all of them worthy of special mention, as coming from representative houses in their respective lines. After perusing them—which we hope all will do—if you wish to order any of the articles enumerated, please have the kindness to say that you noticed the advertisement in the CURIOSITY HUNTER, and oblige yours faithfully, D. A. K. ANDRUS.

—Major Moncrieff's new development of a self-elevating gun-carriage has been subjected to a preliminary course of experiments at Woolwich. Its distinctive feature is a cylinder containing water and compressed air, on which the force of recoil operates by means of a piston. The working of the carriage elicited general admiration, and great improvements in gunnery are expected to result from it.

—Scientific farmers will be glad to learn that nitrate of soda is not likely to become scarce. Rapid progress is being made in its production in Peru, the quantity for the chief district, Tarapaca, being estimated for the year at 6,470,000 quintals. A quintal is about 100 pounds. Twenty new works are in course of operation.

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Paper Fabrique Co., 5c, black.

MATCHES.

American Match Co., Eagle 1c, green;
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 more Excelsior Waterproof, 1c, blue;
 Barber & Peckham, 3c, black; Barber,
 Geo. & O. C., 3c, black; Bousefield &
 Poole, 3c, brown; Byam & Carlton, 1c,
 white; Wrapper, 2 heads and, 1 head,
 buff; Wrapper; Bracket & Newton, 1c,
 lake; Brown & Darling, 1c, black; Doo-
 little, W. E. 1c, blue; Excelsior Match
 Co., 1c, black; Gorman, Thos. & Bros.
 1c, black; Macklin, J. & Co., 1c, black;
 New York Match Co., 5c, blue; Port-
 land, Me., Match Co., 1c, wrapper;
 Pierce Match Co., 1c, green; Richardson,
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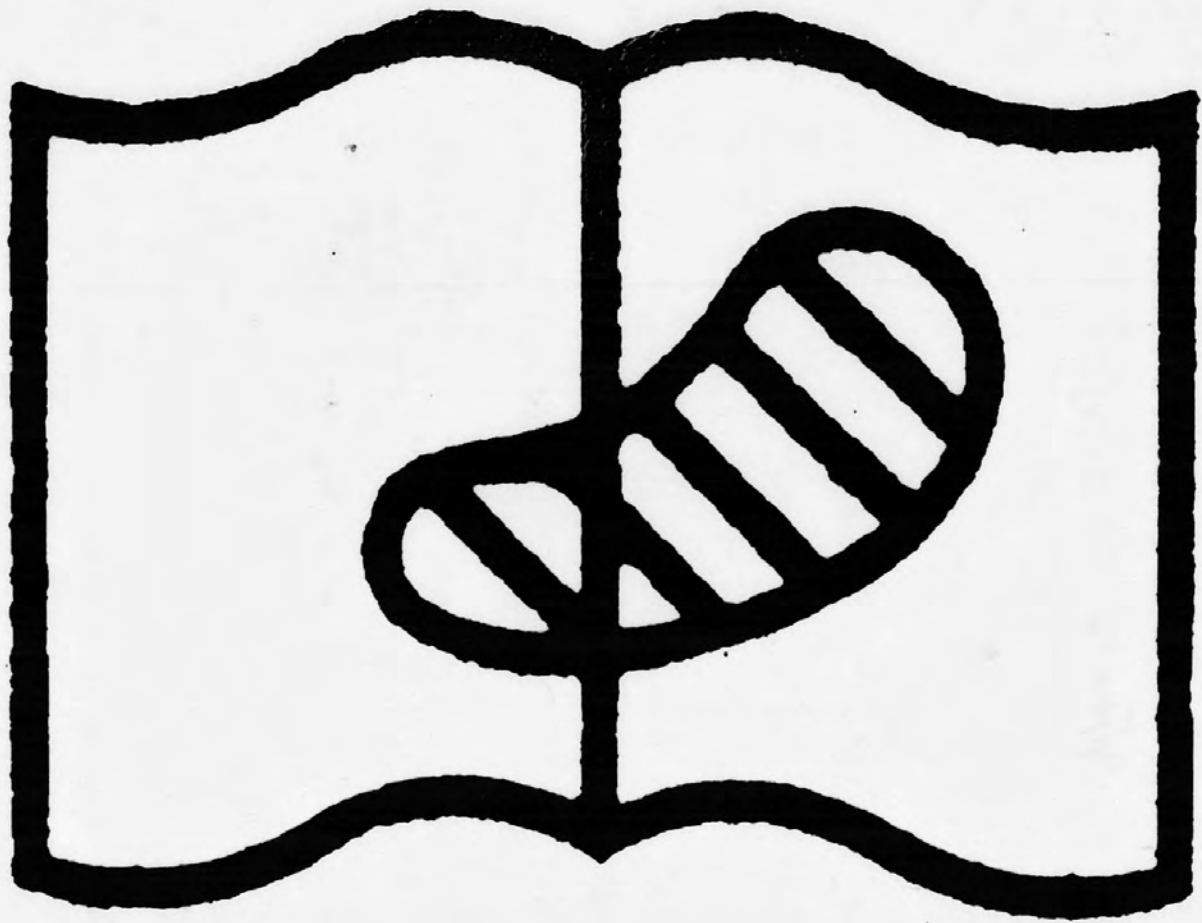
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THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 2.

ROCKFORD, ILL., MARCH, 1874.

No. 3.

Numismatics.

For the Curiosity Hunter.

Dollar of Christian, Duke of Brunswick.

Obverse:—An arm stretched from clouds, holding a naked sword. In a circle around, TOVT. AVEC. DIEV. 6. 22. (All for God.)

Reverse:—In four lines across the field, GOTTES FREUND DES SAFFEN FEIND (God's friend, the Priest's enemy.) In a circle without, CHRISTIAN. HERTZ. ZV. RAVNSCHW. V. LVNENB. (Christian, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg.)

The author of this dollar, Duke Christian, a son of Henry Julius of Brunswick and his second wife, Elizabeth, was born at Gronigen in Holberstadt, Sept. 20, 1591. In 1616, after the death of his father and two brothers, Henry, Charles and Rudolphus, he was chosen bishop of Haberstadt. He was, however, much better fitted, both by nature and inclination, for the sword than for the bishop's staff. He exhibited the first proof of his martial spirit in the Netherlands. Afterwards in the Thirty years' war, he was an adherent of Frederick the 5th, Count Palatine of Bohemia, and a devoted servant of his beautiful wife, Elizabeth, daughter of James the 1st of England. After the defeat at Prague, he took the Queen's glove from her hand, placed it on his hat and swore never to remove it or to rest until he had seen Frederick restored to his throne. Although he had

to close his eyes without participating in such a happy result, yet he acted his part well, and if Frederick, at the advice of his peace-loving father-in-law, had not disbanded his army, his affairs might have been more prosperous. In 1621, Christian collected an army, captured Amoenburg and intended to march through France and join the Count of Mansfeld, but was driven back into Westphalia. In 1622 he captured Lippe, Soest and Paderborn, obtaining in the two latter a large amount of booty, chiefly gold and silver vessels and statues from the churches. He found in one a large silver statue of St. Liborius, which he embraced and thanked for having waited so long for him and then had it melted and coined into the dollars described above. When the news of this reached Amsterdam an engraving was issued with the title, *Westphaelsche Transjormatie, alwaer S. Liborius verandert in Rijxdaelers*, or Westphalian transformation where St. Liborius was transformed into dollars. It represents the whole life of the statue. In the first corner the goldsmith and his assistants are making the statue, "Here St. Liborius was born and made." In the second corner, "he is consecrated and placed upon an altar." In the third, "he is honored with prayers and money," and in the last, "made into Rix dollars and paid to the soldiers." Copies of the different dollars are also given; among them one with the inscription, *Ite in mundum universum*.

The enemies of our Duke, Crazy Christian, as they called him, contended

that the arm on his coin was an omen of the misfortune which befel him shortly after in the battle of Fleury, where he was wounded so severely in the left arm as to necessitate its amputation. He had the operation performed in the open field, to the sound of trumpets and drums, and proclaiming that it was not the arm represented on his coins, went on with his fighting more heartily than ever. He is said to have issued a dollar at this time, with a hand and a sword and the inscription, *altera restat*, signifying that though one arm was shot away, another remained able to fight. And another with, *Verlier ich gleich arm und Bein, so will ich doch der Foffen Feind sein*. Though I lose both arm and leg yet will I be the priests' enemy. However, no such dollars are now known.

Goetzius, in his *Epistolis Cl. Viror de re Numismatica*, page 142, says that these dollars were coined from the silver coffin of St. Liborius, and that afterwards the coffin was restored and on its sixteen corners the like number of these dollars were placed, where it is still to be seen in Paderborn, with the inscription, *Liborium redivivum*. In 1670 Rudolph Augustus restruck some of these dollars, but as but few were issued they are as rare as the originals. But to come to the end of our article and our Duke: "he died in 1626, poisoned, as Carlyle asserts in his 'History of Frederick II;' and if so, the enemies of the rude soldier took effectual care that this time divine judgment should not err." E. W. H.

Copying Medals.

Copies of medals or other similar articles may be readily made by a very simple piece of apparatus. A cast of

the medal is first taken in wax. This is done by moistening the medal or coin slightly, and then pouring the melted wax over it. The object of the moistening is to prevent the wax from sticking to the surface of the metal. While the wax is still warm, a piece of copper wire should be imbedded in it to serve as a support, and to connect with the zinc in the decomposing cell. After removing the medal from the mould the surface of the mould is dusted over with fine plumbago until it appears quite black; all excess of the carbon is then carefully removed with a soft brush. If fine iron filings can be had, a few of them are sifted over the face of the mould, and a solution of sulphate of copper is poured on it. It is then carefully washed; this serves to give a very thin coating of copper, and facilitates further operations, but may be omitted if not convenient. Care must be taken in putting on the plumbago coating, that it comes in contact with the copper wire. A very convenient way of applying this wire is to bend it into a ring slightly larger than the medal to be copied, lay it on the table around the medal, and pour the wax over both at the same time. Scraping with a knife exposes it completely. The mould being prepared, take an ordinary glazed earthenware basin four or five inches deep, and in it set a small flower pot, having previously plugged up the hole in the bottom of the pot with a piece of wood, a little wax, or other suitable material. The flower pot is to be filled with a weak solution of common salt. The outer basin is then filled with a strong solution of sulphate of copper, and a little bag holding crystals of sulphate of copper is hung in it to keep it saturated. Add a few drops of sulphuric acid to both so

lutions, place a piece of zinc in the bower pot, and connect it with the wire of the mould. The mould being now put in the outer solution, a coating of copper soon shows itself. The mould may be left in the solution two or three days if a thick coating is desired.

THE LEE PENNY.—The Lee penny has had much celebrity among curative agencies. It is a dark red triangular stone, measuring about half an inch along each side, and is set in a silver coin. This coin, though much defaced, is supposed to be a shilling of Edward the First, and has been in the possession of the Lee family for centuries. It used to be believed that if this stone were dipped in water, the water when drank would cure all diseases in cattle, and the bite of a mad dog. Once, when the plague was at Newcastle, the inhabitants begged the loan of the Lee penny, leaving a large sum of money as bond for its safety. It "did so much good" that the citizens wished to purchase and retain it for the sum deposited, but this the owner declined. One Lady Baird, of Saughton Hall, near Edinburgh, was bitten by a mad dog, and was in a sad way about it; she begged the loan of the Lee penny, steeped it in water, drank the water and even bathed in it, and continued this course for six weeks. Either by the effect of the water or of her imagination, of her natural good health or of an improved regimen, she recovered; but the Lee penny received all the praise.

Trade Dollar in China.

The British Consul at Canton obtained from the Viceroy the appointment of a joint commission to super-

intend the assay of the new trade dollar, on its arrival in China. It was found to be worth a little more than either the new or the old Mexican dollar. The Viceroy issued a proclamation on the report being sent to him, which concludes as follows:

"You must know that the Eagle Trade Dollar that has lately come to Hong-Kong has been duly assayed by officers specially appointed for the purpose, and it can be taken in payment of duties, and come into general circulation. You must not look upon it with suspicion. At the same time, rogues, sharpers and the like are hereby strictly forbidden to fabricate spurious imitations of this new Eagle Dollar with a view to profit. And should they dare to set this prohibition at defiance, and fabricate false coin, they shall, upon discovery, most assuredly be arrested and punished. Let every one obey with trembling! Let there be no disobedience!"

Oxidized Medals.

It appears that at the University of Munich there are preserved some copies of medals and coins made of a soft alloy—bismuth and lead—which was found to consist (when unaltered) of various proportions of the metals alluded to, namely: 1st, lead 66; bismuth 34; 2d, lead 80, bismuth 14; 3d, lead 88, bismuth 12. It is apparent that these alloys are not all made at the same time; in some instances the metals cast in these alloys had not only become somewhat oxidized, but had even fallen to powder, which effervesced on being treated with acetic acid, and the solution was found to contain chiefly lead, but bismuth was also present. Dr. Vogel observes that it is rather curious that alloys kept in well-closed show-

cases should have become so altered and deteriorated; the cause is ascribed to the tendency of bismuth to crystallize, whereby a molecular change is first effected, and thus oxidation is rendered more easy.

New Monetary Valuation.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following proclamation of the newly fixed valuation of foreign money:

Values in United States Money of Account, of the Pure Gold or Representing the Monetary Units, respectively, of Foreign Countries.

U. S. VALUE.

Argentine Republic, peso fuerte, gold.....	\$1.00 00
Austrian florin, silver.....	.47 60
Belgium franc, gold and silver	.19 30
Bolivia dollar, silver.....	.96 50
Brazil, milreis of 1000 reis, gold	.54 56
British Possessions in North America, dollar, gold.....	1.00 00
Central America, dollar, silver	.96 50
Chili, peso, gold.....	.94 23
China, tael, silver.....	1.61 00
Cuba, peso, gold.....	.92 58
Denmark, crown, gold.....	.26 80
Ecuador, dollar, silver.....	.96 50
Egypt, dollar of 20 piastres, silver.....	1.00 39
France, francs, gold and silver	.19 30
Great Britain, pound sterling, gold.....	4.86 65
Greece, drachms, silver.....	.19 30
German Empire, mark, gold..	.23 81
Hayti, dollar, silver.....	1.00 00
Jamaica, pound sterling, gold	4.86 65
Japan, yen, gold.....	.99 70
India, rupee of 16 annas, silver	.45 84
Italy, lira, gold and silver.....	.19 30
Liberia, dollar, gold.....	1.00 00
Mexico, dollar, silver.....	1.04 75

Netherlands, florin, silver.....	.40 50
Norway, crown, gold.....	.26 80
Paraguay, peso, gold.....	1.00 00
Peru, dollar, silver.....	.96 50
Porto Rico, peso, gold.....	.92 58
Portugal, milreis of 1000 reis, gold.....	1.08 47
Russia, roubles of 100 copecks, silver.....	.77 17
Sandwich Islands, dollar, gold	1.00 00
Spain, peseta of 100 centimes, gold and silver.....	.19 30
Sweden, crown, gold.....	.26 80
Switzerland, franc, gold and silver.....	.19 30
Tripoli, mahb of 20 piastres, silver.....	.87 00
Tunis, piaster of 16 caroubes, silver.....	.12 50
Turkey, piaster, gold.....	.04 30
United States of Colombia, peso, silver.....	.96 50
Uruguay, Patacon, gold.....	.94 90
Venezuela, peso, silver.....	.77 70

Where silver is the legal standard and represents the unit of account, its value is reduced to the basis of gold on the assumption that the ratio of 15 to 1 represents the relative values of silver and gold.

408 STATE STREET, BROOKLYN, }
12th March, 1874. }

DEAR SIR:

I beg leave to notify you that I have for sale the beautiful little "Memorial Medal" of the Boston Numismatic and New England Historical-Genealogical Societies, noticed on the last page of the "American Journal of Numismatics" for January, 1874.

The obverse bears a fac-simile of the seal of the Boston Numismatic Society, date of incorporation, etc: legend—"Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant," "1873,"—the four stars on each side

the date indicating the military rank of the Chief Magistrate during whose administration the medal has been struck. On the reverse is an elaborate reproduction of the seal of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, with a legend referring to both societies, "Twin delvers in the garden of history."

The size is 20. The dies were executed by Geo. H. Lovett, of New York, for Mr. I. F. Wood, the medal being the fourth of his "series." *The issue in Silver is strictly limited to twenty-five*, price \$2.00 each. In brass or copper, 60 cents each, or \$1.00 the set of two.

Early application is solicited from those desiring the medal, as the dies will shortly be cancelled, Mr. Wood's invariable rule where any issue is limited, in order to protect collectors from fraud, and the possibility of future muling.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD COGAN.

—Of the first issue of \$20,000,000 fractional currency made in 1862, and known at the time as "postal currency," \$4,445,060 remains unredeemed. During the past year \$89,418 of this currency was sent to the Treasury for redemption, but the rate at which it is now received decreases so rapidly that it promises to cease entirely in another year. Not far from \$4,000,000, of the postal currency, it is believed, will never be heard from, having been lost or destroyed in circulation. Of the second issue of about \$23,000,000, made in 1863, there is still outstanding the sum of \$3,246,060. The redemption during the past year amounted to \$151,455.

The poor paper upon which this issue was printed made it more easily destroyed than the first issue, and it is believed at the Treasury that more than \$2,500,000 will never come in for redemption. The total amount of the two first issues of fractional currency lost or worn out while in circulation will, according to these estimates, exceed \$6,500,000, or about 15 per cent of the whole issue. The sum is, of course, a clear gain to the Treasury and an entire loss to the people. It represents a small part of the cost to the country of the present system of irredeemable paper currency.

There is a gentleman in this city, who possesses the only original medal of George Washington now in this country. There were only four struck, as the die split upon the fifth. The other three are said to be in possession of the crown of Great Britain, the Czar of Russia, and the King of Belgium. This has the date of 1797 on its face, is a correct likeness of Washington and showing the date of his resignation and his relinquishment of the Presidency. On the reverse is a coat of arms, including a tomahawk and a quiver full of arrows. It was left to this gentleman by a Mr. Philpot, an Englishman, whom he provided for and nursed in his last hours. It is the work of one Hilliday, of England.—*Washington Chronicle*.

Seven hundred thousand francs were voted by the National Assembly for the rebuilding of the Library of the Louvre; although, to be sure, as nearly all the books were burned, the building is not to be used as a library, but as offices of the Ministry of Finance.



Philately.

[For the Curiosity Hunter.]

Stamps of the United States.

BY AN "OLD COLLECTOR."

Below will be found a list of the stamps illustrated on the preceding plate together with the numbers by which they are designated in the accompanying plate.

FIRST ROW—Left, 5 cents, St. Louis, (No. 1.)
Right 10 cents, St. Louis, (No. 2.)
Center, 5 cents, Brattleboro, (No. 3.)
SECOND ROW—Left, 3 cents, New York, (No. 4.)
Right, 5 cents, New York, (No. 5.)
Center, 5 cents, New Haven, (No. 7.)

THIRD TO EIGHTH ROWS. { Sheet of Providence. (No. 6)

The marks on the 5 and 10c. St. Louis are where they are CANCELLED.

The purpose of the present papers is not to present anything particularly new to the stamp collecting community, but rather to arrange in a very concise form much that has already been written concerning the stamps of our own country, but which is now only to be found by reference to various magazines.

It is well known that the United States Government did not issue stamps until the year 1847. For some time previous, however, much delay and inconvenience was experienced, owing to the necessity of prepaying each letter in cash, and to remedy this evil, the postmasters in several cities adopted (on their own responsibility) the expedient of preparing stamps which were accepted by them as evidences of money previously paid, but which were of no value whatever except on letters deposited in the post office by which they were issued.

The accompanying plate will render description unnecessary in most cases, so that it only remains for us to give a brief outline of the history of the several labels.

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT.—(Illustration No. 3.) Value 5 cents. Black impres-

sion on brown paper, issued in the latter part of 1846 by Dr. Frederick N Palmer, and discontinued as soon as the Government stamp appeared, when the remaining stock was destroyed. Only about 500 sheets were printed, and of these it is probable that only a very small portion was ever actually used. Engraved by Thos. Chubbuck, (then of Brattleboro), on copper, the stamp being repeated ten times, each one showing slight differences in the design, especially in the flourish under the signature.

NEW YORK.—(Illustration No. 4.) Value three cents. Black impression on green glazed paper, varying to nearly blue. Issued by John Lorimer Graham in 1843, and used to prepay letters throughout the city, and from the various branch post offices to the general city post office. N. B. This stamp must not be confounded with a very similar label bearing the inscription, "City Despatch Post." The latter was merely a private enterprise, started by a man named Chas. Co'e, in opposition to the Government.

(Illustration No. 5).—Value 5 cents. Black impression on bluish laid paper of two distinct qualities, issued in 1845 by Robert H. Morris, engraved by Rawdon Wright & Hatch, of New York. Some years ago reprints were struck off in the original as well as several fancy colors.

It is also said that Mr. Morris issued envelopes of the denominations of five and ten cents, and the design consisted merely of the postmaster's name above, with the necessary designation of value below. As, however, no copies have as yet been discovered, (the above information being taken from an article which appeared in the "New York Express," sometime in June or July, 1845), we cannot now give further particulars.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.—(Illustration No. 7.) Value 5 cents. Vermillion hand-

struck impression on ordinary white envelopes. The name "E. A. Mitchell," was written in blue ink on each copy. Mr. Mitchell says that he used to impress his stamp on any envelopes that were brought to him for that purpose, so that it is possible that a few buff ones were used.

About three years ago a number of reprints were struck off, some in red, others in blue. Subsequently we believe the die was presented to the New Haven Colonial Historical Society.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—(Illustration No. 6).
Value 5 cents. Black on white.

" 10 " " "

Issued in the year 1846 by W. B. Sayles. Printed in sheets of twelve stamps, viz: eleven of 5 cents each, and one of ten cents—the latter being in the right hand upper corner. Each of the 5 cent stamps show slight differences in the engraving, as will be observed by reference to our illustration.

St. LOUIS, MISSOURI.—(Illustrations Nos. 1 and 2).

5 cents, black on bluish paper. (3 types),
10 " " " " (3 "),
20 " " " " (2 ").

We will now describe the different types of each value.

FIVE CENTS.

Type I.

Six strokes over "Saint," eight over "Louis." The buckle of the garter turns down to left side.

Type II.

Eleven strokes over "Saint," ten over "Louis." The buckle points down to right side.

Type III.

Twelve strokes over "Saint," seventeen over "Louis." The buckle same as in II.

TEN CENTS.

Type I.

Three curved lines under "Post Office,"

five strokes under "Saint," four under "Louis."

Type II.

Three curved lines with a smaller stroke under each under "Post Office," four strokes under "Saint," four under "Louis."

Type III.

Three curved lines with a smaller stroke over each and with dots added between the two strokes under "Post office," five strokes under "Saint," (the last two mere specks,) and five under "Louis," (the last a speck).

TWENTY CENTS.

Type I.

Like Type II of five cents.

Type II.

Like Type III of five cents.

As these stamps and their history have been the subject of no little discussion we must defer their further consideration until our next number.

(To be Continued.)

The Philatelic Catalogue.

We receive the first number of the Philatelic Catalogue from James R. Grant & Co., Dawlish, England. It is an attempt to issue as a serial the most magnificent stamp catalogue yet given to the world, and is to be completed in eight monthly parts, a description to be given of every variety of stamp, envelope and postal card in existence, the work to contain 1100 Heliotype illustrations. The countries are arranged in alphabetical order. As a guarantee for the exhaustiveness and completeness of the treatise, the name of Edward L. Pemberton appears upon the title page as editor. We advise all our readers who wish a standard reliable work on Philately to subscribe for the catalogue. The series will be mailed to any address in this country for 15s, or printed on large paper in

finest style 25s English money. The latter edition is limited to one hundred copies. We can supply either to our readers on application accompanied by the money.

Newly-Issued or Inedited Stamps.

SWEDEN.—A series of official stamps, of somewhat unusual aspect, has just made its appearance. At the moment of writing we are uncertain whether our engraver will succeed in getting ready an illustration of the type in time to accompany the present notice. We therefore deem it as well to mention that these stamps are transverse oblong in shape, and in their general appearance resemble fiscals. The arms of Sweden, with supporters and crown, are represented in the center of an uncolored transverse oval, broken at the sides by two upright oval disks, with figure of value in center, and inscription, TJENSTE FRIMARKE, round the edge. Above the arms is the word VERIGE, and below, the value in words. The spandrels are filled in with a dotted ground, and a single-lined frame encloses the whole. The stamps are printed in color on white and perforated. The values, taken from a set very kindly communicated to us by a valued correspondent, are as follows:

3 ore,	light brown.
5 "	light green.
6 "	lavender.
12 "	blue.
20 "	vermillion.
24 "	light orange.
30 "	dark brown.
50 "	pale rose.

1 krona, blue and brown.

The *krona* is the advanced guard of the new currency. It supercedes the *daler*, and is printed after the fash-

ion of the Helsingfors. The upper half, above a line drawn from the lower left to the upper right corner is blue, and the lower half brown. The series came out on the first of January, and on the same day, as we are informed by a correspondent at Stockholm, a set of unpaid letter stamps was issued, inscribed LOSEN (to pay) and consisting of the following values:—

1 ore,	black.
3 "	rose.
5 "	dark brown.
6 "	orange-yellow.
12 "	red.
20 "	blue.
24 "	lilac.
30 "	pale green.
50 "	light brown.

What the design of these latter stamps is, our contributor does not state.

NATAL.—Specimens of the three values of the new issue, prepared in the *ateliers* of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., have been shown us by the courtesy of a private friend. They are

One penny	deep rose,
Threepence	light blue,
Sixpence	mauve-purple;

all printed on thin, highly surfaced paper, watermarked cc. crown and perforated 14. The designs differ slightly, but all bear the well known head of Queen Victoria to the left, with a fresh crown by way of variety; the jewels and balls are elevated on points somewhat like those in a viscount's coronet; we are not particularly struck with the alteration as being an improvement.

In the penny the head is in a pearled circle, flattened at the sides; in the threepence the head is in a very elongated upright oval; each of these has NATAL POSTAGE at the top in a straight line, the value beneath. The flatness

of the oval in the threepence leaves room for lateral side borders of the common Greek or key pattern. The sixpence has the head in an oval band, carrying NATAL POSTAGE and the value, all inscribed in a hexagon, which gives a strong resemblance to the current sixpence of New South Wales.

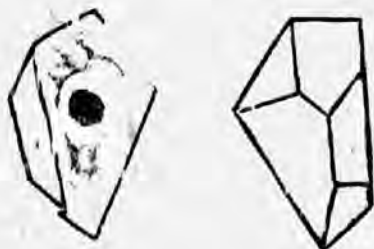
Execution perfect; design, passable; the quintessence of pretty mediocrity seems to characterize these stamps, as most of those from Bunhill Row. When *will* Messrs. De. La Rue be able to shake off the traditions of the past, and produce something artistic in design, with some power in it, if originality be hopeless?—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

Miscellaneous.

For the Curiosity Hunter

The Enhydrus.

MR. EDITOR, SIR:—By your request I herein give you a short sketch of that most peculiar crystal called the Enhydrus. This stone is a crystal of pure silica, is polygonal in shape, having seven sides, and is of a light brown or yellow color. (The annexed cuts give the exact shape and form of the specimen.)



This stone is hollow and filled with liquid, showing a small air bubble which flows from side to side when turned, like a globule of quicksilver.

The wall of this specimen is seemingly not over a sixteenth of an inch in thickness, the inner surfaces being closely studded with fine crystals which are readily detected by the natural eye through its transparent walls.

This stone with a few others was found near Beachworth, Victoria, Australia. They were first discovered by a naturalist, Dr. — (whose name I have now forgotten), there were but few of them found, a small specimen being sent to the British Museum. Very imperfect, however, and much more opaque than the one I have. This stone was considered so much superior to the one in their collection that I was offered £20 for the specimen in my possession. The method or law governing its formation is a question I cannot answer, neither has any naturalist been able to solve the problem of its structure. The stone being silicious, and silica always being held in aqueous solution (where not crystalized) makes the problem of the formation of this specimen one of profound wonder, for the process of crystalization or silification must have taken place in water and around water. It is evidently Geodic in construction with the exception that the Geode is silici-calcareous while the Enhydrus is pure silica. It is very hard, does not yield to the file, and scratches glass readily. As a specimen it is beyond a doubt the most wonderful known to the naturalist of modern times. While the unlearned in the science of Geology gaze upon it in perfect wonder, as their vision penetrates its walls, and they behold the imprisoned water with its miniature globe floating upon the aqueous surface.

Crystals of lime and quartz containing water are comparatively common, also water has been known to be im-

prisoned in stalactite and stalagmite formations, but the method of their formation is such that it does not give them the interest embodied in this rare and peculiar specimen.

I am very truly yours, &c.,

E. C. DUNN, M. D.,

Rockford, Ill.

English History under the Anglo-Saxons, A. D. 827 to 1013—Egbert 800 to 836.

Scarcely had peace and unity been established in the kingdom when a horde of savage warriors, called Danes, who dwelt upon the shores of the Baltic Sea, landed upon our coasts, but were routed on the coast of Devon, and forced to fly back to their ships for safety, only to return again about once in every year. After a prosperous reign, troubled only by these invaders, Egbert died (A. D. 836) and was buried at Winchester.

ETHELWOLF 836 TO 857.

Egbert was succeeded by Ethelwolf, his eldest son. This king undertook a pilgrimage to Rome, and married a daughter of king Charles the Bald, of France. He first granted titles to the clergy, and instituted an annual tribute to the pope, called Peter's Pence. The Danes now made themselves the terror of England, and though frequently repulsed, continued to plunder the country, and occasionally to carry off the inhabitants for slaves. In the year 851 they sailed up the Thames with 350 ships, burnt the cities of London and Canterbury, and established themselves permanently upon the Isle of Thanet. Ethelwolf died A. D. 857, and was buried at Steyning, in Sussex.

Ethenbald's reign from 857 to 860 was unimportant and vicious. He was

succeeded by his brother Ethelbert, who reigned only six years, during which time the Danes exacted tribute from the English, laid waste the whole county of Kent, and pillaged the city of Winchester. Ethelbert died A. D. 866.

ETHELRED 866 TO 872.

Ethelbert was followed by Ethelred, a brave soldier, whose reign was one long scene of valiant warfare with the Danes. It is said that in one year he fought no less than nine pitched battles with the enemies of his country. In all these he was assisted by his young brother, Prince Alfred, afterwards illustrious as king Alfred the Great. Prince Alfred was the first earl created in England. In this reign the invaders penetrated into Mercia and took up their winter quarters at Nottingham, whither the king instantly marched to dislodge them. A great battle ensued, in which Ethelred was killed, leaving to Alfred the inheritance of a kingdom which had declined into an almost hopeless condition of weakness and distress.

ALFRED THE GREAT, 892 TO 901.

Alfred the Great was just twenty-two years of age when he ascended the throne of England, and for the first eight years of his reign was engaged in an uninterrupted and disastrous warfare with the Danes. They, in fact, at one time made themselves entire masters of the kingdom, so that Alfred was obliged to assume more humble disguises, and hide himself in the woods, and in the cottages of his peasant subjects. In Somersetshire, however, he found friends and assistance, built a strong fort, assembled an army, and once more took the field against the Danes. Assuming the disguise of a wandering harper, he then penetrated

to the enemy's camp, judged of the most favorable manner of attack, brought his soldiers unexpectedly upon them, and achieved a brilliant victory. Many years of peace ensued, during which this brave and good king applied himself to the improvement of his country and the happiness of his people. Alfred now framed a code of laws, some of which exist to the present day, divided England into counties and hundreds, established the first regular militia, encouraged the arts and sciences, and instructed the English in the art of navigation and ship-building. He was the first monarch who made England a naval power, and to state that he was the most accomplished man of his day, that he was the hero of fifty six battles, that he established the system of trial by jury, and founded the University of Oxford, is but to relate a portion of his glory. After twelve years of peace the Danes again invaded England. They came under the command of Hastings, their sea-king, with a fleet of three hundred and thirty-one ships, and landed on the coast of Kent, making Appledore their head-quarters. A protracted struggle ensued, at the conclusion of which they were again defeated. The wife and family of Hastings were taken captives, but Alfred, with his usual moderation, restored them to the Danish chief, on condition that he and all his followers should leave the country. To these terms they readily acceded, but some few lingered till the year 897. Alfred died A. D. 901, at Farrindon, in Berkshire. He was buried at Winchester, and has left behind him the most honorable reputation for courage, learning, wisdom and generosity, of any English sovereign.

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Mr. Sabin has made the issues of his AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST, during the past year, of great interest to all lovers of "Notes and Queries," and literary antiquities in general. We have before us the bound volume for 1871, a goodly octavo, which should be welcome to many a library. We notice that it is dedicated "to Thomas F. Donnelly" (our "book worm") "a young but earnest coadjutor in the world of letters."—*Evening Mail*,

The AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST is invaluable to those who wish to be kept acquainted with events of permanent interest in the literary world, and particularly to those who are interested in the curiosities of literature. The November number contains an account of the libraries of Chicago—those which were destroyed and those which were saved—and is rich in selected articles, notes, and items.—*N. Y. Methodist*.

The January number of this Literary Register is on our table. This number has fifty-six pages of varied contents of peculiar interest to the student of literature and the lover of books. The department of "Notes and Queries" is well filled in the number before us, embracing a wide range of topics, such as bibliographical, historical, antiquarian, etc. The critical notices of old and new books scattered through the extensive catalogues of publications, is interesting to every person of literary inclination.—*Austin (Texas) Democrat*.

Sabin's BIBLIOPOLIST contains its usual literary feast of notes and queries, some interesting correspondence, and catalogues of rare and valuable works. We extract the following, throwing light on the topography of New York City two hundred and ten years ago.—*Jewish Messenger*,

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CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Vol. 2.

ROCKFORD, ILL., APRIL AND MAY, 1874.

Nos. 4 & 5.

Numismatics.

List of Dies of National Medals, Preserved at the Mint of the United States.

1. *Horatio Gates*.—Obverse : Horatio Gates duci strenuo ; Comitia Americana. Reverse : Salus regionum septentrional, hoste ad Saratogam, in dedition. accepto. Die XVII OCT. MDCCCLXXVII.
2. *Daniel Morgan*.—Obverse : Daniel Morgan duci exercitus ; Comitia Americana. Reverse : Victoria libertatis vindex. Fugatis aut captis caesis ad Cowpens hostibus. XVII Jan. MDCCCLXXXI.
3. *Isaac Hull*.—Obverse : Peritos arte superat Jul. MDCCCXII, Aug. certamine fortes. Isaacus Hull. Reverse : Horæ momento victoria. Inter Const. Nav. Amer. et Guer. Angl.
4. *Jacob Jones*.—Obverse ; Jacobus Jones virtus in ardua tendit. Reverse : Victoriā hosti majori celeritate rapuit. Inter Wasp Nav. Ameri. et Frolic Nav. Ang. Die XVII OCT. MDCCCXII.
5. *Stephen Decatur*.—Obverse : Stephanus Decatur, Navarchus, pugnis pluribus, victor. Reverse : Occidit signum hostile sidera surgunt. Inter Sta. Uni. Nav. Ameri. et Macedo. Nav. Ang. Die XXV Octobris MDCCCXII.
6. *William Bainbridge*.—Obverse : Gullielmus Bainbridge patria victisque laudatus. Reverse : Pugnando. Inter Const. Nav. Ameri. et Jav. Nav. Ang. Die XXX Decem. MDCCCXII.

7. *Oliver H. Perry*.—Obverse : Oliverus H. Perry princeps stagno Eriense —classim totam contudit. Reverse : Viam invenit virtus aut facit. Inter class. Ameri. et Brit. Die x Sept. MDCCCXIII.

8. *Oliver Hazard Perry*.—Obverse : Oliverus Hazard Perry pro Patria vicit: presented by the government of Pennsylvania, 1st reverse : "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."—Perry. To—. In testimony of his patriotism and bravery in the naval action on Lake Erie, September 10, 1813. 2d reverse : "We have met the enemy, and they are ours." British fleet on Lake Erie captured September 10, 1813.

9. *Jesse D. Elliott*.—Obverse : Jesse D. Elliott nil actum reputans si quid superesset agendum. Reverse : (Same as Perry die No. 7.)

10. *W. Burrows*.—Obverse : Victoriā tibi claram, Patriæ mæstam—W Burrows. Reverse : Vivere sat vincere. Inter Enterprise Nav. Ameri. et Boxer Nav. Brit. Die IV Sept MDCCCXIII.

11. *Edward R. McCall*.—Obverse : Edward R. McCall, navis enterprise præfectus—sic itur ad astra. Reverse : (Same as of die No. 10.)

12. *James Lawrence*.—Obverse : Jac. Lawrence, dulce et decorum est pro Patria mori. Reversa : Mansuetud. maj. quam victoria. Inter Hornet Nav. Ameri. et Peacock Nav. Ang.—Die XXIV Feb MDCCCXIII.

13. *Thomas Macdonough*.—Obverse : Tho. Macdonough, stagno Champlain clas. reg. Crit. Superavit. Reverse : Uno latere percusso alterum impavide

vertit. Inter class. Ameri. et Brit.—
Die xi Sept. MDCCCXIII.

14. *Robert Henley*.—Obverse: Rob. Henley, Eagle præfect. palma virtu. peræternit, florebit. Reverse: (Same as of die No. 13.)

15. *Stephen Cassin*.—Obverse: Step. Cassin, Ticonderoga præfect, quæ regio in terris nos, non pleana lab. Reverse: (Same as of die No. 13.)

16. *L. Warrington*.—Obverse: Lodovicus Warrington, Dux Navilis Amer. Reverse: Pro patria paratus aut vincere aut mori. Inter Peacock Nav. Ameri. et Epervie Nav. Aug.—
Die xxix Mar. MDCCCXIV.

17. *Johnson Blakeley*.—Obverse: Johnson Blakeley, Reip Fæd. Am. Nav. Wasp Dux. Reverse: Eheu! Bis victor patria tuâ to luget plauditq. Inter Wasp Nav. Ameri. et Reindeer Nav. Ang. Die xxvii Junius MDCCCXIV.

18. *Charles Stewart*.—Obverse: Carolus Stewart, Navis Amer. Constitution Dux. Reverse: Una victoriam eripuit ratibus binis. Inter Constitu. Nav. Ameri. et Levant et Cyane, Nav. Ang. Die xx Febr. MDCCCXV.

19. *Winfield Scott*.—Obverse: Major-General Winfield Scott. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814; Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

20. *James Miller*.—Obverse: Brigadier-General James Miller. "I'll try." Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814; Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

21. *Edmund P. Gaines*.—Obverse: Major-General Edmund P. Gaines.—Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814; Battle of Erie, August 15, 1814.

22. *Peter B. Porter*.—Obverse: Major-General Peter B. Porter. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814; Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

23. *Jacob Brown*.—Obverse: Major-General Jacob Brown. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814; Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

24. *Eleazer W. Ripley*.—Obverse: Brigadier-General Eleazer W. Ripley. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814; Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

25. *Alexander Macomb*.—Obverse: Major-General Alexander Macomb.—Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814.

26. *James Biddle*.—Obverse: The Congress of the U. S. to Capt. James Biddle for his gallantry, good conduct, and services. Reverse: Capture of the British ship Penguin by the U. S. ship Hornet, off Tristan D'Acunha, March xxiii, MDCCCXV.

27. *Andrew Jackson*.—Obverse: Major-General Andrew Jackson. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, February 27, 1815. Battle of New Orleans January 8, 1815.

28. *Isaac Shelby*.—Obverse: Governor Isaac Shelby. Reverse: Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813; Resolution of Congress, April 4, 1818.

29. *William H. Harrison*.—Obverse: Major-General William H. Harrison. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, April 4, 1818; Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813.

30. *George Croghan*.—Obverse: Presented by Congress to Colonel George

Croghan, 1835. Reverse: Pars magna fuit; Sandusky, 2 August, 1813.

62. *Zachary Taylor*.—Obverse: Major General Zachary Taylor. Reverse: Resolution of Congress March 2, 1847; Monterey, September, 1818.

63. *Zachary Taylor*.—Obverse: Major General Zachary Taylor. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, July 16, 1846; Palo Alto, May 8, 1846; Resaca de la Palma, May 9, 1846.

64. *Zachary Taylor*.—Obverse: Major-General Zachary Taylor. Resolution of Congress, May 9, 1845. Reverse: Buena Vista, Feb. 22 and 23, 1847.

65. *Winfield Scott*.—Obverse: Major-General Winfield Scott. Resolution of Congress, March 9, 1848. Reverse: Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, San Antonio, and Churubusco, Molino del Rey, Chepultepec, City of Mexico.

66. *Winfield Scott*.—Obverse: Winfield Scott. The commonwealth of Virginia presents this medal to Major-General Winfield Scott, as a memorial of her admiration for the great and distinguished services of her son whilst commander-in-chief of the American armies in the war with Mexico, 1847. Reverse: Fecit quod cogitavit. From Virginia.

67. "*Bache Medal*."—Obverse: The treasury department of the United States. Coast survey to ———. Reverse: For gallantry and humanity, December, 1848.

68. "*Somers Medal*."—Obverse: Somers Navis Americana. Ante Vera Cruz, Dec. 10, 1846. Reverse: Pro vitis Americanorum conservatis.

69. Obverse: George Washington, President of the United States. Reverse: Commis. resigned; presidency relinquished 1797.

70. *Henry Lee*.—Obverse: Henrico Lee, legionis Equit Præfecto. Comitia Americana. Reverse: (Not in the mint.)

71. Obverse: Let us look to the Most

High, who blessed our fathers with peace; 1757. Reverse: Kittanning destroyed by Col. Armstrong, Sept 3, 1756.

58. *Thomas Truxton*.—Obverse: Bust of Capt. Truxton. No inscription. Reverse: By vote of Congress to Thomas Truxton, March 24, 1800. (This medal was presented for revolutionary services.)

INDIAN MEDAL DIES.

Obverse: Containing name and date of inauguration of the President. Reverse: The inscription—"Friendship and Peace," over joined hands, or tomahawk and pipe.

31, 32, 33. *Thomas Jefferson*.—Three sizes.

34, 35, 36. *James Madison*.—Three sizes.

37, 38, 39. *James Monroe*.—Three sizes.

40, 41, 42. *John Quincy Adams*.—Three sizes.

43, 44, 45. *Andrew Jackson*.—Three sizes.

46, 47, 48. *Martin Van Buren*.—Three sizes.

49, 50, 51. *John Tyler*.—Three sizes.

52, 53, 54. *James K. Polk*.—Three sizes.

55, 56, 57. *New Reverses*.—Three sizes.

59, 60, 61. *Zachary Taylor*.—Three sizes.

Counterfeit Coins.

Attention has recently been called by M. Clermont Ganneau and Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake to the fabrication of Moabite statues and vases in the potteries of Jerusalem. But the holy city is not the only place where a profitable trade is now carried on by similar impositions on the credulity of those who delight in collecting relics of the past.

In Constantinople, a Turk employs a coppersmith to manufacture bronze plates on a large scale, which are afterward oxidized by means of acids. These medals represent Constantine and Helena, as well as the serpent column and the obelisk,

which at one time stood upon the Hippodrome at Constantinople; and the buyer is told that they were found on the demolition of a house in the neighborhood of St. Sophia. The inscription upon them is made up of an unmeaning throng of Greek, Latin, and Cyrillic characters. Some three years ago a Greek carried some of these medals to the Crimea, where he succeeded in selling them to a Russian official, who sent the supposed treasures to St. Petersburg. The archaeological commission at the Russian capital, however, by making inquiries at Constantinople, discovered the fraud. The supply of these forged medals continues unexhausted, and specimens are still offered for sale in the latter city.

A Cappadocian named Agor, now residing in Constantinople, is the possessor of an enormous quantity of false coins with which last year he made his appearance at the Vienna exposition. Just at present he is making the tour of Europe, and endeavoring to dispose of his coins. He is said to have the appearance of an honest man, and to be himself deceived as to the genuineness of his collection.

Count De Vogue not long since delivered an address before the French Institute on the false Himyaritic antiquities, illustrating his lecture by the production of specimens. The traveler Haley, who was present, confirmed the count's statements, and indicated the originator of the forged bronze medals from Yemen. Count De Vogue is the owner of the sole genuine specimen of the seal of Bohemund, prince of Antioch, which he obtained in Constantinople. Before he secured it, however, a trader in false coins had made numerous imitations of it, many of which were sold in different parts of Europe. The specimen formerly owned by Subhi Pacha, and now in England, is spurious. All the forged specimens are distinguish-

able by a pressed-down rim on the right side.

In Athens, a Greek priest now carries on an establishment where old Grecian coins are made; and the articles made by him are such wonderful imitations that it is impossible for any one to detect their falsity unless he is specially skilled in Greek numismatics. These coins are not sold in Athens, but are given to the shepherds in the neighboring country, who sell them to travelers.

Dshevad, a copper engraver in Shiraz, Persia, is a clever imitator of ancient coins and gems; both travelers and Mahometans are often deceived by his wares. A silver coin, made by him, and represented as one of Caliph Ali's, was sold the other day in Constantinople for \$80.

In Bagdad, there is a manufactory where gems, with busts of the Sassanides and Pehlvi legends upon them, are fabricated with great cleverness. One of these gems is an imitation of the original stone now owned by Mme. Von Prokesch—and obtained by Omar Pacha in Bagdad—which represents the king Ormuzd I. On the false gem, half of the legend is omitted, and an eagle is substituted. In the false gems, the Pehlvi letters are apparently closely imitated, but here and there a word will be wanting, the want of which exposes the forgery.

The British Museum was deceived into the purchase of one of these false Bagdad stones, and it is said the authorities of that institution paid \$10,000 for the counterfeit.

For the Curiosity Hunter.

Medal of the Second Reformation Jubilee. 1717.

Obverse shows a building before which an Augustine monk stands, holding in his left hand an open book, and with his right

hand writes on the wall: VON ABLAS, (concerning indulgences). He uses a pen so long that it reaches over the head of a lion lying upon a city, and hits the cap of a Pope standing behind it. At the left of the city is a fire to which some are taking wood, and behind this is a bed with drawn curtains, in which is a person sleeping. Still further a portion of a city is seen. Between this city and the city upon which the lion is, sits a monk; over him the clouds open, two rays of light shine upon him, and a dove flies toward him. In the clouds sit God the Father and God the Son, surrounded by a halo. Above the clouds is SOMN. *ium* FRIDER. *ici* SAP. *ientis* EL. *ectoris* SAX. *ontiae* NOCT. *e* 30. A. D. 31. OCT. *obris* 1517. (Dream of Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, in the night of the 30th and 31st of October 1517). Below, in exergue; IN. ME. MORI. *am* IVB. *ilaei* EVANG. *elici* SECUND. *z* 31. OCT. C. W. (In memory of the Second Evangelical Jubilee, Oct. 31st). C. W. are the engraver's initials. In a circle around all: (*) MENTE DEO CON CORS AE VO RENO VAT VR IN IP SO (Agreeing with the will of God, will be renewed in this age). The Roman numerals M. D. &c, make the date 1717.

Reverse, in nine lines across the field: PROPHETABVNT FILII VESTRI ET FILIAE VESTRAE, SENES VESTRI ET IUVENES VESTRI VISIONES VIDERVNT. IOELI. II 28. (From Joel, II chap 28th verse. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions). In this, too, the Roman numerals produce the year 1717. The person sleeping in the bed on the obverse is Frederick the Wise, of Saxony, to whom this remarkable dream came on the night of Oct. 30, 1517. The monk sitting between the cities signifies Martin Luther. The following is the dream, as related by the Elector himself. "I dreamed that a

monk came to me from Heaven, accompanied by many saints, and begged permission to write something on the door of the palace-church at Wittenberg, and through my charcellor told him he might write what God had commanded. The monk then departed and wrote with such large letters that I could distinctly read the words at Schweinitz (six leagues from Wittenberg). The pen he used was so long that its extremity reached to Rome, piercing the ears of a lion which lay there, and going beyond, hit the triple crown of the Pope so hard that all the cardinals and princes ran to hold it. I then awoke, but soon fell asleep and saw how the monk continued writing, and the lion was so disturbed by the pen that he began to roar. Then all Rome and the States of the German Empire ran to see what was the trouble. I again awoke, and having repeated the Lord's prayer, soon slept, when it seemed that all the princes of the empire had gathered together to break the pen. But in vain; the more they tried the stronger became the pen, and they gave up in despair. I then asked the monk where he obtained the pen, and what was the cause of its uncommon strength. 'The pen,' he replied, 'came from a Bohemian goose a hundred years old, and I received it of an old school teacher, who told me to preserve it carefully. It is so strong because no one can take the pith out.' Finally, numerous small pens grew out of the large one, but none could write as that did. Endeavoring to speak further with the monk, I awoke, and it was daylight.'

E. W. H.

Gold Penny of Henry III.

"Until the commencement of the last century, it was the generally received opinion that Edward III was the first English monarch who coined gold money in this

kingdom. About 1730, however, attention was drawn to a passage in a manuscript chronicle of the city of London, which states that in 1257 this king coined a penny of fine gold, of the weight of two sterlings (silver pennies of the time), and ordered that it should pass for twenty pence.

"These coins, nevertheless, do not seem to have been popular, as Mr. Carte, in his History of England, says that the citizens of London made a representation against them on the 24th of November, in the same year, and that the king was so willing to oblige them that he published a proclamation declaring that nobody was obliged to take it (the gold penny) and whoever did, might bring it to his exchange, and receive there the value at which it had been made current, an half-penny only being deducted, probably for the coinage."

"By a proclamation of his 54th year, quoted by Snelling, the value of this coin was raised from twenty pence to twenty-four pence, or two shillings.

"These gold pennies are extremely rare, two or three specimens only being known. One of the two in the British Museum was purchased for £41 10s. Another sold for £140 at Captain Murchison's sale in June, 1864. They bear, *obv.*, the king crowned, seated on his throne in royal robes, and holding in his right hand a sceptre, and in his left the orb. HENRIC'. REX III., *rev.*, a long double cross, or cross voided, extending nearly to the edge of the coin; with a rose between three pellets in each angle. WILLEM. ON LVND., LVNDE., or, LVNDEM. The workmanship is much superior to that of the silver coins of the same period.

"Weight.—45 1 5 grains.

"Fineness.—Pure or fine gold without alloy.

"Between the issue of this gold penny in 1257, and the first issue of Edward III. in 1344, an interval of nearly ninety years, no coinage of gold money is known to have taken place."—*Henfrey's English Coins*, London, 1870.

Higley Coppers.

A coin made from this ore, called "Higley's Coppers," was at one time in some circulation in the vicinity of the mines. It is said to have passed for two and six-pence (forty-two cents), in paper currency it is presumed, though composed chiefly, if not entirely, of copper.

One of these coins, dated 1737, is in the cabinet of the Connecticut Historical Society. Its inscription on one side is, "I am good copper;" on the other, "Value me as you please." These coppers were much used for melting up with gold in the manufacture of jewelry, and for this purpose were considered vastly preferable to ordinary copper coin. They were not in circulation as a currency after the peace of 1783. The inventor and maker is supposed to have been Doctor Samuel Higley, who a few years before this had attempted to manufacture steel, and was somewhat distinguished for enterprises of this character.—*From the History of Simsbury, Granby, and Canton, [Conn.], by Noah A. Phelps. Hartford, 1845.*

An Indian Medal.

One of these four Mozeemleks had a medal hanging around his neck of a kind of reddish copper, something like the figure which you see on the map. I had it melted by Mr. de Tonti's gunsmith, who had some knowledge of the metals; but it became heavier and more deeply colored than before, and withal, somewhat tractable. I desired them to give me a circum-

stantial account of these medals. They told me that the Tabuglauks, who are their artizans, put a great value on them. Besides this, I could learn nothing of the country, commerce, or customs of these distant people.—*From Baron La Hontan's Travels in North America, made in 1689. Hague Edition, 1703, chap. 16.*

Numismatic Notes.

“His Excellency the Governor and his Honour the Lieutenant Governour, when they appeared to take the oaths of office, were in complete suits of American manufactured broadcloth. The buttons on the coat of his Excellency were of silver, and of American manufacture. Device, a shepherd shearing his sheep—Motto, ‘You gain more by our lives than by our deaths.’”

“The Secretary and Treasurer of the Commonwealth, and a number of the members of the Legislature have also evinced their patriotism by encouraging the manufacturers of their country.”

“His Majesty's effigies is to appear on all the gold coin of the kingdom, surrounded by the motto, ‘Louis 16th, king of Frenchmen.’ The reverse is to be adorned with a figure representing the Genius of France standing before an Altar and engraving the new Constitution on it by means of the Sceptre of Reason, which is particularized by an eye at its extremity. At one side of the altar a cock is to appear as the symbol of vigilance, and on the other a bundle of rods, in the manner of Roman Fasces, as an emblem of the union of an armed Republick. The legend surrounding this is *The reign of the Law*, and on the edge ‘*The Nation, the Law, and the King.*’”

“Medals. We have authority to inform the publick that in the month of January the school committee distributed 21 silver medals, with suitable inscriptions and de-

vices, to the most deserving boys in the upper classes of the Free Schools in Boston. These medals are the amount of the annual income of the donation made by the late Dr. Franklin, and were bestowed agreeably to his direction, as honorary rewards for the encouragement of scholarship in free schools.”—*Mass. Magazine, 1789 to 1793.*

Miscellaneous.

High Prices for Old China.

From the London Daily News, March 21.

At the sale of the remarkable collection of Savres China belonging to Mr. Goding, which took place at the rooms of Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods on Thursday, the following were the prices of the principal lots:

A pair of cups and saucers, gros. bleu, painted by Dodin & Le Guay, £94 10s; large cup and saucer, by Dodin, £97 18s; a Trembleuse cup and saucer, marbled in imitation of lapis lazuli, exhibited at Lincoln College, 1862, £79 16s; a square plateau, £57 16s; a cup and saucer £28 7s; a cup and saucer, green painted, with shepherd and shepherdess, and landscape, £99 15s; a cup and saucer, turquoise, richly gilt, exquisitely painted, with shepherdess catching birds and landscape, in two medallions, from the collection of the late Mr. Fitzherbert, and part of a cabaret in the collection of Sir Charles Mills, £189; a square plateau, 6½ inches diameter, painted with fruit, green and Rose du Barry, £96 12s; an oval plateau, gros bleu, painted by Asselin, 12x9, £99 12s; a rose-water ewer and basin, bleu de Vincennes, £199 12s, a ditto turquoise bleu, £136 10s; a ditto, Rose du Barry, with bands of green, painted with bouquets of flowers and fruit, in twelve medallions, from the Stowe col-

lection, £121 16s; an eventail jardiniere and stand, turquoise ground, exquisitely painted with shepherd and shepherdess and flowers, in seven medallions, seven inches high, £682 10s; a pair of similar shaped eventail jardiniere and stands, exquisitely painted with peasant after Teniers, flowers and pastoral scenes, in six medallions, 7½ inches high, from the late Sir Wathen Waller's collection, £1,890; a small vase, turquoise openwork, neck exquisitely painted with Cupids and trophies, in medallions, from the collection of the late Mr. B. Sneyd, £110 5s; a pair of oviform vases, gros bleu, painted with figures of Apollo and Narcissus, 12 inches high, £504; a pair of large oviform vases and covers turquoise, painted with camp scenes, in octagonal medallions, handles and feet of ornolu, from the collection of the late Capt. Ricketts, £640 10s; three oviform vases, gros bleu, painted with nymphs in landscapes, in large oval medallions, by Dodin, 17½ inches high, the smaller 13 inches, £840; a large oviform vase, green ground, painted with Eastern seaport and figures, by Morin, from the collection of Mr. W. Angerstein, £336; a pair of vases of rare form, the sides and necks perforated and surmounted by group of flowers, the handles forming nozzles for lights, turquoise ground, white and gold, painted with Chinese figures and flowers, 9½ inches high, from the Duchess of Bedford's collection, exhibited at the Loan Collection, South Kensington Museum, 1862, £430 10s.

The last lot of the collection was a pair of vases with covers and stands, the sides fluted in six compartments, the necks and covers pierced in open-work to hold flowers; the vases in green ground, with Rose du Barry foliage, richly gilt, exquisitely painted with Chinese subjects and flowers in medallions; the necks and covers

painted in gros bleu, green, and Rose du Barry, surmounted by incrustations of flowers in colors; the stands green, Rose du Barry and gros bleu, richly gilt, 11½ inches high. These unique and beautiful examples, which were formerly in the cabinet of the late Duchess of Cleveland, and were exhibited at the Loan Collection at South Kensington, were the great prize of the sale; and after a competition such as has never been surpassed in interest and excitement, were finally knocked down at the enormous bid of 6,500 guineas, (£6,825) made by a Mr. Watkins, acting on commission. The price, it need hardly be remarked, is one wholly unprecedented. It was whispered after the sale that these vases were purchased by the late owner about 22 years ago for the sum of £300, which was at that time considered a very good price. The fine old Worcester china, which was sold after the Sevres, and which belonged to a different property, fetched high prices. A set of five vases, deep blue ground, painted with exotic birds in medallions, sold for £451 10s; a coffee cup and saucer, dark blue, painted with Watteau figures in medallions, for £38 17s; a ditto for £44 2s; a tea cup and saucer for £44 2s; a set of three vases, painted with exotic birds and flowers, for £73 10s. The total of the sale, which consisted of 182 lots, amounted to £20,000.

Compiled for the Curiosity Hunter.

Mithradates of Parthia.

Prominent among conquerors, fit to be ranked with Alexander the Great and the Generals of the Roman Republic, is Mithradates of Parthia. Fighting for no personal aggrandizement but that his country might continue to exist as an entity, he was suddenly transformed from a defender to an aggressor. He found Parthia an obscure kingdom, he left it a mighty Em-

pire, able to cope successfully with the Roman legions, and sweep back forever the tide of conquest which threatened to make Italy the mistress of the world.

Mithradates ascended the throne in 179 B. C. Sixteen years were spent in developing the resources of the country and changing the race of nomads into a well disciplined army. Then follow 22 years of almost continuous and triumphant warfare. To Parthia were added the Syrian and Indian provinces or kingdoms of Bactria, Aria, Drangiana, Arachosia, Margiana, Hyrcania, Media Magna, Susiana, Persia and Babylon. The armies of Demetrius 2d were met and vanquished. The king himself was made prisoner and the way seemed open for Mithradates to become the master of Asia Minor.— But disease overtook him, his strength proved insufficient to bear up against the malady and he died, B. C. 136, after a glorious reign of 38 years.

The coins of this reign are highly interesting and may be divided into two classes, the native and the Greek. The former are of rude oriental design, while the latter are fair specimens of Hellenic art. The portrait is well executed. The king's features are noble and commanding. He wears a full beard and his head is bound with a fillet coming together at the back. A tetradachm attributed to the earlier years of his reign has for the obverse a standing figure of Hercules, with a lion skin over one arm, which also supports a club; the hand is extended and holds a sceptre. The inscription is:—**BASILEOS MEGALOI ARSAKOY PHILELLENOS**, "of the Great King Arsaces, lover of the Greeks." A study of the coins of this reign will show the various stages of advancing power. Previous Parthian monarchs had been content to call themselves "the king," or "the

Great King." This satisfied Mithradates until he came conquering and to conquer; then he became "The King of Kings, the Great and Illustrious Arsaces." The revival of this title implied a distinct pretension to the mastery of Western Asia, which had belonged of old to the Assyrians and Persians. Another innovation of this monarch, revealed by his coins, is the exchange of the plain Sythic cap for the tiara, or tall stiff crown, graced with four semi-circular rows of gems. The portrait becomes still more Oriental and is characterized by an appearance contrasting strangely with the vigorous types of the true Greek series.

The Paraphernalia of an Ashantee Warrior.

A former traveler in Ashantee describes the native captains as wearing robes of great value, woven from costly foreign silks which had been unraveled by native workmen. They were of all sizes and patterns, of incredible size and weight, and were thrown over the shoulder in the manner of the Roman toga. The men wear small silk fillets round their foreheads, and many gold necklaces intricately wrought. They are fond of Moorish charms, which they enclose in small square cases of gold and silver, or curious embroidery. They wear long necklaces of aggrary beads, and strings of the same round the knee, while round their ankles they wear small gold coins, rings and figures of animals in gold. Their sandals are of green, white and red leather. Rude lumps of rock gold hang from their left wrists. At their great festivals they carry gold and silver pipes and canes, while they hang from their gold-handled swords wolves' and rams' heads of gold. The curious-shaped blades of these state swords are kept encrusted with enemies'

blood. The sword sheaths are made of leopard or fishskins. Their large war-drums are supported on the head of one man and beaten by two others. They brace them with the thigh-bones of their enemies, and ornament them with circles of enemies' skulls. Their kettle-drums are covered with leopard skin, the wrists of the drummers being hung with bells and iron ornaments, which jingle loudly when they are playing. The smaller drums are suspended from the neck by scarfs of red cloth. The war horns, made of the teeth of young elephants, have gold mouthpieces, and are ornamented with the jaw-bones of enemies slain in battle. The Ashantee war-caps are adorned with eagles' feathers. The king's body-guard, in Bowditch's time, wore corslets of leopard's skin covered with shell ornaments of gold. These corselets they stick full of small knives, which have sheaths of gold and silver, and handles of blue agate. Their bullet-boxes are of elephant's hide, also studded with gold, while the warriors hang from their arms and waist-cloths white horse-tails and silk scarfs. Their long muskets are banded with gold, and the stocks are ornamented with shells. The soldiers wear caps of pangolin and leopard skin, with the tails left to hang down behind. Their cartouch-boxes are small gourds, covered with leopard or pig skin, embossed with red shells and small brass bells. Many of the soldiers wear strings of knives on their hips and shoulders. Iron chains and collars are given to the most daring champions, who prize them, it is said, far above those of gold.

English History under the Anglo-Saxons, A. D. 901 to 1013.

EDWARD THE ELDER, 901 TO 925.

Edward the Elder, second son to King Alfred the Great, succeeded to

the crown. His reign was troubled by the pretensions of his cousin Ethelwold, who disputed Edward's claim and fell at last on the field of battle. Towards the end of this king's reign he invaded Wales, and added to the endowments of the Cambridge University. He died A. D. 925, leaving a numerous family.

ATHELESTAN 925 TO 941.

King Athelstan had not been many years established on his father's throne when a great league was formed against him by the Danes, Scots, and other nations. They were, however, completely defeated, and six of the king's enemies were slain A. D. 938. This monarch caused the Bible to be translated into the Saxon tongue, and presented a copy to every church throughout the kingdom. He also gave encouragement to commerce by decreeing that every merchant who had taken three voyages, should be entitled to the rank of a thane, or nobleman. Athelstan died at Gloucester A. D. 941, and was buried at Malmesbury Wilts.

EDMUND I. 941 TO 947.

Athelstan was followed by his brother Edmund, a youth of eighteen years of age, whose first act was to subdue the Danes, gathered together under the command of Anlath. He was stabbed by a wicked robber named Seolf, A. D. 947, and was succeeded by his brother Edred, sixth son to Edward the Elder.

EDRED, 947 TO 955.

This king rebuilt Glastonbury Abbey and was entirely ruled by the abbot named Dunstan. Dunstan was, in fact, the virtual king of England. Edred

died A. D. 955, and was buried at Winchester.

EDWY, 955 TO 959.

The profligate and careless Edwy received the crown of his uncle, and offended the prejudices of his clergy by marrying the Princess Elgiva, a lady of great beauty, but of near relationship to himself. Dunstan, who had hitherto been absolute in the kingdom, succeeded in uniting the priesthood against this marriage. Edwy was compelled to divorce his wife, and she was murdered with barbarous cruelty by her enemies. Edwy died of grief A. D. 959, being threatened by sedition in all parts of his dominions, and overborne by the influence and hatred of Dunstan, the abbot.

EDGAR, 959 TO 975.

Edgar, surnamed the Peaceable, next ascended the throne. He was elected, and consequently governed by the monks; built many monasteries, increased the navy to three hundred and sixty ships, and exterminated the wolf from the mountains and forest lands of Wales. This king was so arrogant of his conquests that he caused his barge to be rowed by eight princes along the river Dee. He died A. D. 975.

EDWARD II. 975 TO 978.

This unfortunate young monarch, whose reign had promised to be happy and judicious, was stabbed A. D. 978, by order of his step-mother, while drinking a cup of wine at the gate of Corfe Castle, in Dorsetshire. He was succeeded by his half brother, Ethelred, after a brief king-ship of little more than three years.

ETHELRED II. 978 TO 1013.

In this reign the Danes once more locked to the coasts of England, and Ethelred was weak enough to buy

them off with a money-tribute called Danegelt, which was levied by a tax of one shilling on every hide of land throughout the country, and is the first land-tax upon record in English history. Soon this, even, ceased to satisfy them, and the king formed a cowardly plan to massacre all the Danes in the kingdom, instead of meeting them in fair battle. This disgraceful slaughter took place on the 18th of November A. D. 1002, and was revenged by a great invasion of the enemy. They sailed from Denmark under the command of Sweyn, their king, who, after a protracted struggle of ten years, put Ethelred to flight, and ascended the English throne A. D. 1013.

New Nickel Coinage.

The German Mint, as we learn from a recent English paper, has issued five and ten penny pieces, composed of nickel, some of which are already circulating in Mecklenburg. Much interest has been excited by an account given by Dr. Flight, of the British Museum, of some experiments made by him on coins of the Indo Greek kings, Enthydamus (200 B. C.), Pantaleon (135 B. C.) and Agathokles (120 B. C.). The analysis of the coins of these three reigns gave the same result. They contained 20 per cent. of nickel, 77 per cent. of copper, and 3 per cent. of iron, tin, cobalt, and sulphur. Dr. Flight then analyzed the new Belgian nickel coins. These contained 70.4 copper, 25.55 nickel, and 4.41 iron, etc., the difference in the mixture being, therefore, but slight. The Chinese have, according to the same authority, long used a metal which they call white copper. It is composed of 79.4 copper, 16.02 nickel, and 4.58 tin. Nickel was

not, however, known in Europe till 1751, when it was discovered by Cronstedt. This metal has for some time past been coined in North America, Peru, Belgium and Switzerland, and the introduction of nickel coinage into Brazil and Honduras is now contemplated.

This appears to show a far more extensive use of this metal in ancient coinage than has heretofore been suspected.—*American Journal of Numismatics.*

WORK AT THE MINT.—The officers of the Philadelphia Mint have been instructed to use two-thirds of its entire capacity in the coinage of silver, until otherwise ordered. Under this arrangement the Mint can turn out from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per month.

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The AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST is invaluable to those who wish to be kept acquainted with events of permanent interest in the literary world, and particularly to those who are interested in the curiosities of literature. The November number contains an account of the libraries of Chicago—those which were destroyed and those which were saved—and is rich in selected articles, notes, and items.—*N. Y. Methodist*.

The January number of this Literary Register is on our table. This number has fifty-six pages of varied contents of peculiar interest to the student of literature and the lover of books. The department of "Notes and Queries" is well filled in the number before us, embracing a wide range of topics, such as bibliographical, historical, antiquarian, etc. The critical notices of old and new books scattered through the extensive catalogues of publications, is interesting to every person of literary inclination.—*Austin (Texas) Democrat*.

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Second.

For the Curiosity Hunter.
The Euplectella.

BY DR. E. C. DUNN.



I herewith give you a short sketch
of that most beautiful specimen of the

sponge family, the Euplectella. I likewise send you a rude cut, made by my own hands. Though very imperfect, yet it may give the reader something of an idea of the form of this singular marine production. The specimen in my possession I procured in London. It is in length about ten inches, and two inches across its upper extremity, gradually tapering to about one-half inch at the base, which is crowned by a fibrous growth some two inches in length and much resembling spun glass. This sponge is composed of pure silica. Its fibrous meshes are woven together in broken patterns, as though executed by the hand of some skillful artist. Its square openings give it a gauze-like appearance.

Running spirally, but somewhat irregularly around this specimen is a ruffle-like ridge extending from the base to the summit, with a similar ridge bordering the top, leaving a net-like open work cap. This frail structure is of a spotless white, though we are told by Prof. Cummings that while living they are found at times of a variegated color, and have been seen of a pale yellow. I learn by an article, recently published in the American Naturalist, that the first of these specimens was discovered by Prof. Hugh Cumings in his researches in the Phillipine Islands. The specimen was bought by Sir William Brodie at the enormous price of £30. It afterwards came into the possession of the British Museum, where I had the pleasure of seeing it last fall. I believe that nature has produced no more rare or beautiful

marine productions, or one of more interest to the student of natural history' which, as well as the whole family of sponges, so puzzle the scientific world as to their true place in the economy of nature, whether to the animal or vegetable kingdoms. Like the crinoid, it seems so closely related to both, that the student, in his researches, is forced to change his opinion several times in the course of his investigations, and usually closes his labors with very indefinite ideas as to its rightful place. Our best naturalists and scientists are so divided upon the subject that I will not occupy more of your valuable space in giving my humble opinion upon a subject that has so long baffled the savans of this and the old world.

Discovery of Moabitish Antiquities.

A letter from Jerusalem, published in the French *Journal Officiel*, gives the following account of a remarkable archaeological discovery made by M. Clermont Ganneau, dragoman to the consulate of France in that city: The object is "a great block of basalt found to the eastward of the Dead Sea, in the territory of the ancient Moabites. Upon this block is engraved an inscription some thirty lines in length, in Phœnician characters, commencing with these words: 'I, Mesha, son of Chemosh.' Mesha was a Moabitish king, who is mentioned in the Bible, and contemporary with the prophet Elisha, with Jehoshaphat, king of Judea, and Ahab and Joram, kings of Israel. The third and fourth chapters of the Second Book of Kings give a detailed recital of the campaign undertaken in concert by Joram and Jehoshaphat against Mesha, king of Moab. The inscription upon the stone also refers to the struggle of Mesha against the King of Israel, and enumerates the

towns built and temples erected by Mesha, and dedicated by him to the national deity of the Moabites—Chemosh. The age of this monument is determined by the agreement of its statements with Jewish history. It dates nine centuries before the Christian era, and is nearly a century later than the reign of Solomon. It is nearly two centuries earlier than the famous sarcophagus of Echmonnazar, King of Sidon. The Phœnician characters of the inscription present some archaic features not to be found in the same degree in any of the Phœnician monuments hitherto known. The inscription, however, is decipherable with almost absolute certainty, as each word is separated by a point, and all the sentences are divided by vertical lines. The language is, with some slight orthographic variations, pure Hebrew. This valuable inscription, which enables us to bring a document contemporary with the events to which it refers into relation with the historical recitals of the Bible, has been forwarded by M. Clermont Ganneau to the *Academie des Inscriptions*, together with a dissertation which will be immediately published."

THE most extraordinary frog story that we have seen for a long time, comes from Colorado. The Greeley *Tribune* tells it thus: "Mr. Graham recently found a petrified frog in excavating his well. Its features were wonderfully well preserved, and the owner had intended to present it to the Greeley Geological Cabinet, but one day the boys shattered it with a hatchet, and to their utter surprise, an old Aztec coin dropped out. The date cannot be deciphered, but the figure of a head is plainly visible."

Damascus.

This ancient city was built by Uz, the son of Aram, and the grandson of Shem. This city was built 2,247 years B. C., or about 100 years after the flood. It was the capital of the ancient Syrian Empire, and has always been a noted city. It is more than 4,000 years old, and is now more populous than perhaps at any former period, having a population of 250,000, mostly Turks. It has been visited for the last 500 years by all Eastern travelers, and all unite in saying that it is the most beautifully located city in the world. The last traveler who has described it is Mark Twain, and he is one of the most graphic and beautiful word painters we know.

"Damascus is beautiful, seen from the mountains; it is beautiful even to foreigners accustomed to luxuriant vegetation, and I can easily imagine how unspeakably beautiful it must be to eyes that are only used to the God-forsaken barrenness and desolation of Syria. From his high perch one sees before him a wall of dreary mountains, a horn of vegetation, glaring fiercely in the sun; it fences in a level desert of yellow sand, smooth as velvet and threaded far away with fine lines that stand for roads, and dotted with camel trains; right in the midst of the desert is spread a billowy expanse of green foliage; and nestling in its heart sits the great white city, like an island of pearls and opals gleaming out of a sea of Emeralds! This is the picture you see spread out before you, with distance to soften it, the sun to glorify it, strong contrasts to heighten the effects, and over it and about it a drowsing air of repose to spiritualize it, and make it appear rather a beautiful estray from the mysterious worlds we visit in dreams, than a substantial tenant of our coarse, dull globe. And when you think of the

leagues of blighted, blasted, sandy, ugly, sunburnt, dreary, infamous country you have ridden over to get here, you think it is the most beautiful picture that human eyes ever rested upon."

No wonder Mohammed when he first saw this enchanted spot refused to enter into the city, saying he did not wish to enter a paradise on earth—he would wait until Allah would admit him into the Paradise above. The city is surrounded with beautiful gardens, and is well supplied with an abundance of pure, fresh water. The city is over two miles in length, and the houses are all built of adobe brick, and whitewashed. This white color gives it a beautiful and pleasing appearance. Many oriental Christians have contended that Damascus was built on the site of Eden. The Garden of Paradise was somewhere near the junction of the Tigris with the Euphrates.

The famous old city had passed through many vicissitudes. Although it is located far from the high way of nations, and remote from the sea, and almost inaccessible to conquering armies, it has frequently been captured and its government changed. It was captured by King David 1042 years B. C. In the reign of Ahaz, it was captured by Pileser who slew Rezin its last King. It was successively captured and plundered by Sennacherib, Nebuchadnesser, the general of Alexander the Great, Judas Maccabeus, and by the Romans under Pompey B. C. 65.

It remained in the Roman Empire as long as that lasted. In 634 it was captured and plundered by the Saracens. In 1400 A. D. it was captured by Tamerlane and its inhabitants put to death, and the whole city destroyed. In 1506 the Turks again captured it, and ever since it has been, and is now under Turkish rule.

In 1861, only a few years since, this city

was the scene of one of the most terrible massacres in the history of the world. For some trifling cause the Turks rose up against the poor, defenceless Christians who resided in the city, and in cold blood, and without any provocation, massacred 5,000 men, women and children. If England and France would not have interposed with their miserable diplomacy, the Emperor of Russia would have wiped this city and the whole Turkish Empire out of existence, which would have served them right. This Empire stands like a stony wall between the civilization and evangelization of the Orient and the West. Nothing can be done in the fairest portions of the Eastern world as long as the Crescent rules there.

Damascus has been called the eye of the East, and if there were 250,000 pious, intelligent western Protestant Christians there, in ten years the railroads would stretch their iron fingers all over the Eastern world, and the light of science and religion would penetrate every corner of that long neglected, and ignorant and forsaken land.

The Turkish name of this city is Elshams (the Beautiful).

There are at this time about 12,000 Christians and 4,000 Jews in it, and about 234,000 Mohammedans. The Christians are divided thus:—Greek Church, 9,000; Maronites, 200; Armenians, 900; and they are about as ignorant as the Mohammedans, and have very little more piety.

Among the ancients the olive, the ivy, and the laurel leaf were emblems of their vague ideas of immortality. The lotus blossom was the sacred flower of Egypt centuries ago; and it was the custom for Egyptian families to visit the tombs of relatives, and there offer prayers and oblations. Their oblations, with a variety of other things, included flowers. It has

been thought that the custom of floral offerings, as symbols of reverence and affection for the dead, originated among the Egyptians, and was transmitted to us through the Greeks or Romans. However that may be Roman matrons threw flowers upon the funeral pyre of Julius Cæsar; the tomb of Achilles was adorned with lilies and jasmines; Lycurgus ordered that soldiers lost in battle should be buried with green boughs above their heads; and Homer, in his Iliad, strews forget-me-nots on the tombs of his heroes. But not until the age of chivalry do we find any especial record of women strewing the graves of soldiers with flowers. Then, in token of constancy and affection, the grave of the slain knight was strewn with leaves and blossoms. From this perhaps originated the custom, which has become almost universal, on May 30, of decorating the graves of soldiers. Although a custom of this kind when it becomes a public matter, is liable to degenerate into a mere formality and show, the propriety and peculiar beauty of such testimony of love and remembrance must remain unchanged. Putting aside all public display, from which the genuine mourner instinctively shrinks, the laying of beautiful blossoms above the heads of our buried dead is a most simple and natural yet expressive manner of testifying a loving remembrance.

THE following list gives the ages of prominent Americans: President Grant was 58 April 27, 1874; John C. Breckinridge was 53 January 16, 1873; N. P. Banks 57, January 30, 1873; Henry Wilson 61, February 16, 1873; John Charles Fremont 60, 21st January, 1873; Simon Cameron, 74; Horatio Seymour, 63; Alex. H. Stephens, 61, February 11, 1873; Caleb Cushing 73, 17th January, 1873; Charles Sumner 62, January 6, 1873; James G.

Blaine, 43; Oliver P. Morton 50, August 4, 1873; Senator D. D. Pratt 59 October 26, 1872; John Coburn 47, October 27, 1872; George W. Williams, attorney general of the United States 50, March 23, 1873; Hamilton Fish, secretary of state, 65; J. A. J. Creswell, postmaster-general, 45, November 18, 1873; Columbus Delano, secretary of the interior, 65; Reverdy Johnson 77, May 26, 1873.

From the New York Sun.

RARE OLD VIOLINS.

Fabulous Prices for Instruments Whose Tone Has Been Perfected by Age.

Any one possessed of \$4,000 in gold and sufficient musical enthusiasm to expend it in the purchase of ancient instruments can obtain for that sum two violins by eminent makers and more than a century and a half old. They are in possession of Mr. König, of 397 Bowery, who has been commissioned to sell them by a well-known collector, in this city, who purchased them more than forty years ago. One of the instruments, the most valuable, was made by Antonius Stradivarius in 1722. For this alone \$3,000 in gold is demanded. Violins bearing the name of Stradivarius are exceedingly rare. New York, it is said, can boast of but three, two of which are in the possession of Mr. John B. Waters, of Brooklyn. The third is the one now offered for sale. It is well preserved. The deep mellow tone which swells from it when the strings are touched, and which can be bestowed only by the purifying hand of time, would delight the heart of a connoisseur. The second instrument was manufactured by Carol Bergonzi in 1723. Bergonzi was pupil of Stradivarius, and although his instruments are not held in such high esteem as those of his illustrious master, they are nevertheless very rare and command large

prices. This one is offered singly for \$1,500 in gold. Like the other it has evidently passed through careful hands, and bears no marks of ill usage. To the ordinary violinist there is no perceptible difference between the tones of the two instruments, but the cultivated ear can detect a depth and purity in the workmanship of Stradivarius that is lacking in that of the less renowned pupil. The largest price ever paid for a violin was probably that given to Mr. Hart, the great London collector. He received £700 for an instrument of Joseph Guarnerius. Paganini, who played on one of Guarnerius' violins, considered this maker among the best that the world has ever seen.

The fabulous prices now paid for old instruments will soon be a thing of the past. Violins bearing such names as those of Stradivarius, Guarnerius, Amati, and Bergonzi, are becoming very rare, and ere long will not be purchasable. They probably owe their excellence less to their superior workmanship than the tone acquired through their great age. The modern masters are in no way inferior to their predecessors of one hundred years ago, but whereas the latter were but few in number, Europe is surfeited with the former, and in the middle of the next century old instruments will be too plenty to command a one-tenth of the price freely given for them now. Probably the most renowned maker of our day is Villaume, of Paris, and his instruments command higher prices than any other in Europe. He usually charges about 500 francs. In New York the competition is not so great. A violin by König would bring about \$150.

America can boast of several very successful collectors. Among these are Mr. John B. Waters, of Brooklyn. Besides the two violins of Stradivarius already mentioned, he possesses three instruments

by the most renowned of the old masters. He values the five at \$9,000, but would not sell them at any price. Indeed, except under extraordinary circumstances he reluctantly allows them to be seen; and when he is prevailed upon to produce them, the person for whom the favor is granted must hold them with the utmost care by portions of attached leather, so as not to injure them by the profaning touch of the hand.

An Extraordinary Forgery.

The exposure of the colossal swindle known as the Shapira collection of idols, vessels and pottery with ancient inscriptions from Moab, adds another and an instructive chapter to the history of forgery and credulity. It was an ingenious combination of forgeries, appealing at once to the scholar, the archæologist and the numismatist. To this last it offered certain clay discs, which might be coins and might be *tesserae*; to the second it showed vessels of strange and uncouth shape unknown to Egyptian, Greek, or Etruscan art, with figures illustrative of a mythology long since perished; while to the scholar it gave inscriptions by the hundred in that Phœnician character in which King Mesha wrote, and of which so few specimens remain. Unfortunately it is through these very inscriptions that the plot has been brought to light. The forger was a little too clever, and yet not clever enough; for his inscriptions, though doubtless in the Phœnician character, could not by any ingenuity be separated into Hebrew words. It is a disadvantage not common among literary forgeries, most of which can at least be read. The great Psalmanazar, who pretended to be a native of Formosa, invented a language, an alphabet and a literature for himself. Chatterton made his own method of spelling an impossible old English Dialect. The

celebrated Annus of Viterbo, who pretended to have found the lost works of Sanchoniathon and Manetho, of whom he knew as much as Dr. Primrose's unfortunate friend, at least produced something that might be read; and those travelers who describe countries they have never seen, and from their arm-chairs pursue the winding of the Orinoco or the Indus, do give their readers printed matter in intelligible vernacular. The author of the Shapira collection, however, could not be read at all, and the only literary purpose he has served has been to stimulate the paper trade by causing the consumption of many reams in controversy. He has secured another object, to be sure, and one deeply at his own heart, namely, the transfer of a good sum from the gorged money-bags of Berlin to the lean and hungry coffers of Jerusalem.

Let us briefly give the history of this remarkable case. It is now about two years since it began to be rumored that a certain Jewish Protestant convert living in Jerusalem was receiving from an Arab small quantities of pottery, vases, broken and entire, figures of animals, and rudely executed statuettes of men and women. Presently it was discovered that on many of these things were inscriptions in the old Phœnician character, the direct ancestor of our own, in which the Moabite Stone was written. They were evidently ancient, being incrustated with a layer of saltpetre, the natural effect of time and damp on earthenware; their form, grotesque and rude, indicated the earliest stage of art; the emblems which adorned them pointed to a cult which was apparently a mixture of astronomical and nature worship; in the seven punctures which adorned the figures were the seven planets; in the earthen calf the reference was obvious to the brazen calf. Here was the Dea Syria:

"Ashtoreth, whom the Phœnicians called Astarte, Queen of Heaven, with crescent horns."

and here was the god of King Mesha—
 "Chemos, the obscene dread of Moab's sons."

These things, it was contended, could not be forged by an Arab; each specimen would cost too much to make; and the manifest antiquity of the whole, as proved by the saltpetre, was by itself a sufficient argument in their favor. Notwithstanding all these things, English archæologists refused to give in their adhesion. They stiffly maintained that any genuine Phœnician inscription could be read; that it would be written in certain forms of letters already ascertained; and they pointed not only to forms which deviated from the recognized type, but also to a bilingual inscription on a vase, which would have been invaluable but for the fact that in neither character could it be read, while the two characters could not by any possibility be used on the same jar, except at an interval of many hundred years. But then came fresh intelligence. Two German travelers, with Mr. Shapira, crossed into Moab and dug for themselves, finding bits of pottery like those in the collection. Curiously enough, even this proof failed to convince the stiff-necked English. The German Government, however, unwilling to lose so great a prize, bought the whole collection for £1,000 and had it transferred to Berlin, the museum of which it now adorns. A second collection was immediately commenced, and has been going on with commendable zeal and rapidity, until on the 29th day of December last a sudden and disastrous stoppage to the whole business was caused by M. Ganneau's exposure of the fact that it was a forgery from beginning to end. He has sent home an account, which will be supplemented by a fuller statement, but which, meantime, is as amusing and as minute as a narrative by Defoe. M. Ganneau possessed, to begin with, a certain knowledge which placed the unhappy artist, the forger, at a

disadvantage; for he knew what we may call the handwriting of the inscriptions. "These," he said, "are the work of my old friend Selim el Gari," and on returning to Jerusalem for the Palestine exploration fund he resolved that his first work should be to bestow publicity upon a modest but meritorious designer. He reflected that to manufacture pottery requires the assistance of a potter, and so, without exciting the suspicion of Selim, he began by visiting in turn all the half-dozen potteries in Jerusalem, and making the acquaintance of the workmen. The result was that he speedily found the men who had assisted Selim, and has been enabled to send over as graphic a confession as we remember to have read. In it we see the twilight procession carrying grimly Moloch and his band from the workshop to the potter; we see the artful dipping in the saltpetre which should give the gods of the Moabites a premature and precocious age—"to make them grow old," said honest Selim; and we are told of the scrupulous care with which any tell-tale fragment was gathered up. What we do not see, but may imagine, is the consternation of the respectable Selim el Gari, with that of the pious proselyte, his colleague, dupe or accomplice, Shapira, and the disappointment of the German archæologists.

Excavation in Cyprus.

Lovers of ancient art will rejoice at the discovery just made in Cyprus. Held in succession by the Egyptian, the Persian, the Greek, and the Roman, it is not wonderful that traces of their occupation should occasionally occur in the island. And Cyprus has furnished the archæologist with a goodly stock of materials. The latest addition promises to be of exceptional interest. At Palæa Lemessos, the accepted site of the ancient Amathus, on the southern coast, and six miles dis-

tant from Limasol, men have for some time past been engaged in digging stones for Port Said, on the opposite coast of the Mediterranean. Suddenly, they unearthed a colossal statue, in calcareous stone of Hercules holding a lion before him by the hind paw. The statue is perfect down to the knees, but the legs are wanting. It measures in its present shape nine feet in length. The limbs are thick-set and heavy, and the whole is said to be of very archaic workmanship. This is the only information we have for an opinion on the age and origin of the statue. Amathus was one of the oldest towns in Cyprus, and was colonized at an early period by the Phœnicians, who first introduced the worship of Hercules under the name of "Melkart," or "Malika." The work is, however, probably early Greek. Whether we shall have the means of judging for ourselves is doubtful. The discovery was made in a plat of private land belonging to the British vice consul at Limasol, near Pietro Loiso. That functionary was quickly on the spot, settled about the price with the laborers, and thus became sole proprietor of the treasure, with a view of sending it to the British museum. Then his troubles began. The governor of Cyprus interfered, claiming the huge relic of antiquity for the imperial museum of Constantinople. The dispute has not yet terminated, and will in all likelihood be shifted to Stamboul for settlement. Meanwhile the statue, guarded by "zaptiens," remains on the spot where it was found. Without, in the present state of our knowledge, insisting too much on the value of the find, we think the circumstances of the discovery are such as to warrant Sir Henry Elliott in using his influence for the transportation of the new Hercules to the British museum.

Literary.

THE AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST, March and April, 1874. J. Sabin & Sons, 84 Nassau street, New York.

This excellent publication comes to us as usual brim full of news interesting to the student and lover of books. Among other ably written articles is one concerning "The Muses' Recreation," a rare English work of the sixteenth century, recently reprinted. Early British authors have been accused of overstepping the bounds of decency, but the reviewer of "Musarum Delicæ" makes a vigorous appeal for a "robust not valetudinarian virtue" which we commend to the careful consideration of all thinkers.

The interesting "Gossip About Portraits" is continued and brought down to time of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Mr. R. A. Wilnot contributes a good article on the "Pleasures, Objects and Advantages of Literature." The Messrs. Sabin conclude the number with an unusually attractive list of old and rare books which they offer for sale.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS. Jeremiah Colburn, 18 Somerset street, Boston.

This sterling quarterly closes its eighth volume with the present number. The leading article is an essay on "The Copper Coinage of the Earl of Stirling," illustrated with several engravings, and unusually complete and accurate in its details. In Part I of the CURIOSITY HUNTER we present our readers with several extracts from its pages.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND BOOK, by E. L. Pemberton. James R. Grant & Co., Dawlish, England. 8 vo. pp 202. Profusely illustrated.

The author, in his introduction, says: "The aims of the present work are not ambitious. A plain and strictly accurate

list of postage stamps brought down to the month of publication, copious notes, relieving the monotony of the catalogue, and clear, reliable lists of the Confederate and Russian Locals, form the whole of my plan. Technicalities are carefully avoided, and though collectors of varieties will find all needful information, the peculiarities of water mark and perforation are made subsidiary."

We have carefully examined this treatise and find it thoroughly reliable. It is a work that should be in the hands of every Philatelist. Mailed post free to all parts of the U. S. for 4s.

The Deepest Mine in the World.

The Rose Bridge Colliery, at Wigan, Lancashire, England, is eight hundred and eight yards deep, or nearly half a mile—the deepest penetration into the "crust" of this earth-dumpling which man has yet made. The increase of temperature in going down through the successive strata has been about one degree F. for every fifty-four and one-half feet. At the bottom of the mine the temperature is seventy-nine deg. F. in the open pit, and ninety-three and one-half deg. F. in the solid strata. There is plenty of coal much farther down in the earth, but it is a question whether it will "pay" to mine it. The proprietor of this colliery finds that the cost of "getting" the coal is greater than when the depth was six hundred yards. The cost is increased not merely on account of the greater distance, but from the increase of temperature and of pressure. Men cannot work so hard where it is so hot, and the timber "props" are more expensive and less durable. If, however, the mine yields a profit under such circumstances, the owner, or somebody else in the same business may be tempted to go deeper yet.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

The Recovery of Jerusalem.

The Edinburgh *Review* has an article on "The Recovery of Jerusalem," briefly reviewing the results of recent explorations in that city. The writer thus speaks of the magnitude of Solomon's Temple:

The skill, the art, the mighty toil, that have been devoted to the adornment, and to the desecration, of this most ancient place of worship, have been of extraordinary magnitude. The grandest legacy of Egyptian antiquity, the Great Pyramid, demanded, indeed, a larger amount of naked human labor; but in Moriah there is a compulsion of the features of nature herself to the service of the builder. In actual bulk, the Great Pyramid is to the Temple rock as five to nine, if we descend but as far as the sills of the five double gates of the mountain of the house. If we carry the comparison down to the level at which the lowest foundation of the walls is inlaid in the rock at the angles of the inclosure, the bulk is three times that of the Great Pyramid. The cubic contents of the mason's work may not amount to a tenth part of that piled up by Soudhis. But the hill has been honey-combed with chambers and galleries; and the declining part to the south covered with vaults and arches, to which Gzeh can show no parallel. No merely artificial structure could have so successfully resisted the resolute efforts of the two greatest military nations of the ancient world, to destroy its existence and obliterate its memory. No other monument, long surviving the era of Asiatic and Italian power, can ever, like the noble sanctuary, mark by its very ruins the successive periods of its glory and its fall!

If we regard not so much the evidence of the labor devoted to the work of the Temple, as the effect produced on the mind by its apparent magnitude, we may

suggest the following comparisons: The length of the eastern wall of the sanctuary is rather more than double that of one side of the Great Pyramid. Its height, from the foundation of the rock at the south and near the northern angles, was nearly a third of that of the Egyptian structure. If to this great height of 152 feet of solid wall be added the descent of 114 feet to the bed of the Kedron, and the further elevation of 160 feet attained by the pinnacle of the Temple porch, we have a total height of 426 feet, which is only 59 feet less than that of the Great Pyramid. The area of the face of the eastern wall is more than double that of one side of the pyramid. Thus the magnitude of the noble sanctuary of Jerusalem far exceeded that of any other temple in the world. Two amphitheatres of the size of the Coliseum would have stood within its colossal girdle, and left room to spare. The Coliseum is said to have seated 87,000 spectators, and accommodated 22,000 more in its arena and passages. For such a number to have been crammed within its circle, the space for each person must have been limited to 17 inches by 20 inches. Allowing two cubits for each worshiper in the temple, the sanctuary would have contained 30,000; the Chel, including the Priests' Court, 20,000 more, and there would yet have been room in the Great Court and the cloisters to make the total reach to more than 210,000.

A Valuable Donation.

Hon. Peter Harvey, of Boston, has recently presented a valuable collection of medals to the Massachusetts Historical Society, which, aside from their value as commemorating some of the leading events in the early history of this country with which Washington, Franklin and others were identified, possess an interest from

their peculiar history. They are eleven in number, and may be called the Washington medals. Some of them were struck from dies at the mint in Paris, by order of Congress. The original medals were in gold. The well-known Boston medal, in honor of the evacuation of Boston by the British, is among the number. There is also a Franklin medal and others of equal importance. This collection is in silver, and was struck many years ago, and became the property of George Washington. After his death they passed to one branch of his family, and in course of years were used by some impecunious member to raise money upon. During Daniel Webster's residence in Washington he ascertained that the medals could be secured upon the payment of a certain sum, and knowing their value, and being anxious to keep them from the melting pot, he purchased them. After Mr. Webster's death, the medals passed into possession of a relative, and through him they again found their way into the hands of a gentleman who was induced to advance money upon the collection. Mr. Harvey, we believe, redeemed them, and has now placed these valuable mementoes of the past in the care of the Historical Society. Though there are copies in bronze of these same medals, we believe this is a unique collection in silver.—*Boston Journal*.

Large Booty.

The business of melting down the plate was intrusted to the Indian goldsmiths, who were thus required to undo the work of their own hands. They toiled day and night, but such was the quantity to be recast, that it consumed a full month. When the whole was reduced to bars of a uniform standard, they were nicely weighed, under the superintendance of the royal inspectors. The total amount of the gold

was found to be one million three hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and thirty-nine pesos de oro, which, allowing for the greater value of money in the sixteenth century, would be equivalent, probably, at the present time, to near three million and a half pounds sterling, or somewhat less than fifteen millions and a half of dollars. The quantity of silver was estimated at fifty-one thousand six hundred and ten marks.

History affords no parallel of such a booty, and that, too, in the most convertible form—in ready money as it were—having fallen to the lot of a little band of military adventurers, like the Conquerors of Peru.—Prescott's *Conquest of Peru*, Vol. 1. p. 466-468.

The Richest Piece of Jewelry in America.

A New York gentleman is exhibiting at the Metropolitan Museum a necklace the material for which he has been thirty years in collecting. It consists of eleven sard intaglios. All are antique, and are supposed to be of a date two or three hundred years before Christ. These vary in size from one which is nearly two inches in its greatest diameter to several not more than three-quarters of an inch. Suspended near the clasp are two sapphires and an emerald, also with intaglio cuttings. These latter are cinquecentos, or fourteenth century stones. An intaglio cutting is the reverse of a cameo, or like that on a seal. When held up to the light the workmanship in the beautiful red of the translucent sard is found to be a fine specimen of the lapidary's art. The cuttings are cleanly made, and polished like the rest of the stone. The entire piece is after the latest style of the famous Devonshire gems, first worn by the duke of Devonshire at the coronation of Alexander I. of Russia. These gems were first

mounted from a cabinet of antiques in the possession of the duke. They have since been remounted for the countess of Dudley, and were so exhibited at the last Paris exhibition. The Dudley gems are set in Byzantine, and are not as finely done as the original. The gold setting of the necklace to be exhibited at the Metropolitan museum has been tastefully subordinated to the stones themselves. To take away any idea of clumsiness arising from the size of the stones, each is held by a rim of gold resting on a narrow background of the same material, lighted with basework of a white color, which shows through an ornamentation of small horse-chestnut leaves. This work has been done by Tiffany & Co. It is said that a single gem of the Devonshire jewels, though it was a fragment, was sold for \$25,000. This necklace is unique, and there is no method of fixing its value, but Tiffany & Co. estimate that it is by far the most valuable piece of jewelry in this country. The sard was the favorite material of the Greeks for jewelry carving.

In the British parliament there are 133 Free Masons—56 in the House of Lords, and 77 in the Commons. Fifteen of the Free Masons in the lower house are noblemen; and there are also 10 sons of peers who are not in parliament who belong to this mystic order. The Prince of Wales heads the list of Free Masons who have seats in parliament, and Mr. Whalley brings up the rear. Curiously enough, Mr. Newdegate is not a Free Mason, although one would have thought the enmity of Rome to the order would have induced him to join it. One of the bishops, he of Peterborough, is a Mason; 7 Dukes, 8 Marquises, 17 Earls, 4 Viscounts, and 17 Lords, make up the list of peers who wear the apron and have ridden the grail.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Mr. Sabin has made the issues of his AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST, during the past year, of great interest to all lovers of "Notes and Queries," and literary antiquities in general. We have before us the bound volume for 1871, a goodly octavo, which should be welcome to many a library. We notice that it is dedicated "to Thomas F. Donnelly" (our "book worm") "a young but earnest coadjutor in the world of letters."—*Evening Mail*,

The AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST is invaluable to those who wish to be kept acquainted with events of permanent interest in the literary world, and particularly to those who are interested in the curiosities of literature. The November number contains an account of the libraries of Chicago—those which were destroyed and those which were saved—and is rich in selected articles, notes, and items.—*N. Y. Methodist*.

The January number of this Literary Register is on our table. This number has fifty-six pages of varied contents of peculiar interest to the student of literature and the lover of books. The department of "Notes and Queries" is well filled in the number before us, embracing a wide range of topics, such as bibliographical, historical, antiquarian etc. The critical notices of old and new books, scattered through the extensive catalogues of publications, is interesting to every person of literary inclination.—*Austin (Texas) Democrat*.

Sabin's BIBLIOPOLIST contains its usual literary feast of notes and queries, some interesting correspondence, and catalogues of rare and valuable works. We extract the following, throwing light on the topography of New York City two hundred and ten years ago.—*Jewish Messenger*,

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CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Volume 2.

ROCKFORD, ILL., JUNE AND JULY, 1874.

Nos. 6 and 7.

Numismatics.

For the Curiosity Hunter.

The Coins of Prince Edward's Island.

BY W. HARRY BRUCE.

Supplementary to the article in the March number of *The Stamp Collectors' Chronicle* on the subject, we purpose giving a slight description of a few of those nonentities which constituted the primitive currency of the "tight little Isle." Regarding the date of the emission of these coins, however, we made a "leettle" mistake; for our subsequent researches have revealed the fact that as far back as 1812 they had an existence. As before stated, they were for the most part issued on the responsibility of private parties, and must, we presume, have occasioned no little inconvenience, as the bankruptcy of any of the issuing parties would necessarily render his particular coin valueless; thus not only retarding business generally, but putting many of an over-confident public pecuniarily out of pocket. The first coin ever used in the Island was, as far as we can learn, that struck in 1812, having on the obverse a representation of Hope seated on what appears to be a tea chest, holding in her right hand, which is extended, a pair of scales; inscription in semi-circle above, "Half penny token;" below, 1812; reverse, vessel in full sail; no inscription. From the design of this coin we would infer that it was of Government extraction. It appears to have had the field all to itself for about thirteen years, as we hear of nothing further until 1825, when a new comer appears upon the scene, bearing upon the obverse, in lieu of

Hope, the emblematic inscription, "Ships, Colonies and Commerce;" the reverse remaining unaltered. This was the first coin issued by any private party. Nothing further appears until 1840, when we have another innovation; on the obverse appears a sack (probably representing the oat trade of the Island), surrounded by the words, "For public accommodation;" on the reverse, "Prince Edward Island," enclosing date 1840. Immediately after this comes another exponent of private enterprise; on the one side appears a plow, with the appropriate inscription, "Speed the plough;" on the other side is, "Success to the Fisheries," enclosing a representation of a split and dried codfish.

Evidently the prosecution of the fisheries of the Island in those days was far in advance of those of the present day, as such a motto in connection with the Island at the present day would sound simply ridiculous. In 1855 we have a pair of strangers. On one, obverse, "Self government and Free Trade;" reverse, "Prince Edward Island," enclosing date 1855. On the other, obverse, "Fisheries and Agriculture;" reverse, "one cent," in centre, date, 1855. Although there are two or three others not yet identified nor described, the extreme length of our article compels a speedy close for the present, but we trust soon again to renew our acquaintance in the way of an article on the coins of New Brunswick. As many of our readers are deeply interested in coins, this article will, 'na' doot,' prove very acceptable to them.

Note. We may here remark, that contrary to the general opinion, the coin issued in 1871 are still in vogue, not only in the Island, but throughout the Dominion.

Miscellaneous.

Some Famous Jewels.

From Lippencott's Magazine.

Many of the present generation who were at all familiar with Paris, prior to the Franco Prussian war, will recall the sensation produced by every appearance of the old Duke of Brunswick who, for many years resided in that city. His residence was a spacious, brick colored chateau of very quaint architecture, situated not far from the Champs Elysees, on the Boulevard Beaujoin, and, together with its surroundings, seemed so utterly unlike anything else in the gay city that one was at a loss to decide which was the more remarkable, the ancient Prince himself or the stronghold where he kept his treasures. His Highness, even when past 70 years of age, was, whenever seen in public, so elaborately "got up" as seemingly to have told scarcely more than half that number of years. Passing him in his elegant phaeton on the public drives, or meeting him with the glow of wax candles in the *recherche* drawing rooms of the elite, where he was ever one of the gayest votaries of Terpsichore, and most gallant in his devotion to the fair sex, the casual observer would have pronounced him a well preserved man of 40, who had never felt the presence of a care or a sorrow. But if one chanced to get near him by daylight the ravages of time revealed themselves despite the tricks and bribes of his elaborate toilettes. Handsome he could not be called, but elegant always and courtly as a Beau Brummel. So studious was he of his personal appearance that, having unfortunately lost his hair, he had thirty-one wigs manufactured to replace the natural covering of his cranium. One of these represented

his hair as just from the barber's shears; a second as it would appear after one day's growth; a third after two days, and so on to the close of the month, in order that he might be supposed to still wear his own hair, having it trimmed by the barber once a month as formerly. The same careful concealment of Time's footprints was shown in other particulars. Each morning before he left his apartments a valet kept for this especial purpose, artistically painted the Duke's eyebrows, cheeks and lips; another skilfully padded his sunken chest and shoulders, arranged the false calves within the silken hose, and otherwise replaced the youthful attractions which three-score years had stolen away. Then one of his many charming toilets of youthful elegance was donned, and the aged dandy stepped forth to be admired and envied by brainless parasites, who for their own gain pondered to his weak vanity. And, after all, no one was really deceived by these small arts, for the Duke was quite too important a personage and his pedigree too well known for his age to be a matter of uncertainty. In his other grand passion, that for the accumulation of diamonds, he was more successful, his entire collection being valued at between three and four millions of dollars. Among them were some that had passed through more adventures than the heroine of a modern romance. One of the choicest, a fine pink brilliant, had once belonged to Baba Khan, the famous Tartar conqueror of India, and is of fabulous value. Well authenticated report said that it had been dropped from Baba's diadem at Delhi, where the victorious monarch might well afford to lose even so costly a jewel, since he won an empire in exchange, and left his opponent, the last of the Afghan monarchs, dead on the field of battle. The peerless gem was highly valued by the Tartar conqueror,

having been the dower of his favorite wife presented to him by her own hands on their nuptial day, and he offered immense rewards for its recovery.

English History Under the Danes.

A. D. 1013 TO 1041,—SWEYN 1013 TO 1014.

Sweyn reigned in England for the short space of one year and was succeeded by Canute, his son, who divided the kingdom with Edward Ironsides, a Saxon monarch, from whom is traced the descent of King George IV. Before Edward had reigned one year over his portion, he was murdered at Oxford, and Canute, who was at that time the most powerful monarch in Europe, became sole king. Having conquered not only this country but the countries of Norway and Sweden, he styled himself King of England, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. He banished the children of Ethelred, but married Emma their mother, and died (A. D. 1036) at Shaftsbury.

HAROLD, 1036 TO 1039.

Harold, surname Hare-foot, from the swiftness with which he ran, was a son of Canute by his first wife. He reigned only three years and died at Oxford, A. D., 1039.

HARDICANUTE, 1039 TO 1041.

Harold was succeeded by his weak and wicked half-brother, Hardicanute. He died of intemperance after a short reign of two years (A. D., 1041) and was the last representative of the Danish line.

UNDER THE SAXONS, 1041 TO 1066—ED-

WARD THE CONFESSOR.

A Saxon, known as Edward, the Confessor, was next chosen. This monarch was famous for his piety, and married Editha, daughter to Earl Godwin. Having been unfortunately educated abroad in the court of Normandy, Edward the

Confessor retained but little affection for the customs or even the natives of his own country. He evinced a marked preference throughout his reign for all French laws and habits, and by this line of conduct gave considerable cause for jealousy to his people. He repealed the tax called Danegelt, and was the first king who touched for that disease known as the "King's Evil." During his reign, William, Duke of Normandy, came over to visit England and Edward, it is said, promised to him the reversion of the English crown. Edward, the Confessor, rebuilt Westminster Abby, and at his death, on January the 5th, 1065 was canonized as a Saint by the Roman Catholic church.

HAROLD II.

Harold, son of Earl Godwin, was then elected king by the Council of the States, but was destined to find a powerful opponent in Duke William of Normandy. This warlike and ambitious prince of France had the boldness to claim the crown for his own head; and gathering around his standard all the recruits he could muster, all the beggard nobles, freebooters and adventurers of Europe, lended with sixty thousand men upon the coast of Sussex, defeated the English in a great battle (Oct. 14, 1066,) rendered still more disastrous by the death of Harold and famous to all as the battle of Hastings. Thus ended the Saxon period, which had existed for upwards of six hundred years.

The lovely Lake Mohawk lies in a chasm on the Shawangunk range of mountains, at an elevation of 1243 feet above the level of the ocean. On the western side a wall of rock rises over 200 feet above the water, and on the eastern is a high spur rock 300 feet higher than the lake. The rocks are gray and grim in appearance.

Early Civilization.

Among the various conditions of primitive civilization on which the study of modern savage culture throws considerable light, we must certainly include the early forms of morality and religion. Mr. E. B. Tylor, in an eminently suggestive paper, endeavors to explain the relative positions of these two great influences at early stages in the history of man. His studies tend to show that in pre-historic times, and indeed for a long period of history, morality and religion were entirely, or almost entirely, separate agents derived from different sources, acting by different processes and enforced by different authorities. Even the very rudest tribes at the present day possess a well marked standard of morality, serving to regulate the relations of family and tribal life, and possess also more or less definite forms of religious belief based on some animistic doctrine of souls and other spirits, and usually taking a practical shape in some rude form of worship. Yet in the lowest known races, as the Australian and the Basuto of South Africa, the ethics and the theology stand quite apart, the morality being independent of the religion. How these two great civilizing influences gradually coalesced; in other words, how the early unethical system of religion was developed into an ethical system was traced with much originality of argument by Mr. Tylor. To illustrate the way in which religion may become connected with, or disconnected from, certain branches of culture, the author discussed at some length the relation which religion has at different times borne to the rite of marriage and to the profession of medicine.

Marriage in early stages of civilization was probably a purely civil compact. The

bride was obtained either peacefully or hostilely; in the former case by presents from the young man or by services rendered in the bride's family; in the latter case by capture, as in the Sabine marriage. But in the higher conditions of savage and barbaric life religious rites came to be associated with marriage, and in more advanced states this association became stronger, so strong that in many countries people consider marriage hardly valid unless celebrated with religious ceremonies and conducted by a priest. Medicine supplies a converse example. In early stages of civilization all disease is referred to the influence of evil spirits; the doctor is the sorcerer; the only cure, priestly exorcism. But in all highly civilized countries the healing craft has for ages been in the hands of men of science, and separated from other functions of human life, the author proceeds to determine, from ethnological data, when and how in the history of civilization the amalgamation of mortality and religion was brought about. It would be difficult to summarize this discussion, but we may remark that Mr. Tylor, relying on evidence furnished by ethnology, believes that the union took place at a comparatively late period of human history.

Dickens apparently named the novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* after much deliberation. He made numerous changes before he finally settled upon that odd name. Martin was the prefix to all, but the surname varied from its first form of Sweezleback, and Sweezlewag to those of Chuzzletoe, Chuzzleboy, Chubbewig; nor was Chuzzlewit chosen at last until after more hesitation and discussion. And then the author wrote to a friend, "Behold, finally, the title of the new book! Don't lose it, for I have no copy."

A Mechanical Wonder.

A Pennsylvania editor knows a man who always had the idea that he could invent a self-acting sewing-machine; and he did. He procured a steel ribbon-spring about twenty feet long, and of sufficient power to run a horse-car. This he rigged on his wife's sewing-machine with a lot of clockwork, and it appeared to him, when he finished the job that evening, that he had realized his hopes. If any sewing-machine ever would go, that would; so he wound it up ready for use in the morning and went to bed. At four o'clock Mrs. Kipp roused him and told him to listen to the burglars in the house. He listened, and heard a most terrific racket over in the sitting-room. It appeared to him that there must be a million or more burglars refreshing themselves with a prize-fight. So he loaded his gun, crept softly over, and peeped through a crack in the door. It was not burglars; it was Mrs. Knipp's sewing-machine. The peg had slipped, and that spring was having full play. It would rear the machine up on one end, and charge it three or four times, like a battering-ram against the glass front of the book-case. Then it would wheel around and suddenly tear across the room and butt furiously against the mantel-piece; and it would lie down and roll over on the floor, and hammer the sofa, and boost the centre-table, and try to jam a hole through the wall, and endeavor to leap up on the chandelier. And as Kipp entered the room it flew at him, and tore in and out between his legs, the wheels revolving like fury all the time, and the spring gradually unwinding. And then Kipp retreated and waked the family, and got the mattress off the bed. Then they covered the machine and sat on it for a while, and finally pushed it out of the window into the yard, where Kipp piled

boxes and ash-barrels and slop-buckets and fence-paling on it to hold it still. But all night, under the heap, it kept up a continual buzz and snort and hum, so that the next-door neighbor fired at it sixteen times with the impression that it was cats. Kipp has since bought a new sewing-machine, and his wife runs it with her feet. He has abandoned the study of mechanics for the present.

The World once Ice-Bound.

Geologists are familiar with evidences of glacial action in some of the older rocks; and if there be any truth in the opinions so ably advocated by Mr. Croil, we should expect such evidence to occur. Mr. Cumming, so long ago as 1848, suggested the probable glacial origin of some of the Old Red Sandstone conglomerates. Professor Ramsay holds the same opinion, and has well proved the existence of glacial action in our latitudes during the Permian period. Doubtful evidence of ice action during the cretaceous period has long been before us and there can be but little doubt that glaciers existed over the regions now occupied by the Alps during miocene and earlier times. All these cases, however, are in temperate regions; the peculiarity of the discovery announced by Mr. Blanniford is that the glacial action must have taken place over a large area in what is now a tropical country. It is not possible, at present, to fit this supposed glacial period into our Western geological chronology; the great division of the formation into tertiary, secondary, and palaeozoic periods, which we adopt, and which for us have a definite meaning, are now known to be useless, and, indeed, misleading, when applied to the formation of Asia. As our knowledge increases, and as fresh areas of the earth's surface are explored, we must expect that our

old lines of division will fade away, or rather, will retain only a local and not a general value. From this point of view the deep sea explorations, now being carried on, possess an immense value. Already they have shown us that types of life till lately supposed to have been long extinct still survive. Geologists frequently reverse this process, and bring to light, older rocks, forms hitherto only known in existing seas or in the newer rocks.

Life In The Sea.

When Mr. Davison was on the coast of Chili, the vessel in which he was, passed through broad bands of reddish water, which, under the microscope, swarmed with animalculæ, darting about, and often exploding; they swam by the aid of vibrating hairs, and were so minute that one thousand were not more than an inch in length. Dr. Poepig, in his "Voyage to Chili," tells us that "from the topmast, the sea appeared as far as the eye could reach, of a dark red color, and this in a band of six miles breadth. As we sailed slowly along, we found that the color changed to a brilliant purple, so that even the foam, which is seen at the stern of a ship under sail, was of a rose color. The sight was very striking, because the purple streak was very distinct from the blue waters of the sea. The water, when taken up in a bucket, appeared quite transparent; but a faint tinge of purple was perceptible when a few drops were placed on a piece of white porcelain, and moved rapidly backwards and forwards in the sunshine. A moderate magnifying glass showed that the little red dots consisted of *infusoria*, of spherical form, entirely destitute of external organs of motion. We sailed (says the Doctor) for four hours, at the mean rate of six English miles an hour, through this streak,

which was seven miles broad, before we reached the end of it, and its full superficies must, therefore, have been 168 English square miles. If we add that these animals may have been equally distributed in the upper stratum of water, to the depth of six feet, we must confess that their numbers infinitely surpass the conception of the human understanding."

Very Curious Guns.

The Baltimore American, speaking of a collection of guns in a store in that city, says: Two of these are unique affairs, brought home recently by one of our worthy citizens, who spent twelve years traveling in all parts of Europe, Asia and Africa. They are of great length and of the most antique construction. One of them has a barrel five feet long, made of the finest steel, curiously inlaid with gold and platina. The inlaying is beautifully done. The stock of this gun is of ebony inlaid with silver, pearl and ivory. The flint lock, of antique pattern with springs and works all outside the plate is finely inlaid with platina. The inlaying is very elaborately and beautifully done. The barrel and stock are bound together by six solid, elaborately wrought silver bands, and all of the mountings are of silver or gold. To the stock is affixed a butt plate of ivory, very handsomely inlaid. The bore of the gun is of five eighths of an inch. On its side is an elegantly written Arabic inscription, that nobody has yet been able to decipher. The gun was made in Morocco, where there are twenty-five gun makers, who, with the crudest implements, turn out guns that have great reputation in all Northern Africa. Such a gun as the one brought home by Mr. Oliveras, as a curiosity, could not be made in this country for less than \$1,000. The other of the two

guns that he brought home was made in Algiers, has a similarly immensely long barrel, a flint lock inlaid with platina, an ivory and steel butt plate, a stock inlaid with silver and coral. This gun is not so fine as the other but is very curious.

A Monster Anvil.

Vulcan himself, with all the swarthy giants that worked at the god's smithies under *Ætna*, never owned such an anvil as will soon be in use in the new rolling mills, at Woolwich, England. For a long time past the engineers have been busy at the Royal Gun Factories of the Arsenal in constructing this Titanic piece of iron-mongery, and they are now depositing in its place the enormous plate which is to form the bed of the anvil block. This plate weighs 107 tons, and had to be cast of necessity in an open mould. The surface which is to receive the anvil block, lay, therefore, downward, and when after many weeks the colossal casting grew cool, it was needful to turn the huge mass completely over. At the appointed time an army of sturdy smiths undertook this task with hydraulic jacks, and a combination of the strongest tackle; before night they had lifted the monstrous lump of solid metal, twenty-two feet square, and since then they have laid it on its bed upon the rock-like structure of concrete and piles made to receive it. The anvil block to be mounted on the huge plate will weigh only a trifle short of 200 tons, and the steam hammer which will strike upon it is made of thirty-five tons of solid metal, the blow, at full force being of course, tremendous. In fact, it is rather doubtful what will happen to Woolwich and its vicinity when the mighty piece of mechanism gets to work. That the earth around will shake and the air roll with thunder seems probable; for nothing like

this stupendous forge has ever been set to work since the bolts of *Jove* were hammered. *Thor's* famous weapon was a mere driver of tin tacks contrasted with it; and, indeed, the old *Norske* god, for all his huge strength, would be puzzled to throw the *Woolwich* tool—which, taking all its metal work together, weighs hard upon 500 tons.

—In Europe Americans are held to be the most lavish people in the world, and when the foreign artists who came to the jubilee return home and tell the story of their compensation, our national fame in this regard will not be lessened. *Strauss* received \$17,500 for the season, besides a guaranteed \$2,000 (gold) benefit, together with transportation of himself, wife, and two servants. In addition to this he received \$3,300 (gold) for his three New York concerts, and sold his jubilee waltz for \$550; so that he went back to Europe, after this three weeks' visit, with about \$25,000 in his pocket. *Madame Peshka Lentner* received for her season of thirteen concerts 16,000. *Franz Abt*, who conducted one of his own compositions at four concerts, received \$12,200—\$3000 for each. *Arabella Goddard* received \$5,000, literally for doing nothing. *Franz Bendel* \$2,000, and *Wehli*, \$1,250 for two appearances. The sum paid to the bands and orchestra were also enormous. The great orchestra drew \$72,000 out of the treasury for the first week's salary. The musicians from other cities than Boston drew \$10 a day per man and transportation, and the Boston players \$8 per day. The home brass band received on an average \$25 per man for the week. The foreign bands cost about \$5 per man a day, exclusive of expenses and transportation, board alone averaging about \$3 per day. The Irish band cost, relatively, more than the rest—al-

though they were the poorest of all—inasmuch as they did not appear until the last week of the festival, although they were under pay for the whole time. The total expense of the four foreign bands was about \$100,000.

THE TOMB OF JOSHUA.—M. Geurin, who has been engaged for the French Government in scientific researches in Palestine, has recently read a paper at a Geographical Congress at Lyons, describing his discovery of the tomb of Joshua, the son of Nun. The tomb, he states, is situated at Tigne, which he considers to be the ancient Timnath Serah, the heritage of Joshua. In the hill at this place are many tombs, and this one has a vestibule, into which the light of day penetrates, supported by two columns, while the place is furnished with nearly 300 niches for lamps, soiled evidently from their use. This argues that some periodical celebrations were held here. This vestibule gave entrance to two chambers, one containing fifteen receptacles for coffins, and the other but one. In this latter one M. Guerin supposes the body of Joshua to have been deposited, and he thinks he has discovered strong evidence of this in the statement that the sharp flint knives with which Joshua used to circumcise the children of Israel at Gilgal were buried in his tomb. On removing the *debris* which covered the floor of the tomb, a large number of knives were found, and on making some excavations at Gilgal, the passage of the Jordan, a number of similar knives were also discovered. The pillars in the vestibule of the tomb are surrounded by a fillet in the style of Egyptian monuments, and this would argue a period of about the time of Joshua. M. Guerin also believes he has found the tomb of the Maccabees at Medieh, which he thinks corresponded with the Modin of the book of Maccabees,

How They Are Named.

Frequent inquiries are made regarding the meaning of the various names of the United States bonds. We suppose that most people know that the 5-20 bond is so called because it is payable in five years or twenty years, as the Government may choose. The 7-30s take their name from the rate of currency interest they bear—7 3-10 per cent.; the 10-40s are so named because the Government agrees to pay them in ten or forty years; the "Andys" are the new 5-20s, which bear the picture of Andrew Johnson on each coupon. The new 5-20s, are also termed Consols, because of the popular idea that it is the intention of the Government to consolidate the entire debt into this form of security. The sixes of '81 are so termed because they bear six per cent, and are due in 1881

WHO MANSARD WAS.—Just now, while there is so much said and written about Mansard roofs, the following from one of our New York exchanges may prove interesting;

Mansard, whose roofs are the subject of much obloquy at present, was Superintendent of Public Buildings in the reign of Louis XIV. It is told of him that he possessed to a remarkable degree the power of subtle flattery, which he used to practice with great ingenuity upon the king. He would sometimes submit plans, portions of which were purposely made so impracticable, not to say absurd, that the King could not avoid detecting and pointing out the inconsistencies, whereupon Mansard would declare that if his Majesty had not been a King, he would have made a first class architect, blaming himself the while for having made such blunders. It is not stated whether the famous roof was one of these latter, nor whether the King took fire at it when it was showed to him.

Among the recent additions to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge is a very complete specimen of pterodactyl, which is believed by Professor AGASSIZ to be one of the most perfect illustrations of the genus extant. It has already furnished him the means of correcting some important errors, its special value being in the fact that two sides are preserved upon corresponding plate, details not appreciable in one plate being evident in the other.

The restorations by WAGLER and GOLDFUSS are proved by this specimen to be imperfect or unnatural; that of the former, in regard to the bend of the articulations of the fore-arm, and the omission of the metacarpal joint; that of the latter, in the suppression of an entire joint of the hand, the metacarpal part of the whole hand having been overlooked. The number of fingers also appear to have been incorrectly stated, the specimen of Professor AGASSIZ showing only three short fingers in the hand and four perfect ones in the foot. This is the case, at least, in the type of *P. longirostris*.

NEW SPECIES OF SALAMANDER.—In a recent meeting of the French Academy, M. Blanchard called attention to a new and gigantic species of salamander recently found in Western China. The Abbe David has brought to France a skin of the animal, and M. Blanchard states that it has been ascertained that the species is nearly allied to that of Japan, but distinguished from the latter by various characteristics. The gigantic animal inhabits the clear and limpid waters which descend from the Ku-Ku-Noor mountains, and it attains a weight of from fifty to sixty pounds. It is of great value, as an article of food, to the inhabitants of the country.

—Professor WYMAN calls attention to the similarity between the St. Johns River, of Florida, and the Nile, in respect to an annual overflow of the reservoirs at the head waters, and a consequent rise of the stream lower down. By reference to the rain chart recently published by the Smithsonian Institution, it will be found that during the summer season the head waters of the St. Johns are in the region of maximum rain fall, embracing as they do numerous large lakes and swamps, which become filled, and occasionally produce quite a flood. The effect is to cause the stream to push beyond its bounds, and flow far and wide over the adjacent country.

In this fact we have an explanation of the numerous Indian mounds along the St. Johns, erected evidently not for burial purposes, but simply consisting of scrapings from the adjacent river, including shells, etc. heaped up to serve as an island in the event of the floods in question. The lower layers of shells in the mounds, according to Professor WYMAN, being situated directly on the river-bank, are filled with river mud, the whole thrown loosely together.

In Arabic and Turkish books, generally the consonants only are printed, and readers must supply the vowels. As different words frequently have the same consonants (e. g. : hat, hate, hot, dog, dig), the exact word is to be inferred from the connection. It is amusing to see Turkish readers puzzling over some doubtful word. Perhaps our young friends would like to try their hand at a little English in this style of printing: nd th brght yng chldrn hm, tht h shd tch thm; nd hs dscpls rbd ths tht brght thm. Bt whn Jss sw t, h tws mch dsplsd, nd sd nt thm, Sfr th lttl chldrn t cm nt m, nd rbd thm nt ;fr f sch a th kngdm f Gd,—*Harpool News*.

BEEES BY MAIL.—A man in Massachusetts has invented a cage composed of wood and wire netting to send honey bees through the mails. The trap is a block of wood about six inches long and two inches wide by an inch in depth; in this three large holes are bored nearly through, and the under side is covered with a fine wire netting. Seven bees including a queen bee, are placed in each compartment, and are introduced through a hole in the side of the block which is plugged by a piece of sponge soaked in honey.

The postmasters and clerks object to these packages for the alleged reason that the honey soaks through the paper pasted over the holes and daubs other mail matter in contact, and beside, as one postmaster complained, "the clerks in his office did not get through examining and studying the contrivance until the bees stung every one of them, and in showing them how it was made and how to handle it without injury, the blasted things stung him, too."

—About a century ago, says the London *Athenæum*, it was no uncommon practice on the part of "fast men" to drink bumpers to the health of a lady out of her shoe. The Earl of Cork, in an amusing paper in the *Connoisseur*, relates an incident of this kind, and, to carry the compliment still further, he states that the shoe was ordered to be dressed and to be served up for supper: "The cook seriously set himself to work upon it; he pulled the upper part (which was of fine damask) into fine shreds, and tossed them in a *ragout*, minced the soles, cut the wooden heel into thin slices, fried them in butter, and placed them round the dish for garnish. The company testified their affection for the young lady by eating heartily of this exquisite *impromptu*."

Gas, it will be remembered, was first discovered in 1789, but was not devoted to illuminating purposes till 1792, and was first permanently used for illumination at Manchester, in 1805; two years afterward gas was introduced into one of the streets of London, and from that time its use has been extended throughout the country. What we owe to the services of this valuable invention would be a long tale to tell. But late accounts of recent inventions suggest a substitute at once more intrinsically valuable, and, strange to say, cheaper. A French chemist, it is said has discovered a new light as superior to gas as gas is to oil. The new oxyhydric light has been most successfully exhibited at the Crystal Palace, and the new light is so powerful that it actually causes a flame from gas to cast a shadow. The oxyhydric light is white, clear and healthy.

The two adjoining counties of Jones and Cedar, Iowa, by the census of 1870, show a population exactly alike, each having 19,731. Both are twenty-four miles square, just that and no more. Each has a river running through its southwestern corner diagonally, from northwest to Southeast, the Wapsie in the one and the Cedar in the other.

The *Catalogue of Scientific Papers* in the transactions of societies and periodicals, undertaken fourteen years ago for the Royal Society of London, mainly in consequence of a suggestion by Professor HENRY, of the Smithsonian, has now been completed by the publication of the sixth and concluding quarto volume. The first series brings the subject down to 1863; and it is understood that the society is now collecting material for another decade, which is to end in 1873.

PROFESSIONAL VIEW OF THINGS.—In 1853 there lived at Sydney, New South Wales, a gold broker named Knapp. When gold was discovered in that country he was a ticket-of-leave-man, and, like many others of his class had made a fortune by the discovery. His fortune was reckoned at £200,000. An American said to him one day:—"You ought to be eternally grateful to the British government for sending you here free, and putting you in the way of heaping up riches." "The British government," replied the ex-thief, "be blowed. In London, my business was breaking open jewellers' safes, and if the British government had not interfered with it, I should have been worth a million pounds to-day."

WEALTH OF FRENCH AUTHORS.—There are a few authors in France who seem to be beyond the ultimate contingency of the poor-house. Among these, all of whom started in life with simply light hearts and airy trowsers, are Victor Hugo, who is said to be worth 600,000 francs; "George Sand," nearly twice as much; Emile de Adolphe Thiers, 1,000,000 francs; Emile de Girardin, 8,500,000 francs; Adolphe Thiers, 1,000,000 francs; Alexandre Dumas *filis*, 400,000 francs; Edmond About, 250,000 francs; Alphonse Karr, 100,000 francs; Jules Janin, 500,000; Edouard Laboulaye, 100,000 francs; and Victorien Sardou, 500,000 francs. Theophile Gautier died a millionaire, and the widows of Scribe and Ponsard live in affluence.

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The January number of this Literary Register is on our table. This number has fifty-six pages of varied contents of peculiar interest to the student of literature and the lover of books. The department of “Notes and Queries” is well filled in the number before us, embracing a wide range of topics, such as bibliographical, historical, antiquarian etc. The critical notices of old and new books, scattered through the extensive catalogues of publications, is interesting to every person of literary inclination.—*Austin (Texas) Democrat*.

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THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

Volume 2.

ROCKFORD, ILL., JULY, 1874.

Number 2.

Mumismatics.

Greek Coins.

The collection of coins deposited in the Medal Room of the British Museum is the finest, if not the largest, in Europe. Kept there as in the national strong-box, and filtered through the adjacent or so called Ornament Room by the display of a typical set of electrotypes, or the march past of a few trays of real coins at a time, its beauty, size and importance can scarcely be appreciated by the visitor to its casual ward. The access to the collection, or rather the iron-doored room in which it is preserved, is limited to a few, and to them a portion is shown at a time, under a glass tray; yet this grand collection continues to grow unseen, and the glimpse of a fraction of it through the pages of a catalogue is like the revelation of a mystery to the general public. The grants for its enlargement have been on the most liberal scale, the accessions to its cabinets of the choicest and finest specimens. The strength of the Greek section lies in the autonomous coins struck by the free towns and petty republics of Greece, Asia Minor, the Isles, and the Colonies. The cabinets of the Rue Richelieu had more examples and rarer types of the kings and tyrants, yet even in this branch they are now equalled, if not excelled, by the suits in Bloomsbury.

The Lydian or Argive, who first stamped gold or silver, was a genius. Clay and leather, and other plastic substances had been stamped before, but it was the hand of a giant mind which first impressed on a lump of metal its weight, its origin,

and its responsibility. It converted the uncertain ingot into the decided coin, and the man of the old world no longer required the scale, like the pedantic Chinese, to measure every ounce he paid. Greece and Asia contended for the honor of the invention. The difference lay in the metal. Asia issued gold, Greece silver. Croesus, B. C. 560, struck gold, and Pheidon of Argos, silver, according to the Parian chronicle, three centuries before. Later, Asia coined silver also; declining Greece gold; and when Philip of Macedon found the gold mines of Mount Pangæum and issued gold staters, their seductive influence corrupted the orators of Athens and the statesmen of Greece.

Once invented, the improvement was rapid. At first, the device of an animal was seen on one side; the other had the irregular indentation, apparently the impress of the projection of the lower die to hold the gland-shaped lump while struck; for the Greeks were aware how the coin slipped under the hammer, although they could not invent either the ring or the collar to clutch the piece. This little trick was one of the last discoveries of the modern mint. By degrees, however, the irregular indentation became the regular square, and a device within it completed the reverse. Nor were the pieces regular in shape or exact in weight; they were sometimes double struck or cracked at the edge. The high relief of their devices, which gave them artistic beauty, impaired their public utility. They could not be piled or stacked, but could only be heaped, while the friction of daily use rapidly deteriorated their value. Hence coins like them are unsuited

for modern civilization. They have no more relation to it than the arrangements of Greek temples have to the requirements of churches or other public buildings. They were the counters of a nation of artists, in whose mind was deeply impressed the love of the beautiful, occasionally to the neglect of the useful. To the modern die engraver they have proved an invaluable aid to his art, and guided his taste as soon as it had emancipated itself from the thralldom of the imitation of Byzantine coinage.

For about eight hundred years, from the first coin of Greece or Asia to the days of the Roman Emperor Gallienus, the States of Greece enjoyed the right of coinage, while free, in all metals; after their subjection to the Imperial eagles of Rome, in brass and copper only. Coinage in the precious metals, an Imperial privilege, was the badge of a centralized sovereignty; the contemptible copper was left to the control of the local municipality. The conquests of Alexander the great had before this partly suppressed the civic devices, as in the principal towns of Europe and Asia, one type, his own regal one, was adopted, and the place of issue indicated by a device, a letter, or a monogram. His Greek successors continued the system as far as their power extended, and the Romans followed up the plan. The Greek series exhibits during the eight hundred years, coins of more than 1,060 towns and republics, and above 800 kings, and of each of those many varieties, supposed to amount to 60,000 pieces.

The monetary system, too, had its difficulties, as each town had its local issue; rarely does a countermark attest the adoption of the coinage of a city by its neighbor or its rival. The ancient traveller must in the course of a short journey have passed a small collection through his hand,

and constantly applied to the money changer, unless, as in some states of Europe, the change was given in miscellaneous pieces which were taken at their nominal value, their subdivisions. The drachm of the Æginian standard weighed 96 grains, its didrachm about 192. The Attic drachm was 67.5 grains, its didrachm 135, and tetradrachm 270 grains. The kings of Macedon used a drachm of 58 grains, and a tetradrachm of 232 grains. These are the principal monetary systems.

The coins principally found in cabinets are the didrachms and tetradrachms; the drachms are rarer; the smaller denominations, the obolos and its multiples, are still more so. Some are so small that they have been preserved with difficulty, or have escaped the eye. The devices of the mints were the heads of deities or heroes, sacred animals, arms and weapons. They often had relation to each other. In the silver coinage the skill of the artist was best shown in the tetradrachm, which is about the size of a florin or half crown; but it is wonderful what merit the Greek engraver evinced in Asiatic coins of electrum not larger than a sixpence. The name of the town always, of the annual magistrate often, of the artist seldom, appeared on the coins of the free states. When the space became too narrow, monograms were used, and at a later period, and exceptionally, dates. Kings, indeed, allowed the names of magistrates and cities on their coins, but artists were carefully excluded, and few have left their names behind them. Their names can be counted on the fingers, and one only, Theodotos of Clazomenæ, asserts his character. Yet they must have been as well known as the engravers of gems or hard stones, long lists of whom appear in classic authors and on works of ancient art. The Greek, occupied in political struggles and metaphys-

ical discussions, cared little for the history of the processes of the art, and the mint in particular was forgotten; a few scattered notices about coins are to be found in Hellenic literature, but no treatise on the subject.

Artists and their dies have alike passed into oblivion; for, although tens of thousands of these appliances must have been engraved, no certain ancient Greek die is known. Allowing that the same public authority which made them, also as certainly cancelled them, and admitting that they were easily broken and constantly renewed, yet the problem of their absence still remains unsolved. Iron, indeed, might perish through the oxidization of time, but bronze survives. Accident, fire, vicissitudes, and public calamities must have often buried the matrix and the mould, as well as the coin, in the depths of the earth.

Every small republic and principal town had its circulation, and the state of the whole Greek coinage was like that of the copper issue of England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when any tradesman might be his own mint master, and issue his peculiar token. To this is due the infinite variety of beautiful Hellenic coins, which, regarded as works of art, are metallic camei of a high order of merit; not so indestructible as engraved stones, but public and authentic productions of ancient art produced by rival artists.

The revival of the arts in Europe brought with it the desire of collecting.

Petrarch, in the fourteenth century, had collected a few Roman coins, which he presented to the Emperor Charles IV. Later the De Medici collected the museum and cabinets of Florence. The passion extended to kings and princes, and rich persons followed the fashion. In the

middle of the sixteenth century there were 1,000 known collections in Europe. The first important cabinet in England was that of Charles I, but the civil war dispersed or melted it. There were several collections in the seventeenth century, but the eighteenth was the period when the largest were formed.

The principal collectors were physicians. Meade had a celebrated collection, which went to the hammer; Sir Hans Sloane another, which was absorbed by the British Museum; William Hunter a third, now at Glasgow. Besides these the Pembroke and Devonshire collections were of later growth and less importance. In the present century the national collections were enriched by the additions of the coins of Cracherode and Payne Knight, distinguished for their fine condition, selections from those of Lord Northwick and Burgon, recently from that of Wigan, and the slow but continuous purchases at public sales, to which all the older collections have succumbed. If the taste for coins has not declined, the fashion of collecting them has, and the last of important private collections is that of the late General Fox. Cabinets may be as numerous, but their contents are less complete. Public museums ultimately attract all the unique and finer specimens. The private collector feels he cannot contend against national exchequers, and the pride of accumulating is thus extinguished. The coin once pigeon-holed never reappears in the market, and the collector might as well hope to obtain a lost Pleiad.

The study of Greek numismatics began with the publication of Goltzius in the sixteenth century, but it was not till 1762 that Pellerin engraved the first plate, in which the size, flaws and condition of the coin were indicated. Subsequent writers followed the example of this numis-

matist. Catalogues of the principal cabinets were also published—that of Dr. William Hunter, in 1782, with excellent engravings and descriptions by C. Combe; that of the national collections, in 1814, by Taylor Combe, his son, the plates drawn by Corbould and engraved by Moses. The collection bequeathed by Payne Knight was published from his own descriptions in Latin in 1830, since which time no catalogue has appeared from the Museum till the present year. Similar in plan, but with more critical remarks interspersed, Leake gave in 1854 his “Numismata Hellenica,” an account of his coin and electrotypes unaccompanied by engravings.

The catalogue of his coins of Italy of the Greek series of the Museum, published by Mr. Poole, follows the same general method of arrangement as the older catalogues, with the exception of outline wood-cuts of the coins, introduced into the text. These are fairly executed, but are certainly not finer as works of art than the figures of the coins of the Syrian kings, by Bartolozzi, or the engravings of the older catalogue by Moses. It seems to have been agreed among numismatists that the literature of the subject should be neglected, the compiler being content with describing each coin without tracing the history of the assignment, or the works in which each specimen has been successively published or engraved. It is to be regretted that numismatists have not followed the example of naturalists in this respect, as mere skeleton descriptions afford no clue to the learned labyrinth of the study. Another important point is the condition of a coin indicated in some catalogues by letters imperfectly seen, being marked by fainter lines.

In this country the refinement of collectors has attached great value to condition,

and increases the price of those in a beautiful state of preservation from pence to pounds. The sixteen volumes of Monnet, published from 1806–1837, are, notwithstanding the disparaging observations passed on them, the best guide to the collector. This work, originally compiled to aid the sale of sulphur impressions, although not so highly scientific, contained all that was required—the style, the size, the rarity, and the market value. In this the author was assisted by Rollin, the celebrated French coin dealer of the Rue Vivienne, at Paris.

Undoubtedly the most beautiful of the Greek series are the coins of Italy, especially those of Southern Italy, where the Greek colonist founded a new Hellas in the seventh century, B. C. There are noble specimens of art in the Peloponnesian coinage, and exquisite gems in those of Asia Minor, but the series of Italy and Sicily excel both. The standard of the currency was Attic, the art of the finest Greek, the tone the softest Italian. The earlier coins are remarkable. A thick bracteate kind of didrachm prevailed at the earliest period at Crotona, Metapontum, Sybaris, Posidonia, or Pæstum, and Tarentum. The type on one side was in relief, and the same in cuse or in intaglio on the other. The latter coins rapidly improved, and their art was only rivalled, if excelled, by that of Sicily. A series of numerous didrachms, no two alike, was issued in the third and fourth centuries B. C., from the mint of Tarentum. Taras, son of Neptune, and founder of the state, is represented by sea and land, riding on a dolphin, or mounted on a horse in several attitudes. The gold staters are also remarkably fine, and that on which the young Taras runs out of the sea to his father Neptune is as beautiful as it is rare. The didrachms of Heraclea, with the head

of Pallas and Hercules strangling the Nemean lion, are fine in style and wonderful in execution. Thurium, which succeeded Sybaris, and was founded by Athens, B. C. 444. struck didrachms of exquisite beauty, with Scylla on the helm of Minerva's head, and a bull rushing to butt.

Charming examples of the engraver's art are also found on the didrachms of Terrina, where Iris or Nike appears in many devices. The copper coins of Neapolis or Naples are remarkable for the beauty of their blue patina, produced by a volcanic soil. The coins of Northern Italy, Etruria, Latium, Umbria, are unwieldy masses of brass or copper, cast, not struck. The historical As of Servius Tullius is not found; it is a myth of the Lays of Rome. The heavy and inconvenient copper of Etruria and the surrounding territory is, after all, not much older than the third century B. C. Silver is limited to the town of Populonia; the rest is doubtful; Greek language disappears from the coins; the Etruscan appears. The coins of Samnium, issued during the Social or Marsic war, are silver, with Oscan legends, and belong to another system. There was no unity. The coins of Italy have been well engraved and amply illustrated. The Italians Borghesi, Carelli, Cavedoni, and Tessieri, were excellent numismatists, while the English Millingen has illustrated the history and types, and the German Mommson the Etruscan, Oscan, and Roman monetary systems.

The science of numismatics has been so far explored that great discoveries are exhausted, but the labor of cataloguing coins has not diminished. Catalogues are chiefly useful as subsidiary to the labors of the master minds like Eckhel or Mommson, who generalize such subjects, and group together the meaning of the devices and other minor points of these micro-

scopic objects of antiquity. Surrounded by an apparently eternal civilization, it is too often forgotten that so much of it is perishable. A coin may represent a reign, a space in time, or a people; it is buried, forgotten, and reappears. Not explaining itself, history, science, and literature are required for its illustration. It may add the name of an obscure town or an unknown prince to our knowledge, but no more. It satisfies curiosity with a portrait. In art, however, it is a little jewel. Its value has attracted the attention of forgers, and the discrimination of the difference between the true old specimen and its fictitious substitute demands a special gift of mind or a long experience.—*London Times.*

THE KOH-I-NOOR.—The following story is told concerning the Koh-i-noor captured in India: "The Koh-i noor was captured in this cheap way: In 1849 that well-known diamond became part of the spoil of the Anglo-Indian army, on the conquest and annexation of the Punjab, and being then estimated at \$1,255,000, there was great joy over the prize. Without consulting the army, Lord Gough and Sir Charles Napier, in command, audaciously presented the great diamond to Queen Victoria in the name of the combatants. It was not the generals' right to rob the army by bestowing the greatest of the spoils of war upon the Queen, nor ought she to have accepted it without seeing that the soldiers had been paid for it. From that time the Indian army have not received a shilling for the capture of the Koh-i-noor, and Victoria has retained the gem as her own personal property, instead of placing it among the crown jewels belonging to the British nation."

Miscellaneous.

The Holy Scriptures.

The Old Testament contains 39 books, 929 chapters, 29,214 verses, 593,435 words and 2,728,100 letters.

The New Testament contains 27 books, 260 chapters, 6,950 verses, 181,253 words, 838,380 letters.

The contents of the entire Bible are 66 books, 1,187 chapters, 31,714 verses, 778,692 words, 3,566,480 letters.

The middle chapter, and the least in the Bible, 137th psalm. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th psalm.

The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs.

The middle chapter is Job 29th.

The middle verse is the 17th of the 20th chapter of 2d Chronicles.

The least verse is the 1st of the 1st chapter of 1st Chronicles.

The middle book in the New Testament is 2d Thessalonians.

The middle chapters are Romans 13th and 15th.

The middle verse is the 17th of the 17th chapter of Acts.

The least verse is the 35th of the 11th chapter of John.

The word "and" occurs 35,543 times in the Old Testament, and 10,624 times in the New Testament.

The words "Jehovah" or "Lord," occurs 6,855 times in the Old Testament.

The word "its" occurs but once in the entire Bible, and that in Leviticus, 25th chapter and 5th verse.

The word "hats" occurs but once—Daniel, 3d chapter and 21st verse.

The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters of the alphabet, I and J considered as one.

The word "Lord," or "God" occurs nowhere in the book of Esther, and only twice in the Epistle of James.

The 18th chapter of 2d Kings and the 27th chapter of Isaiah are alike.

A day's journey was 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ miles.

A Sabbath-day's journey was about two-thirds of a mile.

Ezekiel's reed was 11 feet, nearly.

A cubit is 23 inches, nearly.

A hand-breadth was 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

A finger's breadth was 1 inch.

A shekel of silver was about 50 cents.

A shekel of gold, \$8.09.

A talent of silver was \$516.82.

A talent of gold was \$11,800.

A piece of silver, or a penny, was 43 cents.

A farthing was 3 cents.

A gerah was 1 cent.

A mite was 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

A homer contains 68 gallons 5 pints.

A bin was 1 gallon 2 pints.

A firkin was 7 pints.

An omer was 6 pints.

A cab was 3 pints.

A log was $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.

A curious fungus, named *Polyporus Fomentarius*, grows in Southern Germany which, when dried, resembles thick flannel, and is an article of commerce, under the name of German tinder. At a recent meeting of fungologists, in England, the Rev. Dr. Berkeley exhibited a very warm cap which had been made out of the material.

At the recent meeting of the British Association, Dr. Burdon Sanderson read a paper detailing some experiments in *Dionaea muscipula*, the Venus Fly-trap, which confirmed a previous theory that a voltaic current existed in the leaves, and, therefore, that the irritable motion in this and similar cases in other plants is due to electricity.

Cutting and Polishing Diamonds.

The art of cutting and polishing diamonds is supposed to have originated in Asia at a very early period, but was first introduced into Europe by Louis Berquen, of Bruges, about the middle of the fifteenth century. He accidentally discovered that rubbing two diamonds together caused an abrasion of their surfaces, and from this soon deduced the art as it is now practiced. The process of polishing and cutting, as I observed in Amsterdam, is very slow and tedious, nearly every part of it, from the delicacy and exactness required, needing to be done by hand. The preparation of a single diamond demands two months of continuous labor; and the famous Pitt or Regent diamond underwent two years of constant manipulation before it was complete. In the mills one diamond is employed upon another, each being cemented into the ends of a handle, and a model of lead being taken of the gem to be cut, which determines the faces. The stones are then rubbed together with a strong pressure, and held over a metal box with a double bottom, the upper bottom being perforated with small holes, through which the diamond dust falls. The dust is of such value that it is very carefully collected, and, after mixture with vegetable oil, is used for polishing the gem upon a steel or cast-iron plate, which is made to revolve rapidly, sometimes by steam, as I have said, but generally by means of a treadle. The diamond-powder is also used for cutting. It is placed upon a steel wire or saw, and this, drawn swiftly backward and forward, makes the required incision. When a large piece of the stone is to be removed, it is occasionally done with a fine chisel or hammer; but this so increases the danger of breaking or destroying the gem, that it is rarely resorted to.

No kind of work can be nicer or more difficult, for the workman must thoroughly understand the character and peculiarity of diamonds, and must have an absolute knowledge of the cleavage planes before he can be trusted with their manipulation.

New plants continue to be discovered in various parts of the American continent. Dr. Asa Gray contributes to the "Proceedings of the American Academy" descriptions of two new genera,—one named *Brewerina*, after Prof. Brewer, of California, from whence the plant comes. It is allied to the *Silenes*. The other is a Mexican plant, allied to the *Pentstemons*, and comes from Mexico. It is named *Ghiesbreghtia*. Among the species we have a new *Leatherwood* from California, named *Dirca Occidentalis*, making now two. The eastern one, *Dirca Palustris*, is well known. The new *Yellow Columbine* (*Aquilegia Chrysantha*) from Northern Texas, is described here. There are eight other new species, besides some new names for older things.

In the eruption of Vesuvius, A.D. 79, the scoria and ashes vomited forth far exceeded the entire bulk of the mountain; while in 1660, Etna disgorged more than twenty times its own mass. Vesuvius has sent its ashes as far as Constantinople, Syria, and Egypt. It hurled stones, eight pounds weight, to Pompeii, a distance of six miles, while similar masses were tossed up 2,000 feet above its summit. Cotopaxi has projected a block, 109 cubit yards in volume, a distance of nine miles; and Sumbawa, 1815, during the most terrible eruption on record, sent its ashes as far as Java, a distance of 300 miles of surface; and out of a population of 12,000 souls only twenty escaped.

Deep-Sea Discoveries.

One of the discoveries made by the deep-sea soundings of the Challenger expedition, which recently arrived at Bermuda from the Azores, is a mountain ridge that extends from Greenland to the mouth of the Amazon, on the coast of South America, and includes the whole volcanic region of the Azores. This ridge is nowhere more than two miles below the ocean level. Toward the east it is divided between Europe and Africa by an immense valley from two and a half to three miles in depth. The valley reaches north to the equator as far as the fifty-second degree of latitude. If this valley were not under water it would present a view of whose magnificence no conception can be formed, for in the north it extends to the gigantic mountains of Cape Verde and the Canary Islands, the latter of which, with the Peak of Teneriffe, would be 26,000 feet high, Maderia would command, from a height of 26,000 feet, a view of this valley and another stretching toward the Mediterranean. On the western side of the ridge is a vast undulating plain, which extends at an average depth of two and three-quarter miles to the American coast. Bermuda, which rises now only 200 feet above the ocean level, is in fact an isolated column 15,000 feet high, which would overlook an amphitheatre of at least 500 miles in radius. Between the West Indies and America, and in the vicinity of the Azores the water is of uniform depth and warmth. There was not much animal life found in the great depths. The blind crustacea appear to belong to the western hemisphere; to this part these animals require many eyes. A sea gurnel was caught which, singular to relate, had four eyes, two of which were in the front knee-joints.

Diseases of Artisans.

Gilders are subject to mercurial affections. They suffer from giddiness, asthma, and very frequently from partial paralysis, which often induces a peculiar kind of stammering. As might be supposed, they frequently suffer from unpleasant ulcers in the mouth, which is a true salivation.

Miners, in the quicksilver mines suffer from vertigo, palsy and convulsions, and survive generally but a few months.

Pottery-glaziers, who use lead to a great extent, suffer a condition very similar to that described above, with the addition of dropsy, loss of teeth and enlarged spleen. Palsy of the limbs, especially of the arms, is a common effect of poison from lead. Consumption is common among these workers.

Glass-blowers are the victims of those affections produced by sudden vicissitudes of temperature, rheumatism and various inflammations. Their eyes are weak, while they are generally thin and delicate.

Stonecutters inhale the sharp particles, which are apt to produce disease of the lungs.

Plasterers suffer from the gases disengaged and from excessive moisture. They suffer very much from labored breathing, have wan, pallid visages, and they digest badly.

Filers are short lived. Whether the metal be brass or iron, the fine sharp particles make their way into the lungs, where they develop disease, sometimes asthma, sometimes consumption.

Workers in wool and cotton breathe a close, unchanged atmosphere, while their lungs are filled with the irritating dust of the material upon which they work.

An excellent opportunity is now offered to the historian and antiquarian to obtain an extremely interesting collection of letters of General Washington, and some well-authenticated articles worn and used by him. The letters consist of the correspondence of General Washington with Colonel Burgess Ball, of Virginia, who was his aid-de-camp during the revolution, and married his niece, Frances Washington. The correspondence is quite full and complete, and reveals many interesting traits in the private life of the "Father of his Country." Among the other objects formerly owned by Washington are his epaulets and his Masonic apron, the genuineness of which the owners are prepared to guarantee. Those desirous of learning more in regard to these articles can do so by addressing Mrs. Mary B. Ball, Owl Run Post-office, Fauquier county, Virginia.

In a paper by Dr. Horn upon the Coleoptera of the Rocky Mountains, published in Professor HAYDEN'S report on the geology of Montana, an interesting generalization is made in reference to the relations of external physical conditions to the structure of insects. The doctor remarks that from an examination of a large number of specimens *Eleodes*, as also of other genera, he finds that the higher the elevation, or the colder the climate, the rougher and more deeply sculptured is the species, and that the smooth forms are to be found at lower latitudes, or in places nearer the level of the sea. For this reason he has no difficulty in establishing many so-called species of *Eleodes* and *Omus* as geographical races of smaller numbers of species, and in which the law referred to is clearly indicated.

He also finds that species every where in our fauna appear to be distributed on lines of country presenting as nearly as possible similar meteorological conditions.

Thus many Oregon forms extend southward into California, gradually seeking a higher mountain habitat as the region becomes warmer. Two species *Trogosoma harrisii* and *Phryganophilus collaris*—extend their habitat from Maine to California, following the cooler regions westward from Maine through the Canadas and Red River region, thence northward nearly to Sitka. From the latter point southward to Oregon both occur at the ordinary level, and rising as a more southern region is reached, until, at the latitude of Visalia, they occur only a short distance below the snow line, at an altitude of from ten to twelve thousand feet.

Raising an Old War-Ship.

The hull of the British frigate *Augusta*, which was captured by the Continental forces, set on fire and sunk on the 24th of October, 1779, between Hog Island and the Jersey shore, in Delaware Bay, has lately been raised and a number of relics taken from the wreck. Submarine workers were employed, chains were passed beneath the old frame, and attached to canal-boats on either side. The latter were partially filled with water, the cables passing under the hull of the wreck were tightened, and the water pumped out of the boats. The latter becoming buoyant rose up, and with them the remains of the *Augusta*, which were finally towed to Gloucester. Among the articles taken from the hulk were three old-fashioned guns, a number of skulls, remnants of the ill-fated British; sixty tons of shot, used in the small smooth-bore cannon of the time; a great quantity of Kestledge ballast, consisting of blocks of cast-iron, and a large number of relics, which will be highly prized. Among these were a silver spear, marked "H. W., 1748," a fat old bulls-eye watch, with its works eaten

up by rust, a number of guineas with a raised profile of George III., and some silver coin dated 1760. The frame of the *Augusta* is of Irish oak, and the wood is sound and proof against decomposition.

This vessel was one of the fleet—the *Age*, the *Roebuck*, and the *Meslim* being her consorts—that attempted the bombardment of Philadelphia in 1779.

Antiquity of Man.

In the issue of *Nature* for October, Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace indulges in some speculations of the probable antiquity of the human species which may well startle even those who have long since come to the conclusion that 6,000 years carry us but a small way back to the original homo. And, says the *Nature*, in fact, in Mr. Wallace's reckoning, 6,000 years are but as a day. He begins by complaining of the timidity of scientific men when treating of this subject, and points out the fallacy of always preferring the lowest estimate in order to be "on the safe side." He declares that all the evidence tends to show that the safe side is probably with the large figures. He reviews the various attempts to determine the antiquity of human remains or works of art, and finds the bronze age in Europe to have been pretty accurately fixed at 3,000 to 4,000 years ago; the stone age of the Swiss Lake dwellings at from 5,000 to 7,000 years, "and an indefinite anterior period." The burnt brick found sixty feet deep in the Nile alluvium indicates an antiquity of 20,000 years; another fragment at seventy-two feet gives 30,000 years. "A human skeleton found at a depth of sixteen feet below four buried forests superposed upon each other, has been calculated by Dr. Dowler to have an antiquity of 50,000 years." But all these estimates pale before those which Kent's Cavern at Torquay

legitimizes. Here the drip of the stalagmite is the chief factor of our computations, giving us an upper floor which "divides the relics of the last two or three thousand years from a deposit full of the bones of extinct mammals, many of which, like the reindeer, mammoth, and glutton, indicate an arctic climate." Names cut into this stalagmite more than two hundred years ago are still legible; in other words, where the stalagmite is twelve feet thick and the drip still very copious, not more than a hundredth of a foot has been deposited in two centuries—a rate of five feet in 100,000 years. Below this, however, we have a thick, much older, and more crystalline (i. e., more slowly formed) stalagmite, beneath which again, "in a solid breccia, very different from the cave earth, undoubted works of art have been found." Mr. Wallace assumes only 100,000 years for the upper floor, and about 250,000 for the lower, and adds 150,000 for the intermediate cave earth, by which he arrives at the "sum of half a million as representing the years that have probably elapsed since flints of human workmanship were buried in the lowest deposits of Kent's Cavern."

Contracts have finally been made for the erection of the New York Museum of Natural History in Manhattan Square, the foundation for a portion of which has been dug for some time. Bids were originally opened in March last, but under the new charter, and in the organization of the Park Department, various questions arose which prevented further progress in the work. It is now stated that the mason-work for the first section has been let for \$127,000, the granite for \$123,000, and the iron for \$168,000, being an aggregate of \$418,000.

Fishes' Eyes.

The eye in the lancelet and the hag is of simplest form, consisting of a nerve termination coated with black pigment and capable only of perceiving the presence of light. In young lampreys, while they remain buried in the sand, the eyes are very minute and undeveloped; but when they reach the adult period these organs are developed to an average size. In the majority of fishes the eyes are admirably adapted to the purposes of vision in water, and in the four eyed fish of South America not only are the eyes very perfect, but they are also divided into an upper and lower portion, giving them the appearance of two pupils and enabling the fish to pursue its prey when out of as well as when under the water. In the cat-fishes the greatest variety is found in the size and arrangement of the visual organs, from the large eyes on the sides to minute ones placed on the upper surface of the head. In some members of the family, they are so buried under the skin or encased in folds of cartilage as to be of little or no use.—*Graphic*.

IMPORTANT.—The brain is in two halves; one may retire from active service and the other go on. We have two legs, two arms, two eyes. We may lose one and not go off the track. But we have only one stomach, and if that gets off the track the whole man is knocked into a heap.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Mr. Sabin has made the issues of his AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST, during the past year, of great interest to all lovers of “Notes and Queries,” and literary antiquities in general. We have before us the bound volume for 1871, a goodly octavo, which should be welcome to many a library. We notice that it is dedicated “to Thomas F. Donnelly” (our “book worm”) “a young but earnest coadjutor in the world of letters.”—*Evening Mail*,

The AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST is invaluable to those who wish to be kept acquainted with events of permanent interest in the literary world, and particularly to those who are interested in the curiosities of literature. The November number contains an account of the libraries of Chicago—those which were destroyed and those which were saved—and is rich in selected articles, notes, and items.—*N. Y. Methodist*.

The January number of this Literary Register is on our table. This number has fifty-six pages of varied contents of peculiar interest to the student of literature and the lover of books. The department of “Notes and Queries” is well filled in the number before us, embracing a wide range of topics, such as bibliographical, historical, antiquarian etc. The critical notices of old and new books, scattered through the extensive catalogues of publications, is interesting to every person of literary inclination.—*Austin (Texas) Democrat*.

Sabin's BIBLIOPOLIST contains its usual literary feast of notes and queries, some interesting correspondence, and catalogues of rare and valuable works. We extract the following, throwing light on the topography of New York City two hundred and ten years ago.—*Jewish Messenger*,

The Bibliopolist circulates largely among the book buyers, and is an admirable advertising medium for Booksellers and Publishers. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

Requests for Catalogues solicited, which will be mailed to any address free of charge.

J. SABIN & SONS,

84 Nassau, St. Newark.

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Has a large stock of all kinds of Postage—Newspaper, Bill and Telegraphic—Stamps and Envelopes—and sells them very cheap per dozen, hundred and thousand. Quantities of good Stamps are always bought and exchanged, and offers or invoices on approval always accepted.

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I have a few in very fine condition for sale. Warranted genuine—no re-prints.
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The above prices include the postage and safely packed, no extra charge.
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Joseph J. Casey,

Editor of the

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY,

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Is very anxious to receive for inspection, or for purchase at highest cash prices, all kinds of

United States and Confederate Locals, Western Franks,

and Envelopes of all countries and issues.

Mr. Casey contemplates founding a PHILATELIC SOCIETY & LIBRARY, and therefore seeks the co operation of all Amateurs.

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Has on hand a large Stock of

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Catalogues 15 cents. Packet lists free.

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A. G. CRAIG,

414 Geary St.,

SAN FRANCISCO.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

BELVIDERE, ILL., OCTOBER 1, 1876.

NO. 1

TO OUR PATRONS.

On resuming the business of a Curiosity Hunter, we find it necessary to have an easier method than written letters to communicate with the friends and collectors who wish to correspond with us. Hence, this little paper which will be published promptly on the first of each month and will be sent gratuitously to all who send us their names and to those of their friends with whose address they favor us. With many thanks for past favors, and hopes for the future, we are,

Faithfully Yours,
ANDRUS.

We offer a small list of stamps and coins this month. If there is any thing in the line of curiosities that any who may receive this are desirous of obtaining, we should be pleased to receive a list of wants with the highest price you are willing to pay for the articles you want, when we will use our best endeavors to hunt them up. Per Contra. If you have any curiosities you wish to dispose of, we will try and find you customers for them, and you will send us your lowest prices for the same. Our columns will always be open to collectors who are desirous of advertising their wants at the rate of five cents per line of forty letters, cash in advance to the insertion of the advertisement. Advertisements of stamp and coin dealers will be inserted at 50 cents per line, and invariably in advance. The advertisements of all other dealers in curiosities, works of art, books, etc., will be received at ten cents per line, cash in advance and five copies of the paper will be allowed the advertiser for each line of advertisement, thus interesting each advertiser in securing as large a circulation as

possible. If any of our friends notice in their reading articles, they deem interesting to our readers, we hope they will forward them to us. Any firms or persons having in charge the sales of collections of coins, Bric a Brac, or curiosities of any kind, at Auction, will receive a free advertisement not exceeding ten lines or four hundred letters. If in excess of such space, five cents per line will be charged for each line of such excess and a proportionate number of extra copies forwarded in wrappers ready for distribution. We hope all having charge of such sales will not fail to accommodate us with such notices.

NOTICES OF SALES AT AUCTION.

Among the rarities of the Lewis White collection of coins, sold April 17 and 18, were the following of which we quote prices:

U. S. dollars, 1794, one for \$49 and one for \$38; 1851 and 1852, \$26 each; 1839, flying eagle, \$29; halves 1796 \$16, 1797 \$17; quarters 1823 \$12 50, 1827, very fine \$67 50; dime of 1804, \$10 50; half-dime of Martha Washington, 1792, \$19; cents, 1793, wreath, \$11 75, 1799, fine, \$22, 1804 \$8 50; silver medals, Peace of Westphalia, 1848, \$20; Mexican "Todo Renacimiento," 1809, \$15; 1694, Carolina elephant penny, \$20 50.

At the sale of May 2, 3, and 4, the following prices are noticeable:

George III. silver medal, given to Indian allies, \$13 50; ancient gold coins of Honorius and Valentinianus III., \$5 00 each; quarter dollar, 1823, \$20 25; 1856, nickel cent, \$2 38; cent of 1809, fine, \$5 38. There were about 2,000 lots, and the whole collection realized \$1,100.

PRICE LIST OF STAMPS.

For sale by D. A. K ANDRUS, Belvidere, Illinois. All orders for less than 25 cents must contain stamp for reply. In sending money by mail have the amount in as few pieces as possible, with unused postage stamps instead of pennies. Sums of \$2 and upward should be sent by P. O. Order or Registered letter.

	UNUSED.	
1 Penny Green Virgin Islands	06	2 1/2 " 59, red.....
1 " Red Trinidad	06	3 " 67 green 2 types 1
1 " Black, St Vincents	06	4 " 59, blue 2.....
1 " Black, St Lucas	06	7 " green
1 " Red, St Helena	06	7 " orange
1 " Pink, St Christopher.....	06	9 " 65, violet.....
1 " Carmine, Sierra Leone.....	06	9 " 59, yellow 2.....
1/4 " Red, New Zealand.....	03	
1 " Red, Nevis	06	
1 " Red, Natal.....	07	
1/2 " Buff, Malta.....	03	
1 Cent Black Monte Video.....	05	
1/4 Sch. Heligoland.....	03	
1 Pf 1875 Heligoland.....	04	
2 Pf 1875 — "	01	
1 Lepta, Greece.....	02	
1 Penny, Grenada.....	06	
1 " Bahamas.....	07	
10 Reïs, Brazil.....	03	
2 Centimes, French Republic.....	01	
1 Cent, British Guiana.....	06	
1 Krentzer, Blue, Austrian newspaper		
Head of Mercury.....	06	
10 " Yellow,	50	
50 " Red	50	
50 " Rose	50	
1 Rr Amra Black, square.....	150	
1 " " Blue	8	
2 " " Green.....	100	
2 " " Brown.....	10	
4 " " Red.....	200	
1 Anna 1863, Green, Deccan.....	50	

HAMBURG.

Figure of value in centre.

Wmk. a curved line, except 1 1/2 grey and 1 1/2 rose. Sets of these stamps come nicely cancelled to order by P M, to collectors.

1/2 schilling, 1859 black.....	2
1 " brown.....	3
1 1/4 " 64, violet 2 types 2	5
1 1/4 " grey.....	12
1 1/2 " 66, rose.....	4

2 " 59, red.....	4
2 1/2 " 67 green 2 types 1	6
3 " 59, blue 2.....	5
4 " green	4
7 " orange	20
7 " 65, violet.....	5
9 " 59, yellow 2.....	6

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1866-7. Figure of value in centre.

The present 1/2, 2, 4 sch. have wmk. of c

1/2 schilling, black.....	4
1 1/2 " violet.....	10
1 1/2 " rose.....	5
2 " orange	6
3 " blue.....	8
4 " green.....	8
7 " violet	10

LUBECK.

1859. Eagle. value in corners.

Wmk. scattered flowers, also no wmk

1/2 schilling, lilac.....	1
1 " orange 2.....	2
2 " brown	2 1/2
2 1/2 " rose.....	4
4 " green 2.....	4

Arms, oval. value at sides.

1/2 schilling, 1863, green.....	1
1 " orange	1 1/2
1 1/2 " 64, brown.....	2
2 " 63, rose.....	2 1/2
2 1/2 " blue	4
4 " brown.....	1 1/2
1 1/2 " 65, rect, mauve	1 1/2

Besides the stamps above mentioned we have a very large assortment of other stamps. If you do not see what you want here, send list of wants and we will price and return.

CURIOSITIES WANTED.

Having just started our Curiosity Shop anew, we are now desirous of obtaining

good stock, principally of the following articles, for collections of which, if brought to our store, we will endeavor to pay the highest cash rates:

United States and Foreign Coins, Medals, and tokens, both ancient and modern, in metals.

United States and Foreign Postage, Revenue, and Local Stamps, used or new.

Second-hand books, especially illustrated volumes, works of standard authors, and early American and English books in good preservation and binding.

Pictures of all kinds, including Paintings, Engravings, printed Portraits, Photographs, Stereoscopic views, Chromos, etc. Autograph letters of Authors, Statesmen, Generals, Kings, Queens, and other noted scientific and public characters.

Continental bills, Shiplasters, Considerate bills and bonds.

Minerals, Shells and Indian relics.

Idols, Images, curiously carved articles, and other Antiquities when not too bulky

will pay the following prices in cash or trade for stamps named.

Stevens' D. S.	1 cent, red, each	50
"	2 " " "	20
"	4 " " "	75
"	1 " black "	05
"	2 " " "	10
"	4 " " "	15
" Demas	1 " " "	05
"	2 " " "	08
"	4 " " "	05
" Demas & Co	1 " " "	04
"	2 " " "	05
"	4 " " "	05
Dr. T. H. & Co	4 " " "	25
Planet, D M	1 " lake "	05
Planet, Pieters & Co	4 " black "	25
"	6 " " "	100
W. W. S. (Stevens' eye water)	1 et green	05

Brandreth's Pills	Alcocks large 1 et black	12
A. B. C.	1 " black	05
Collings Bros	1 " "	08
Curtis & Brown	2 " "	12
Drake, P H & Co	2 " "	75
"	4 " "	05
Fetridge & Co	Balm of 1,000 flowers	2 cents, red 25
Hemhold's	3 " green	05
"	4 " black	05
Henry Jno. F.	2 " violet	35
"	4 " bistre	100
Hollaway's Pills	1 " blue	05
Home Stomach Bitters	Co 4 " "	05
Hoofland German Bitters	4 " black	60
Hostetter's Bitters	6 " "	50
Howe's Arabian Cure	4 " blue	05
Husband's, T J	2 " red	05
"	2 " purple	100
Jackson's Stomach Bitters	4 " green	10
Kelley's old Cabin Bitter	4 " black	25
Kenset, T & Co.	1 " green	125
Kerr, Dr J C.	4 " blue	12
"	6 " black	60
Lipman's German Bitters	4 " blue	12
Littlefield Alvah	4 " green	25
Marsden, T. W.	2 " blue	175
"	4 " black	50
McLane's Liver Pills	1 " "	125
Mercado & Seully	2 " "	100
Mishler's Herb Bitters	6 " "	35
Morehead's Neurodyne	4 " "	250
Perl, Dr. M	6 " "	100
Poland's, White Pine	4 " blk orgr'n	06
Rose, J B.	4 " black	11
Schuetz Bitter Cordial	4 " "	05
Seelye, Dr D M & Co	8 " "	15
Soule's Oriental Pills	1 " blue	04
Swaine's James	8 " orange	05
" William	6 " "	150
U S Proprietary medicine	4 " black	05
"	6 " "	60
West India Bitters	4 " "	25
Wilder, Edward, & Co, 1 & 4	" each	12
Wilson's Rev. E A Remedy		
Winslow's Mrs. infant	1 " black	25
Zeilin, J H & Co	2 " red	25

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

BELVIDERE, ILL., NOVEMBER 1, 1876.

NO. 2

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A
REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP.
REMEMBER THIS AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.
—ANDRUS.

We want an agent (who can furnish
good references) to handle our sheets of
stamps, in every city and town in the
world. Liberal commissions allowed.

All stamps are warranted genuine or
money refunded.

Parties who have ceased to collect, and
those who are favored with more than one
copy of this journal, will confer a great
favor by handing it to some person who
may be interested in our business.

Correspondents will oblige us by using
centennial envelopes if convenient, and
we will be happy to return the favor.

We offer a small list of stamps and
albums this month. If there is anything
in the line of curiosities that any who
desire these are desirous of obtaining, we
would be pleased to receive a list of
wants with the highest price you are
willing to pay for the articles you want,
when we will use our best endeavors to
satisfy them up. Per Contra. If you
have any curiosities you wish to dispose
of we will try and find you customers
for them, if you will send us your lowest
prices for the same. Our columns will al-
ways be open to collectors who are desir-
ous of advertising their wants at the rate
of five cents per line of forty letters.
Cash previous to the insertion of the ad-
vertisement. Advertisements of stamp
and coin dealers will be inserted at 50
cents per line, cash invariably in advance.
The advertisements of all other dealers
in curiosities, works of art, books, etc.,
will be received at ten cents per line, cash
in advance and five copies of the paper
will be allowed the advertiser for each

line of advertisement, thus interesting
each advertiser in securing as large a cir-
culation as possible. If any of our
friends notice in their reading, articles
they deem interesting to our readers, we
hope they will forward them to us. Any
firms or persons having in charge the
sales of collections of coins, Bric a Bric,
or curiosities of any kind, at auction, will
receive a free advertisement not exceeding
ten lines or four hundred letters. If in
excess of such space, five cents per line
will be charged for each line of such ex-
cess and a proportionate number of extra
copies forwarded in wrappers ready for
distribution. We hope all having charge
of such sales will not fail to accommodate
us with such notices.

TO THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

I have in my cabinet a piece of green stone
worked into a form resembling a rolling-pin
about twelve inches long, three inches in
diameter at the center and two inches at
the ends. It is very smooth and true, and
our marble cutter says, "It is a fine job."
It was found near Brimley's, Ohio, by Mr.
Francis Mitchell, and presented by him to
me. Can any one enlighten me through
these columns as to its probable use?

F. L. HEASB.

A REQUEST.—If you have no use for this
paper please hand it to a friend.

NOVEMBER LIST OF PACKETS.

(A 3 cent stamp must accompany each order)

No. 1 contains 35 varieties of used Euro-
pean stamps. Price 10 cents.

No. 2 contains 20 obsolete stamps, all
different. Price 10 cents.

No. 3 contains 15 unused stamps, all differ-
ent. Price 10 cents.

No. 4 contains 7 unused stamps, including
Roumania, Spanish, Heligoland, Confederate
States, etc. Price 15 cents.

No. 5 contains one each of 15 different
countries, very good. Price 10 cents.

No. 6 contains 50 varieties of used Euro-
pean stamps. Price 15 cents.

No. 7 contains 35 obsolete European
stamps, all different. Price 15 cents.

No. 8 contains 20 unused stamps, all different. Price 15 cents.

No. 9 contains 15 varieties, including New South Wales, Brazil, Victoria, 90 cts United States, etc. Price 15 cents.

No. 10 contains 100 splendidly mixed European stamps. Price 15 cents.

No. 11 contains 15 varieties, including Finland, Egypt, Grenada, St. Vincent, Jamaica, New Zealand, etc. Price 20 cents.

No. 12 contains 200 finely mixed European stamps. Price 20 cents.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere.

We have a few specimens of the American Corn Packers' Association stamp at 10 cents each. Buy one and if you are not pleased with it you can return it and get your money again. D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

DANIEL WEBSTER'S PAPERS.

The papers left by Daniel Webster were presented to the State Historical Society of New Hampshire, on Wednesday. They include many hundreds of letters, documents and papers, some of them relating to John Adams, James Monroe, and most of the prominent statesmen who were contemporaneous with Webster. The correspondence relating to the difficulty between Webster and Randolph, the eulogies in manuscript upon Adams and Jefferson, and the complete original draft of the Hulseman letter and papers kindred to it are among them. There are also many papers containing the original notes of Webster's most famous senatorial and forensic arguments. Since the death of Mr. Fletcher Webster the documents have been in the keeping of the Hon. Peter Harvey of Boston, an intimate friend of Mr. Webster, and they were presented by him to the society.

Correspondents will confer a favor by furnishing us the names of the Druggists and Postmasters of the cities and towns in which they live.

RARE ENGLISH COINS.

Although there are scarcely any English coins which are equal in rarity to some of the earliest emissions of Greece and Rome, there are nevertheless a few, the prices realized for which at collectors sales give evidence of their great value in the eyes of numismatists. Thus gold coins of Cunobeline have sold for as much as five pounds; and a penny of King Baldred was once knocked down for thirteen pounds. A good specimen of King Biornwolf's penny was sold in 1824, for £10 15s 0d; and a penny of Alfred

has brought as much as £40. The coins of Anlaf, Edgar, Barthacnut, and Edward the Elder, are also scarce. In 1800 a gold penny of Henry III. brought £5 10s. 0d.; and a proof groat of Edward II., in 1830, £11 5s. 0d. Sovereigns of Henry VII., and Perkin Warbeck's groats are very rare; and Elizabeth's shilling, of 1558, bearing a key as a mint-mark, frequently fetches as much as £15 10s. 0d. During the Civil Wars money was coined in very considerable variety; and thus happens that some of King Charles's pieces are of great value in the present day. Chief among them are the "Oxford Crown," the 20s. piece of 1644, and the half-crown of the first coinage with Arabic numerals on the reverse. Some of the crowns, half-crowns, and shillings of the Commonwealth are also scarce, but perhaps the scarcest English coin of all is what is known as "the petition crown" of Charles II., a specimen of which, 1832, was sold for £225. The only really rare varieties of the Queen Anne's farthing, are the issues bearing on the reverse Britannia under an arch, or figure of Peace in a car, with the legend "Pax missa per obem." The other kinds are all more or less common, in spite of the vulgar belief to the contrary. — *English Paper.*

COINS, STAMPS AND CURIOSITIES FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Advertisements under this head five cents per line (about 40 letters) cash in advance.

Wanted to exchange fossils, fresh water shells, &c. for other specimens.

F. J. CANDLER, Molino, Ill.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE, by J. B. Upton, Rockford, Illinois.

RADIATES.

- X *Streptoplasma corniculatum*,
- Chaetetes Lycoberdon*,
- X *Halysites catenulata*,
- X *Receptaculites Oweni*,
globularis,

GASTEROPODS.

- Buccania bidorsata*,
- Deltbyris lynx*,
- Holopea obliqua*
paludiniformis,
- Leptana alternata*,
- Marchisonia bicincta*

" bellicinto,
 scula levata,
 narotomaria Lenticularis,
 " rotalvides,
 " ambezuu,
 " subtilistrata,
 pentamerus oblongus,
 ellinomia ventricosa,
 " nasuta,
 bicula flosa,
 bonychia ainygdalina,
CEPHALOPODS.
 dooceras maznrentum
 " approximatam,
 " protelforme,
 thocesa magnarentum,
 " Jencem,
 " vertebrate,
 ritbecera constrictortritum,
 thotsephis succidens,
 alalophycus simple,
 ktoparn elegantata,
 chizorerinus nodus.

COAL MEASURES.
 annularia Inflat,
 " sphinophylloides,
 " chrinat,
 canthotelson Stirupsoni,
 ceopteris cannaefonis,
 aphoteria armizera,
 ariledis tutesculatus,
 epidostrobos oblongitalius,
 europteris hirsuta,
 " Loechii,
 ceopteris arterescens,
 phenophyllum emarginatum,
 phenopteris,
 cynocarpus, Noeggorathii
 named fossils of the Trenton Period,
 tern concretions, Minerals and Inelsted
 dian Pottery.

WANTED—Foreign and U. S. Coins and
 stamps, Confederate and Continental money;
 rare books, shells, coral, minerals, fossils,
 mediar relics and curiosities of all kinds.
 Persons having any of the above for sale
 please address,
F. J. CANDEE,
 Moline, Ill.

DEALERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.
 Advertisements under this head (If of
 stamps or coin dealers 50 cents per line of 40
 letters) Ten cents per line in advance.

Wm. P. BROWN, 145 Nassau St., N. Y.
 City, Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage
 stamps, old coins and other curiosities.
 Send for circular and state where this ad-
 vertisement was noticed.

John W. Hazeltine, 1225 Chestnut St.
 Philadelphia. Dealer in Coins, Autographs,
 Continental, Colonial and Confederate Pa-

per Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins
 for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of
 Continental and Colonial Paper Money, \$1.50
 Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50
 cents, send stamp for list of Centennial
 Medals; Centennial Relic, A Colonial Note
 of Pennsylvania dated 1776. Genuine, 50
 cents. Please state where you saw this.

Maximillian Dimes..... 60 cents
 " 1/4 " 75 " "
 1856 U S 25 cents 35 " "
 American cents from 1830 to 1856 at 5 cents
 Postage free 8 cts each. D. A. K. ANDRUS,
 Belvidere, Ill.

BOOKS FOR EXCHANGE AND SALE.

Advertisements under this head 5 cents
 per line (about 40 letters) cash in advance.

FOR SALE.—Chambers' Encyclopedia, lat-
 est revised edition, 10 vols., sheep, new,
 \$33.00, (full price \$47.50.) Same in cloth
 \$28.00, (price \$40.00.) Same in 5 vols., sheep,
 \$22.00, (price \$31.25.) Above delivered free.
 Latta's Surgery, 3 vols., Edinburgh, 1795
 \$3.00; Edinburgh New Dispensary, 1796;
 \$1.25; Samuel Cooper's Surgery, 1828, \$1.00;
 Cooper's Naval Hist. U. S. vol. 2, 85c.;
 Chambers' Cycl. Edg. Literature, vols. 2,
 \$1.75; Greeley's Amer. Conflict, vol. 1,
 \$2.50; Headley's War of Rebellion, vol. 2,
 \$1.75 Or will buy complimentary vols. to
 last four named. Portrait Gallery of eminent
 Men and Women, with Biographies, (in num-
 bers unbound) \$10.00, cost \$20.00.
REV. G. S. HUBBS, Clinton, Wis

TO EXCHANGE OR SELL.—Jones & Scud-
 ders Materia Medica and Therapeutics,
 \$4.00; also the Eclectic practice by Newton
 & Powell, both good. Want Watson's
 latest editon, 2 years, 1874 and 5, of the
 "American Observer," a Homœopathic
 monthly, \$2.50 for the two volumes. Clin-
 ical uses of Electricity by Reynolds, 75c.
 Address W. Watson, M. D., New Holland,
 Illinois

WANTED.

Alabama, California, Oregon and Neva-
 da State Revenues, as well as those of all
 foreign countries. Highest price in cash,
 D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

Wanted every person who has curiosities
 of any kind to dispose of, to correspond
 with us and give us their lowest prices there-
 for. We have at all times a much larger
 stock of curiosities of each and every kind
 on hand than we publish the list of. Please
 send us a list of your wants.

D. A. K. ANDRUS

PRICE LIST OF STAMPS

For sale by D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Illinois. All orders for less than 25 cents must contain stamp for reply. In sending money by mail have the amount in as few pieces as possible, with unused postage stamps instead of pennies. Sums of \$2 and upward should be sent by P. O. Order or Registered letter.

UNUSED.

1	Penny Green Virgin Islands	06
1	" Red Trinidad	06
1	" Black, St Vincents	06
1	" Black, St Lucas	06
1	" Red, St Helena	06
1	" Pink, St Christopher	06
1	" Carmine, Sierra Leone	06
1/4	" Red, New Zealand	C3
1	" Red, Nevis	06
1	" Red, Natal	07
1/2	" Buff, Malta	03
1	Cent Black Monte Video	05
1/4	Sch. Heligoland	03
1	Pf 1875 Heligoland	04
2	Pf 1875 "	01
1	Lepta, Greece	02
1	Penny, Grenada	06
1	" Bahamas	07
10	Reis, Brazil	03
2	Centimes, French Republic	01
1	Cent, British Guiana	06
1	Krentzer, Blue, Austrian newspaper	
	Head of Mercury	00
10	" Yellow,	06
50	" Red	50
50	" Rose	50
1	Kr Amra, Black, square	50
1	" Blue	150
2	" Green	18
2	" Brown	10
4	" Red	200
1	Anna 1868, Green, Deccan	50

HAMBURG.

Figure of value in centre.

Wmk. a curved line, except 1 1/4 grey and 1 1/2 rose. Sets of these stamps come nicely cancelled, to order by P. M., to col-

1/2	schilling, 1850, black	2
1	" brown	3
1 1/4	" 64, violet 2 types 2	5
1 1/4	" grey	12
1 1/2	" 66, rose	4
1 1/2	" 59, red	4
3 1/2	" 67 green 2 types 1	7
3 1/2	" 59, blue 2	5
4	" green	4
7	" orange	20
7	" 65, violet	5
9	" 59, yellow 2	6

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1866-7. Figure of value in centre.

The present	1/2, 2, 4 sch. have wmk. of ca	
1 1/2	schilling, black	4
1 1/2	" violet	10
1 1/2	" rose	5
2	" orange	6
3	" blue	8
4	" green	8
7	" violet	10

LUBECK.

1859. Eagle value in corners. Wmk. scattered flowers, also no wmk.

1 1/2	schilling, lilac	
1	" orange 2	
2	" brown	
2 1/2	" rose	
4	" green 2	
	Arms, oval, value at sides.	
1/2	schilling, 1863, green	
1	" orange	
1 1/4	" 64, brown	
2	" 63, rose	
2 1/2	" blue	
4	" brown	
1 1/2	" 65, rect, mauve	

Besides the stamps above mentioned we have a very large assortment of other stamps. If you do not see what you want here, send list of wants and we will price and return.

BOOKS WANTED.

Advertisements under this head five cents per line (about 40 letters) cash before insertion.

I want to purchase any books, magazines or papers containing articles relative to the Mound Builders or Pre-Historic Man in America. Please address with lowest price to A. F. D. Case of this paper.

I wish to purchase a copy of Harper's Typographer, and also any works relating to the Art of Printing. Address with price to Geo. H. Richmond, Northfield, Vt.

Bullion's Latin Grammar 15 cents; Comstock's Chemistry 15 cents; Angel Whispey 10. The Chief's Daughter or Daybreak in Great Britain 10; Invalids Guide 10; Good for Evil 20; Obituary addresses on the Death of Henry Clay 15; Travels Through Texas by Fremont's Oregon and California 20; add cents to each for postage. G. Dupuy, Belvidere, Ill.

Among my books—J Russell Lowell 12 mo, cloth, 380 pp., published at \$2.00 for \$1.00. Chicago and the Great Conflagration 12 mo, cloth 628 pp., sold by subscription at \$2.00, \$1.00. Postage on each 10 cents extra. Address, C. E. H. Case of the Curiosity Hunter.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

BELVIDERE, ILL., DECEMBER 1, 1876.

NO. 3.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP. REMEMBER THIS AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT. ANDRUS.

We want an agent (who can furnish good references) to handle our sheets of stamps, in every city and town in the world. Liberal commissions allowed.

All stamps are warranted genuine or money refunded.

Parties who have ceased to collect, and those who are favored with more than one copy of this journal, will confer a great favor by handing it to some person who may be interested in our business.

Correspondents will oblige us by using stamped envelopes if convenient, and we will be happy to return the favor.

If there is anything in the line of curiosities that any who receive this are desirous of obtaining, we should be pleased to receive a list of wants with the highest price you are willing to pay for the articles you want, when we will use our best endeavors to hunt them up. Per Contra. If you have any curiosities you wish to dispose of we will try and find you customers for them, if you will send us your lowest prices for the same. Our columns will always be open to collectors who are desirous of advertising their wants at the rate of five cents per line of forty letters, cash previous to the insertion of the advertisement. Advertisements of stamp and coin dealers will be inserted at 50 cents per line, cash invariably in advance. The advertisements of all other dealers in curiosities, works of art, books, etc., will be received at ten cents per line, cash in advance and five copies of the paper will be allowed the advertiser for each line of advertisement, thus interesting

each advertiser in securing as large a circulation as possible. If any of our friends notice in their reading, articles they deem interesting to our readers, we hope they will forward them to us. Any firms or persons having in charge the sales of collections of coins, Bric a Bric, or curiosities of any kind, at auction, will receive a free advertisement not exceeding ten lines or four hundred letters. If in excess of such space, five cents per line will be charged for each line of such excess and a proportionate number of extra copies forwarded in wrappers ready for distribution. We hope all having charge of such sales will not fail to accommodate us with such notices.

To F. I. HERSH: The Greenstone roller is an Indian Pestle for grinding.

O. A. JENISON,
Lansing, Mich.

AN EXHIBITION OF CURIOSITIES.

On July 4th, the woman's soldiers' monument association will give an exhibition of ancient and modern curiosities. It will be well worth seeing, for O. A. Jenison of this city, who has the finest private collection of old coins, Indian antiquities, etc., in the State, will add to the interest of this exhibition by a display of many of his choicest curiosities. Among these are copies of the entire set of medals, 41 in number, presented by congress to men of merit during the revolutionary war and the war of 1812; peace medals of 12 different presidents of the United States; silver, iron, brass, bronze, and alabaster medals of various nations; gold, silver, bronze, and alabaster centennial medals, together with one of the original great independence medals (the latter being very scarce); gold, silver, and copper coins of the United States; gold, silver, and copper coins of Japan; coins of Alexander the Great, who was born 356 years before Christ; a large

collection of old Roman coins, from 1,500 to 2,000 years old, including 'the widow's mite'; a large and fine collection of Chinese coins; together with the coins of nearly all the nations of the earth; English copper coins from the sixteenth part of a farthing to a two-penny piece; also coins of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Anne.

In the line of Indian curiosities there are stone axes, dressing stones, pestles, arrow-heads, pipes, weaving-stones, a genuine iron tomahawk, brass and iron hatchets, bows and arrows; saddle-bags, captured from Little Bear, chief of the Cheyennes; a Sioux three-bladed war-club, lariat, etc. The above are but a few of the many curiosities shown by Mr. Jenison.—*Lansing Republican*.

WHERE THE OLD PLATE WENT.

[From the London Quarterly Review.]

The fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries were rich in plate; the next question is, What has become of it? You might as well ask what has become of last winter's snow, for the answer is the same. Melted, not once, but over and over again; so that our shillings and sixpences may contain the very same metal which glowed, richly gilt and beaming with enamels, on Becket's mitre or his pastoral staff. Sooner or later the golden bowl and the silver beaker go the same way; their end is the crucible and the melting-pot; their form and fashion changes while the red and white substance remains the same. In four successive centuries the English plate had as many arch-enemies. In the fifteenth century the wars of the Roses caused many a noble piece to melt; in the sixteenth Henry VIII. and the dissolution of the monasteries were even more fatal to gold and silver work; in the seventeenth the great rebellion and the civil war again swept the sideboards and plate closets of each side with equal impartiality; and at the beginning of the eighteenth the need of bullion under which William III. labored brought to the melting-pot much of the old plate which still remained after the ravages it had suffered in three preceding centuries. Taking all this into consideration, the wonder is not that so little English plate exists

prior to the reign of Anne, but that any of it at all is left to give us some insight into the magnificence with which the hall tables and sideboards of our ancestors were decked on great festive occasions.

We have received this month, N. F. Seebeck's Catalogue of all known Postage stamps issued from 1818 to Oct. 1st, 1870. This is the most complete catalogue we have received this season. Collectors should obtain one at once, as they will find it most valuable assistant. See advertisement.

"The Numismatic Pilot" published by the American Society of Numismatics, through its editor Robert Morris, L. L. D. at La Grange, Ky., is just what must be expected from the "old veteran" a complete unqualified success. Long may you live old friends to pilot us through those mysterious Labyrinths whom none have more thoroughly explored than yourself. You are and always was a success.

"THE COIN CIRCULAR" Titusville, Pa. should be in the library of every numismatist.

THE STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL. By Joseph J. Casey, New York, need only be seen to secure it a warm place in the affection of the collectors of these articles.

"The Monthly Circular" devoted to stamp published by W. C. How & Co., Chicago, Ill.

"Monthly Philatelist" Erie, Pa.

GEO. CUSHING, Montreal, Canada, wants Coins and medals of British Possessions (Past and Present) in North America. Has for exchange some rare Canadian. Also wants any Numismatic works in reference to above.

Large lot stamps, and books cheap. Will exchange for other good stamps. H. S. Bacon, 409 Friends Ave., Camden, N. J.

The Canada Beaver, Toronto, the largest amateur paper in Canada devotes a portion of its space to Philately.

MINES, STAMPS AND CURIOSITIES FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Advertisements under this head five cents per line (about 40 letters) cash in advance.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE, by J. B. Upson, Rockford, Illinois.

RADIATES.

- Leptoplasma corniculum,*
- Metetes Lycoperdon,*
- Sylites catenulata,*
- Septaculites Owenii,*
- " *globularis,*

GASTEROPODS.

- Planorbis bidorsata,*
- Physa lynx,*
- Lepaea obliqua*
- " *laudiformis,*
- Planorbis alternata,*
- Planorbis bicincta*
- " *bellicinto,*
- Planorbis levata,*
- Planorbis Lenticularis,*
- " *rotalodes,*
- " *ambigua,*
- " *subtilistrata,*
- Planorbis oblongus,*
- Planorbis ventricosa,*
- " *nasuta,*
- Planorbis filosa,*
- Planorbis amygdalina,*

CEPHALOPODS.

- Nautilus magniventrum*
- " *aprommatum,*
- " *proteiforme,*
- Nautilus magnacentrum,*
- " *Jenceum,*
- " *vertebrale,*
- Nautilus constrictorriatum,*
- Nautilus succineus,*
- Nautilus simple,*
- Nautilus elegantata,*
- Nautilus nodus,*

COAL MEASURES.

- Planorbis inflata,*
- " *sphynophylloides,*
- " *carinata,*
- Planorbis Stempsoni,*
- Planorbis cannaefomis*
- Planorbis armigera,*
- Planorbis tuberculatus,*
- Planorbis oblongitalis,*
- Planorbis hirsuta,*
- " *Loschii,*
- Planorbis arborescens,*
- Planorbis emarginatum,*
- Planorbis,*
- Planorbis Neogorathii*
- Planorbis Fossils of the Trenton Period,*
- Planorbis concretions, Minerals and Incised Pottery.*

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I want to purchase any books, magazines or papers containing articles relative to the Mound Builders or Pre Historic Man in America. Please address with lowest price, A. F. D. Carr of this paper.

I wish to purchase the following Books. Any parties having copies of these for sale please send price to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill,

Sherland, G. Atlanta to Savannah. (Knapsack notes) Johnson & Bradford, Springfield, Ill. 1865, Svo. pp 64

Bradley, G. S. The Star Corps, or notes of Sherman's march to the Sea. 13mo. pp 302, Milwaukee 1865.

Dogan, Jas. History of Hurlbut's fighting fifth. Cincinnati, E. Morgan & Co. 1863 Svo

Dodge, W. S. Waif of the war--history of 175th Ill Inft. Svo Chicago. Church & Goodman, 1866 pp 242.

Dodge W. S. History of Old 2nd division army of the Cumberland, pp 582 and 551 Chicago, 1864, Church & Goodman.

Fanning, T. W. Hairbreadth escape of a Cavalry officer pamphlet, Cincinnati 1868 pp 200

Indiana Legion and minute men (Operations of) Svo, Indianapolis 1865

Lucay, Dr. History of 99th Indiana regt. 12mo Lafayette 1865.

Mason, T. H. History of 12th Ohio Cavalry. Cleveland.

Surby, R. W. Grierson's raid and Hatch's 64 days Chicago, 1865.

Eddy, T. M. Patriotism in Illinois 2 vgr Svo, roan, pp 608, 703. Clarke & Co Chicago, 1860.

BOOKS FOR EXCHANGE AND SALE.

Advertisements under this head 5 cents per line (about 40 letters) cash in advance.

FOR SALE.—Chambers' Encyclopedia, latest revised edition, 10 vols., sheep, new, \$33.00, [full price, \$47.50.] Same in cloth \$28.00, (price \$40.00.) Same in 5 vols., sheep, \$22.00, (price \$31.25.) Above delivered free. Latta's Surgery, 3 vols., Edinburgh, 1795 \$3.00; Edinburgh New Dispensatory, 1796, \$1.25; Samuel Cooper's Surgery, 1828, \$1.00; Zell's Encyclopedia, half calf \$30.00; Haven's Mental Philosophy, \$1.00; Fred. Douglass's, My bondage and Freedom, 65 cents; Sadler's English-French and French-English Lexicon \$3.50; Roback's A-trology & \$2.00; Johnson's Cyclopaedia, Vols 1 and 2 half Turkey, \$20.00; Philosophy of Eating, 1.25.

REV. G. S. HUBBS, Clinton, Wis

Dick's Encyclopedia of Practical Receipts and Processes. Containing over 6,400 receipts, embracing thorough information, in plain language, applicable to almost every industrial and domestic requirement, 600 pp Price, cloth 5.00 half calf 7.50. Specimen pages sent by mail, free. Address H. B. Dick, Care Dick & Fitzgerald, 18 Ann St. N. Y.

NUMISGRAPHIS.

This work, 123 pp Royal 8vo, containing lists of Coin Catalogues, Publications relating to numismatology, sketches of numismatists, etc. Sent by mail on receipt of the price Two Dollars. Address any of the leading coin dealers, or E. J. ATTINELLI, 241 E. 57th, st. New York

DEALERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements under this head (if of stamp or coin dealers 50 cents per line of 40 letters) Ten cents per line in advance.

WM. P. BROWN, 145 NASSAU ST., N. Y. CITY, Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps, old coins and other curiosities. Send for circular and state where this advertisement was noticed.

John W. Hazeltine, 1225 Chestnut St. Philadelphia. Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, \$1.50 Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cts. Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals; Centennial Relic, A Colonial Note of Pennsylvania dated 1776. Genuine, 50 cts. Please state where you saw this.

THE GREAT REBELLION. No American should neglect to get the cheapest and neatest relic of the darkest hours of our country's history. Complete sets Confederate notes 1864 issue 9 varieties 50c to \$5 inclusive for the low price of 60 cents postage; Stamp catalogue 15c Circulars free, C. H. Bechtel 79 Nassau-st., N. Y.



FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

N. F. SEEBECK, P. O. BOX 4926 New York, constantly has in Stock at very low prices a large and finely assorted stock of genuine Foreign Postage Stamps and American Foreign Stamp albums brought up to date. Descriptive price catalogue of all known stamps issued from 1818 to 1876, including price lists of albums, packets, etc. sent post free for \$10c.

Many who receive this paper may do it through our advertisers. If you wish to receive it regularly send your address with that of your friends to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

PRICE LIST OF STAMPS

For sale by D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Illinois. All orders for less than 25 must contain stamp or reply. In sum money by mail have the amount in pieces as possible, with unused postage stamps instead of pennies. Sums of \$10 and upward should be sent by P. O. Order Registered letter.

1	Penny Green Virgin Islands	.....
1	" Red Trinidad	.....
1	" Black, St Vincent	.....
1	" Black, St Lucas	.....
1	" Red, St Helena	.....
1	" Pink, St Christopher	.....
1	" Carmine, Sierra Leone	.....
1/2	" Red, New Zealand	.....
1	" Red, Nevis	.....
1	" Red, Natal	.....
1/2	" Buff, Malta	.....
1	Cent Black Monte Video	.....
1/4	Sch. Heligoland	.....
1	Pf 1875 Heligoland	.....
2	Pf 1875	.....
1	Lepta, Greece	.....
1	Penny, Grenada	.....
10	" Bahamas	.....
10	Reis, Brazil	.....
2	Centimes, French Republic	.....
1	Cent, British Guiana	.....
1	Krentzer, Blue, Austrian newspaper	.....
	Head of Mercury	.....
10	" Yellow	.....
50	" Red	.....
50	" Rose	.....
1	Kr Amrs Blue, square	.....
1	" Blue	.....
2	" Green	.....
2	" Brown	.....
4	" Red	.....
1	Anna 1868, Green, Deccan	.....

HAMBURG.

Figure of value in centre. Wmk. a curved line, except 1 1/2 gr 1 1/2 rose. Sets of these stamps nicely cancelled to order, by P. M. lectors.

1 1/2	schilling, 1859 black	.....
1	" brown	.....
1 1/4	" 64, violet 2 types 2	.....
1 1/4	" grey	.....
1 1/2	" 66, rose	.....
2	" 59, red	.....
3 1/2	" 67 green 2 types 1	.....
3	" 59, blue 2	.....
4	" green	.....
7	" orange	.....
7	" 65, violet	.....
9	" 59, yellow 2	.....



THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

BELVIDERE, ILL., JANUARY 1, 1877.

NO. 43

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER will serve as a medium of communication between those who wish to buy, sell, or exchange Curiosities, Coins, Books, Autographs, Geological specimens, Pictures, Engravings, Archæological specimens, Stamps, etc. Subscription price 25 cents per year, which includes prepayment of U. S. Postage by the publisher.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Publisher,
Belvidere, Ill.

Advertising rates at the head of the several columns. Advertisers are allowed 5 copies of this paper for each line of advertising thus interesting advertisers in securing as large a circulation as possible.

Many who receive this paper may do it through our advertisers. If you wish to receive it regularly send your address with 25 cents to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

If you want to receive this paper regularly and promptly send us the subscription price, as hundreds do. That is the only way to be sure of it. A buyer who doesn't think it worth 25 cents can hardly be so valuable as a customer as to warrant us in sending it free.

No discount from the prices of books, articles and specimens advertised for sale from this office is ever given to any body. Even the largest wholesale dealers buy of us at the catalogue prices. Those who know what such books and articles are worth know the prices are remarkably low. Parties who wish to examine books articles and specimens before positively purchasing may forward the price with the order, stating what are desired for examination with privilege of returning, and we will either at once return the money or forward the books and articles on condition that the person ordering will pay all transportation charges, returning the books and articles at once, if they are not want-

ed, and we will immediately, on receipt of them, remit the money paid or send other books or articles, that may be ordered. Any new book published, stamp, or engraving issued, or any article in our line, whether advertised in these pages or not, may be ordered from this office at lowest rates.

When wanting any article or book new or old, scarce or common, costly or cheap, the insertion of a small advertisement among the "wants" will secure offers from various dealers and private owners, all of whom know they bid in competition with others, and that the lowest bidder secures the order. The saving by buying in this manner will be found much greater than the cost of the advertisement.

All books, articles and specimens advertised from this office are guaranteed to be as represented. Exchanges will be made or money refunded promptly where there is dissatisfaction through fault or mistake of ours.

All requests sent to this office for books, articles and specimens to be laid aside must be accompanied by at least a portion of the price, which will be promptly refunded in case the books, articles and specimens are already sold, or held subject to order, as may be desired.

At the very low prices of books, articles and specimens advertised in the pages, the best books, articles and specimens are quickly taken. Those who want such, should not delay in forwarding orders.

You need not write to this office asking if we will buy your books, articles or specimens, or offering to exchange them for those on our list. We do not buy or exchange in that way. You can advertise your books, articles and specimens, or consign them to us for exchange, and as fast as they are called for by others you can have any you want in return.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP. REMEMBER THIS AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.
ANDRUS.

TERMS OF SALE.

Terms of sale of articles advertised from this office strictly "Cash before shipment."

Experience has proved that we can afford to sell for a considerable per cent. less than otherwise by adopting this rule, and we believe all desirable patrons, prefer the low prices to the looser method of dealing; so it is not a question of whether we doubt your honesty or ability, but whether you prefer low prices.

Money received for books or articles already sold will be immediately refunded, or held subject to order, as may be directed.

Orders may be sent to the publisher of this paper for any book, article or specimen advertised in this or any other publication by any publisher or dealer.

METHODS OF EXCHANGING.

Good books, periodicals or specimens can be exchanged for others in the following manner:

First, send them by freight or express, prepaid, addressed to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

Second, As soon as received they will be catalogued in the manner indicated by the pages of the CURIOSITY HUNTER. You may fix the prices on your own books or articles, or leave it for the Manager of the Department to do for you, and he will make the prices as high as he thinks they will sell.

Third, You will be charged for the space occupied in catalogue by your books or articles at the rate of 5 cents a line, and a commission of 10 per cent. on all sales made, these charges to be deducted from amount of sales. In some cases, if previously so arranged, freight charges will also be paid on books or articles received and deducted from sales.

Fourth, Your books and articles will be thus advertised once in the CURIOSITY HUNTER and thereafter those remaining unsold will be advertised in Supplementary Catalogue until sold, or for a reasonable time, without further charge.

Fifth, As rapidly as your books or articles are sold you will be entitled to draw any book or article wanted, to the amount of your credit; or, if you prefer, you can have cash to the same amount.

Sixth, the books or articles remain your property till sold, and any remaining unsold are subject to your order at any time.

Thus, a hundred or a thousand persons

placing their books, articles or specimens together in the CURIOSITY HUNTER each bears his proportion of the cost of the catalogue, each draws from the entire list such book or articles as he wants to the amount of the value of his own which are taken by others; or, failing to find what he wants, draws cash instead. The commission of ten per cent. pays the publisher for handling, and every man has for his books and specimens as much as those who want them; can be induced to give.

A GREAT OFFER.

A FIRST-CLASS LITERARY PAPER AND AN ELEGANT PREMIUM ALMOST GIVEN AWAY.

Our special arrangements with F. M. Lupton & Co., publishers of *The Cricket on the Hearth*, 37 Park Row, New York, enables us to make the following very liberal offer to all new subscribers to our paper, and to all old ones who renew in advance. For \$1.00 we will send the CURIOSITY HUNTER for one year *The Cricket on the Hearth* for one year and any one of the three premiums, a choice of which is offered by *The Cricket* to its subscribers, viz: the large and elegant chromo, "Yes or No?" size 10x15 inches, after Millais, any one of the celebrated novels by Charles Dickens, or an elegant Box of Stationery. "The Cricket on the Hearth" is a mammoth 16 page illustrated paper (size of *Harper's Weekly*), filled with choicest reading for old or young. Serial and short stories, Sketches, Poems, Useful Knowledge, Wit and Humor, "Answers to Correspondents," Puzzles, Games, Popular Songs, etc., everyone who sees it is delighted. Its premiums also are unexcelled by those offered by any rival publication. Remember, we send our paper for one year, "The Cricket" for one year and any of these premiums, all for \$1.00. We are sure that a great many of our patrons will be pleased to take advantage of such a very liberal offer. Specimen copies of *The Cricket* will be sent on application. Apply to our address, D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

Those answering an advertisement will confer a favor upon the advertiser and the publisher by stating that they saw the advertisement in THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

COINS, STAMPS AND CURIOSITIES FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Advertisements under this head five cents per line (about 40 letters) cash in advance.

GEO. CUSHING, Montreal, Canada, wants Coins and medals of British Possessions (Past and Present) in North America.

Has for exchange some rare Canadiana. Also wants any Numismatic works in reference to above.

I have a large lot of private medicine stamps for sale or to exchange for other good stamps. S. J. Caswell, Rockford, Ill.

BOOKS WANTED.

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I want to purchase any books, magazines or papers containing articles relative to the Mound Builders or Pre Historic Man in America. Please address with lowest price, A. F. D. Caro of this paper.

I wish to purchase a copy of Harpell's Typographer, and also any works relating to the Art of Printing. Address with price, Geo. H. Richmond, Northfield, Vt.

I wish to purchase the following Books. Any parties having copies of these for sale please send price to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

Sherland, G. Atlanta to Savannah.) Knap sack notes) Johnson & Brautord, Springfield, Ill. 1865, Svo. pp 64

Bradley, G. S. The Star Corps, or notes of Sherman's march to the Sea. 12mo. pp 92, Milwaukee 1865.

Dogan, Jas. History of Hurlbut's fighting 11th. Cincinnati, E. Morgan & Co. 1863 Svo Dodge, W. S. Waif of the war—history of 75th Ill Inf. Svo Chicago. Church & Goodman, 1866 pp 242.

Dodge W. S. History of Old 2nd division army of the Cumberland, pp 582 and 551 Chicago, 1864, Church & Goodman.

Fanning, T. W. Hairbreadth escape of a avaly, officer pamphlet, Cincinnati 1863 pp 200

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Lucay, Dr. History of 99th Indiana regt. Svo Lafayette 1865.

Mason, T. H. History of 12th Ohio Cav- 1ry. Cleveland.

Surby, R. W. Grierson's raid and Hatch's 4 days Chicago, 1865.

Eddy, T. M. Patriotism in Illinois 2 vg 1vo, ran, pp 603, 703. Clarke & Co Chicago, 1860.

BOOKS FOR EXCHANGE AND SALE.

Advertisements under this head 5 cents per line (about 4) letters) cash in advance.

For Sale.—Chambers' Encyclopedia, lat- est revised edition, 10 vols., sheep, new, \$3.00, full price \$47.50. Same in cloth \$5.00, (price \$40.00.) Same in 5 vols., sheep, \$2.00, (price \$31.25.) Above delivered free.

Watts's Surgery, 3 vols., Edinburgh, 1795 \$5.00; Edinburgh New Dispensatory, 1796, \$1.25; Samuel Cooper's Surgery, 1828, \$1.00; Chambers' Encyclopedia, half call \$20.00; Haven's Mental Philosophy \$1.00; Fred. Douglass', of bondage and Freedom, 65 cents; Sudler's English-French and French-English Lexicon \$1.50; Roback's Astrology &c. \$3.00; John- son's Cycloaedia, Vols 1 and 2 half Turkey, \$2.00; Philosophy of Eating, 1.25.

REV. G. S. HUBBS, Clinton, Wis

Madrazz, San Antonio, Tex.
WANTED U - 2 - send 3 cis for circulars
of most wonderful Tricks on Record. L.

I have 6 copies of the 7th Book of Moses in english; would sell 5. These are very rare and a great curiosity. Address,

J. G. Stauffer, Palmyra, Pa.
The only work in the U S in this print.

Large lot stamps, and books cheap, or will exchange for other good stamps. H. S. Bacon, 409 Friends Ave., Camden, N. J.

NUMISMATIC.

At the Cogan Sale of coins and medals which took place at the rooms of Messrs. Bangs & Co 656 Broadway New York, on the 18th and 19th, ult. Lots brought prices as follows: Lot 60, 1851, Beautiful uncirculated silver dollar, \$23 00.

67 1796 Half dollar extremely poor 3 50
114 1796 Quarter dollar unusually fine im-
pression of this rare date, head, a little
rubbed. 1 50

150 1798 over 1797 dime not much cir-
culated and a very rare piece. 3 00
161 1822 dime. 2 00
171 1846 dime nearly proof. 1 60

185 1794 half dime. 1 00
187 1796 half dime. 1 70
190 1803 half dime. 3 00
235 1793 Wreath cent. 8 50
237 1793 Liberty Cap, poor. 2 00

240 1795 Thin Platchet. 3 50
243 1795 "Jefferson head cent. 5 00
247 1799 cent. 10 00
253 1804 cent. 8 50
260 1809 cent. 2 00

278 1827. 3 25
314 1856 Beautiful Proof. 2 95
316 1857 Beautiful Proof. 4 00
318 1793 half cent. 2 65
375 Pine tree shilling. 4 00
381 1783 Chalmers annapolis, three
pence. 5 00

408 A beautiful impression of the val-
taire medal, Washington, price. 5 00
422 Size 28 1782 Holland per-oriented
between the U S and Great Brit-
ain, a long inscription addressed
to states of Finl and a rare med-
al in good condition, but nicked 4 00

423 Size 28 1782 another beautiful
Peace medal relating to Holland
and the U S Rev "Justi-
tiam et non temore devos" Mer-
cury flying to place a wreath on
the crown, which is on the shield
of Amsterdam resting against a
pyramid. A fine proof impres-
sion, and very desirable for a fine
American collection. 11 00

573 Size 32 1658 "Fr Christ De Levi D.
Damp ville. P. Franc, Pro Rex.
Americae" Head to right. Rev.
arms crowned, Latin inscription.
A really rare medal. 7 38

574 Size 32 1684 Jean Varin, Intendant
(6) Head to right, Rev. The arts
represented by three figures, with
inscription. Also rare as above. 7 50

[The remainder of this report together
with a list of coins and medals for sale, will
appear in our February Number.]

PUBLISHERS' AND DEALERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements under this head **Twenty cents** per line. Stamp and coin dealers **25 cents** per line.

A SELECT LIST OF

PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

Appleton's Cyclopedia of Drawing, Illustrated. 8vo.....	\$ 10 00
Appleton's Dictionary of Mechanics, Machines, Engine Work and Engineering, containing over 4,000 Illustrations and nearly 2,000 pages. 2 vols, 8vo; half morocco.....	18 00
Auchincloss--Practical application of the Slide Valve and Link motion, illustrated, 8vo.....	3 00
Atwood's Modern American Homesteads	3 50
Blinn's Practical workshop companion for Tin, Sheet Iron and copperplate workers.....	2 00
Brown's 507 Mechanical movements..	1 00
Burgh--The Slide Valve practically considered.....	2 00
Burgh--Modern compound engines..	7 50
Burgh--Practical Treatise on the condensation of steam, illustrated with 212 engravings. Super Royal 8vo..	10 00
Burgh--Practical Rules for the Proportion of Modern Steam engines and Boilers.....	1 50
Binn's Engineering Drawings, elementary treatise.....	3 50
Binn's Engineering Drawings, second course.....	4 50
Bicknell's Village Builder and Supplement.....	12 00
Bicknell's Supplement to Village builder.....	5 00
Bicknell's Detail Cottage and constructive architecture.....	10 00
Booth's Marble Workers' Manual....	1 50
Dixen's Wheelwrights' Guide.....	1 25
Fesquet--Galvanoplastic Manipulations.....	6 00
Gould's carpenter and builders' guide	3 00
Gould's American Stair builders' guide	4 00
Haswell's Engineers' and Mechanic's Pocket book.....	3 00
Haswell's Mensuration for Tuition, Reference &c.....	1 25
Haswell's Mechanic's Tables.....	1 00
Hallett's Builders' Specifications....	1 75
Lyman's Practical Treatise on the Steam Engine Indicator.....	1 00
Molesworth's civil engineer and Mechanic's Pocket Book.....	2 00
Nystrom's Pocket Book of Mechanics and Engineering.....	3 50
Overman's Moulders' and Founders' Pocket Guide.....	1 50
Overman's Manufacture of Steel.....	1 50
Roper's catechism of the Steam engine	2 00
Roper's Hand-book of the Locomotive	2 00
Roper's Hand-book of Land and Marine Engines.....	3 50
Roper's Hand-book of modern Steam Fire Engines.....	3 50
Robertson's Table for Arches.....	1 50
Spon's Workshop Receipts.....	2 00
Sloan's Homestead Architecture....	4 50

Sexton's Boiler-makers Pocket book.	2 00
Trantwine's civil engineers' Pocket of Mensuration.....	5 00
Vodges' Architects' and Builders' Pocket companion.....	2 00
Wollett's Villas and cottages.....	3 00

Any of the above named books sent by mail, post paid, on receipt of price.

Any information relative to Scientific books or publications will be given with pleasure when requested. Enclose stamp to prepay postage on answer.

Send two 3 cent stamps for descriptive catalogue.

FREDRICK KEPPEY, Publisher,
Importer and dealer in Scientific Books.
Bridgeport, Conn.

WM. P. BROWN, 145 NASSAU ST., N. Y. CITY, Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps, old coins and other curiosities. Send for circular and state where this advertisement was noticed.

John W. Hazeltine, 1225 Chestnut St. Philadelphia. Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, \$1.50 Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cents, Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals; Centennial Relic, A Colonial Note of Pennsylvania dated 1776. Genuine, 50 cents. Please state where you saw this.

THE GREAT REBELLION. No? American should neglect to buy the cheapest and nearest relic of the darkest hours of our country's history. Complete sets Confederate notes 1864 issue 9 varieties from 50c to \$500.00 inclusive for the low price of 60 cents. Postage Stamp catalogue 15c 8pageCirculars free, C. H. Bechtel 79 Nassau-st., N. Y.

NUMISGRAPHICS.

This work, 123 pp Royal 8vo, containing lists of Coin Catalogues, Publications relating to numismatology, sketches of numismatists, etc. Sent by mail on receipt of the price Two Dollars. Address any of the leading coin dealers, or **E. J. ATTINELLI, 241 E. 57th, st. New York.**



FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

N. F. SEEBECK, P. O. Box 499, New York, constantly has in stock at very low prices a large and finely assorted stock of genuine Foreign Postage Stamps and American Foreign Stamp albums brought up to date. Descriptive price catalogue of all known stamps issued from 1818 to 1876, including price lists of albums, packets, etc. sent post free for 10c.



THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

BELVIDERE, ILL., FEBRUARY 1, 1877.

NO. 5.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER will serve as a medium of communication between those who wish to buy, sell, or exchange Curiosities, Coins, Books, Autographs, Geological specimens, Pictures, Engravings, Archaeological specimens, Stamps, etc. Subscription price 25 cents per year, which includes preparation of U. S. Postage by the publisher.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Publisher,
Belvidere, Ill.

Advertising rates at the head of the several columns. Advertisers are allowed copies of this paper for each line of advertising thus interesting advertisers in securing as large a circulation as possible.

Many who receive this paper may do so through our advertisers. If you wish to receive it regularly send your address with 25 cents to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

If you want to receive this paper regularly and promptly send us the subscription price, as hundreds do. That is the only way to be sure of it. A buyer who doesn't think it worth 25 cents can hardly be so valuable a customer as to warrant us in sending it free.

No discount from the prices of books, articles and specimens advertised for sale from this office is ever given to any body. Even the largest wholesale dealers buy of us at the catalogue prices. Those who know what such books and articles are worth know the prices are remarkably low. Parties who wish to examine books articles and specimens before positively purchasing may forward the price with the order, stating what are desired for examination with privilege of returning, and we will either at once return the money or forward the books and articles on condition that the person ordering will pay all transportation charges, returning the books and articles at once, if they are not want-

ed, and we will immediately, on receipt of them, remit the money paid or send other books or articles, that may be ordered. Any new book published, stamp, or engraving issued, or any article in our line, whether advertised in these pages or not, may be ordered from this office at lowest rates.

When wanting any article or book new or old, scarce or common, costly or cheap, the insertion of a small advertisement among the "wants" will secure offers from various dealers and private owners, all of whom know they bid in competition with others, and that the lowest bidder secures the order. The saving by buying in this manner will be found much greater than the cost of the advertisement.

All books, articles and specimens advertised from this office are guaranteed to be as represented. Exchanges will be made or money refunded promptly where there is dissatisfaction through fault or mistake of ours.

All requests sent to this office for books, articles and specimens to be laid aside must be accompanied by at least a portion of the price, which will be promptly refunded in case the books, articles and specimens are already sold, or held subject to order, as may be desired.

At the very low prices of books, articles and specimens advertised in the pages, the best books, articles and specimens are quickly taken. Those who want such, should not delay in forwarding orders.

You need not write to this office asking if we will buy your books, articles or specimens, or offering to exchange them for those on our list. We do not buy or exchange in that way. You can advertise your books, articles and specimens, or consign them to us for exchange, and as fast as they are called for by others you can have any you want in return.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP. REMEMBER THIS AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.
ANDRUS.

TERMS OF SALE.

Terms of sale of articles advertised from this office strictly "Cash before shipment."

Experience has proved that we can afford to sell for a considerable per cent. less than otherwise by adopting this rule, and we believe all desirable patrons, prefer the low prices to the looser method of dealing; so it is not a question of whether we doubt your honesty or ability, but whether you prefer low prices.

Money received for books or articles already sold will be immediately refunded, or held subject to order, as may be directed.

Orders may be sent to the publisher of this paper for any book, article or specimen advertised in this or any other publication by any publisher or dealer.

METHODS OF EXCHANGING.

Good books, periodicals or specimens can be exchanged for others in the following manner:

First, send them by freight or express, prepaid, addressed to D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

Second, As soon as received they will be catalogued in the manner indicated by the pages of the CURIOSITY HUNTER. You may fix the prices on your own books or articles, or leave it for the Manager of the Department to do for you, and he will make the prices as high as he thinks they will sell.

Third, You will be charged for the space occupied in catalogue by your books or articles at the rate of 5 cents a line, and a commission of 10 per cent. on all sales made, these charges to be deducted from amount of sales. In some cases, if previously so arranged, freight charges will also be paid on books or articles received and deducted from sales.

Fourth, Your books and articles will be thus advertised once in the CURIOSITY HUNTER and thereafter those remaining unsold will be advertised in Supplementary Catalogue until sold, or for a reasonable time, without further charge.

Fifth, As rapidly as your books or articles are sold you will be entitled to draw any book or article wanted, to the amount of your credit; or, if you prefer, you can have cash to the same amount.

Sixth, the books or articles remain your property till sold, and any remaining unsold are subject to your order at any time.

Thus, a hundred or a thousand persons

placing their books, articles or specimens together in the CURIOSITY HUNTER each bears his proportion of the cost of the catalogue, each draws from the entire list such book or articles as he wants to the amount of the value of his own which are taken by others; or, failing to find what he wants, draws cash instead. The commission of ten per cent. pays the publisher for handling, and every man has for his books and specimens as much as those who want them can be induced to give.

WANTED U. S. - send 3 cts for circulars of most wonderful Tricks on Record. L. Madarnez, San Antonio, Tex.

I have 6 copies of the 7th Book of Moses in english; would sell 5. These are very rare and a great curiosity. Address, J. G. Stauffer, Palmyra, Pa. The only work in the U S in this print.

Large lot stamps, and books cheap, or will exchange for other good stamps. H. S. Bacon, 409 Friends Ave., Camden, N. J.

WM. P. BROWN, 145 NASSAU ST., N. Y. CITY, Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps, old coins and other curiosities. Send for circular and state where this advertisement was noticed.

John W. Hazeltine, 1235 Chestnut St. Philadelphia. Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, \$1.50 Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cts. Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals; Centennial Relic, A Colonial Note of Pennsylvania dated 1776. Genuine, 50 cts. Please state where you saw this.

Those answering an advertisement will confer a favor upon the advertiser and the publisher by stating that they saw the advertisement in THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

COINS, STAMPS AND CURIOSITIES FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Advertisements under this head five cents per line (about 40 letters) cash in advance.

GEO. CUSHING, Montreal, Canada, wants Coins and medals of British Possessions (Past and Present) in North America.

Has for exchange some rare Canadian coins. Also wants any Numismatic works in reference to above.

NUMISMATICS.

[COGAN SALE CONTINUED.]

579 Size 28, Logan McGill college, fine and scarce	3 38
580 size 28, Torrance McGill college fine and scarce	3 25
581 size 28, Grand Trunk Railway company of Canada Bust of Trevithick presented for good conduct	3 25
584 size 26, Personne, Rev "De l'Isle de Montreal" Sandham No. 5, fair	3 12
586 size 26, "De l'Isle de Montreal" Sandham No. 8, Good	3 12
587 1839 Bank of Montreal, side view half penny, very scarce, good	6 25
604 1658 Oliver Cromwell crown, almost proof rare	15 50
605 1658 Oliver Cromwell, half crown, very good and scarce	4 50
622 Victoria Proof Gothic Crown. 1847 nicked in the field lettered edge scarce	3 12
657 Legion of Honor medal. ob. head of Napoleon, Rev. eagle "Honneur and Patrie" fine	5 00

GOLD COINS.

658 Trajan head to right, ob, "Divio Trajana &c Rev. a peacock, No Inscription. very fine and rare type	12 50
659 Phocas, ob, head facing. Rev Victoria standing, fine and scarce	6 12
660 Anastasius head to right, Rev. Victoria, Aug. very fine small coin	5 25
662 An electrum coin, (more valuable than gold) head of Ceres Rev. a horse, beautifully executed, a fine and rare coin	11 00
663 Charles I. Head to left, 20 shilling. Piece XX, behind the head, in fine condition and very scarce	5 75
674 1849 Mormon five dollar, piece, obv "To the Lord of Hosts" Rev. Clasp'd Hands	5 80
810 1841 Fine proof half cent rare	4 75
811 1842 " " " " " "	4 50
812 1843 " " " " " "	4 00
813 1845 " " " " " "	6 00
814 1846 " " " " " "	6 00
815 1847 " " " " " "	5 00
816 1848 " " " " " "	3 50
817 Lord Baltimore sixpence	11 50
819 1787 Innumis Columbia	7 50
822 1838 beautiful proof pattern half dollar Gobrecht head looking left, Rev Spread eagle rare, silver	6 00
851 size 80 1776 Libertas Americana head of liberty, with liberty cap and pole very rare, in silver	15 50

COINS FOR SALE.

We have for sale the following lots of coins and medals which will be sold to the highest bidder without reserve as follows:

Bids will be received until February 25th, at which time the highest bidder for any lot, will be notified and upon receipt of the amount bid and postage or expressage they will be forwarded to him or to the agent. Any coin not as described may be returned.
Orders for these coins will be executed by Jno. W. Haselline, 1235 Chestnut-st., Phila Pa
Henry G. Sampson, cor Falton st, and Broadway, N. Y.
Wm. P. Brown, 145 Nassau st, New York.

Henry Ahlborn, old Toll House, Cambridge street, Boston.

Edward Frossard, Irvington, New York.
Charles Frosick, 578 Main-st Hartford, Conn.
David Prosky, 194 Washington-st, N. Y.
Edward Cogan, 403 State-st, Brooklyn, N Y
J. Colvin Randall, 114 South 17th, street Philadelphia, Pa.
And by the publisher D. A. K. Andrus, Belvidere, Ill.

MEDALS.

	Size.
Lot 1 Hon. James Buchanan. head to right Rev. the Union one and Indivisible, Buchanan the crisis demands his election, White metal. Fair but pierced	22
2 Victoria and Albert, heads to left, Rev. The International Industrial exhibition, London, 1851 View of the palace and long inscription, white metal, fair	33
3 Prince Albert, Consort of Queen victoria head to right Rev. same as 2, white metal, fair.	32
4 H: M: G: M: Queen Victoria, Born May 24th, 1819, Crowned June 23, 1838, Married Feb. 19th, 1840, Crowned head to left Rev. the new coal exchange, London opened by her Majesty Oct 30, 1849 view of building white metal.	24
5 obv. same as above, Rev Europe's Glory, God Save the Queen, Britannia, shield Lion, ships in distance, white metal, fair.	17
6 obv and Rev. same as three, larger head to right white metal, fair	33
7 British coat of arms, Rev, Admiral Vernon with six men of war on V. Nov. Anno Dom. 1739 Porto Bello, * * Brass, fair.	25
8 The British Glory Reviv-d ABy admiral Vernon Figure Facing Left, Cannon, anchor, Rev Ad Vernon Adm Ogle took Carthagea, by land April 1 174 :1	24
9 The British Glory Reviv-d by Admiral Vernon Figure facing right, with sword in right and baton in left hand, ship and cannon Rev. his satanic majesty with a halter around the neck of sir Robert is stepping into the mouth of an immense Dragon - exclaims 'Make' Room For sir Robert, underneath. no excise, brass very good	20
10 obv Same as 9 Rev who took Porto Bello with Six ships only. Nov 22 1739 Forts and ships, fine brass almost, uncirculated	24
11 Adm'l Vernon viewing the town of Carthagea, Rev. He destroyed The forts of Carthagea, April 1741 good	33
12 Brave Vernon Ogle and Wentworth Rev. Vernon conquered Carthagea April 1, 1741, shape imperfect, fair.	23
13 Don Blass Kneeling surrenders his sword to Vernon, the pride of Spain Humbled By Admiral Vernon Rev. He took porto Bello, with six ships only Nov. 22 1739 Brass, good	25
14 By the courage and conduct of Admiral Vernon and Commodore Brown' Vernon & Brown. Rev. Porto Bello was taken with six ships only, Nov. 22 1739	24
15 W Feit, Brass, very good	24
16 Admiral Vernon and Sr. Chalons Ogle, Vernon and Ogle, Rev. True British Heroes, Took Carthagea April 1741, brass very good impression but pierced and	

JUST READY,

Rose's Complete Practical Machinist: The most valuable Book on the subject in the English Language.

THE COMPLETE PRACTICAL MACHINIST:

EMBRACING LATHE WORK VISE WORK, DRILLS AND DRILLING, TAPS AND DIES, HARDENING AND TEMPERING, THE MAKING AND USE OF TOOLS, ETC., ETC.

By JOSHUA ROSE.

Illustrated by 130 Engravings. In one Volume 12mo., 376 pages. Price \$2.50 by mail, free of postage.

Send stamp for Catalogue,

Fredrick Keppy,

PUBLISHER, IMPORTER AND DEALER IN SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

Bridgeport, Conn.

- with the scratch of a vandal on the back 24
- to see if it was brass 24
- 16 The British Glory Reviev-d by Admir-
al Vernon, Large figure of Vernon Rev. as
18, good but nicked on edge brass 24
- 17 Admiral Vernon & Commodore Brown
Large figures of each Rev. took Porto
Bello with six ships only, Nov. 22, 1759
ships and forts, very good, brass. 24
- 18 Ed Vernon Esq., Vice-Admiral of the
blue, Vernon, with sword (a cannon and
town, with Havana, underneath, in front
and a ship behind him) Rev. as 13, brass 24
- 19 Same as eight, not as good. 24
- 20 Same as sixteen, fair. 24
- 21 obv as 11 Rev. The forts of Cartha-
gena, destroyed by adm vernon 1741 view
of Carthagea and the forts Stao, and St
Joseph, ship &c very good, brass 24
- 22 On the generous duke of Angyle Pen
tioner, figure facing right. Crown, arms
&c Rev. as 9 24
- 23 Cyrus W Field Head to right (Lovett)
Rev. Nil Desperandum, Ferservantia
Vincit, presented to Cyrus W Field by a
few of his friends in New York, for his per-
severance in superintg The laying of the
Atlantic Telegr'h Cable The die for the Rev
cracked, beautiful bronze almost proof. 33
- 24 Medal of thanks German over France
1870, ob, double headed Eagle Rev. Grosser
sieged Deutschen uber die Franzosen 1870
shields, arms, flags &c, white metal, fine
proof 26
- 25 William Der Gloreiche Deutscher Kai-
ser, head to right, Rev Zur Erinerung an
die Belagerung Bombartment Von Paris
1870-1871 arms, flags, etc, white metal
proof 24
- 26 William I Konig Von Preuen, Large
Laureated head to right Rev as 24, white
metal proof 26
- 27 Der feind er Ward Bezungen, es sank
der Franken ar steht, fest wie unre eiche
draht wieder eueh gefahr Germania with
French flags, and arms underfoot facing to
the right, white metal nearly p proof 26
- 28 A. French head of liberty to left
29 Washington, Rev The Union is the
main prop of our liberty, white metal
proof 16
- 30 Pilgrim Jubilee memorial 1870 Land-
ing of the Pilgrims Rev. 'Whose Faith
Follow' Dove, open bible, wreath, copper
Fine proof 23
- 31 Maj Gen Geo B McClellan, head to
left, Rev. 'Nec Querep nec spernere, Hono-
orem' in wreath Bronze proof 22
- 32 Abraham Lincoln Prost. of the U. S.
1864, head to left Rev. Born Feb 12, 1809,
assassinated April 14th 1865 Fine Bronze 18
- 33 Welch medal Ofmwech ddnw arby
deddwech by Brenik coat of arms Rev clasped
hands cymdtheas dyngaraw!, Eglwys
Boch &c, sefydlwyd 1836 white metal, 23
- 34 "Louis XVIII Roi De France, large
head to left, Rev Aueun des articles de la
charte constitutionnelle ne serva Revise
ordonnance dn Roi du 5 September 25



The Curiosity Hunter.

VOL. IV.

BELVIDERE, ILL., MARCH 1, 1877.

NO. 6.

The CURIOSITY HUNTER will serve as a medium of communication between those who wish to buy, sell, or exchange Curiosities. Coins, Books, Autographs, Geological specimens, Pictures, Engravings, Archaeological specimens, Stamps, etc. Subscription price 25 cents per year, which includes prepayment of U. S. postage by the publisher. D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

ADVERTISEMENTS OF DEALERS IN CURIOSITIES, 25 CENTS PER LINE OF 40 LETTERS, CASH IN ADVANCE. OTHER DEALERS 10 CENTS PER LINE.

Terms of exchange, and exchange advertisements the same as published in No. 4 and 5, copies of which will be sent to any address, on receipt of a 1 cent stamp.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP. REMEMBER THIS AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT ANDRUS.

Parties finding this notice crossed can rely upon receiving no more numbers of this paper until we receive the subscription price.

Information wanted concerning a book entitled "Miscellanies" written by Maj. Aurent Schuyler de Peyster while in command of the then British Post of Michile Mackinac, about 1776, and supposed to have been printed at Dumfries, in Scotland about 1800. Any person ever having seen or heard of this work, will confer a favor by sending information thereof to D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

For Sale.—Meerschaum pipe formerly Lord Byron's. Well colored and intrinsically worth almost the required price, viz: \$50.

W. PARKER, box 10, Chicago, Ill.

I have six copies of the 7th Book of Moses in English; would sell five. These are very rare and a great curiosity. The only work in the U. S. in this print. Address

J. G. STAUFFER, Palmyra, Pa.

I will receive bids for an Aerolite, found near Wheaton, DuPage Co., Ill. Its weight is 11 1-4 pounds, its length 7 inches, width 4 1-2 inches, thickness 2 1-2 inches; a very desirable specimen. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids. D. A. K. ANDRUS.

Coins, Stamps and Minerals, cheap. Send stamp for prices. H. S. BACON, 409 Friends Ave., Camden, N. Y.

I pay 75 cents per 100 in trade for all good specimens of Match and Medicine stamps, except the Clark and Gates 1 cent, and the two Swift & Courtney; for these and the Star Match, 25 cents per 100.

Having a large stock of Stamps which I am bound to change into money, I offer stamps at following rates; and to every person ordering to the amount of \$1.00 at one order, I will send "THE CURIOSITY HUNTER" for one year FREE. Of those Stamps marked with a star (*) we have but few, and will give 1/2 of our list price in cash, or 2/3 in trade for a limited number of fine specimens.

	Unused.	Used.
Austria—3, 6, 9, of 1850, each.....	\$	1
" 3 bl'k, 3 green, 1858-9, do.		5
" 5, 10, 15, 1858-9, each.....		1
" 5, 10, 15, 1861, ".....		1
" 5, 10, 15, 1863, ".....		1
" Head of Mercury, blue, yellow, rose and red.....	5	
Austrian Italy—5, 10 of 1850.....	5	
" " 2 " 1858.....	5	
" " 2, 3 " 1861.....	5	
" " 2, 3 " 1863.....	5	
" " 50 " 1867.....	5	5
Bahamas—1 penny.....	5	
Bavaria Return Stamp:		
Augeburg—1865-70.....	2	
Bamburg— ".....	2	
Nurnberg— ".....	2	
Munchen— ".....	2	
Augebaug, Bamburg—1869-72.....	2	
Nurnberg—1869-72.....	2	
Regensburg— ".....	2	
Bergedorf—1/4 blue, 1 white, 1 1/2 yellow, 3 blue, 4 brown.....	2	
Bolivia—5 centavos, green, 1867.....	20	
Brazil—10 Reis head.....	2	
20-200.....		2
Brunswick—1/2, 1, 2, 3, 1865.....	1	
Canada Registration—2 cent.....		1
" " 5 cent.....		2
Confederate States—1 cent, 1861.....	10	
" " 10 ".....	1	
" " 20 ".....	2	
* " " 5c green, 1861, large.....	40	25
* " " 10 blue, large.....	50	35
* " " 2 green, ".....	1.00	1.00
* " " 5 blue, ".....	30	25
* " " 10 rose, ".....	1.50	1.00
Danish West Indies—3 rose.....	5	
Deccan—1 Anna, oblong.....	30	
Finland—20 and 40, 1866.....		1

(Continued in April).

DOCUMENT STAMPS.

Those having a colon (:) at the end of the dotted line are found unperforated. Those marked with a star (*) we will take in exchange at 2/3 our list price until supplied.

Stamps priced in black-face figures we do not always have in stock and the price fluctuates.

First Issue, Head of Washington in Oval.

* 1 cent, red, Express.....	\$	0	01
* 1 " " Playing Cards.....		20	
* 1 " " Proprietary.....		02	
* 1 " " Telegraph.....		01	
3 cents blue, Bank Check.....		01	
2 " orange, ".....		01	
2 " blue, Certificate.....		05	
2 " orange, ".....		10	

2	blue, Express	01
2	orange	08
*2	blue, Playing Cards	04
*2	orange	10
2	blue, Proprietary	01
*2	orange	20
2	U. S. Inter. Rev.	01
3	green, Foreign Exchange	01
*3	Playing-Cards	40
3	Proprietary	04
*3	Telegraph	02
*4	brown, Inland Exchange	01
*4	violet, Playing Cards	30
4	Proprietary	08
5	red, Agreement	01
5	Certificate	01
5	Express	02
*5	Foreign Exchange	01
5	Inland	01
5	Playing-Cards	25
*5	Proprietary	15
*6	Inland Exchange	01
*6	Proprietary	2 50
10	blue, Bill of Lading	01
10	Certificate	01
10	Contract	01
*10	Foreign Exchange	05
10	Inland	01
10	Power of Attorney	01
*10	Proprietary	30
*15	brown, Foreign Exchange	06
15	Inland	01
*20	red, Foreign	08
20	Inland	01
*25	Bond	03
25	Certificate	01
25	Entry of Goods	01
25	Insurance	01
*25	Life Insurance	04
25	Power of Attorney	01
*25	Protest	08
*25	Warehouse Receipt	15
*30	violet, Foreign Exchange	10
*30	Inland	01
*40	brown	01
50	blue, Conveyance	01
*50	Entry of Goods	01
*50	Foreign Exchange	08
*50	Lease	08
*50	Life Insurance	03
50	Mortgage	02
50	Original Process	01
50	Passage Ticket	08
*50	Probate of Will	1 50
*50	Surety Bond	02
*60	orange, Inland Exchange	01
*70	green, Foreign Exchange	02
*1 dollar, red, Conveyance		04
*1	Entry of Goods	04
*1	Foreign Exchange	01
1	Inland	01
*1	Lease	04
*1	Life Insurance	04
*1	Manifest	04
*1	Mortgage	50
*1	Passage Ticket	60
1	Power of Attorney	04
*1	Probate of Will	20
*1d. 30c., orange, Foreign Exchange		05
*1d. 50c., blue, Inland		02
*1d 60c., green, Foreign		08
*1d. 90c., violet		15
*2 dollars, red, Conveyance		02
2	Mortgage	02
*2	Probate of Will	10
*2 1/2	violet, Inland Exchange	02
*3	green, Charter Party	04
*3 1/2	blue, Inland Exchange	20
*5	red, Charter Party	10
*5	Conveyance	05
*5	Manifest	30
*5	Mortgage	25
*5	Probate of Will	15
*10	green, Charter Party	20
*10	Conveyance	75
*10	Mortgage	25
*10	Probate of Will	20
*15	blue, Mortgage	3 00
*20	orange, Conveyance	1 50

*20	Probate of Will	15 00
*25	red, Mortgage	3 00
*50	green, U. S. Inter. Rev	4 00
*200	and red (oblong)	20 00

PACKETS OF UNITED STATES STAMPS.

No. 1	contains 25 varieties of used postage	10c
" 2	" 40 " " " "	25

REVENUES.

" 4	contains 30 varieties of Document Stamps,	10
No. 5	contains 50 varieties of Document stamps,	25
No. 6	contains 12 varieties 2d and 3d issues revenue,	10
" 7	contains 20 Medicine stamps,	25
" 8	contains 6 varieties of Card stamps	10
" 9	contains 10 varieties of Match stamps	10
" 10	contains 10 varieties of License stamps	10

EXCHANGE PRICES.

We will pay prices as follows: For good specimens of common U. S. Postage and Revenue stamps. Send in bags, by sample post; place no writing in bag. All 1 and 2 cent Postage, and 3 cent envelopes cut square, 10 cents per hundred; all 3 cent postage, 25 cents per thousand; all 5 and 6 cent postage, 15 cents per hundred; all 10, 12 and 15 cents postage, 25 per hundred; all varieties other of Postage, 1 cent each. All 2 cent revenue, 5 cents per hundred; all 5 and 10 cent revenue, and 25 cent Insurance and certificate stamps, 10 cents per hundred; all others not marked with a star in our list, 25 cents per hundred.

We have received from an unknown source an elegantly printed and finely illustrated copy of the Annual Address before the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Delivered in the Assembly Chamber February 18, 1876, by Prof. James D. Butler, LL.D.; also description of a Westphalian medal, 1648, by the same authority. The illustrations are full-page heliotypes, by J. R. Osgood & Co., and the typography excellent. While the themes and the manner in which the Professor handles them would awake more than a passing interest in the mind of any student, and to an admirer of archæology and numismatics they will be found almost as exhilarating as the possession of the fine specimens he describes. To the donor we extend our hearty thanks.

COINS FOR SALE.

We have for sale the following lots of coins and medals which will be sold to the highest bidder without reserve as follows:

Bids will be received until March 25th, at which time the highest bidder for any lot will be notified and upon receipt of the amount bid and postage or expressage they will be forwarded to him or them. Any coin not as described may be returned.

Orders for these coins will be executed by
JNO. W. HABELTINE, 1225 Chestnut-st, Phila., Pa.
HENRY G. SAMPSON, cor. Fulton-st and Broad-
way, N. Y.
WM. P. BROWN, 145 Nassau-st, New York.
J. A. PIERCE, 75 Clark-st, Chicago.
HENRY AHLBORN, old Toll House, Cambridge
street, Boston.
EDWARD FROSSARD, Irvington, New York.
CHARLES FRASICK, 578 Main-st., Hartford,
Conn.
DAVID PROSKY, 194 Washington-st, N. Y.
EDWARD COGAN, 408 State-st, Brooklyn, N. Y.
J. COLVIN RANDALL, 114 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
A. S. HIRSCHORN, 711 South 5th street, St.
Louis, Mo.
GEO. E. WASHBURN, Box 48 San Francisco,
California.
And by the publisher, **D. A. K. ANDRUS**,
Belvidere, Ill.

Lot. Size.

1 Obv. "Hon. James Buchanan," head to
right, Rev. "The Union One and Indivisible,
Buchanan the crisis demands his election,"
fair but pierced. 22

2 Victoria and Albert, heads to left, Rev.
"The International Industrial Exhibition,
London, 1851," view of the palace and long
inscription, fair. 32

3 "Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Vic-
toria," head to right, Rev. same as 2, white
metal, fair. 32

4 "H: M: G: M: Queen Victoria, Born
May 24th, 1819, Crowned June 28, 1838,
Married Feb. 19th, 1840," crowned head to
left, Rev. "The new coal exchange, London,
opened by her Majesty Oct. 30, 1849," view
of building, white metal. 24

5 Obv. same as above, Rev. "Europe's
Glory, God Save the Queen," Britannia,
shield, lion, ships in distance, white metal,
fair, 17

6 Obv. and Rev. same as 3, larger head to
right, white metal, fair. 33

8 "The British Glory Revived by Admiral
Vernon," figure facing left, cannons, anchor,
Rev. "Ad. Vernon-Adm. Ogle took Cartha-
gena, by land, April 1, 1741." 24

15 "Admiral Vernon and Sr. Chalone
Ogle," Vernon and Ogle, Rev. "True British
Heroes, Took Carthage April 1741," brass,
very good impression but pierced. 24

16 "The British Glory Revie-d by Ad-
miral Vernon," large figure of Vernon, Rev.
He took Porto Bello, with six ships only,
Nov. 22, 1739," brass, good. 25

19 Same as eight, not as good.
20 Same as sixteen, fair.
34 "Louis XVIII Roi De France," large
head to left, Rev. "Aucun des articles de la

charte constitutionnelle ne serva Revisé
ordonnance du Roi du 5 September." 25

35 "President U. S. Grant," head to left
Rev. "In Honor of the 15th Amendment,
etc.," bronze, very good. 18

36 A Button from the coat of Swedish
General. 18

37 English Political Medal. Obv. "I.
Those Principles of Truth and Morality on
which political liberty and social order dep-
pend. II. A militia of all men capable of
arms bearing. III. A wittenagemote annu-
ally elected by the people for enacting laws"
Rev. "IV. Grand and Petit Juries of the
people fairly drawn for applying the laws.
V. A Magistracy elected by the people for
duly performing all executive duties. Eng-
land's Ancient Polity MDCCCXXIII." Rare
copper. 24

38 Paquet Washington. Obv. "The Con-
stitution is sacredly obligatory on all." Rev.
"U. S. Mint. Oath of allegiance taken by the
officers and workmen, Sept. 22, 1861. Jas
Pollock, Dir." Fine bronze. 19

39. Maximilian dime; good.
40. " half dime; good.
41. Charles II, half penny; poor.
42. Cinq Centimes, French. Republic fair.
43. Underline French Republic; poor.
44. Washington and Independence cent, 1783.
Very fine; scarce.
45. Obv. "Abraham Lincoln," Head to right,
Rev. "1864" flags, drums, cannons, etc. Size 12
46. 1846 1-4 Dollar; good.
47. 1856, " " "
48. 1856, " New Orleans mint; good.
40. 1851, 1-2\$ " " fine impres-
sion; scarce.
50. Half dime, 1832; very good.
51. Silver 10 cents, New Brunswick, 1864;
good.
52. English penny, 1861; fair, copper.
53. Canada cent, 1858; good, copper.
54. Canada cent, 1858; good, copper.
55. 5 centimes, Republic of Haiti, 1865; cop-
per.
56. 10 " " "
57. 20 " " "
58. 10 Reis Brazil, 1828; copper.
59. Faustina Senior, obv., head to right. Rev.
figure seated ALTER NITAS, S C, Very good.
60. Gordianus III, obv., head to right. Rev.
a warrior. "S. C." Brass fair.
61. Commodus, size 16.
62 Obv. Aurelianus, Rev. Aurelius and Vuser
size 21.
63. Hartford wide-awakes; barely circulated.
64. Obv. Henry Clay, Henry Clay, the
Ashland farmer, born April 12th, 1877, 1844.
Head to left; brass. Size 17.

65. "Gen. Geo. B. McClellan." Head to left Rev. "Monitor, 1862." Bronze. Size 18.
 66. George III, shilling, 1816; poor.
 67. 2 1-2 silver Groschen Prussian, 1842; base metal.
 68. 4 Groschen, Frederick III. Prussia.
 69. Uncirculated Gloucester penny.
 70. "Gen. A. A. Humphreys", 1863;" head to left, Rev. "Trefoil;" white metal. Size 20.
 71 U. S. 1-2 Dollar, 1853, Orleans mint, rays and arrows; fine impression.
 72 U. S. 1-2 dollar, Orleans mint; good.

**STAMPS ON SAME TERMS AS COINS,
 ALL IN GOOD CONDITION.**

- 75 An unused 6c Mishler.
 76 A used, black 6c Kerr
 77 " " 4c T. H. Barr & Co.
 78 " " 4c F. W. Marsden.
 79 " violet 1c Bonsefield & Poole.
 80 1 doz., green 1c Griggs & Goodwill.
 81 " 2 cent Orange Certificate.
 82. Unused set of 4 Cuban stamps; 1876 issue.
 83. " " " " 1877 issue.
 84. Used set of 11 Treasury stamps
 85. 1-2 Doz. used Byam & Carelton; 1c buff wrappers 1876,
 86. Used 7c envelope cut open on end opposite stamp; amber paper.
 87. Unused 7c envelope; uncut.
 88. Unused 5c Bolivia; 1867-8.
 89. Used 5c green Bolivia; 1867-8.
 90 Unused 60c yellow Bolivia, 1867-8.
 91 50 varieties of Postage Stamps.
 92 100 " " "
 93 200 " " "
 94 500 " " and Rev. Stamps.

Do not sell any articles in the line of Books, Coins, Autographs, Medals, Beer, Spirits, Tobacco, Match, Medicine, Revenue or Postage Stamps, Minerals, Fossils, Pictures, Bird Eggs, Bird Skins (mounted or unmounted), Indian Weapons, Implements, Pipes, &c., or any article in our line, without writing to us.

D. A. K. ANDRUS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THOSE ANSWERING AN ADVERTISEMENT WILL CONFER A FAVOR UPON AN ADVERTISER AND THE PUBLISHER, BY STATING THAT THEY SAW THE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

WM. P. BROWN, 145 Nassau St., N. Y. City, Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps, old coins and other curiosities. Send for circular, and state where this advertisement was noticed.

A. J. Hirschorn, 711 S. 5th St., St. Louis, dealer in U. S. Coppers, Colonials and Foreign Coin. Coins bought, sold and Exchanged on commission. Old Cents, Half Cents, Colonials, and scarce Foreign coin wanted. From one-half to two-thirds of selling price paid.

John W. Hazeltine, 1,225 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, \$1.50. Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cents. Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals, Centennial relics, a Colonial Note of Pennsylvania, dated 1776. Genuine, 50 cents. Please state where you saw this.

SEND 25 CENTS for either 75 different Foreign stamps; 25 Match and Medicine and Document stamps; 20 Canada Law, and Bill stamps; 1 Rare Griggs and Goodwill (green) Match stamp; 2 different entire sets of U.S. Officials; 400 assorted Decalcomanie; 100 Gem Chromos; 50 fine scrap book pictures; 1 Scrap-book; 10 Foreign coins. Stamp and coin lists sent free. Stamp catalogue, with 360 illustrations, 15 cents.

J. A. PIERCE, 75 Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

Match Stamps.

B. Bendel & Co., 1 cent, 15 per dozen; B. Bendel & Co., 12 cent, 15 cents each; Eureka, 4 cent, 5 cents each. S. F. Precussion Match Co., 12 cent, blue, 15 cents each. Also Chinese Copper Coins, 60 cents per 100.—Address
 GEO. E. WASHBURN, P. O. box, 48,
 San Francisco, Cal.

COLLECTORS.—Send 3 cent stamp for specimen copies of the St. Louis *Philatelist* a Splendid eight paged Stamp Journal, commended by the press and public everywhere. No post cards. E. F. GAMBS, Publisher, 413 South 4th street, St. Louis, Mo.

For sale or exchange, Indian relics, old Coins, Minerals, Fossils, &c Send Stamp for price list.
 R. W. MERCER, Cincinnati, O.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—U. S. Private and Internal Revenue, Beer, Tobacco, Snuff, Spirit, Playing Card, Foreign Revenue stamps, and collections of Postage stamps numbering 1,000 varieties and upwards, U. S. half and old copper cents, all for cash or exchange. \$3 in cash paid for each of the following: Aetna 1 cent, green; American Match Co., 1 and 3 cents, green; Bonsefield & Poole, 3 cent, brown; Brown & Durling, 1 cent black; Chicago Match Co., 3 cent black; Doolittle, W. E. Gorman, Thos. & Bro., 1 cent, black; N. Y. Match Co., 5 cent, blue; Pierce Match Co., Wise & Co. From 1 to 15 dollars paid for varieties. 25cts per hundred paid for any kind of Match stamps, 25 cts., per hundred for any kind of Medicine stamps. Complete price list of Match and Medicine stamps for 3 cent stamp, none free.

E. E. GAMBS, Foreign Stamp Importer,
 403 South 4th st., St. Louis, Mo.

JAMES ANGLIM,

PUBLISHER OF

Lanman's Biographical Annals

AND DEALER IN

RARE, OLD, CURIOUS BOOKS,

F Street, near the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Books bought and Exchanged.
 Law Books, Early American History, Government Publications, and Standard Works, on all subjects, receive special attention.



The Curiosity Hunter.

VOL. IV.

BELVIDERE, ILL., APRIL 1, 1877.

NO. 8.

The CURIOSITY HUNTER will serve as a medium of communication between those who wish to buy, sell, or exchange Curiosities, Coins, Books, Autographs, Geological specimens, Pictures, Engravings, Archaeological specimens, Stamps, etc. Subscription price 25 cents per year, which includes prepayment of U. S. postage by the publisher. D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

ADVERTISEMENTS OF DEALERS IN CURIOSITIES, 25 CENTS PER LINE OF 40 LETTERS, CASH IN ADVANCE. OTHER DEALERS 10 CENTS PER LINE.

Terms of exchange, and exchange advertisements the same as published in No. 4, 5 and 6 copies of which will be sent to any address, on receipt of a 3 cent stamp.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP. REMEMBER THIS AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT ANDRUS.

After May 1st, 1877, Address all Communications to D. A. K. Andrus, Box 733, Rockford, Ill.

I have six copies of the 7th Book of Moses in English; would sell five. These are very rare and a great curiosity. The only work in the U. S. in this print. Address

J. G. STAUFFER, Palmyra, Pa.

I will receive bids for an Aerolite, found near Wheaton, DuPage Co., Ill. Its weight is 11 1-4 pounds, its length 7 inches, width 4 1-2 inches, thickness, 2 1-2 inches; a very desirable specimen. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids. D. A. K. ANDRUS.

We are under obligations to GENERAL JOHN WAITS DE PEYSTER, for a copy of his eloquent and elegant address, "Maj. General Philip Schuyler, and the Burgoyne Campaign in the Summer of 1777," it being the annual address delivered Tuesday evening, 2d January, 1877, before the New York Historical Society. It would have been difficult for the Society to have chosen an abler or more interesting orator for the occasion, or the General a more appropriate theme.

Mr. Wm. Poillon, of New York, is also entitled to draw on us at sight for any favors in our power, for his prompt report of the election of

officers of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, published in another column, and many other like favors.

We have received from our esteemed friend, Wm. P. Brown, 145 Nassau street, New York, specimens of the 1-2 cent rose, 1 cent green, 2 cent yellow, and 2 1-2 cent lilac Hollands of the new issue. The design is the same for each, a neatly engraved rectangular frame with small circles (in which are the numerals of value) in the corners, and a larger circle with larger numerals of value in the center. "Netherland" at top, cent at bottom. Mr. Brown is one of the oldest and most reliable dealers in curiosities in this country. His little paper, "The Curiosity Cabinet," should be in the hands of every collector.

Space forbids us mentioning several courtesies which we hope to acknowledge in the future

PRICED COPIES OF 6 AND 7, 5 CENTS EACH.

I pay 75 cents per 100 in trade for all good specimens of Match and Medicine stamps, except the Clark and Gates 1 cent, and the two Swift & Courtney; for these and the Star Match, 25 cents per 100.

Having a large stock of Stamps which I am bound to change into money, I offer stamps at following rates; and to every person ordering to the amount of \$1.00 at one order, I will send "THE CURIOSITY HUNTER" for one year FREE.

Of those Stamps marked with a star (*) we have but few, and will give 1/2 of our list price in cash, or 3/4 in trade for a limited number of fine specimens.

(Continued from March No.)

CANADA.

1857. Various designs

	Unused.	Used.
* 1/2 penny, rose	40	15
* 3 " " red, (oblong)	30	6
* 6 " " lilac 2	1 00	25
* 7 1/2 " " (6d. stg.) green	2 00	1 25
* 10 " " blue	2 00	1 00
* 12 " " violet black	2 00	25 00
Various designs.		
* 1 cent, 1860, red	3	1
5 " " 62, red (oblong)	8	1
* 10 " " 60, lilac 3	12	1
* 12 1/4 " " green	20	3
* 17 " " blue	35	10
* 2 " " 64, red	8	5
Head of Victoria to Right.		
1 " " 1868, red	4	1
1 " " yellow	5	1
2 " " green	4	1
3 " " red	5	1
* 5 " " grey	12	4
6 " " brown	8	1
* 12 1/4 " " blue	20	4
* 15 " " lilac 2	25	4
1/4 " " (small) black	1	1

1	"	"	70, yellow	3	1
2	"	"	71, green	5	1
3	"	"	70, red	5	1
* 8	"	"	71, brown	20	1
* 5	"	"	75, gray	10	4
* 10	"	"	75, rose	20	5

REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS—1875

2 cents, (oblong) orange	3	1
* 5 " " "	8	3
* 8 " " blue	10	8

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

On white laid paper, wmk. P. O. D. 1861. Head of Victoria to left, oval.

* 5 cents, red	50	20
* 10 " brown	75	30

POST CARDS.

1 " blue, 1871	2	1
* 1 " " 1877	4	3

NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

* 1 " blue, 1875	4	1
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All Canada stamps not marked with a * will be received at 50 cents per 1,000 in exchange for other stamps. Parties having 2 cent registration law or bill stamps to exchange, will please send us their address.

CHILE.

1852. Head of Columbus, "Colon" above. Wmk. figure of value.

* 5 centavos, red (blue paper)	2	1 50	30
* 10 " blue		3 00	1 00
* 1 " yellow		15	10
* 5 " red		20	6
* 10 " blue		30	8
* 20 " green		60	12

"Chile" above, "Colon" below.

* 1 centavo, 1868, orange	5	5
* 2 " '67, black	8	10
* 5 " red	10	3
* 10 " blue	20	4
* 20 " green	40	6

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1872. Head of Columbus to left.

* 2 (dos) centavos, brown	10	
* 5 (cinco) " purple	25	
* 10 (diez) " blue	50	
* 15 (grunco) " pink	75	
* 20 (veinte) " bronze green	1 00	50

POST CARDS.

* 2 centavos, red	10	10
* 5 " mauve	15	15

[This list continued in May.]

U. S. INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

[Continued from March.]

Stamps marked with star [*] we will take in exchange at 2-3 our list price, until supplied; all others at 10 cents per 100 in trade. Stamps priced in black-faced figures we do not always have in stock, and the price fluctuates.

Second Issue, black Vignette of Washington in center.

1 cent, blue	01	
2 " "	01	
* 3 cents, blue	01	
4 " "	02	
5 " "	01	
* 6 " "	05	
10 " "	01	
* 15 " "	02	
* 20 " "	01	
25 " "	03	
* 30 " "	01	
* 40 " "	03	
50 " "	01	
* 60 " "	03	
* 70 " "	03	
* 1 dollar, blue	04	
* 1 " 30c., blue	30	
* 1 " 50c., "	04	
* 1 " 60c., "	50	
* 1 " 90c., "	60	
* 2 dollars, blue	04	
* 2½ " "	15	
* 3 " "	25	
* 3½ " "	40	
* 5 " "	20	
* 10 " "	1 00	
* 20 " "	3 00	
* 25 " "	3 00	
* 50 dollars, blue	6 00	

* 200 " "	25 00
* 500 " "	40 00
* 5,000 " "	50 00

Third Issue, same design.

1 cent, claret	02
2 cents, orange	01
* 4 " brown	02
* 5 " orange	01
* 6 " "	08
* 15 " brown	03
* 30 " orange	02
* 40 " brown	03
* 60 " orange	03
* 70 " green	03
* 1 dollar	02
* 2 dollars, vermilion	05
* 2½ " claret	02
* 3 " green	30
* 5 " vermilion	12
* 10 " green	1 50
* 20 " orange	3 00

Proprietary, same design, on pink and green paper.

1 cent, green	01
2 cents, "	02
3 " "	03
4 " "	02
* 5 " "	05
* 6 " "	04
* 10 " "	12
* 50 " (large)	60
* 1 dollar, "	1 10
* 5 dollars, "	3 00

Fourth Issue, Head to left in oval.

1 cent, green, (Washington)	01
2 cents, brown, "	01
3 " orange, "	02
4 " red brown, "	02
* 5 " black, "	10
* 6 " blue, "	06
2 " blue, (Liberty.)	01

Numismatics.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Mott Memorial Hall, 64 Madison Ave., New York, March 21st, 1877.

At the annual meeting of this Society, held last evening, the following officers were elected: Prof. Chas. E. Anthon, LL.D., of New York, President; Daniel Parish, Jr., Frederic J. de Peyster, of N. Y., and Alexander Balmanno, of Brooklyn, Vice-Presidents; William Poillon, N. Y., Secretary; Benjamin Betts, Brooklyn, Treasurer; Isaac F. Wood, N. Y., Librarian; Edward Groh, Brooklyn, Curator.

COINS FOR SALE.

We have for sale the following lots of coin and medals which will be sold to the highest bidder without reserve as follows:

Bids will be received until May 1st, at which time the highest bidder for any lot will be notified and upon receipt of the amount bid and postage or expressage they will be forwarded to him or them. Any coin not as described may be returned.

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HENRY G. SAMPSON, cor. Fulton-st and Broadway, N. Y.

Wm. P. Brown, 145 Nassau-st, New York.

HENRY AHLBORN, old Toll House, Cambridge street, Boston.

EDWARD FROSSARD, Irvington, New York.

CHARLES FRASICK, 578 Main-st., Hartford, Conn.

DAVID PROSKY, 194 Washington-st, N. Y.

EDWARD COGAN, 408 State-st, Brooklyn, N. Y.

J. COLVIN RANDALL, 114 South 17th Street Philadelphia, Pa.

A. S. HIRSCHORN, 711 South 5th street, St. Louis, Mo.

And by the publisher, D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

Lot. Size.

1 Obv. "Hon. James Buchanan," head to right, Rev. "The Union One and Indivisible, Buchanan the crisis demands his election," fair but pierced. 22

2 Victoria and Albert, heads to left, Rev. "The International Industrial Exhibition, London, 1851," view of the palace and long inscription, fair. 32

3 "Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria," head to right, Rev. same as 2, white metal, fair. 32

4 "H: M: G: M: Queen Victoria, Born May 24th, 1819, Crowned June 28, 1838, Married Feb. 19th, 1840," crowned head to left, Rev. "The new coal exchange, London, opened by her Majesty Oct. 30, 1849," view of building, white metal. 24

5 Obv. same as above, Rev. "Europe's Glory, God Save the Queen," Britannia, shield, lion, ships in distance, white metal, fair. 17

6 Obv. and Rev. same as 3, larger head to right, white metal, fair. 33

19 "The British Glory Revived by Admiral Vernon," figure facing left, cannons, anchor, Rev. "Ad. Vernon-Adm. Ogle took Carthage, by land, April 1, 1741." 24

20 "The British Glory Revived by Admiral Vernon," large figure of Vernon, Rev. He took Porto Bello, with six ships only. v22" brass, good.

34 "Louis XVIII Roi De France," large head to left, Rev. "Aucun des articles de la charte constitutionnelle ne serva Revise ordonnance du Roi du 5 September." 25

36 A Button from the coat of Swedish General. 18

37 English Political Medal. Obv. "I. Those Principles of Truth and Morality on which political liberty and social order depend. II. A militia of all men capable of

arms bearing. III. A wittenagemote annually elected by the people for enacting laws" Rev. "IV. Grand and Petit Juries of the people fairly drawn for applying the laws. V. A Magistracy elected by the people for duly performing all executive duties. Engand's Ancient Polity MDCCCXXII." Rare

41. Charles II, half penny; poor.

42. Cinq Centimes, French. Republic fair.

43. Uudscrime French Republic; poor.

52. English penny, 1861; fair, copper.

53. Canada cent, 1858; good, copper.

54. Canada cent, 1859; good, copper.

60. Gordianus III, obv., head to right. Rev. a warrior. "S. C." Brass fair.

61. Commodus, size 16.

Lot 95, 1846, Orleans 1-2 dollar, good.

" 96, 1854, Orleans 1-2 dollar, good.

" 97, 1831, Orleans 1-2 dollar, good.

" 98, 1844, Victoria 1-2 crown, good.

" 99, 1846, Victoria shilling, good.

" 100, au extra fine impression of the Louis Napoleon Bonaparte 1 franc republic of France, 1852, scarce.

Lot 101, 1-4 dollar, 1835, very fine.

" 102, 1-4 dollar, Orleans mint, good.

" 103, 1-4 dollar, 1861, good.

" 104, twenty cents, 1875, good.

" 105, 1830, cent, fair.

" 106, 1822, cent, very good.

" 107, "Washington born in Virginia etc. poor.

Lot 108, 12 pieces 20 centimes Haiti 1863.

" 109, A. B. VanCott, Jewelry, Racine, Wis. good.

Lot 110 Q. A. Hopkins, Card, Milwaukee, Wis. good.

Lot 111, Pearson & Dear, Chicago.

" 112, London, Penny Token, Goldsmiths Hall, rare, uncirculated.

STAMPS ON SAME TERMS AS COINS,

ALL IN GOOD CONDITION.

Lot 113, 2 cent Blue Marsden, started at \$8.00, good, used specimen.

Lot 114, 4 cent, West India Stomach Bitters, started at \$4.00. Very fine, used specimen.

Lot 115, Aetna Match Co., 1 cent, green, started at \$5.50.

Lot 116, 4 cent, T. H. Barr

" 117, 6 cent, Kerr.

" 118, 3 cent, carmine, Greenleaf & Co.

" 119, 1 cent, violet, Bousefield & Poole.

" 120, unused, set of, Cuba, 1877.

" 121, " " Bahamas.

Do not sell any articles in the line of Books, Coins, Autographs, Medals, Beer, Spirits, Tobacco, Match, Medicine, Revenue or Postage Stamps, Minerals, Fossils, Pictures, Bird Eggs, Bird Skins (mounted or unmounted), Indian Weapons, Implements, Pipes, &c., or any article in our line, without writing to us.

D. A. K. ANDRUS.

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Stamps, Albums, Decalcomanie and Embossed Pictures, at rates sure to please. Circulars FREE. 500 mixed stamps, 35c; 200 nice Decalcomanies, 25c. Geo. H. Richmond, Northfield, Vermont.

6 varieties California Revenues for 35 cents. Entire Hungarian Money Order, 10 cents.—Reliable agents wanted to sell sheets of stamps, at 33% per cent. commission. Correspondence solicited. Address, Geo. E. Washburn, P. O. Box 48, San Francisco, Cal.

A. J. Hirschorn, 711 S. 5th St., St. Louis, dealer in U. S. Coppers, Colonial and Foreign Coin. Coins bought, sold and exchanged on commission. Old Cents, Half Cents, Colonials, and scarce Foreign coins wanted. From one-half to two-thirds of selling price paid.

COLLECTORS.—Send 3 cent stamp for specimen copies of the St. Louis *Philatelist* a Splendid illustrated eight paged Stamp Journal, commended by the press and public everywhere. No post cards. E. F. GAMBS, Publisher, 413 South 4th street, St. Louis, Mo.

John W. Hazeltine, 1,325 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, \$1.50. Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cents. Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals, Centennial relics, a Colonial Note of Pennsylvania, dated 1776. Genuine, 50 cents. Please state where you saw this.

\$105 \$25 a day sure made by Agents selling our Chromos, Crayons, Picture and Chromo Cards 100 samples worth \$4 sent postpaid for 75 cts. Illustrated circulars FREE. J. C. BUFFORD'S SONS, Boston. Established in 1830.

Wanted—First four volumes of "Geological Survey of Illinois." F. J. Candee, Moline, Ill.

To Exchange—A splendid collection of Foreign Stamps or Coins, for Minerals, Fossils, Indian or Mound Builders' Relics. F. J. Candee, Moline, Ill.

Wanted—100,000 stamp collectors to send for price lists, etc. A. Wilson, P. O. Box 984, San Francisco, Cal.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—U. S. Private and Internal Revenue, Beer, Tobacco, Snuff, Spirit, Playing Card, Foreign Revenue stamps, and collections of Postage stamps numbering 1,000 varieties and upwards, U. S. half an old copper cents, all for cash or exchange. \$3 in cash paid for each of the following: Aetna 1 cent, green; American Match Co., 1 and 3 cents, green; Bousfield & Poole, 3 cents, brown; Brown & Durling, 1 cent black; Chicago Match Co., 3 cents black; Doolittle, W. E. Gorman, Thos. & Bro., 1 cent, black; N. Y. Match Co., 5 cents, blue; Pierce Match Co., Wise & Co. From 1 to 15 dollars paid for rarities. 25cts per hundred paid for any kind of Match stamps, 25 cts., per hundred for any kind of Medicine stamps. Complete price list of Match and Medicine stamps for 3 cent stamp, none free.

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413 South 4th st., St. Louis, Mo.
Established 5 years.

EDWARD HEIM,

VIENNA, III, Matthausgasse, 5, AUSTRIA.

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Has a large stock of postage stamps, corresponding cards, envelopes, paper, bill, private and telegraphic stamps, essays and proofs of all countries, and sells them cheap per dozen, hundred and thousand. Quantities of good stamps are always bought and exchanged, and offers or invoices on approval always accepted and sent. Price lists sent on application.

AUTOGRAPHS!

Over 300 signatures, official and military documents, Franked envelopes, letters, &c. &c., at less than half what they cost me. The finest and cheapest collection ever offered for sale in small lots, and each one warranted genuine. Send stamp for printed price list. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Cabinet members, revolutionary heroes, eminent Generals, Admirals, scientists, authors and poets. M. W. BENJAMIN.
362 West 57th st., New York.

AUTOGRAPHS.



The Curiosity Hunter.

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 7

BELVIDERE, ILL., APRIL 1, 1877.

NO. 7

The **CURIOSITY HUNTER** will serve as a medium of communication between those who wish to buy, sell, or exchange Curiosities, Coins, Books, Autographs, Geological specimens, Pictures, Engravings, Archeological specimens, Stamps, etc. Subscription price 25 cents per year, which includes prepayment of U. S. postage by the publisher. **D. A. K. ANDRUS,** Belvidere, Ill.

ADVERTISEMENTS OF DEALERS IN CURIOSITIES, 25 CENTS PER LINE OF 40 LETTERS, CASH IN ADVANCE. OTHER DEALERS 10 CENTS PER LINE.

Terms of exchange, and exchange advertisements the same as published in No. 4, 5 and 6 copies of which will be sent to any address, on receipt of a 3 cent stamp.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EVERY LETTER TO WHICH YOU EXPECT A REPLY MUST CONTAIN A THREE CENT STAMP. REMEMBER THIS AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT **ANDRUS.**

After May 1st, 1877, Address all Communications to **D. A. K. Andrus, Box 733, Rockford, Ill.**

I have six copies of the 7th Book of Moses in English; would sell five. These are very rare and a great curiosity. The only work in the U. S. in this print. Address

J. G. STAUFFER, Palmyra, Pa.

I will receive bids for an Aerolite, found near Wheaton, DuPage Co., Ill. Its weight is 11 1-4 pounds, its length 7 inches, width 4 1-2 inches, thickness, 2 1-2 inches; a very desirable specimen. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids. **D. A. K. ANDRUS.**

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Mr. Wm. Poillon, of New York, is also entitled to draw on us at sight for any favors in our power, for his prompt report of the election of

officers of the American Numismatic and Archeological Society, published in another column, and many other like favors.

We have received from our esteemed friend, **Wm. P. Brown**, 145 Nassau street, New York, specimens of the 1-2 cent rose, 1 cent green, 2 cent yellow, and 2 1-2 cent lilac Hollands of the new issue. The design is the same for each, a neatly engraved rectangular frame with small circles (in which are the numerals of value) in the corners, and a larger circle with larger numerals of value in the center. "Netherland" at top, cent at bottom. Mr. Brown is one of the oldest and most reliable dealers in curiosities in this country. His little paper, "The Curiosity Cabinet," should be in the hands of every collector.

Space forbids us mentioning several courtesies which we hope to acknowledge in the future

PRICED COPIES OF 6 AND 7, 5 CENTS EACH.

I pay 75 cents per 100 in trade for all good specimens of Match and Medicine stamps, except the Clark and Gates 1 cent, and the two Swift & Courtney; for these and the Star Match, 25 cents per 100.

Having a large stock of Stamps which I am bound to change into money, I offer stamps at following rates; and to every person ordering to the amount of \$1.00 at one order, I will send "THE CURIOSITY HUNTER" for one year FREE.

Of those Stamps marked with a star (*) we have but few, and will give 1/2 of our list price in cash, or 3/4 in trade for a limited number of fine specimens.

(Continued from March No.)

CANADA.

1857. Various designs

	Unused.	Used.
* 1/2 penny, rose	40	15
* 3 " red, (oblong)	20	6
* 6 " lilac 2	1 00	25
* 7 1/2 " (6d. stg.) green	2 00	1 25
* 10 " blue	2 00	1 00
* 12 " violet black	2 00	25 00
Various designs.		
* 1 cent, 1860, red	3	1
5 " 62, red (oblong)	8	1
* 10 " 60, lilac 3	12	1
* 12 1/2 " green	20	3
* 17 " blue	85	10
* 2 " 64, red	8	5
1 " Head of Victoria to Right		
1 " 1868, red	4	1
1 " yellow	5	1
2 " green	4	1
3 " red	5	1
* 5 " grey	12	4
6 " brow	8	1
* 12 1/2 " blue	20	4
* 15 " lilac 2	25	4
1/4 " (small) black	1	1

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VOL. IV

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1857. Various designs

	Unused.	Used.
* 1/2 penny, rose	40	15
* 3 " red, (oblong)	20	6
* 6 " lilac 2	1 00	25
* 7 1/2 " (6d. stg.) green	2 00	1 25
* 10 " blue	2 00	1 00
* 12 " violet black	2 00	25 00
Various designs.		
* 1 cent, 1860, red	3	1
5 " 62, red (oblong)	8	1
* 10 " 60, lilac 3	12	1
* 12 1/2 " green	20	3
* 17 " blue	35	10
* 2 " 64, red	8	5
Head of Victoria to Right.		
1 " 1865, red	4	1
1 " yellow	5	1
2 " green	4	1
3 " red	5	1
* 5 " grey	12	4
6 " brown	8	1
* 12 1/2 " blue	20	4
* 15 " lilac 2	25	4
1/2 " (small) black	1	1

1	"	"	70, yellow	3	1
2	"	"	71, green	5	1
3	"	"	70, red	5	1
* 6	"	"	71, brown	90	1
* 5	"	"	75, gray	10	4
* 10	"	"	75, rose	20	5

REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS—1875

2	cents, (oblong)	orange	3	1
* 5	"	"	8	3
* 8	"	blue	10	8

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

On white laid paper, wmk. P. O. D. 1861. Head of Victoria to left, oval.

* 5	cents, red.	50	20
* 10	" brown	75	30

POST CARDS.

1	"	blue, 1871	2	1
* 1	"	" 1877	4	3

NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

* 1	"	blue, 1875	4	1
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All Canada stamps not marked with a * will be received at 50 cents per 1,000 in exchange for other stamps. Parties having 2 cent registration law or bill stamps to exchange, will please send us their address.

CHILE.

1852. Head of Columbus, "Colon" above. Wmk. figure of value.

* 5	centavos, red (blue paper) 2	1 50	30
* 10	" blue	3 00	1 00
* 1	" yellow	15	10
* 5	" red	20	6
* 10	" blue	30	8
* 20	" green	60	12

"Chile" above, "Colon" below.

* 1	centavo, 1868, orange	5	5
* 2	" '67, black	8	10
* 5	" red	10	3
* 10	" blue	20	4
* 20	" green	40	6

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1872. Head of Columbus to left.

* 2	(dos) centavos, brown	10	
* 5	(cinco) " purple	25	
* 10	(diez) " blue	50	
* 15	(grunce) " pink	75	
* 20	(veinte) " bronze green	1 00	50

POST CARDS.

* 2	centavos, red.	10	10
* 5	" mauve	15	15

[This list continued in May.]

U. S. INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

[Continued from March.]

Stamps marked with star [*] we will take in exchange at 2-3 our list price, until supplied; all others at 10 cents per 100 in trade. Stamps priced in black-faced figures we do not always have in stock, and the price fluctuates.

Second Issue, black Vignette of Washington in center.

1	cent, blue	01	01
2	" "	01	01
* 3	cents, blue	01	01
4	" "	02	02
5	" "	01	01
* 6	" "	05	05
10	" "	01	01
* 15	" "	02	02
* 20	" "	01	01
25	" "	01	01
* 30	" "	03	03
* 40	" "	03	03
50	" "	01	01
* 60	" "	03	03
* 70	" "	03	03
* 1	dollar, blue	04	04
* 1	" 30c., blue	30	30
* 1	" 50c., "	40	40
* 1	" 60c., "	50	50
* 1	" 90c., "	60	60
* 2	dollars, blue	04	04
* 2 1/2	" "	15	15
* 3	" "	25	25
* 3 1/2	" "	40	40
* 5	" "	20	20
* 10	" "	1 00	1 00
* 20	" "	3 00	3 00
* 25	" "	3 00	3 00
* 50	dollars, blue	6 00	6 00

* 200	"	"	25 00
* 500	"	"	40 00
* 5,000	"	"	50 00

Third Issue, same design.

1	cent, claret	02	02
2	cents, orange	01	01
* 4	" brown	02	02
* 5	" orange	01	01
* 6	" "	08	08
* 15	" brown	03	03
* 30	" orange	02	02
* 40	" brown	03	03
* 60	" orange	03	03
* 70	" green	03	03
* 1	dollar	02	02
* 2	dollars, vermilion	05	05
* 2 1/2	" claret	02	02
* 3	" green	20	20
* 5	" vermilion	12	12
* 10	" green	1 50	1 50
* 20	" orange	3 00	3 00

Proprietary, same design, on pink and green paper.

1	cent, green	01	01
2	cents, "	02	02
3	" "	03	03
4	" "	02	02
* 5	" "	05	05
* 6	" "	04	04
* 10	" "	12	12
* 50	" (large)	60	60
* 1	dollar, "	1 10	1 10
* 5	dollars, "	3 00	3 00

Fourth Issue, Head to left in oval.

1	cent, green, (Washington)	01	01
2	cents, brown, "	01	01
3	" orange, "	02	02
4	" red brown, "	02	02
* 5	" black, "	10	10
* 6	" blue, "	06	06
2	" blue, (Liberty.)	01	01

Numismatics.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Mott Memorial Hall, 64 Madison Ave., New York, March 21st, 1877.

At the annual meeting of this Society, held last evening, the following officers were elected: Prof. Chas. E. Anthon, LL.D., of New York, President; Daniel Parish, Jr., Frederic J. de Peyster, of N. Y., and Alexander Balmanno, of Brooklyn, Vice-Presidents; William Pollon, N. Y., Secretary; Benjamin Betts, Brooklyn, Treasurer; Isaac F. Wood, N. Y., Librarian; Edward Groh, Brooklyn, Curator.

COINS FOR SALE.

We have for sale the following lots of coin and medals which will be sold to the highest bidder without reserve as follows:

Bids will be received until May 1st, at which time the highest bidder for any lot will be notified and upon receipt of the amount bid and postage or expressage they will be forwarded to him or them. Any coin not as described may be returned.

Orders for these coins will be executed by JNO. W. HASELTINE, 1225 Chestnut-st, Phila., Pa.

HENRY G. SAMPSON, cor. Fulton-st and Broadway, N. Y.
WM. P. BROWN, 145 Nassau-st, New York.

HENRY AHLBORN, old Toll House, Cambridge street, Boston.

EDWARD FROSSARD, Irvington, New York.

CHARLES FRASICK, 578 Main-st., Hartford, Conn.

DAVID PROSKY, 194 Washington-st, N. Y.

EDWARD COGAN, 408 State-st, Brooklyn, N.Y.

J. COLVIN RANDALL, 114 South 17th Street Philadelphia, Pa.

A. S. HIRSCHORN, 711 South 5th street, St. Louis, Mo.

And by the publisher, D. A. K. ANDRUS, Belvidere, Ill.

- Lot. Size.
- 1 Obv. "Hon. James Buchanan," head to right, Rev. "The Union One and Indivisible, Buchanan the crisis demands his election," fair but pierced. 22
- 2 Victoria and Albert, heads to left, Rev. "The International Industrial Exhibition, London, 1851," view of the palace and long inscription, fair. 32
- 3 "Princess Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria," head to right, Rev. same as 2, white metal, fair. 32
- 4 "H: M: G: M: Queen Victoria, Born May 24th, 1819, Crowned June 28, 1838, Married Feb. 19th, 1840," crowned head to left, Rev. "The new coal exchange, London, opened by her Majesty Oct. 30, 1849," view of building, white metal. 24
- 5 Obv. same as above, Rev. "Europe's Glory, God Save the Queen," Britannia, shield, lion, ships in distance, white metal, fair. 17
- 6 Obv. and Rev. same as 3, larger head to right, white metal, fair. 33
- 19 "The British Glory Revived by Admiral Vernon," figure facing left, cannons, anchor, Rev. "Ad. Vernon-Adm. Ogle took Carthage, by land, April 1, 1741." 24
- 20 "The British Glory Revived by Admiral Vernon," large figure of Vernon, Rev. He took Porto Bello, with six ships only. "22" brass, good.
- 34 "Louis XVIII Roi De France," large head to left, Rev. "Aucun des articles de la charte constitutionnelle ne serva Revise ordonnance du Roi du 5 September." 25
- 36 A Button from the coat of Swedish General. 18
- 37 English Political Medal. Obv. "I. Those Principles of Truth and Morality on which political liberty and social order depend. II. A militia of all men capable of

arms bearing. III. A wittenagemote annually elected by the people for enacting laws" Rev. "IV. Grand and Petit Juries of the people fairly drawn for applying the laws. V. A Magistracy elected by the people for duly performing all executive duties. England's Ancient Polity MDCCCXXXIII." Rare

41. Charles II, half penny; poor.
42. Cinq Centimes, French. Republic fair.
43. Udeorime French Republic; poor.
52. English penny, 1861; fair, copper.
53. Canada cent, 1858; good, copper.
54. Canada cent, 1859; good, copper.
60. Gordianus III, obv., head to right. Rev. a warrior. "S. C." Brass fair.
61. Commodus, size 16.
- Lot 95, 1846, Orleans 1-2 dollar, good.
- " 96, 1854, Orleans 1-2 dollar, good.
- " 97, 1831, Orleans 1-2 dollar, good.
- " 98, 1844, Victoria 1-2 crown, good.
- " 99, 1846, Victoria shilling, good.
- " 100, an extra fine impression of the Louis Napoleon Bonaparte 1 franc republic of France, 1852, scarce.
- Lot 101, 1-4 dollar, 1835, very fine.
- " 102, 1-4 dollar, Orleans mint, good.
- " 103, 1-4 dollar, 1861, good.
- " 104, twenty cents, 1875, good.
- " 105, 1830, cent, fair.
- " 106, 1822, cent, very good.
- " 107, "Washington born in Virginia etc. poor.
- Lot 108, 12 pieces 20 centime Haiti 1863.
- " 109, A. B. VanCott, Jewelry, Racine, Wis. good.
- Lot 110 Q. A. Hopkins, Card, Milwaukee, Wis. good.
- Lot 111, Pearson & Dear, Chicago.
- " 112, London, Penny Token, Goldsmiths Hall, rare, uncirculated.

STAMPS ON SAME TERMS AS COINS,

ALL IN GOOD CONDITION.

- Lot 113, 2 cent Blue Marsden, started at \$8.00, good, used specimen.
- Lot 114, 4 cent, West India Stomach Bitters, started at \$4.00. Very fine, used specimen.
- Lot 115, Aetna Match Co., 1 cent, green, started at \$5.50.
- Lot 116, 4 cent, T. H. Barr
- " 117, 6 cent, Kerr.
- " 118, 3 cent, carmine, Greenleaf & Co.
- " 119, 1 cent, violet, Bousefield & Poole.
- " 120, unused, set of, Cuba, 1877.
- " 121, " " Bahamas.

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D. A. K. ANDRUS.

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6 varieties California Revenues for 35 cents. Entire Hungarian Money Order, 10 cents.—Reliable agents wanted to sell sheets of stamps, at 33½ per cent. commission. Correspondence solicited. Address, Geo. E. Washburn, P. O. Box 48, San Francisco, Cal.

A. J. Hirschorn, 711 S. 5th St., St. Louis, dealer in U. S. Coppers, Colonial and Foreign Coin. Coins bought, sold and Exchanged on commission. Old Cents, Half Cents, Continentals, and scarce Foreign coins wanted. From one-half to two-thirds of selling price paid.

COLLECTORS.—Send 3 cent stamp for specimen copies of the St. Louis *Philatelist* a Splendid illustrated eight paged Stamp Journal, commended by the press and public everywhere. No post cards. E. F. GAMBS, Publisher, 413 South 4th street, St. Louis, Mo.

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\$10 ⁵ \$25 a day sure made by Agents selling our Chromos, Crayons, Picture and Chromo Cards 100 samples worth \$4 sent postpaid for 75 cts. Illustrated circulars FREE. J. H. BUFFORD'S SONS, Boston. Established in 1830.

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Wanted—100,000 stamp collectors to send for price lists, etc. A. Wilson, P. O. Box 934, San Francisco, Cal.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—U. S. Private and Internal Revenue, Beer, Tobacco, Sauff, Spirit, Playing Card, Foreign Revenue stamps, and collections of Postage stamps numbering 1,000 varieties and upwards, U. S. half and old copper cents, all for cash or exchange. \$3 in cash paid for each of the following: Aetna 1 cent, green; American Match Co., 1 and 3 cents, green; Bousefield & Poole, 3 cents, brown; Brown & Durling, 1 cent black; Chicago Match Co., 3 cents black; Doolittle, W. E. Gorman, Thos. & Bro., 1 cent, black; N. Y. Match Co., 5 cents, blue; Pierce Match Co., Wise & Co. From 1 to 15 dollars paid for rarities. 25cts per hundred paid for any kind of Match stamps, 25 cts., per hundred for any kind of Medicine stamps. Complete price list of Match and Medicine stamps for 3 cent stamp, none free.

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AUTOGRAPHS!

Over 300 signatures, official and military documents, Franked envelopes, letters, &c., &c., at less than half what they cost me. The finest and cheapest collection ever offered for sale in small lots, and each one warranted genuine. Send stamp for printed price list. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Cabinet members, revolutionary heroes, eminent Generals, Admirals, scientists, authors and poets. M. W. BENJAMIN.
362 West 57th st., New York.

AUTOGRAPHS.

The Curiosity Hunter.

OL. IV. ROCKFORD, ILL., MAY and JUNE. NOS. 8 and 9.

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5 cents per line of 40 letters. Cash in advance.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Owing to our removal to this place from Belvidere, Ill., our May number was somewhat delayed, and we issue for this time our May and June numbers together. Hereafter we shall issue promptly on the first of each month a paper of the same size as this double number, until the constantly growing demands upon our columns necessitate enlargement. As will be seen, we have not raised our price of subscription, although we have doubled the size of our paper. We hope to soon still further improve it by illustrations.

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Numismatists do not fail to send to S. H. Harzfeld, 1713 Park Avenue for his April regular, *The Coin and Stamp Journal*, New York; *Numisma*, Irvington, New York, and *The Coin Circular* Titusville are each stars of the first magnitude in the horizon of American numismatics.

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D. A. K. ANDRUS.

R. D. B. 207

Price List of U. S. Document Stamps.

Those marked with (*) we will take in exchange at $\frac{1}{2}$ of our list prices.

First Issue, head of Washington in oval.	
1 cent, red, Express	\$ 01
*1 " " Playing-Cards	15
1 " " Proprietary	02
1 " " Telegraph	01
2 cents, blue, Bank Check	01
2 " orange,	01
2 " blue, Certificate	08
2 " orange,	05
2 " blue, Express	01
2 " orange,	03
2 " blue, Playing Cards	04
*2 " orange,	10
*2 " blue, Proprietary	01
*2 " orange,	20
2 " U. S. Int. Revenue	01
3 " green, Foreign Exchange	01
*3 " " Playing-Cards	50
3 " " Proprietary	04
3 " " Telegraph	02
*4 " brown, Inland Exchange	01
*4 " violet, Playing-Cards	40
4 " " Proprietary	03
5 " red, Agreement	01
5 " " Certificate	01
5 " " Express	02
5 " " Foreign Exchange	01
5 " " Inland	01
*5 " " Playing-Cards	40
*5 " " Proprietary	15
6 " orange, Inland Exchange	01
*6 " " Proprietary	2 00
10 " blue, Bill of Lading	01
10 " " Certificate	01
10 " " Contract	01
10 " " Foreign Exchange	05
10 " " Inland	01
10 " " Power of Attorney	01
*10 " " Proprietary	30
*15 " brown, Foreign Exchange	06
15 " " Inland	01
20 " red, Foreign	08
20 " " Inland	01
25 " " Bond	03
25 " " Certificate	01
25 " " Entry of Goods	01
25 " " Insurance	01
25 " " Life Insurance	04
25 " " Power of Attorney	01
*25 " " Protest	01
*25 " " Warehouse Receipt	10
30 " Violet, Foreign Exchange	10
30 " " Inland	01
*40 " brown,	01
50 " blue, Conveyance	01
50 " " Entry of Goods	01
50 " " Foreign Exchange	08
50 " " Lease	08
50 " " Life Insurance	01
50 " " Mortgage	03
50 " " Original Process	01
50 " " Passage Ticket	05
*50 " " Probate of Will	75
50 " " Surety Bond	01
60 " Orange, Inland Exchange	01
70 " green, Foreign	02
1 dollar, red, Conveyance	04
1 " " Entry of Goods	01
1 " " Foreign Exchange	01

1 " " Inland	"
1 " " Lease	"
1 " " Life Insurance	"
1 " " Manifest	"
*1 " " Mortgage	"
*1 " " Passage Ticket	"
1 " " Power of Attorney	"
*1 " " Probate of Will	"
*1d. 80c., orange, Foreign Exchange	"
*1d. 50c., blue, Inland	"
*1d. 60c., green, Foreign	"
*1d. 90c., violet,	"
2 dollars, red, Conveyance	"
2 " " Mortgage	"
2 " " Probate of Will	"
2 1/2 " violet, Inland Exchange	"
3 1/2 " green, Charter Party	"
3 " " Manifest	"
3 1/2 " blue, Inland Exchange	"
5 " red, Charter Party	"
5 " " Conveyance	"
5 " " Manifest	"
5 " " Mortgage	"
5 " " Probate of Will	"
10 " green, Charter Party	"
*10 " " Conveyance	"
*10 " " Mortgage	"
*10 " " Probate of Will	"
*15 " blue, Mortgage	"
*20 " orange, Conveyance	"
*20 " " Probate of Will	"
*25 " red, Mortgage	"
*50 " green, U. S. Inter. Rev.	"
*200 " " and red, " (oblong)	"

Second Issue, black vignette of Washington centre.

1 cent, blue	
2 cents, "	
3 " "	
4 " "	
5 " "	
6 " "	
10 " "	
15 " "	
20 " "	
25 " "	
30 " "	
40 " "	
50 " "	
60 " "	
70 " "	
1 dollar, blue	
*1 " 30c., blue	
*1 " 50c., "	
*1 " 60c., "	
*1 " 80c., "	
2 dollars, blue	
2 1/2 " "	
*3 " "	
*3 1/2 " "	
*5 " "	
*10 " "	
*20 " "	
*25 " "	
*50 " "	
*200 " "	
*500 " "	
*5,000 " "	

Third Issue, same design.

1 cent, claret	
2 cents, orange	
*4 " brown	
*5 " orange	
*6 " "	
*15 " brown	
*30 " orange	
*40 " brown	
*60 " orange	
*70 " green	
*1 dollar	
*2 dollars, vermilion	
*2 1/2 " claret	
*3 " green	
*5 " vermilion	
*10 " green	
*20 " orange	

Proprietary, same design, on Pink and Green Paper.	
cent, green	01
cents, " "	02
" " "	03
" " "	02
" " "	05
" " "	04
" " "	12
" " large.	50
dollar, " "	1 10
dollars, " "	3 00

Fourth Issue, Head to left in oval.

cent, green, Washington	01
cents, brown, " "	01
" orange, " "	01
" red-brown, " "	01
" black, " "	08
" blue, " "	05
" Liberty	01

Price List of U. S. Private Revenue Stamps--Second Edition.

We give below a revised and complete price list of U. S. Proprietary Revenue Stamps, for which the demand has become so great, that we are obliged by request from many correspondents to give a revised price list. Those marked with a * we only have occasionally, and the price fluctuates. Parties having any of them, please correspond with us before selling.

MATCH STAMPS.

Acton Match Co., eagle 1 c blue	04
" " " 1 green	6 00
Akron " moon 1 blue	3 00
Alexander, rooster, 1 blue	3 00
" " " 1 orange	15
Allen, Thos., bears, St. Louis Match Factory 1 green	3 00
Allen & Powers, tree, 1 blue	03
American Fuse Co., 1 black	03
" " Match Co., eagle 1 black	40
" " " 1 green	15 00
" " " Rock Island 3 green	10 00
" " " Cleveland, 1 black	15
" " " " 3 black	25
Arnold & Co., triangle, 1 black	10
Baltimore Ex. Waterproof 1 blue	30
Barber & Peckham 1 blue	3 00
" " " 3 black	10 00
Barber, Geo. & O. C. 1 blue	2 00
Barber Match Co., 1 blue	02
" " " 3 black	15
Bauer & Bendel, shield, 1 blue	1 00
Beecher A. & Sons, flag, 1 orange	15
Bendel B. & Co., cross 1 brown	03
" " " large, 12 brown	25
Bent & Lee, torch, 1 black	30
Bentz H. & M., eagle 1 blue	50
B. & N., Brockett & Newton lake 1 blue	02
Block, Schneider & Co., 1 black	08
Bosefield & Poole, 1 violet	30
" " " 3 brown	15 00
" " " 1 black	02
" " " 3 " "	08
Bostell & Maynard 1 " "	75
Brown & Durling, 1 " "	15 00
" " " 1 green	1 50
Buck, L. W. & Co. 1 black	2 50
Barbans, D. & Co., 1 black	1 50
Bram, Carleton & Co., 1 black	03
" " " 1 head on white wrapper 1 black	05
" " " 1 buff " 1 " "	1 25
" " " 2 heads to left, buff " 1 " "	3 01
" " " 2 " white " 1 " "	5 00
" " " 2 " right, buff, " 1 " "	03
" " " 2 " " 1876 " 1 " "	03
" " " 1 " " " 1 " "	03

*Chicago Match Co., 3 black	6 00
Clark Match Co., 1 lake	02
Clark, Henry A., masonic emblem	05
Clark, James S. 1c green	02
Cramer & Kemp, 1 black	1 00
" " " 1 blue	05
Crown Match Co., 1 black	03
Curtis, W. D., deer, 1 green	25
Daily, M., head of Franklin, 1 blue	05
Davis, G. W. H. 1 black	02
*Doolittle, W. E. 1 blue	10 00
Eaton, James 1 black	02
Eichele, Aug. 1 black	1 50
" " P. & Co. 1 blue	02
" " & Co. 1 blue	02
Eisenhart, J. W., rooster, 1 blue	03
Excels'r Match Co., Syracuse, N. Y., 1 blk	03
" " Watertown, " 1 blk	60
F. E. C., Frank E. Clark, 1 carmine	25
Farr, Geo. & Co. 1 black	2 50
Frank L., pelican, 1 brown	02
Gates, Wm. 1 black	02
" " 3 black	10
" " 6 black	30
" " 3 black, 1870, oblong	04
Goldback, A. & Co., 1 green	08
" " A. 1 green	08
*Gorman, Thos. & Bro, 1 black	8 00
" " " 1 green	05
" " " 1 green	05
" " Thomas 1 green	03
Greenleaf & Co., phoenix, 1 green	20
" " " 3 carmine	25
" " " 5 orange	1 50
" " B. J. & Co., phoenix, 1 green	05
Griggs & Goodwill, 1 green	10
" " 1 black	50
Griggs & Scott, 1 black	25
*Henning & Bonhock, 1 blue	8 00
Howard, B. & H. D., eagle, 1 blue	15
Hotchkiss, J. G. Match Co., 1 green	02
Hunt, L. G. 1 black	30
Ives' Matches, 1 blue	03
" " P. T. 1 blue	01
* " " 8 blue	2 00
Ives & Judd, star, 1 green	02
Kirby & Sons, phoenix, 1 green	08
Kyle, W. S. 1 black	04
Lacours Matches, 1 black	05
Leigh & Palmer, lamp, black	02
Loer, John, 1 blue	30
Loehr, Joseph, 1 blue	05
*Macklin, J. J. rooster, 1 black	15 00
Mansfield, F. & Co., eagle, 1 blue	02
Maryland Match Co., youth 1 blue	05
Messenger, A. 1 black	03
Metropolitan Match Co., green	05
New York Match Co., eagle, 1 red	25
" " " shield 1 blue	04
" " " long, 1 green	04
* " " long, 5 blue	6 00
Orono Match Co., tree, 1 blue	02
Park City Match Co., eagle, 1 green	20
" " " 3 orange	1 50
*Pierce Match Co., volcano, 1 green	8 00
Portland Match Co., small, 1 black	60
" " " buff wrapper, 1 black	50
Powell, V. R., small, 1 blue	05
" " buff wrapper, 1 black	8 00
+ " " white wrapper, 1 black	10 00
+ Richardson, D. M. 1 red	3 00
" " " 3 red	3 00
" " " 1 black	02
" " " 3 blue	03
Richardson Match Co., 1 black	02
" " " 3 blue	05
Roeber, H. & W., hands clasped, 1 blue	04
Roeber, William " 1 blue	02
Russell, E. T. 1 black	08
San Francisco Percussion Match Co., 12 blue	20
Schmitt & Schmittdeall, 1 orange	03
" " " 3 blue	08
Smith, E. K., head of Franklin, 1 blue	02
Stanton, H. 1 black	02
Star Match Co., 1 black	02
Swift & Courtney, 1 blue	02
Swift, Courtney & Beecher Co., 1 blue	02

Wilder, Edward & Co., 1c green.....	03
" " " 4 lake.....	08
" " " 4 Vermillion.....	25
" " " 4 orange.....	2 00
Wilson, Rev. E. A. Remedy, 12 blue.....	30
Winslow's, Mrs., Syrup, 1 black.....	2 00
" " " 2.....	04
Wisbart's Pine Tree Tar Cordial, 4 black.....	08
Wright, R. G. & A. 1 blue.....	04
" " " 2 black.....	04
" " " 3 lake.....	20
" " " 4 green.....	20
Wright's Indian Pills 1.....	02
Woodworth, C. B. & Son, 1 green.....	02
Zellin, J. H. & Co., 2 green.....	02
" " " 2 red.....	2 00

PLAYING CARD STAMPS.

Dougherty, A. 2 orange.....	40
" " " 4 black.....	50
" " " 5 blue.....	02
" " " 10.....	75
Goodall, Chas. 5 black.....	05
Hart, Samuel & Co., 5 black.....	02
Lawrence & Cohen, 2 blue.....	30
" " " 5 green.....	04
Levy, Jno. J. 5 black.....	05
N. Y. Consolidated Card Co., 5 black.....	05
Paper Fabrique Co., 5 black.....	10

CONFEDERATE BONDS AND BILLS, AND BILLS OF STATE BANKS.

Those marked with a dagger (†) we will take at half our list price in trade. Send a 3 cent stamp with order.

+1. 50 cents, vignette of Jefferson Davis in center, pink paper, plain back.....	05
+2. \$1, steamship in center, head of Mrs. Gov. Pickens in lower right corner, value in green.....	10
+3. \$2, head of Benjamin in left upper corner, the South personified striking down the north, etc.....	05
+4. \$2, the same, with values in green.....	10
+5. \$5, female seated on bale of cotton in center, sailor in lower left corner.....	15
+6. \$10, head of Hunter in lower right corner, artillery in center, milk tint.....	03
+7. \$10, head of Hunter in lower right corner, Capitol at Montgomery, Ala., blue back.....	10
+8. \$100, interest notes, written dates, Negroes hoeing in center, head of Calhoun in lower left corner, female figure in lower right corner.....	05
+9. \$100, train of cars, milk maid, etc.....	05
+10. Set of 9 pieces of 1864.....	30
+11. Set of Alabama State currency, 25c, 50c, \$1 and \$5.....	25
+12. \$5, Alabama State money.....	06
+13. \$1.....	05
+14. 50c.....	08
+15. 25c.....	10
+16. \$10, Georgia Savings Bank.....	10
+17. 75c, Mississippi Central R. R.....	10
+18. 30c, Florida money.....	05
+19. 50c, Monroe county, Tenn.....	13
+20. 25c.....	02
+21. 50c, Augusta county, Virginia.....	03
+22. 25c.....	03
+23. \$100, 6 per cent. bond, due July 1st, 1894, equestrian statue of Washington, etc, one coupon detached.....	25

Parties having other Confederate bonds or bills they wish to trade for stamps may send them, on approval, at lowest possible prices.

D. A. K. ANDRUS,
Box 738,
Rockford, Ill.

PACKETS OF UNITED STATES STAMPS.	
No. 1 contain 25 varieties of used postage	10c
" 2 " 40 " " " "	25

REVENUES.

" 4 contains 30 varieties of Document stamps.....	10
No. 5 contains 50 varieties of Document and Revenue Stamps.....	25
No. 6 contains 12 varieties 2d and 3d issues revenue.....	10
" 7 contains 20 Medicine stamps.....	25
" 8 " 6 varieties of Card Stamps.....	15
" 9 " 10 " " Match ".....	10
" 10 " 10 " " License ".....	10

EXCHANGE PRICES.

We will pay prices as follows: For good specimens of common U. S. Postage and Revenue stamps. Send in bags, by sample post; place no writing in bag. All 1 and 2 cent Postage, and 3 cent envelopes cut square, 10 cents per hundred; all 3 cent postage, 25 cents per thousand; all 5 and 6 cent postage, 15 cents per hundred; all 10, 12 and 15 cent postage, 25 cents per hundred; all varieties of other postage, 1 cent each. All 2 cent revenue, 5 cents per hundred; all 5 and 10 cent revenue, and 25 cent Insurance, and certificate stamps, 10 cents per hundred; all others not marked with a star in our list, 25 cents per hundred.

COIN PACKETS.

Packet A contains 10 large copper U. S. cents different dates in good condition. Post paid.....	90c
" B contains 10 foreign coppers, all different.....	30
" C contains 6 Canada Coppers.....	30
" D " 15 advertising cards all different.....	30
" E contains 6 different medals.....	30
The five packets, post free.....	1 10

BOOKS FOR SALE.

Ten Volumes "American Annual Cyclopaedia" from 1861 to 1870 inclusive, bound in muslin, slightly shelf worn. Published at \$50....\$22 00

Chambers' Encyclopedia, 10 volumes, complete, new, bound in law calf.....\$26 00

Camden's Britannia, with maps, date 1617. 12mo. In good condition, with the original binding worn much.....\$18 00
D. A. K. ANDRUS.

BOOKS WANTED.

Volume 1 U. S. Fish Commissioners Reports. Patriotism in Illinois.

A Stray Yankee in Texas. Send lowest price.
D. A. K. ANDRUS.

We can furnish any book in print at publishers' prices. D. A. K. ANDRUS.

CHROMOS FRAMES.

In these goods, from our unlimited facilities, we believe that we possess advantages that enable us to sell you at prices that few, if any, can approach:

The following Chromos are the ones we call your especial attention to.

Beatrice Di Cenci, new edition and splendid.....	Size 24x30
Vestal Virgin, new edition.....	24x30
Snow Storm.....	24x30
Fruits, Flowers and Gold Fish.....	24x30
St. Theobold's Chapel.....	34x30
On the Danube, new and pretty.....	24x30
Sunset in the Alleghanias.....	24x30
Lake George.....	24x30
American Fruits, Rosteins.....	24x30
Winter at Valley Forge, new.....	22x30
The Playmates.....	23x29
Washington receiving Lafayette at his home in Mt. Vernon.....	19x27
Scotch Highlands.....	19x27
Monongohela Valley.....	19x27
Falls of Montmorency.....	19x25
Kaneapo River.....	19x25
Holy Family.....	19x22
Our Darling.....	18x24
Paddy in difficulty, comic.....	17x22
Fishing by Night.....	24x30
Mill in the Mountains } mates {	24x30
Twilight in the Alps.....	19x25
Valley of the Mohawk.....	19x25
Tantallon Castle.....	19x25
Maximilian's Castle.....	19x25
Castle on the Rhine.....	19x25
Coming from Pasture.....	18x25
The Twins.....	22x28
Lake Luzerne.....	17x25
Isola Bella } mates {	17x25
Lake Maggiore.....	17x25
Departure of the Life Boat } mates {	15x28
Return of the Life Boat.....	15x28

All of the above Chromos we offer for 50 cents each in the sheet, or 75 cents each all mounted on canvass and stretcher ready for framing.

The following FRAMES are all made to fit any of the Chromos mentioned. Notice the very low price of them.

No. 1. 2 inch polished walnut, carved, with 1 inch gilt inside.....	\$1 25
No. 2. 3 inch polished walnut, carved, with 1 inch gilt inside.....	1 50
No. 3. 2 inch polished walnut, carved, with French Panel inside.....	2 25
No. 4. 2 inch polished walnut, ebony lines with 5-8 inch gilt inside.....	1 50

We are now enabled to reduce the price on the following fine popular Chromos, so that hereafter they will be sold at these figures.

Hoover's Choice Fruits.....	Size 22x30
American Winter, } Mate Pieces.....	19x28
Christmas Eve.....	

These are charming subjects, being gems of art, and admired by all. You will find them to be all we claim, as they are fine and elegant. We have also secured the two popular comic chromos, called "Pluck," representing the race after the rabbit. They are very saleable, and you will do well to give them a trial. Being mate pieces they will only be sold in pairs. They are known as

Pluck No. 1.....	Size 16x22
Pluck No. 2.....	16x22

The price for American Winter, Christmas Eve and Hoover's Fruits, will be \$1.00 each, all mounted on canvass and stretcher ready for framing, or 75 cents each in the sheet, not mounted. The Plucks will be the same price as American Winter and mate, and Hoover's Fruit. The Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 frames that we have before described fit all the chromos we deal in.

Yankee Doodle.....	size 18x24 each \$1 00
Isle of Man.....	19x27 " 1 00
Isle of Wight.....	19x27 " 1 00
Babe of Bethlehem.....	17x25 " 1 25
Off Cape Horn.....	19x27 " 1 00
Her Pets, very handsome.....	21x27 " 1 25
The Rescue.....	19x27 " 1 25
Passau on the Danube {	
Order a sample, {	23x33 " 1 25
The Proposal {	
Pleading for an answer {	21x27 " 2 00

The above prices are for the chromos all mounted on canvass and stretcher, ready for framing. When they are wanted in the sheet, we allow a deduction of 30 cents on each chromo from the prices quoted. Try Hoover's Fruit Chromo, \$1 00 mounted. Size 22x30.

We shall be continually adding new subjects to this list as fast as we get them.

We also have a line of 14x17 Chromos, embracing about 15 subjects, all ready for framing at 50 cents each, and a 14x17 Rustic Frame to fit for 50 cents.

In 9x11 Chromos we have over one hundred subjects, which we will furnish for 95 cents each. We have 9x11 Rustic Frames to fit the 9x11 Chromos at 25 cents each.

STEREOSCOPIC VIEWS.

We have an endless variety of these goods embracing American and Foreign Scenery, Comics, Statuary, Local Scenery, etc., etc., which we will supply for \$5 00 per hundred.

Per dozen, 75 cents; 10 cents each.

Stereoscopes of excellent quality and warranted to give satisfaction, 50 cents each.

We carry a large assortment of

PERFORATED MOTTOES,

Size 8 1-2x21, at 10 cents each; 8 1-2x21 Rustic Frames for the same, at 50 cents.

GERMAN CARD FRAMES

For Card Photographs, all fitted with glass, 50 cents per dozen, or \$5 00 per gross.

In concluding our list of specialties, we desire to call your attention to a line of 7x12 Photo-graph Statuary, on black and chocolate grounds. These are exquisite goods, and are meeting with universal favor. They are new and beautiful being photographs from the original statuary. They comprise a great variety of subjects among which are the Greek Slave, Psyche, Beatrice, Peace, Hope, Lady Godiva, Venus

with the Apple, Venus de Milo, Venus at the Bath, Ruth, Water Nymph, On the Sea Shore, Love, Night, Morning, and many others. These goods we furnish in an enameled frame, handsomely engraved, all complete, photograph, frame and glass for 75 cents each.

Our terms are CASH, or C. O. D. Where goods are sent C. O. D., send us part cash to apply on the same, as a guarantee that the goods will be taken. Mail orders must be accompanied by 5 cents extra for each Chromo ordered to pay postage—only the Chromos in sheets can be sent this way. Foreign correspondents will enclose 10 cents for postage on each Chromo, and remember that

100 cents=\$1.00=4 shilling=5 francs=4 marks.

Remittances from foreign correspondents to the amount of \$1.00 may be made in unused postage stamps, of the lowest value, in use in the country from which order is sent. Larger remittances by post office order or billets du banque.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Box 733.

We have for sale a large collection of South American Bird Skins, Jaguar skins, Monkey skins and skulls, South American Woods, etc. Also a very large assortment of South American Butterflies, Bugs and Insects, specimens of which we can furnish at prices varying according to rarity from 10 cents to \$25. The gentleman for whom they are to be sold was connected with the Legation at Bogota for some years and had extraordinary facilities furnished him for the collection of such specimens. He knows most of them by their Spanish but not technical names.

Parties desiring collections sent on approval can have it done by sending the money which they wish to invest and we will send them a selection to the amount from which they can select such as they wish and return the rest when the balance of money will be returned.

As we are handling these for other parties we can only make the above terms.

D. A. K. ANDRUS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THOSE ANSWERING AN ADVERTISEMENT WILL CONFER A FAVOR UPON ADVERTISER AND PUBLISHER, BY STATING THAT THEY SAW THE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

John W. Hazeltine, 1,325 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876, 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, 1.50. Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cts. Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals, Centennial relics, a Colonial Note of Pennsylvania, dated 1776. Genuine 50 cents. Please state where you saw this.

We have a very large stock of STEREOSCOPIC VIEWS,

Consisting of
FOREIGN & AMERICAN VIEWS, STATUARY, &c.

Which we will send to any part of the United States or Canadas for 75c per dozen, post paid.

Orders from other countries must be accompanied by 5 cents per dozen extra, where registration is required, 15c extra.

Say what Class of Views you wish.

And we will select and send them; and any that do not please you, if returned in good order, will be exchanged for others.

D. A. K. ANDRUS,
Box 733, Rockford, Ill.

BOOKS SOLD to the HIGHEST BIDDER

Send bids to D. A. K. ANDRUS,
Rockford, Ill.

FIRST FOUR VOLUMES

HISTORICAL REGISTER OF U.S.

Edited by T. H. PALMER.

Published by G. PALMER
Philadelphia, 1814.

First two pages and title of vol. 4 gone—good.

VOLUME 1 OF

THE DEBATES, RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS

in Convention, on the adoption of the Federal Constitution as recommended by the general Convention at Philadelphia, on the 17th of September, 1844.

Collected and revised from contemporary publications by Jonathan Elliott. Volume 1, Washington, 1827.

A COPY OF LONDON TIMES,

May 16, 1794.

MINERALS, SHELLS, BIRDS, ETC.

The Naturalist's Agency has been established at 3725 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, for the purpose of giving collectors of objects of Natural History an opportunity of buying, selling or exchanging their duplicates or collections.

Specimens sent to any part of the world by mail. An illustrated monthly bulletin of eight pages sent free.

I received the highest award given to any one at the Centennial Exposition of 1876, and the only award and medal given to any American for "Collections of Minerals."

My Mineralogical Catalogue, of 50 pages is distributed free to all customers, to others on receipt of 10 cents. It is profusely illustrated and the printer and engraver charged me about \$900 before a copy was struck off. By means of the table of species and accompanying tables most species may be verified. The price list is an excellent check list containing the names of all the species and the more common varieties, arranged alphabetically and preceded by the species number. The species number indicates the place of any mineral in the table of species, after it will be found the species name, composition, streak or lustre, cleavage or fracture, hardness, specific gravity, fusibility and crystallization. Send for the bulletin stating where you saw this advertisement.

A. E. FOOTE, M. D.

Every person buying \$1.00 worth from our lists, and sending 12 cents extra to pay postage, will receive **THE CURIOSITY HUNTER** for one year, commencing with No. 1, Vol. 4.

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER,
AN
INTERNATIONAL \$6.50 STAMP ALBUM
AND 150 VERY FINE STAMPS.

Send Bids to **FRANK ADAMS,**
Decorah, Iowa.

The ALLEMENIER BRIEF-MARKEN ANZEIGER

Has now, in seven years, issued 135 numbers. Please send 5 cents for a sample copy to the Editor, Hamburg, Germany.

20 Foreign Postage Stamps for any American Copper cent, dated between 1792 and 1857, inclusive. 30 Foreign Stamps for any American half cent. C. C. Allen, 86 Prospect St., Providence, R. I.

OUR BOOK CIRCULAR.

An 8 page monthly containing the titles and prices of all books issued in the United States during the month preceding the date of publication, and of those to be issued during the Current Month, also important information to book buyers. Price 25 cents per year, postage prepaid. Address, F. KIPPY, Publisher, Bridgeport, Ct.

Editors inserting the above will have the paper sent to them for one year.

S. K. HARZFELD, Numismatist, 1713, Park Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. Rare coins bought, sold and exchanged. Catalogues sent gratuitously on application.

\$10 ⁰/₂₅ a day sure made by Agents selling our Chromos, Crayons, Pictures and Chromo Cards **100** samples worth \$4 sent postpaid for **75** cts. Illustrated circulars **FREE.** J. H. BUFORD'S SONS, Boston. Established in 1890

EDWARD HEIM,

VIENNA, III, Matthausgasse, 5, AUSTRIA.
Established in 1865.

Has a large stock of postage stamps corresponding cards, envelopes, paper, bill, private and telegraphic stamps, essays and proofs of all countries, and sells them cheap per dozen, hundred and thousand. Quantities of good stamps are always bought and exchanged, and offers or invoices on approval always accepted and sent. Price lists sent on application.

WM. P. BROWN, 145 Nassau St. N. Y.
Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps, old coins and other curiosities. Send for Circular, and state where this advertisement was noticed.

A PALESTINE CROSS

Made from Cedar of Lebanon and Olive Wood, designed to be worn as a Charm to a necklace, an ornament to a brooch, a talisman to a chain, or as pendants to ladies' ear-rings—two of them making a most beautiful set. Fac-simile of a Certificate accompanying every Cross: "To whom it may concern: This is to certify that the accompanying Cross is made under my direct supervision, from Cedar and Olive wood. The first brought by myself from Lebanon, and the latter imported direct from Jerusalem. Prof. V. S. HEMMENWAY, Author of 'Travels in Palestine,' etc." Cedars of Lebanon: Solomon's Temple was built of Cedar of Lebanon; the Palace of David was built of Cedars of Lebanon; Cedars of Lebanon are mentioned throughout the Scriptures. Mount of Olives: The Olive is the emblem of perfect Peace; the dove bore an Olive leaf to Noah in the Ark; the cherubim in Solomon's Temple were made of Olive wood.

Never has the demand for Crosses, to be worn as charms or ornaments, been so great as now. All kinds of jewelry, from the glistening jet, the creamy pearl, to the diamond studded gold, all have been fashioned after this sacred emblem of peace. Our Palestine Crosses are peculiarly adapted to be worn as charms. They are not only made of the above precious and extremely rare wood, but they are handsomely chased and embossed. The dark cedar cross, beautifully veined, is artistically inlaid with the light polished Olive wood, forming a most pleasing contrast, and producing a permanent mosaic that charms the eye of every beholder. To complete the effect of excellence, and to add brilliancy to every part, a clear transparent enamel is laid over its entire surface, thus throwing the delicate chasing into relief, and adding richness and durability to the whole.

"It is a souvenir well worth possessing."

Each cross is put up in a beautiful French jewelry box.

Sample Palestine Cross, in French jewelry box, (by mail, post-paid), 25 cents.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Box 733.

U. S.—GOVERNMENT LOCALS.
1845-47.

- 5 c. buff Alexandria
- 6 c. buff Brattleboro, Vermont
- 5 c. red (envelope) New Haven
- 5 c. black, New York
- 5 c. black, Providence, R. I.
- 10 c. black, Providence, R. I.
- 5 c. black, St. Louis,
- 10 c. black, St. Louis,

These stamps were issued prior to the regular issue in 1847 by the postmasters of the cities indicated. Parties having any of these, please send us lowest prices for same.



The Curiosity Hunter.

VOL. IV. ROCKFORD, ILL., JULY and AUGUST. NOS. 10 and 11.

The **CURIOSITY HUNTER** will serve as a medium of communication between those who wish to buy, sell, or exchange Curiosities, Coins, Books, Autographs, Geological specimens, Pictures, Engravings, Archaeological specimens, Stamps, etc. Subscription price 25 cents per year, which includes prepayment of U. S. postage by the publisher. Foreign Subscriptions 50 cents per year. Sample copies, 3 cents.

D. A. K. ANDRUS
Box 733, Rockford, Ill., U. S.

ADVERTISEMENTS

10 cents per line of 40 letters. Cash in advance.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We are on time this month, in a shape which we feel certain will meet the approval of our friends. Our subscription list more than doubled during the past month. We shall be pleased to add a large list of new names this month and shall try to merit your patronage.

BLACK LIST.

When in business before, we met with many losses by sending out our sheets of stamps on approval to parties who were very prompt for a few times and then kept all they got at last, this crippled us in our business. Now we shall publish the name of every person who obtains from us articles on approval and will neither return or pay for the same.

MERE MENTION.

The Barber Match Co., of Akron, Ohio, we understand, are to soon have a new stamp.

Mr. Frank Johnson, of Rockford, Ill., a few days since, while handling a bunch of bananas, was surprised by a large tarantula crawling out upon his hand. His tarantulaship was passed to the *spirit* world, being put in alcohol.

J. A. Pierce has removed to Room 88, 75 Madison street. He intends shortly adding other curiosities to his stamp and coin business.

We received catalogue of rare books from H. D. Chapin, 95 Madison st., Chicago.

Several fine specimens of copper ore have been found near Creston, Ill., and great excitement is the consequence.

Very little is known of the remarkable natural curiosity in Southern Illinois, in the shape of a natural bridge. It is near Pomona, on the Cairo & St. Louis railroad, and is a wonderful freak of nature. It is of pure sandstone, 100 feet in length on top, and seventy-six feet from one abutment to the other. It is sixty feet high and nine feet broad on the top. The average thickness is nine feet, and a team is said to have crossed in perfect safety.

An association called the "Rockford Scientific Society" has been formed in this city. On Wednesday evening a constitution was adopted, and officers elected as follows: Dr. T. G. Vincent, President; Fred C. Dayton, Vice-President; Frank Kimball, Secretary; Jesse Upson, Treasurer; D. A. K. Andrus, Curator. Persons in any part of the world interested in the gathering and exchanging of scientific specimens, or facts relative thereto, are requested to correspond with D. A. K. Andrus, Box 733, Rockford, Ill.

Wm. P. Brown favors us with specimens of the 5 and 10 cents Porto Rico.

Richard O. Flynn, has opened a new curiosity shop at 144 Front street, Worcester, Mass. Mr. O. Flynn and his stock are both highly spoken of by the *Worcester Evening Gazette*, of June 13, which also contains an interesting epitome of proceedings of the Natural History Society, of that city.

Books, Price lists Exchanges and Catalogues.

"*The Postage Stamp Reporter*" neatly printed, finely illustrated and well worth 25 cents a year. See ad.

"*The Union*" printed in German at Dresden, Saxony, is an excellent paper for those stamp collectors who can read German, and those who cannot will find it to their interest to study both the German and French Languages.

"*The Michigan Philatelist*" Detroit, Mich., per year 20 cents. We have No. 2 Vol. 1. It is very good.

Whitfield, King & Co's wholesale list, prices very reasonable.

We have numbers 1 to 4 of the "*Numismatic Plot*," invaluable to collectors of ancient coins and students of Ancient History, free to all, send for it. We are so well pleased with the coin

readings and illustrations of Mr. Morris the able editor of this paper that we have arranged with him for a series of illustrated articles which will soon appear in our paper.

We have No. 1, Vol. 1 of the "*Chicago Philatelist*," a neat little paper devoted to stamp collections. We wish you success, gentlemen.

Nos. 2 and 3 of the "*Montreal Gem*" devoting space to Philately are on our table, welcome visitors.

We shall be pleased to receive, and will acknowledge in our columns, receipt of catalogues of universities, colleges, and other schools, papers containing proceedings of societies interested in any of the topics to which our paper is devoted, or any clippings relative to such topics, catalogues or notices of sales of coins, books, art sales, etc.

Mr. A. F. Davis, of this city, who has probably the largest amateur collection of newspapers in the United States, has favored us with many very interesting clippings, which will materially assist us in adding to the interest of our paper. Thanks.

If there is anything in our line you wish to buy, sell, or exchange, write us.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The scheme of the Woodruff Scientific Expedition around the world has received such assurances of support that the conductors now announce with confidence that it will be successfully carried out. The expedition will leave New York October 1, 1877, and circumnavigating the globe, return to the same port in October, 1879. The scientific staff of the expedition comprises eighteen specialists, prominent among whom is Professor Burt G. Wilder, of Cornell University. A pamphlet containing the plan of the expedition, with the necessary details, has been published by the director, James A. Woodruff, of Indianapolis.

A consignment of mummies from Egypt reached New Haven Tuesday by a sailing vessel, which brought a lot of "stock" for a paper mill.

A numismatic discovery almost unparalleled in extent has been made near Verona. Two large amphoræ have been found containing no less than two quintals, or about 600 English pounds weight, of coins of the Emperor Gallienus on his successors within the hundred years following his reign. The number of coins is estimated at between 50,000 and 55,000. Of those of the Emperor Probus, there are more than 4,000. The majority are of bronze, but there are some of silver and others of bronze silvered (*subarate*). They are all in the finest state of preservation, and, with the exception of those of Gallienus, which are a little worn, they are so fresh from the mint as to make it evident they

were never put into circulation. The discovery has been considered of sufficient importance for the minister of public instruction to dispatch Sig. Pigorini specially to Verona to report upon it. All the finest examples are to be placed in the museum of Verona, and the remainder either exchanged in sets with other museums or sold as may be decided upon.

The Portuguese scientific expedition, which has received a large grant from the Cortes, will direct its attention to the countries between Angola and Mozambique, and to the study of the relations between the Congo and Zambesi river systems.

"*Post Gibum*," says the *New York World* is the classic legend on the new dead-letter postage-stamp. It is suggestive of obituary poetry, and as the words are inscribed on the head of the Goddess of Liberty, the idea must be that liberty is no more. She died of returning boards, in the hundredth year of her age.

ARCHEOLOGY.

The following clipping will prove interesting to many and we hope all of our readers:

An unusually interesting meeting of the Archeological section of the Academy of Science of Chicago, was held last evening.

LITERATURE OF THE MOUND BUILDERS.

Remarkably discoveries have recently been made respecting the ancient "Mound-Builders" of the West. We knew before that they had agriculture, commerce, and rude mechanic arts. Now we discover, to our astonishment, that they positively had a literature, and we have from their own hands drawings representing their religious worship and the famous "Happy Hunting Grounds" of departed souls.

The pictures drawn by these people are excessively rude, not one of them showing the skill manifested in the famous autobiography of Sitting Bull, but they have the merit of conveying their meaning in an unmistakable manner. Their literary inscriptions, on the other hand, have not yet been deciphered.

The first discovery of this sort which came to my notice was made during the late war. A body of soldiers in Tennessee were encamped by a large sacrificial mound nearly 200 feet long by 100 feet wide. Actuated by curiosity, and by a desire to relieve the monotony of camp life they took their spades and in a few days dug the whole mound down. Various articles were found, and among them an oval slab of stone six inches long with a picture drawn upon it. At the bottom was portrayed a mound with an altar upon its summit. On the altar lay the body of a man or a beast partly covered with wood and enveloped in flames. In the sky at the right hand was drawn the sun with a band of rays beaming obliquely down upon the sacrifice. To the left of the sun there was a quantity of hieroglyphics which none could read. It is feared that this stone is lost.

The next discovery was at Rockford, Ill. Some gentlemen of character and standing there opened a large mound on the banks of Rock River. They found a small oblong stone with sundry figures sculptured upon it. In the centre is an image of the sun supported on a pedestal. On the face of the sun are drawn human features, and on the forehead there is a crescent moon, also showing part of a human face. On each side is a column of hieroglyphics, containing twelve characters in all. Prescott says that the Aztecs knew the fact that the moon caused eclipses of the sun, and represented these events by a figure of the sun with a moon drawn on his face. It would seem not impossible that this stone therefore may be a record of an eclipse.

A third discovery, more important than all, has been made this winter. It would seem that when a sacrificial mound was erected, the priests were in the habit of depositing in it an inscribed stone containing a sacred record, just as the Assyrian Kings put records inscribed on terra cotta cylinders into the masonry of their palaces, and as we ourselves put various documents into the corner-stones of our great buildings. During the present winter a worthy Lutheran clergyman, whose trustworthiness is well vouched for by the Davenport Academy of Sciences, determined to examine a large mound standing near Davenport, Ia. Taking some friends, he broke through the frozen crust, and went to the bottom. Here on the level of the original ground lay two slabs of inscribed slate, partially surrounded by a circle of smaller stones. We have here a round central object encompassed with four accurate concentric circles and two round objects above, representing, perhaps, the sun and the moon. Between the two outermost circles twelve hieroglyphics are set at equal distances around the curve. This drawing may have been some sort of a calendar, or possibly a zodiac.

The larger stone, however, is the most important, and was engraved on both sides. The first side is evidently a sacrificial scene in which three human beings were offered up to the sun. At the bottom of the picture is a rude but perfectly distinct representation of a mound. On the summit is a low altar, on which blazes an immense fire, from which rises a coiled line towards the sun, probably representing the smoke. Possibly, the ascending ghosts of the victims. At the base of the mound lie three prostrate human bodies, as if prepared for the sacrifice. Around the mound stands a circle of men clasping each others' hands. Above on the right is depicted the sun, and on the left the full moon with human features. Between them are the stars, and over all is drawn the arch of the sky. Above the arch is written a line of twenty-four letters or characters of some sort. Above is another arch as if they considered the sky as consisting of several strata. Above the second arch are twenty-four more characters, then a third arch is drawn, and above that about fifty additional characters, or hieroglyphics. These inscriptions are evidently not accidental nor pur-

poseless scratches. They must have been intended for some definite and intelligible record, but as yet we have not the key to their meaning. They prove, however, that the Mound Builders had a literature, and were able to make permanent records.

As this scene is beyond all question a religious sacrifice, the one on the opposite side of the stone must also be considered a sacred record, and if so, it can hardly be anything else than a representation of the "Happy Hunting Grounds" which received the souls of the valiant after death. The drawing is horribly rude, but in spite of its uncouth forms one cannot look without respect on the record which a vanished race has left of their faith in immortal life.

At the lower part of the picture stands a huge tree, drawn unskillfully, but yet with a certain appreciation of massiveness and force. Under the tree, at the right, is the shore of a river or lake. In the water sit two men with their faces toward the hunting ground. These may represent the dead, who were often buried in exactly that position, the legs and hips only being under ground as high as the waist. Some tribes still bury in that way, placing the face always towards the west, where the country of the happy spirit lies. Possibly, however, it was only intended to show that the spirits enjoyed the pleasure of a bath. In the water stands a buffalo, and a large fish is hiding under the bank. On shore we find depicted a country interspersed with trees and filled with buffaloes, deer, bears, apparently a musk-ox or turtle, birds, etc., etc. There are no snakes nor noxious animals. Among these creatures wander several human forms lazily engaged in killing the fat and quiet animals. Two-thirds of the way to the top of the slab a line of twelve hieroglyphics runs entirely across it. Four of the characters are identical with those on the Rockford stone. Above the hieroglyphics is another crowd of fat game,—animals with no hunters among them.

The discovery of these stones opens a new era in American archeology. Hitherto sacrificial mounds have simply been dug into, but not thoroughly searched. Now that we know that it was customary, or at least frequent to place in them a record on stone, the excavations should be made more systematically. Possibly it will be found that the record was placed in all mounds. If so, it will be easy to find them when the location is learned. At any rate more inscriptions will be found, and as they multiply they will be studied, and ultimately they will probably be deciphered, and translated into stout Saxon for our benefit.

At the close of Dr. Andrews' remarks,

MR. H. N. RUST

was introduced. After some preliminary remarks he proceeded to take up and explain the various pieces of pottery and stone implements which were spread upon a large table in front of the audience. The collection embraced about 200 pieces, most of which had been taken by the lecturer from Indian graves in Scott County,

Missouri. Among them were noticeable the drilled or ceremonial stones that were worn as ornaments. Bowls and gourds in every shape, and in some cases elaborately carved, were exhibited. Many of these carvings represented fishes, while others were rudely imitative of the human features and forms. Pipes of every size abounded. Mr. Rust gave the history of his discovery of this valuable collection as follows:

Several years ago I received some specimens of pottery similar to those shown here from Missouri, which were found in opening a new road. Similar finds have been made in Scott, Mississippi, and New Madrid Counties for many years, but had not attracted much attention. Last spring, by a fortunate accident, some laborers threw out some specimens of pottery, and they chanced to fall into the hands of persons who saw in them a cash value. Having heard of this find, I determined to visit the locality, hoping I might be able to secure a few specimens, and have the pleasure of taking them from the graves myself.

I went direct to Cairo, from thence down to Mississippi County, not far from New Madrid, and near the head of James Bayou. Here I obtained a few specimens from a very low mound. I do not feel sure it was an artificial mound. It was not more than three feet above the level, and so broad that it was scarcely noticeable. Within twenty rods were two other mounds about six feet high and thirty or forty feet in diameter, but nothing was found in them. Thence I went up into Scott County, about forty miles west of the Mississippi river, into a swamp known as Northcot's Swamp. It is a part of that low country lying between Cape Girardeau and New Madrid, and which was partly submerged by the earthquake of 1812.

This swamp is from one to one and a half miles wide, and covered with a heavy growth of timber, mostly cypress. There are patches of sandy land in this swamp upon which I was told there were many mounds, some of which were fifty feet high, but it is very difficult to reach them except when the swamp is frozen. I have never seen a more undesirable place occupied by mankind. On one of these tracts of sandy land we found a cleared field of about forty acres. This field was entirely surrounded by a ditch, the earth which was thrown out of it forming a corresponding embankment, which was about twelve or fifteen inches high. Within this inclosure are two mounds, the one a truncated pyramid about fifteen feet high and seventy-five feet in diameter. This was formerly covered with timber, but cleared about forty years ago, and has been plowed and cultivated ever since, which has much reduced its height and shape. On this mound we found beds of ashes, which appeared to have been a long time accumulating, a few flint chips and arrowheads, and many fragments of pottery. About fifty feet southwest of this mound we found a grave where many hundred bodies had been buried. About seventy-five feet south of this mound is a small

pond of water, perhaps sixty feet in diameter and nearly round. Fifty feet southeast of this pond is a conical mound, fifteen feet high and thirty to forty feet in diameter. About fifty feet east of the last-mentioned mound, in the level plain, was found the first grave in this field.

In all instances the bodies were buried in a horizontal position, but not in regular order. They were from 18 inches to four feet below the surface. Sometimes we dug eighteen inches and, finding a skeleton, we would follow it to the skull, where we almost invariably found from one to three earthen vessels. Sometimes going down four feet we would find three or four bodies had been deposited at different levels, and lying in different directions.

The bones were all so much decomposed that none could be saved, except sometimes a skull and that only by the greatest care and by allowing it to dry in the sun before attempting to remove the earth from it. The most common form of the pottery found is the jug or water-cooler next, the open dishes without ornament of handles, a great many of which seem to have been broken by the weight of the soil. The open vessels with four bars and a flaring rim, or with four projections by which to suspend them, were quite common.

The most curious and interesting forms are the human representations. Rude and ugly they are, we see in them a very close resemblance to the ancient Peruvian pottery. Still there is no one state of physiognomy so prevalent as to indicate a distinct likeness, and only a very few which would be classed as caricatures. A similar style of headdress is noticeable and the humpback is quite common. All the human figures have an opening in the back or top of the head showing they were for use and not simply idols or ornaments.

The gourd and melon are represented, but not as commonly as the sunfish, frog and turtle. One of the choicest pieces I have seen represents the sunfish, the scales being distinctly marked all over it. The owl and duck's head were favorite forms of ornamentation, frequently forming the handles of open dishes; the human head formed the handle in a few instances, and in each was very nicely formed of very fine clay and in each instance the cavity of the head contained a few little clay balls, which made a noticeable rattle when the bowl was shaken. We found two or three nondescript forms which may represent extinct animals; also the form of a bird which can hardly be said to represent anything of to-day.

The representation of a baby's knit sock is a perfect representation as of anything we have. The salt-water clam-shell is nicely imitated. The majority of the vessels would hold from one to three pints, but we have some which hold more than one to three ounces. We found some of these vessels what appeared to be animal remains—small bones, perhaps, of the rabbit or squirrel. This matter we imagined to have been

deposited as food. No remains of grain or woven fabrics were seen. There were several deposits of small pebbles, evidently deposited with care, also single stones weighing from two to ten ounces, which showed they had been much worn by constant use. There were others about the size of the palm of the hand, with a slight depression on each side, indicating that they had been used for grinding colors, possibly for preparing paints used in ornamenting the pottery, as some specimens are quite fancifully painted in colors. All these colors show much more distinctly after being dry and exposed to the air and light. We found pieces of hematite which I suppose furnished the reddish colors used. We found only three beads, and they were made of baked clay, and about five-eighths of an inch in diameter. A small turtle, made of the same material, with a hole bored through the neck, indicates that it was worn as a charm.

The only metal found was a pair of what I supposed were ear-ornaments of native copper, shaped like a sunfish. Two masses of galena were found, which had the appearance of being much worn by constant handling. A few pieces of pottery of the same class have been found in the vicinity of this grave, and a great amount of digging has been done. The only positive evidence we have of the antiquity of these graves is the fact that in some instances oak trees 300 years old were growing above the graves. I have no doubt the graves were much older, but have not the positive proof.

U. S. Official Stamps.

	1	2	3	6	7	10	12	15	24	30	30	40	90
Agriculture	25	15	2	4	—	30	30	75	30	30	—	—	—
Executive	15	20	10	20	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Interior	1	1	1	1	—	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Justice	4	4	2	2	—	6	4	8	10	10	50	—	—
Navy	3	3	1	2	8	4	3	4	5	4	20	—	—
Post Office	2	1	1	1	—	25	2	3	2	2	3	—	—
P. O. Env.	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
State	15	15	6	8	15	8	15	15	20	20	60	—	—
Treasury	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	—	—
War	2	3	1	1	15	5	3	2	3	3	40	—	—
War Env.	2	50	2	5	—	75	10	75	40	75	90	—	—

Any of the above priced at 2 cents and upwards taken in exchange at half our prices if in good order.

Periodical Stamp, 1875.
 2-3-4-6-8-9-9 and 10 cents, each 1 cent over face.
 12-24-36-48-60-72-84-96, " 5 cents over face.
 \$1.92 \$3 \$6 \$9 \$12 \$24 \$36 \$48 \$60, 25 cents over face.

Wanted, used State Department \$2 \$5 \$10 and \$20 stamps. A complete set of proofs of all the Department and Periodical stamps for sale, price \$60.

The following useful table was handed to us, as taken from Harper's Magazine. We should be pleased to receive from some one data for the extension of the table to the present time:
 Table showing the comparative rarity of U. S. silver and copper coins. [N. C., none coined greatest rarity 6.]

Years	Dol's.	Half Dol's.	Quart Dol's.	Dime	Half Dime	Three Cents	Cents	Half Cent
1793	n. a	n c	n c	n. c.	n. c.	n. c.	5	6
1794	6	3	n c	n c	5	n c	2	3
1795	2	2	n c	n c	3	n c	2	4
1796	2	5	5	4	3	n c	2	5
1797	2	5	n c	5	3	n c	3	4
1898	3	n c	n c	4	n c	n c	2	n c
1799	1	n c	n c	n c	n c	n c	6	n c
1800	2	n c	n c	3	3	n c	3	n c
1801	2	2	n c	3	3	n c	3	n c
1802	2	2	n c	4	4	n c	2	5
1803	1	1	n c	3	4	n c	1	4
1804	6	5	3	3	n c	n c	5	5
1805	1	1	2	2	4	n c	2	3
1806	n c	1	2	2	n c	n c	2	2
1807	n c	1	2	n c	n c	n c	2	2
1808	n c	3	n c	n c	n c	n c	3	1
1809	n c	3	n c	3	n c	n c	3	1
1810	n c	2	n c	n c	n c	n c	3	1
1811	n c	2	n c	3	n c	n c	3	5
1812	n c	2	n c	n c	n c	n c	3	n c
1813	n c	2	n c	n c	n c	n c	3	n c
1814	n c	2	n c	2	n c	n c	2	n c
1815	n c	4	3	n c	n c	n c	n c*	n c*
1816	n c	n c	n c	n c	n c	n c	1	n c
1817	n c	2	n c	n c	n c	n c	1	n c
1818	n c	2	3	n c	n c	n c	1	n c
1819	n c	2	2	n c	n c	n c	1	n c
1820	n c	2	2	2	n c	n c	2	n c
1821	n c	2	2	2	n c	n c	2	n c
1822	n c	2	2	5	n c	n c	2	n c
1823	n c	2	5	2	n c	n c	3	n c
1824	n c	2	2	2	n c	n c	2	n c
1825	n c	2	2	2	n c	n c	2	2
1826	n c	2	n c	n c	n c	n c	2	2
1827	n c	2	5	2	n c	n c	1	n c
1828	n c	1	3	2	n c	n c	1	1
1829	n c	1	n c	2	3	n c	1	1
1830	n c	1	n c	2	2	n c	2	n c
1831	n c	1	1	2	1	n c	1	6
1832	n c	1	1	2	1	n c	1	1
1833	n c	1	1	2	1	n c	1	1
1834	n c	1	1	2	1	n c	1	1
1835	n c	1	1	2	1	n c	1	1
1836	6†	2	2	2	1	n c	1	4†
1837	n c	2	2	2	1	n c	1	n c
1838	6†	2	2	2	1	n c	1	n c†
1839	n c	2	2	2	1	n c	1	n c
1840	3	2	2	2	1	n c	2	6
1841	2	1	2	2	1	n c	2	6
1842	2	1	2	2	1	n c	2	6
1843	2	1	2	2	1	n c	2	6
1844	2	2	1	4	4	n c	1	6
1845	2	1	1	1	2	n c	1	6
1846	2	1	1	5	5	n c	1	6
1847	2	1	1	1	2	n c	1	6
1848	2	1	1	1	1	n c	1	6
1849	2	1	1	1	1	n c	1	2
1850	2	1	1	1	1	n c	1	2
1851	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1852	5	3	1	1	1	1	2	6
1853	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1854	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1855	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	2
1856	2	1	1	1	1	1	5†	1
1857	1	1	1	1	1	1	3†	2
1858	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	n c
1859	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	n c

*In 1815 no cent was coined. This is much disputed, but the evidence is satisfactory. The mint records show no coinage of cents, but this is also true of other years. We have, however seen many cents bearing the date 1815, and every one a manifest counterfeit, usually changed from 1813. We have never met a collector or person familiar with coins who has seen a genuine cent of 1815.

†The dollars of 1836 and 1838 were only patterns, with a flying eagle on the reverse.
 ‡In 1856 the nickel cent was introduced. The nickel cent 1856 and the copper cent of 1857 are indicated respectively as 5 and 3. The copper cent of 1856 and the nickel cent of 1857 are common.

Boa-Constrictor's Eggs.

A boa-constrictor at the Central Park, New York, recently deposited twenty-one eggs, about the size of hen's eggs. Seven of the eggs were sterile—the others having each a young boa within. One chipped the shell as soon as it was laid, but died immediately. The remainder perished in the egg.

An Egyptian Discovery.

Some Arab digging among the ruins of the great Temple of Karnac, in January last, came upon a sandstone cist buried in the debris, inside of which was the sculptured figure of a female hippopotamus in green basalt. The monument, including the slab, is 3 feet high, and is admirably carved and polished. A long inscription in hieroglyphics runs along the back, and another is cut on the slab in front of the figure. The inscriptions contain the names of Psammetichus I. and his Queen and daughter, and also of a hitherto unknown King.

Price List all U. S. Revenues	3 cents.
" " Postage	3 "
" of Fossils,	3 "
" of Indian Relics,	3 "
" of Confederate Bonds and money	3 "
Price List of Coins	3 "
" of Chromos and Frames	3 "
D. A. K. ANDRUS.	

The "Breeches" Bible.

[To the Editor of The Tribune.]

Wyoming, Ill., Jan. 24—I learn by *the Tribune* of yesterday that "Another rarity added to the Old South Collection is a copy of the 'Breeches' edition of the Bible;" and that the owner values it at \$1000 in gold. Now I have a copy of the "Breeches Bible, which was imprinted at London by Robert Barker, printer to the King's most Excellent *Majesty*. 1610." It contains: "The Genealogies Recorded In The Sacred Scriptures according to every Family and Tribe. With the Line of our Savior Jesus Christ observed from Adam to the blessed Virgin Mary." By I. S. Cyn Privelegio.

Gen. iii., 7—"And they fewed figge tree leanes together and made themselues breeches."

St. John i., 1.—"IN the begining was *that* Word, and *that* Word was with God, and *that* Word was God,"

Rev. ix., 9.—"And they had habbergions like *unto* hebbergions of *iron*, and the found of their wings *was* like the found of *charets* when many *horses* runne *unto* battel."

Etc., Etc.

I have refused \$50, \$100 and \$200. I would sell now for one-fourth what the above [John Smith] values his at. RUFUS MOLTER.

We have for sale, cheap, a fine collection of Mound Relics.

Next month we shall present our subscribers with A FULL PAGE BRONZE Photograph of a Medal presented to Yellow Fever Nurses, for their faithful assistance during the yellow fever epidemic at Savannah, Ga., last year, by the benevolent society of that city. Of this rare and beautiful medal there were less than twenty copies struck. This will be followed by other similar cuts, any one of which is worth our subscription price.

An Odd Bookbuyer.

One of the chief purchasers at the Menzies book sale a few weeks ago was quite a new collector, whose history is curious. Years ago he took it into his head that he would take to farming on Long Island, and set out on a tour of inspection, carrying with him a shovel, with which he dug up ground and had it analyzed. However, not finding aught to his taste on Long Island, he determined to go to Rhode Island, and there purchased a farm for \$20,000, on which he expended \$20,000 more, and then, apparently tired of it, rented the ground for a few hundreds a year, and with the small remnant of his fortune went to California; there he made a lucky hit and not long since returned to the East to make the agreeable discovery that during his absence the City of Providence had, providentially for him, been steadily advancing toward his farm, which had become immensely valuable. Presently he sold off \$80,000 worth, and then, arriving at the conclusion that he had let it go too cheap, he had the rest surveyed and laid out in streets and lots. He has now sold altogether \$900,000 worth! At the Menzies sale he insisted on getting many books, for which his agent told him he was paying a ridiculously large price.—*Exchange.*

A Valuable Relic.

[From the Lowell (Mass.) Courier.]

The Boston public library is about to receive a valuable manuscript addition to its treasures. It consists, first, of the original short-hand notes by Mr. Gales of Mr. Webster's great speech—the greatest, perhaps, ever made in the United States Congress—in reply to Mr. Hayne, of South Carolina, in January, 1830; secondly, of the original copy of these notes written out in part by Mr. Gales, editor of the *National Intelligencer*, and his wife, and revised by Mr. Webster; and, thirdly, of a portion of the speech in Mr. Webster's own handwriting, corrected by him from Mr. Gales' copy. These manuscripts are bound up in a handsome portfolio, with a printed copy of the speech, and have been kept by the family of Mr. Gales as one of the choicest possessions, to the present time. Mrs. Gales has at length been induced to part with this treasure, that it might find its most appropriate place among the collections of the city library. The volume was exhibited at the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society recently, and excited the most lively interest.

Art Notes.

It is said that Queen Mary II imported the first porcelain from the Hague into England and she filled her rooms at Hampton Court Palace with blue porcelain, which is still preserved there.

Mr. Rowe Weeks, the English Sculptor, died May 28, at the age of 70 years. His chief work was the monument to Shelley and his second wife, Mary Wollstonecroft Goodwin, in Christchurch, Hampshire. The monument is only a few miles from Christchurch.

The Scientific Club of Vienna has 500 members, drawn from all classes of society, and occupies a spacious building, with rooms for reading, writing, dining, and smoking. It has a splendid library, and takes all the best journals of the world. Membership costs five florins on admission, and an annual subscription of 16 florins.

Mr. Alfred E. Craven, an experienced African explorer, is on the eve of departure from Zanzibar on a scientific tour in Eastern Africa. His object is to study the natural history of the districts visited especially in the department of Entomology. Mpapwa will be his headquarters; and he will endeavor to proceed as far as Lake Tanganyika.

The Russian Geographical Society will postpone the exploration of the Angora River until next summer, but will prosecute the examination of the water-parting between the Obi and Jenissei, this season.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science convenes at Nashville on the 29th of August. The British Association meets at Plymouth England, August 15.

Persons having copies of newspapers published prior to 1840, or of papers published in the South between 1860 and 1866, please correspond with us. If you have any books you wish to exchange for curiosities, or any curiosities for books, or other curiosities, write us.

I want a copy of every Coin and Stamp Journal in the world. W. J. Ayers, Cairo, Ill., U.S.A.

Stamps, Albums, Decalcomanie and Embossed Pictures, at ras, sure to please. Circulars free. 500 mixed Stamps, 35c; 200 nice Decalcomanies, 25c. Geo. A. Richmond, Northfield, Vermont.

James H. Farrell, dealer in Coins, Stamps, Curiosities, etc., send stamp for catalogue, 39 Sheriff street, N. Y.

Poetical Mail Matter.

A letter bearing the following inscription, written in a fine hand, resembling copperplate engraving, passed through the New York post-office the other day:

O, Mr Postmaster, you see the green plaster
That's stuck on the edge of the letter:
For the love of old Erin, whose colors it's wearin',
Let it slide, and the quicker the better.

To a neat little spinster (would I were fornist her)
Who lives on the isle of Manhattan,
In that elegant "Rue" called Seventh avenue,
At Trigint o Nono (that's Latin.)

But in my hurry and blunderin' burry,
At my expense don't be merry;
It's a murderin' shame I omitted the name,
As Mamselle Mary E. Cherry.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

Ten Volumes "American Annual Cycloædia," from 1861 to 1870, inclusive, bound in muslin, slightly shelf worn. Published at \$50. \$22 00

Chambers' Encyclopædia, 10 volumes, complete, new, bound in law calf. \$25 00

BOOKS WANTED.

Volume 1 U. S. Fish Commissioners Reports.
Patriotism in Illinois.
A Stray Yankee in Texas, Send lowest price.
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CURIOSITY HUNTER

EXTRA.

As we intend enlarging illustrating, and covering our September number, and must necessarily devote much extra time to the details, we shall issue our July and August number together. Our September number will consist of a four page cover for title page and advertisements, a full page Bronze illustration of the beautiful Savannah Medal, with accompanying description, besides which it will contain the first of a series of illustrated articles relating to ANCIENT COINS, by Robert Morris, L. L. D., the well known editor of the "NUMISMATIC PILOT." Interesting articles relative to

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D. A. K. ANDRUS,

Box 733.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS.

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Rockford, Illinois.

Box 733



THE

CURIOSITY HUNTER

VOL. 4, SEPTEMBER 1877.

TERMS—25 CTS. PER ANNUM

SINGLE COPY 3 CTS.

Rockford Gazette Print.

THE
CURIOSITY EXHIBITOR

VOL. 1. PART 1. 1851.

PRINTED BY W. CLAY AND COMPANY, BUNGAY, SUFFOLK.



THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

SEPTEMBER, 1877. D. A. K. ANDRUS, PUBLISHER: ROCKFORD, ILL. VOL. IV. NO. 12

List of U. S. Stamps for tobacco, spirits &c.

In 1864, stamps were first issued for tobacco, which was then taxed 16c. per lb for cheap smoking tobacco and 32c. for snuff and all tobacco above \$1 per lb, the rate being afterwards changed as shown in the list. We have lately seen an old tobacco caddy marked with stencil, "B. E. Rooker, U. S. Tobacco Inspector N. Dist. Va. July 15, 1866, 40 cts. per lb. in Bond." Stamps for cigars were also issued in 1864, the rate of tax then being \$3 per 1000 on those valued at \$5 and increasing in proportion to the valuation. For inspecting and stamping the boxes the Inspectors were paid 25 cents per 1000 until 1868, when the stamps were sold direct to the manufacturers. In April 1865 the tax was made uniform at \$10 per 1000, in Sept. 1866 reduced to \$4 with 20 per ct. ad. val., in March 1867 increased to \$5, and in March 1875 to \$6. The figures at the end of the line show the relative degree of rarity of the stamp, 1 representing the most common, and 9 the highest rarity. We have seen those only with the figure of rarity in Roman figures, but those in Italics we suppose to have been issued. Since the U. S. Govt. in 1875 recalled all the prior issues, many of the older stamps have become quite rare, some of them being valued at from \$5 to \$10 apiece. We shall be grateful to any one who will give us a description of any not mentioned in our list and will give \$5 for one of the brass Cotton stamps in good order. In using this as a check list draw a line under or around the figure showing the rarity.

TOBACCO STAMPS.

CLASS THIRTY-TWO CENTS.

1864. *Black on white paper.*

1/2 oz. Small rect., head of Negro in large fig.	1/2	2
1 " " " Liberty	1	2
2 " " " " "	2	4
4 " Ribbon, 8 inches, Trapper		2
6 " " 8 " Blacksmith		6
8 " " 8 " Sailor		3
10 " " 9 " Farmer		4

1865. *Oblong square, 2 by 3 inches, white paper.*

1/2 pound, Black, Negro and cotton bale	5
1 " " Farmer smoking	4
2 " " Sailors talking	5
3 " " Overseer on horseback	5
5 " " Negroes hoeing tobacco	5
10 " Chocolate, Indian smoking	5
20 " Green, Malden carrying fruit	5
21 " Black, Mechanic smoking	5
30 " " Cooper making barrel	5
40 " Green, Hunter resting	6
50 " Black, Driver baiting team	6
60 " Green, Old man whittling	8

1865. *Ribbon stamps, 7 in. long, white paper.*

1/2 oz. Washington in right hand oval	3
1 " " " " " Female to right	2
2 " " " " " left	3

1870. *Ribbon stamps, mottled paper.*

1/2 oz. 7 inches, Washington in right hand oval	4
---	---

1 oz. 7 in. Female to r. in right hand oval,	4
2 " 7 " " left	5
4 " 9 " J Q Adams	5
6 " 10 " Boutwell	9
8 " 11 " Farragut in centre oval	6
16 " 13 " Stanton	5

1869. *Oblong square, Black on white paper.*

The column **W** represents plain white paper, **C** colored wavy lines across; **N** from 1/2 to 5 pounds, colored network over the whole face, of which the 1/2 and 5 are in pink, the 1 orange, the 2 blue, and the 3 green; **P** from 10 to 60 pounds, colored parallel lines across; the last column **S** are surcharged on the end, 'Issued under Act of Congress approved June 6 1872.' Those emphasized by Gothic figures come surcharged "For Snuff," used as snuff stamps. **W C N P : S**

1/2 pound, 2 1/2 x 4 3/4, Steamship	3	3	4	5
1 " " Ship and sloop	4	3	4	3
2 " " Liberty	4	3	4	3
3 " " Turk	4	4	4	4
5 " " Volunteer	4	3	4	5
10 " 3x6 1/2, Sailor	4	4	3	
15 " 3x8 1/2, with 9 coupons, Eagle	8	9		
20 " 3x6 1/2, Female with scales	5	5		
21 " " " sword	5	5		
22 " " " caduceus	6	6	6	
40 " " Sherman	5	6		
60 " " Grant	5	5		

1871. *Ribbon Stamps, Black on tinted paper.*

The first column **V** represents violet paper, the second **P** pink paper, the last two columns have surcharged across the face "Issued under Act of Congress, approved June 6, 1872." on which the tax was reduced from 32 to 20 cents per lb. **V P : V P**

1 oz. 7 in. Female in right hand oval	2	3	4	4
2 " 7 " " to left	4	4	4	4
4 " 9 " J Q Adams	4	4	4	3
6 " 10 " Boutwell	9	9	9	9
8 " 11 " Farragut in centre oval	4	5	4	5
16 " 13 " Stanton	6	5	6	4

1871. *Oblong square, Black & Green on tinted paper.*

From 1/2 to 5 pounds, the value reads in cents at the bottom of the stamp, from 10 to 60 pounds, the value stands in relief with \$ mark on black ovals.

The last two columns have surcharged on the end "Issued under Act of Congress approved June 6, 1872." The tax on the surcharged set was reduced from 32 to 20 cents per pound. **V P : V P**

1/2 pound, 2 1/2 x 5 in. Alex Hamilton	4	4	5	5
1 " " Delano	5	4	5	4
2 " " River steamer	4	4	5	5
3 " " Female	3	5	5	5
5 " " Lincoln	5	5	4	5
10 " 3x7 Farmer	4	3	4	5
15 " 3x8 1/2 (with 9 Coupons) Sailor	5	7	5	7
20 " 3x7 Washington	6	6	4	4
21 " " Richardson	4	4	6	6
22 " " Grant	7	7	7	5
40 " " Mechanic	4	6	6	6
60 " " Mc Cullough	4	4	6	6

1872. *Black & Green on Violet, Pink, and Green paper.*

Same design as the previous issue with the value in cents and in the ovals omitted, the last three columns being for the sets surcharged "Issued under Act March 3, 1875". The tax on the surcharged set was advanced from 20 to 24 cents. **V P C: V P C**

1/2 lb. 2 1/2 x 5 in. Alex. Hamilton	3	3	4	5	5	4
1 " " Delano	3	4	5	4	5	5
2 " " River steamer	3	4	5	4	4	5
3 " " Female	5	3	5	5	5	5
5 " " Lincoln	3	4	4	4	5	4
10 " 3x7 Farmer	2	2	2	4	4	4
15 " 3x8 1/2 (9 coupons) Sailor	4	4	7	7	7	7
20 " 3x7 Washington	4	4	5	4	5	4
21 " " Richardson	4	4	4	5	5	5
22 " " Grant	4	5	4	6	6	5
40 " " Mechanic	4	4	5	6	6	5
60 " " Mc Cullough	4	6	6	5	6	6
60 " head higher up "Series 1874	7	6	7	7	7	6

TAX TWENTY FOUR CENTS.

1875. *Oblong square, Black & Green on Green paper, "Series of 1875."*

The first column represented by **A** have printed on them in small black type "Act of March 3d. 1875." the next with **O** has this omitted, the third column with **S** have the small black type omitted, but are surcharged in various colored ink "Issued under Act of March 3rd. 1875."

1/2 lb. 2 1/2 x 5 in. 2 females, barrels & boxes	2	5				
1 " " " "	2	5				
2 " " " "	3	5				
3 " " " "	3	3				
5 " " " "	3	5				
10 " 3x6 1/2 " "	1	3	2			
15 " 3x8 1/2 (9 coupons) "	3	7				
20 " 3x6 1/2 " "	3	4				
21 " " " "	2	6	4			
22 " " " "	3	6				
40 " " " "	3	6				
60 " " " "	3	6				

CLASS SIXTEEN CENTS.

1864. *Green on white paper.*

2 oz. Small rect. head of Liberty in large fig. 2	2					
4 " Ribbon, 8 inches, Man smoking	2					
8 " " " Indian	3					
16 " " " Sailor	4					

1869. *Ribbon, Green on white paper.*

The second column **S** are surcharged "Issued under Act of Congress, approved June 6, 1872."

2 oz. 7 in. "Place for cancel'n," Female to r.	2	4				
4 " 9 " " Female head at each end	3	4				
8 " 11 " " Army officers and Liberty	3	4				
16 " 13 " " Negro hoeing, with 16 3 times	4	5				
1870. <i>Ribbon, Green on white paper mottled in pink.</i>						
2 oz. 7 in. plain oval, female to right	2					
4 " 9 " Lincoln	3					
8 " 11 " Harlan	4					
16 " 13 " Negro hoeing, 16 at each end	4					
16 " " " Surcharged, June 6 1872.	5					

1871. *Ribbon, Black on tinted paper, same size.*

The letter **V** is for violet and **P** for pink paper, the last two columns are surcharged "Issued under Act of Congress approved June 6 1872."

2 oz. Female with blazing star	2	2	3	3		
4 " Lincoln	3	3	4	4		
8 " Harlan	3	4	5	6		
16 " Negro hoeing, 16 at each end	4	5	4	4		

1871. *Same, Green on tinted paper. V P: V*

2 oz. Female with blazing star	2	2	2			
4 " Lincoln	3	3	3			
8 " Harlan	3	4	3			
16 " Negro hoeing, 16 at each end	4	5	4			

TAX 20 AND 24 CENTS.

1872. *Ribbon, Black on Violet, Pink, and Green paper.*

The first 3 columns were under a tax of 20 cents per pound, the last 3 columns are surcharged across the face "Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875," which the tax was 24 cents.

1 oz. 7 in. Jackson	1	1	3	3	3	
2 " " Farragut	1	1	3	4	3	
4 " 9 " Stanton	1	1	2	3	4	
8 " 11 " Thos. Benton	2	2	3	3	3	
16 " 13 " Lincoln	2	2	3	4	4	

1875. *Series of 1875. Black on Green paper.*

The first column were under a tax of 20 cents and the last column **S** surcharged "Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875" were taxed 24 cents.

1 oz. 7 in. Garfield	2	2				
2 " " Orton	2	1				
4 " 9 " Douglass	2	2				
8 " 11 " Morrill	2	3				
16 " 13 " Statue of America	2					

1875. *Same as last, Green on Green paper.*

1 oz. Garfield	2					
2 " Orton	2					
4 " Douglass	2					
8 " Morrill	2					
16 " Statue of America	2					

1875. *Same size, Green on Green paper.*

The first column **A** has the words "Issued under Act of Mar. 3d. 1875" in fine type, in the last column **O** they are omitted.

1 oz. Taylor	1					
2 " Jefferson	2					
4 " Chase	1					
8 " Fillmore	1					
16 " Statue of America	1					

COTTON STAMP.

1870. *Thin arrow-shaped brass strip, 10 in. long.*

SNUFF STAMPS.

CLASS THIRTY TWO CENTS.

1871. *Black on White, Violet, & Pink paper. W V P*

1 oz. Small rect, head of female in large 1.	4	3				
2 " Tall " Profiled head, 'US Inter Rev'	5	5				
2 " " " " omitted	5	6				
6 " Ribbon, 8 in. Taylor, green network	4	3				

1872. *Act June 6, Black on Violet, Pink, Green. V P C*

1/2 oz. Small oblong, Madison	2	2				
1 " " rect, Washington	2	2				
2 " Tall " Hancock	2	3				
4 " Ribbon, 8 in. Female seated	3	2				
6 " " Taylor	3	4				
8 " " Steamship	3	3				
16 " " Steamer	3	3				

1872. *Oblong square, Act of June 6, 1872, Black on Violet, Pink, and Green paper.*

1/2 pound, 2 1/2 x 5 in. Eagle	3	3				
1 " " Female with sheaf	3	3				
2 " " " fascies	4	3				
3 " " Washington	4	3				
5 " " Sewing girls	3	3				
10 " 3x6 1/2 Belknap	4	4				
20 " " Boutwell	5	5				

Series of 1875. Black on Green paper.

Small oblong, Sherman	4
" rect. Dawes	5
Tall " Female seated	2
Ribbon, 8 1/2 in. Boutwell	2
" Sheridan	4
" Rawlins	2
" 12 in. Cartier	3

Oblong square, Series of 1875, Black & Green paper.

band, 2 1/2 x 5 in. 2 females	1
" " "	1
" " "	1
" " "	2
" " "	2
" " "	3
" " "	4

Series of 1875. Black on Green paper.

Small oblong, Monroe	4
" rect. Madison	1
Ribbon, 8 1/2 in. J. Q. Adams	1
" Thad. Stevens	3
" 12 in. Jackson	1

EXPORT STAMPS.

to 1877. Black on White, Violet, Mottled orange, Green paper.

long oval, 2x3 in. Steamship in storm	4	5	
square " Peabody	5	4	5
" " surcharged June 6 1872	5	5	6
" " 3x5 in. Columbia	5	5	
" " Two females &c.	3		

W V M C

WRAPPER STAMPS.

1869. Black on thick Yellow Wrappers.

1 1/2 x 2 3/4 in. Head of Negro	8
" 2 3/4 x 4 " Sailor	8
" 3 x 4 " Mechanic	8

TIN FOIL STAMPS.

1864 to 1875. Printed in color on tin foil.

Spread eagle, Blue, class 32 cents	6
Washington, Gilt, " "	2
" " Act June 6 1872	1
" " " omitted	4
" " Blue, Act June 6 1872	1
" " " omitted	4
Franklin, Gilt, Series of 1875	1
" " Blue	1

CIGAR STAMPS.

INSPECTOR'S.

Type set border 16 in. long, inscription in centre.	
Thousand, Black	9
" " "	5
" " "	6
" " "	9
" " "	8

Landscape scene at ends, 17 in. long white paper.

Dollars, Blue	2
" " Surcharged "15"	5
Green	5
" " Surcharged "10 per M."	7
Black, figure of value thus 15	3
" " " " " 15	4
Orange	5
Crimson	5

Inspector's Stamp, type set, various designs.

written	6
Inspector's Stamp, marked on the box with	4
metal plate	4

1865. U. S. in centre, two heads of Lincoln on all above 25 cigars, white paper.

The stamps in the first column 5 are dated 1865 ; in the next column 6 are dated 1866.

25 Cigars, 10 in. Black	7	5	6	+
50 " 13 " " "	4	5	6	7
100 " 16 " " Large heads	4	4	7	
100 " 16 " " Small	7	3	4	7
250 " " " " "	2	9	9	+
500 " " Green	4	9	9	7

1866 to 1867. Inspector's Stamp, No. of cigars in centre.

25 Cigars, 10 in. Green	4
50 " 13 " Blue	4
100 " 16 " Light brown	2
100 " " Dark	2
250 " Black	8
500 " " "	2

1868. "Tax paid" in centre and right hand ovals.

The last column S has surcharged across the face

"Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875."	S		
25 Red, 10 in. Washington	0	4	D
50 Green, 13 in. Ship under sail	0	2	0
100 Black, 16 " Sailor	0	2	0
250 Blue, " Soldier and horse	0	5	5
500 Orange, " Farmer and boy	7	5	6

1871. Same sizes, first 25 on plain white paper, balance are mottled in color.

25 Red, Wash'n, "Tax paid" only once.	8
25 " " " (mottled)	6
50 Black, Sherman	2
100 " Grant	2
250 Blue, Soldier and horse	7
500 " " "	0

1871. Same sizes, purple waving lines across ovals.

25 Red, Washington, "Tax paid" only once	4
250 Blue, Soldier and horse	8

1872. Same size, Black on buff, violet, and pink paper.

The last two columns are surcharged "Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875."

25 Washington "Tax paid" only once	5	3	4
50 Sherman	3	2	4
100 Grant	1	2	4
250 Soldier and horse	7	6	7
500 Farmer and boy	6	7	7

1872. Black on Violet, Pink, and Green paper.

The last 3 columns are surcharged "Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875."

25 10 in. Delano	2	2	4	4	3	4
50 13 " Fessenden	1	2	1	3	3	3
100 16 " Hancock	1	1	1	3	3	2
250 " John Adams	5	5	8	6	5	9
500 " Chase	5	5	9	6	6	9

1875. Same sizes, Black on Green paper.

The last column S is surcharged "Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875."

25 Waite	7	8
50 " "	5	3
100 " "	6	2

1875. Series of 1875. Head of Fessenden, Black on Green paper.

25 10 in.	2
50 13 "	1
100 16 "	1
250 " "	2
500 " "	2

IMPORTED CIGARS.

1866. 2x13 in. Treasury in centre, white paper.

Brown	7
Green	5

1867. <i>Heads of Washington each side, white paper.</i>	
Red, 1½×15 in. "Imported" in centre.	2
1874. <i>Head of Grant in oval in black in centre, black frame at each side, white paper.</i>	
(No value) 2×14½ in. Blue	1
25 1¼×9½ in. Orange	3
50 2×14½ " Carmine	1
100 " " Green	1
250 " " Brown	8
500 " " Orange yellow	2

1875. *Same size and design, Head of Harrison.*

25 Orange	3
50 Carmine	1
100 Green	1
250 Brown	8
500 Orange yellow	2

CIGARETTE STAMPS.

1868 to 1872. *Head in centre 1×1¼ in. Black on Mottled, White, Violet, and Pink paper.*

The last four columns are surcharged "Issued under Act of March 3d. 1875." **M W V P**

500 Female, "Tax paid 75c"	5	6	6	6	6
50 " centre ovals plain	5	6	6	5	6
500 Jefferson	3	4		5	5
1875. <i>Same size and design, Black on Green paper.</i>					
500 Seward					1

BEER STAMPS.

1867. *1st. issue, 3¼ in. square, Value at sides, "Stamp" above, size of barrel in centre, circular, white paper.*

12½ cents, orange	3
16½ " green	2
25 " blue	2
33½ " "	
50 " brown	3
1 dollar, black	3
2 dollars, scarlet	5

1868. *Second issue, Same design, "Stamp" omitted.*

12½ cents, orange red	5
16½ " green	4
25 " blue	3
33½ " magenta	9
50 " brown	4
1 dollar, black	5
2 dollars, scarlet	6

1869. *3rd. and 4th. issues, size above, value below, large circle in square frame, white paper.*

The first column **Y** has wavy yellow lines, and the last column **V** has violet lines across the stamp. **Y V**

12½ cents, brown	5	4
16½ " orange yellow	5	2
25 " green	4	1
33½ " "		
50 " lake red	5	2
50 " scarlet	5	3
1 dollar, blue	4	5
2 dollars, black	6	4

1871. *5th. 6th. and 7th. issues, vignette head and value in black in centre, square, White, Violet, and Green paper.*

12½ cents, blue, Jackson	2	3	4
16½ " orange, Lincoln	3	2	5
25 " green, Webster	1	1	2
33½ " orange, Farragut	7	6	6
50 " red, Sherman	3	5	5
50 " brown, "	5	2	4
1 dollar, orange yellow, Mc Cullough	3	3	6
1 " scarlet, "	6	3	4
2 " brown, Alex. Hamilton	3	3	5

1875. *8th. issue "Series of 1875." Infants and*

<i>in black in centre, square, Green paper.</i>	
12½ cents, blue	
16½ " brown	
25 " green	
33½ " violet	
50 " orange yellow	
1 dollar, crimson red	
2 dollars, chocolate	

WINE STAMPS.

1872. *1½×7½ in. Head in centre, Black on P*

1 pint, Sherman	
1 quart, Grant	

STAMP FOR STOCK ON HAND.

1868. *Large obl. square, Tax paid prior to Nov 18*

Justice to left, Black on White paper.

RECTIFIED SPIRITS STAMPS.

1869 to 1872. *Large oblong square.*

● Eagle in shield in upper left corner, B on V.
★ Columbia in lower left corner, B & G on V.
" " " " B & R on V.

Series of 1875. *Large oblong square, 3 coupons to head of Hamilton in centre, value repeated on side of the head, B & G on G.*

5-10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 gallons.
The same, but numeral of value divided by the
10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 gallons.

Series of 1875. *Head of Beck in centre.*

Value written, B & G on G.

DISTILLERY WAREHOUSE STAMP

1868 to 1875. *Large oblong square.*

● Harvest scene to left, B on W.
★ Treasury to left, Act of June 6, 1872, B & R on V.
" " " " B & G on G.
" " " 25 each side, Series of 1871, B & R on V.
★ Columbia in centre, Series of 1875, B & G on G.

BREWERS PERMIT STAMPS.

1872 to 1875. *Large oblong square.*

Brewers in left corner, Act of June 6, 1872, B on Laborer " " Series of 1875, B on G.

WHOLESALE LIQUOR DEALERS ST

1868 to 1875. *Large oblong square.*

● Indian in upper left corner, B on W.
★ Eagle at top, Series of 1871, 25 in corners B & R on V.
" " Act of June 6th, 1872 B & R on G.
" " " " B & G on G.
" " to left, Series of 1875 B & G on G.

1876. *Larger, "Series of 1876." eagle at top, figure of value in centre, B & G on G.*

5-10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 gallons.

DISTILLED SPIRITS STAMPS.

1868. *Large tall square, Reaping machine in tre, figure of value below, 3 coupons above, B on*

10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 gallons.
★ "O Donnell's O. K. Bourbon," no fig. val. Or
Series of 1871. <i>Large tall square, head in centre of value below, 3 coupons above, B & R on W.</i>
10-20-30-40 (Scott) - 50-60-70-80 gallons.

Act of June 6, 1872. *Same design, B & R on W.*

10-20-30-40 (Scott) - 50 (Spinner) - 60-70 (Buren) 80 (Taylor).

Act of June 6, 1872. *Same design, B & G on V.*

10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 (Taylor)

Series of 1875. *Same, head of Grant, B & G on V.*

10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 gallons.

Series of 1875. *Same, head of Lincoln, B & G on V.*

10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80 gallons.



Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located vertically on the left side of the page.



GEORGIA.—GOLD MEDAL OF THE SAVANNAH
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.



SAVANNAH, GA., AUG. 7, 1877.
 ANDRIAS, Rockford, Ill.

Dear Sir: Yours of 24th July, to Savannah Benevolent Society, has
 been received. The enclosed printing
 shows the origin of the medal, and
 those awarded. These medals are
 confined to those who come vol-
 unteers abroad. The design was the
 our association. The engraver,
 Lambert, 25 Park Street,
 London, through E. B. Harris,
 city. Yours truly,

GEO. C. FRANKLIN,
 Savannah Benevolent Association.

Savannah, Ga., Oct. 20th, 1876.

Dear Sir: That a Committee be ap-
 pointed to report on the feasibility of
 raising the amount of the benevolent
 fund, and to report on the feasibility of
 the aid of the benevolent fund in
 the present year. The committee
 shall report on the 1st of January next.

Yours truly,
 G. C. Franklin,
 Savannah Benevolent Association.

Dr. E. B. DeGraffen, Columbus, Ga.;
 Dr. Hartwig Buns, Wilmington, N. C.; Dr.
 M. Gibson, Wicksburg, Miss.; Dr. George
 F. Kollock, Florida; Rev. Charles S. Snow-
 den, Jacksonville, Fla.; Rev. C. C. Pender-
 goss, Augusta, Ga.; Rev. F. J. Redman,
 Macon, Ga.; Rev. R. A. Brown, Colum-
 bus, Ga.; Rev. P. F. O'Keefe, Macon, Ga.;
 Rev. Father Hubert, S. J., New Orleans,
 La.; Rev. E. O. Schärer, Columbus, Ga.;
 Judge W. McJohn, Augusta, Ga.; J. J.
 Ward, (Druggist) Charleston, S. C.; Sister
 Xavier, Dalton, Ga.; Sister Mary Anna;
 Sister Angela, Augusta, Ga.; Sister Cath-
 erine, Georgia. *Died of yellow fever.

Wanted for the Cause of Liberty
 The Annals of Nations Preserved upon
 Coins

Dr. HENRY MORSE, M. D., NEWSPATER.

THE ANNALS OF NATIONS PRESERVED UPON COINS

Every citizen who has a pocket under
 his head design, will see through the year
 of the Republic. It is important
 to draw the attention of the reader
 to the fact that the illustration between
 the two sides of the coin is not only
 an excellent illustration of the history
 of the Republic, but it is also an excellent
 illustration of the history of the world.
 The coin is a perfect specimen of the
 art of engraving, and it is a perfect
 specimen of the art of design. The
 design is a perfect illustration of the
 history of the Republic, and it is a
 perfect illustration of the history of the
 world. The coin is a perfect specimen
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 world. The coin is a perfect spec-
 imen of the art of engraving, and it is
 a perfect specimen of the art of design.



THE SAVANNAH MEDAL.

The following in reference to this beautiful medal, of which we present an engraving, covers its whole history:

SAVANNAH, GA., Aug. 7, 1877.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Rockford, Ills.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of 24th July, to Secretary Savannah Benevolent Society, has been received. The enclosed printed matter explains the origin of the medal, and names to whom awarded. These testimonials, were confined to those who came voluntarily from abroad. The design was the work of our association. The execution was by R. Lambenheimer, 33, Park Row, New York, ordered through S. P. Hamilton, of this city. Yours truly,

GEO. C. FREEMAN,

Treasurer Savannah Benevolent Association

Savannah Benevolent Association.

SAVANNAH, GA., Oct. 30th, 1876.

"Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to report resolutions of thanks, and suggest suitable testimonials to be tendered to the Physicians and others who came voluntarily to the aid of the inhabitants of this city during the present yellow fever epidemic."

In accordance with this resolution your Committee submit the following report:

January 9th, 1877.

The epidemic is at an end. Its harrowing details can never be forgotten, but with them will be remembered always the gifts, "twice blessed" which came from abroad and the presence of those strangers who volunteered to share its labors and perils. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend."

Most of these strangers had no friends to attract them here. The brief, woeful tale flashed daily over the wires, roused them to a grand and noble sacrifice. They came to stake their lives for perishing humanity. One gained the martyr's crown—God spared the rest. None the less do they deserve gratitude, honor, fame. Therefore

Be it Resolved, That those whose names are hereunto attached are entitled to praise from all, for rare courage and heroic conduct and should especially receive from this community unceasing, heartfelt thanks, for invaluable skill and aid under most perilous circumstances.

Be it Resolved, That in behalf of the Citizens of Savannah, this Association present to each of them or their representatives, a Gold Medal, commemorative of their services.

Respectfully,

WM. W. GORDON,

W. M. CHARTERS, M. D.,

ROBT. D. WALKER,

Committee.

LIST OF NAMES.

Dr. Octavius A. White, New York City;

Dr. E. F. DeGraffenried, Columbus, Ga.; Dr. Hartwig Bunz, Wilmington, N. C.; Dr. M. Gilman, Vicksburg, Miss.; Dr. George F. Kollock, Florida; Rev. Charles S. Snowden, Jacksonville, Fla.; Rev. C. C. Pendergast, Augusta, Ga.; Rev. F. J. Redman, Macon, Ga.; Rev. R. A. Browne, Columbus, Ga.; Rev. P. F. O'Keefe, Macon, Ga.; Rev. Father Hubert, S. J., New Orleans, La.; Rev. E. O. Schachte, Columbus, Ga.; Judge W. Milo olin, Augusta, Ga.; *J. J. Ward, (Druggist) Charleston, S. C.; Sister Xavier, Dalton, Ga.; Sister Mary Anne; Sister Angela, Augusta, Ga.; Sister Catharine, Georgia. *Died of yellow fever.

Written for the CURIOSITY HUNTER.

The Annals of Nations Preserved upon Coins.

BY ROBERT MURRIS, LL.D., NUMISMATIST.

THE FIRST PAPER.

In commencing a series of papers under this head designed to run through the year of the CURIOSITY HUNTER, it is important to draw for the benefit of the reader, that most important distinction between the coins of the present day and the coins of which we are to speak. Let the reader take at random a dozen different coins current at this time, and examine them with reference to their history. He will see, upon one side the emblems of national sovereignty such as a portrait of the reigning prince, and the date; upon the other, some more emblems of the same class and the value of the piece. Nothing more; this is the poor, barren "reading" of every modern coin whether gold, silver, copper or nickel. It would really appear, from looking over modern coins that the mint masters were struck with mental stupidity. Though they have the best artists in the world, all the variety they allow artists is to engrave and re-engrave, fat, homely queens; ugly, sensuous kings, and the exceedingly poor array of heraldic or traditional devices that make up modern coin language. In a thousand million coins of American and European origin, struck within the last fifty years there is not enough historical matter to fill a child's primer.

In former times it was not so. Every coin was a leaf of history to teach the people. It had on one side (called the obverse) usually the portrait of the reigning prince or some member of his family with an inscription embodying his name and title, and dates given in terms of his personal history. Upon the other side was given the historical fact designed to be commemorated in that particular coin. The



In illustration of this, I begin with a silver coin struck in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius whose term of rule was from A. D. 14 to 37. This specimen is called in latin, the *denarius*, in English the silver penny.

This is the coin used by Bible Commentators to illustrate that interesting passage in the life of Jesus, styled "Demanding the tribute money." At the command of the GREAT TEACHER, the tribes brought him a penny. As Tiberius had at that time been Emperor nearly 20 years, and very many million of his silver pennies were in circulation, the specimens brought to Jesus was probably one like this. Yet it may have been a denarius of his predecessor. Augustus Caesar, who reigned 45 years, or even of his predecessor, Julius Caesar, both of whom struck great numbers of these coins.

This is the "penny" so often named in the New Testament. It was in all respects except one, an indispensable coin in Holy Land; it would not pay the annual dues to the temple-service, that had to be done in Jewish money, viz. shekles, half shekles and subsidiary coinage the aliquot parts of the shekel and therefore when a Jew came to Jerusalem to clear off his account, his first visit was to the "money-changers" who, for a trifling premium exchanged his Roman or heathen money for "sacred money" as named above; with this he received his quietus from the chief of the Scribes.

This penny or denarius represents the daily pay of a Roman soldier. Its weight being about 30 grains of pure silver, the value is 15 cents, nearly, and this, with his ration and clothing, (not to say his plunder and immense donations from his emperor) constitutes the support of the trooper as well as footman. The daily wages of a Palestine laborer (called in the Bible "husbandman") was one of their denarii or silver pennies. They were composed of silver, extremely pure until about two centuries and a half after Christ, when the mint-master began to debase the coin at such a rate that the Emperor Aurelian (A. D. 270 to 275) was compelled to correct the swindle and punish the perpetrators. But so numerous and determined were the employees of the mint that it cost the lives of 7,000 Dacian veterans to accomplish this important act of Civil Service reform.

Upon the *obverse* (or front side) of this silver penny we have the portrait of the Emperor Tiberius with laureated head, facing to the right. His reign was from A. D. 14 to 37. The features are mild and benig-

nant and we know from his history that Tiberius was always "well-mannered" and gentle, and strove to make an impression upon all who approached him that such was his character. But the truth was in the other extreme. The inscription literally reads

IMP TI CAESAR DIVI AVGVSTVS.

Filling up the abbreviations we have "Imperator Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus." Turning this into *President's American* it reads, "The Emperor Tiberius Caesar Augustus, the son of the Deified Augustus." This refers to his having been (an adopted) son of Augustus Caesar, his immediate predecessor, who was called a God even before his death. I would warn my reader that the punctuation marks on my pictures are only the engraver's liberty; they are not found in the originals and ought not to be on the representations.

Upon the *reverse*, (or back side) of this coin is a figure of the goddess of Clemency, seated in a chair to the right, holding in her left hand a palm branch, in her right a headless spear as becomes so gentle a personification. This was one of the claims of Tiberius, viz: that he was full of clemency or gentleness. The legend is

PONTIF MAXIM

for Pontifex Maximus, signifying "the High Priest," a title that inhered in every emperor who was the chief of the sacerdotal college and pope or spiritual head of the entire nation as the Italian pope is at the present day.

A Word About the Mound Builders.

My friend, the editor of this magazine, has asked me to write an article concerning that strange and almost wholly unknown people, who we must acknowledge, were at least the predecessors of the Indian tribes, and, very probably, were the aborigines of this continent. There can be either little or much said regarding them. If one sticks to the facts his remarks will be few and brief; if one has a theory he may elaborate and compare and reason through a dozen folio volumes and yet be no nearer the truth when he ends than when he began. What we actually know about the mound builders can be stated in a paragraph as well as in a volume, provided we do not wish to make an elaborate report on separate and individual researches. Other than the work of Squier and Davis, I am not aware that any systematic explorations has been undertaken, and all our really valuable data regarding this race or people, have been acquired by accidental discovery. All we know of them is that they were workers in metal and stone, and clay; that they lived in villages and tilled the soil; that they had great threshing floors like those of the Israelites; that they built wonderful fortifications; that their system of earthwork for preventing the overflow of the Mississippi,

is unsurpassed in modern times; that they built a military road across Missouri, which exists to-day, firm and solid as a Roman *vias*. that they wove cloth, and, perhaps, had a rude system of coinage.

This is all, absolutely all that we know. The inscribed tablets found at Davenport are yet to be deciphered, and the Rockford engraved stone is, I am sorry to say, of doubtful authenticity. What I wish, therefore, is to suggest to ethnologists a more careful and systematic series of explorations. They ought to be carried on by the government, but as they are not private enterprise and private industry must do the work. It is the greatest *terra incognita* of history that yet awaits the coming of its Columbus, and whoever first describes the far-off land shall be a worthy brother of Champollion or Niebuhr. Not only Americans, but the whole world have an interest in the research, and even as I write, in far away France, the Congress of Americanists is discussing the problem, and savants whose names are known and honored every where, are doing their best to hasten the coming day of discovery. Let us have organized, persistent unwearied effort and the end will surely crown the work.

F. C. D.

BURLINGTON, Vt, July 3, 77.

The regular meeting of the Vermont Numismatic Society was called to order at 3 P. M. with the President in the chair. The Journal of the last meeting was read and approved. Dr. C. P. Thayer, the special committee to whom was referred the Constitution and By Laws, made his report which was accepted and adopted with slight alternations. The following gentlemen were elected Resident members—

H. A. Huse, I. P. Dana, R. B. Fields, H. J. Nelson, W. L. Sawyer.

The Secretary was directed to have 200 copies of the Constitution and By-Laws printed for the use of the society. The subject for discussion being the U. S. cents previous to 1800, the President led off, presenting some very fine specimens, as also did other members of the society. Adjourned to Tuesday, September 4th at 10 o'clock A. M.

C. P. THAYER, Sec.

From DeCostas "Pre-Columbian Discovery of America by the Northmen."

"The Northmen were the descendents of a race that in early times emigrated from Asia and traveled towards the north, finally settling in what is now the kingdom of Denmark. From thence they overran Norway and Sweden, and afterwards colonized Iceland and Greenland. Their language was the old Danish (*Donsk tunga*) once spoken all over the north, but is now preserved in Iceland alone, being called the Icelandic or old North, (improperly Norse) upon which is founded the modern Swedish, Danish and Norse or Norwegian." Owing to limited space we can do no more in this

brief article than to give the dates of a few of their most important voyages to America. Biarne Herinlfson's voyage to the coast of America, A. D. 986; Leif Ericson's voyage to Vinland, A. D. 1000-1001; Thorvald Ericson's voyage to Vinland, A. D. 1002; Thorstein Ericson's attempt to seek Vinland, A. D. 1005; Thorfinn Karlsefne's settlement in Vinland, 1006-1009; Freydis voyage and settlement in Vinland A. D. 1010-1012. (Frydis was a sister of Leif Ericson.

How to Collect our Land Shells.

Although it is too late in the season to commence any large collection this year, still a few lines as to collecting shells, may not be out of place in these columns. Large collections of Western shells both land and fresh water, are to be desired since too little work has been done by Western Naturalists in this department. Let the amateur conchologist be engaged in the search after land shells, which may be found in almost any moist place either in the vicinity of water or not, and his apparatus may be of a very simple character. He will need a few small bottles of alcohol for the small specimens, a box for the larger ones, and a pair of broad pointed forceps of thin sheet steel and of a very weak spring. This latter point should be emphasized, since stiff forceps become very fatiguing and cramping to the fingers after a few hours work. The ingenuity of the collector may devise other prices of apparatus from time to time, such as a pronged hook for turning over leaves—a case for bottles, etc., but what has been described will be found sufficient for most work. The forceps may be made by simply doubling a narrow strip of tin or still better by uniting together two strips of sheet-brass or steel. Any tinsmith can make them and the cost is but trifling. Now let our young collector, equipped as directed, begin his search, he must look under old boards, chips, stones, rotten leaves, in swamps, damp woods, about springs—not only in damp locations, but also in those comparatively dry. In particular must he hunt in thick moist woods, especially those which are occasionally flooded for, there he will reap a rich harvest. No old decayed log, bit of bark of board must escape his notice for a good collector if he does not have a multitude of eyes, must use his eyes in a multitude of directions. As fast as the shells are gathered they must be stored away, those of a suitable size dropped in the alcohol, and the larger ones carried home for a later alcohol bath, let the specimens remain in the spirit for three or four days, then remove them and finish their preparation. From all specimens as large as a pea, and from some smaller ones having a large aperture, the animal must be removed with a pin or hooked wire and the shell syringed out with a fine jet of water. If the shells

are soiled, they may be cleaned with a soft tooth brush and warm water. If the foreign matter obstinately refuses to be removed add a few drops of nitric acid to the water, but always remember and keep the acidulated solution very dilute. After this much has been accomplished dry your shells and with a soft cloth touch them lightly with sweet oil, lay them away in pill boxes, labeled with the locality where found, the date and name if it is known. Do not use enough oil to make the specimens greasy to the touch. The smaller shells may be taken from the alcohol and dried on blotting paper sorted with fine pointed forceps and placed in small boxes suitably labeled. The collector should remember to collect large numbers of each species so that he may have enough duplicates for exchange. Any one will be well repaid for any trouble by the beauty and variety of these little modest, almost unknown and unnoticed inhabitants of our woods.

Books and Exchanges.

"Numisma," Irvington, N. Y., No 4 for July contained an unusually interesting article in relation to the early coins of Sweden, its usual review of sales of coins and a very interesting priced list of coins.

Harzfelds, Numismatic Circular, 1713 Park Avenue, Philadelphia, for July, being No. 2, contains a complete refutation of the existence of the Frankfurt Dollars, said to have been issued in honor of Fanny Janauschek, and the mistress of Rothschild, in the shape of a letter from Dr. Ruppell, director of the mint museum. This Circular also contains a list of very fine medals and coins.

F. Trifets Monthly Stamp Circular, Boston, Mass., has much interesting news relative to Stamps and Philatelic matters generally.

A special list of cheap Books for sale by Chas. L. Woodward, Book Peddler, 78 Nassau St., New York, quotes some valuable Americana. See advertisement in another column.

The wholesale price list of W. E. MUIR & Co. of Montreal, Canada, enumerates a large assortment of stamps at very reasonable prices.

"1877 Catalogue of Scientific Pamphlets for sale by E. P. Boon, 86 Nassau St. New York, is the most comprehensive list of pamphlets we have seen; he has something of interest to every student of science, no matter what branch he is pursuing.

"The St. Louis Philatelist" is very spicy and full of Philatelic interest.

The August number of "Corriere Dei Francobolla," published at Trieste, seems to be well filled with Stamp news, but as it is published in Italian it over reaches our comprehension. It contains however a 12 column supplement, printed in German, French and English. Four columns in each

language, containing market reports of stamp sales and quotations in all the principal markets in the world, which makes it of much interest to dealers.

The advertisement of the "Union" in another column, calls attention to its excellencies.

"The American Journal of Numismatic's" is the largest and best published in the United States. See "ad."

N. Tibbals & Sons, 37 Park Row, N. Y., have favored us with a complete catalogue of their publications. Read their advertisements and send for their catalogue.

Directories containing the address of dealers in Stamps are cropping out from various sources among the very best of which are those issued by E. F. Gambs, St. Louis, Mo., and that by Richey, Bell & Co., Halifax, Nova Scotia. The former of these, by Gambs, is a very neatly printed collection of the addresses of some 200 American and Canadian dealers, published on colored paper and by far the best in appearance of any we have yet seen. Price 15 cents.

The latter, by Richey, Bell & Co., has a list of 200 dealers in all parts of the world, and nearly 1000 collectors and is consequently of great use to both dealers and collectors. From our knowledge of the stamp business, we should think it very complete, and well worth the 15 cents to any one interested in Philately. We should have been glad to have our name in the list of either dealers or collectors, but give you credit for a good work, well done—all the same gentlemen.

Gen. Jno. Watts, De Peyster, has again placed us under obligations for a valuable addition to our library of a lot of books and pamphlets from his eloquent pen. We should be happy to speak more at length concerning some of them. But space forbids.

E. F. Gambs has removed from 413, South Fourth St. to 512 Elm St. St. Louis, which is more centrally located.

Although our little paper is not yet quite on a paying basis; we are in hopes that it soon will be, and, are proud to say that our subscription list *has more than doubled*, since our last issue. We shall continue to give you your money's worth, and have secured for our next number which will commence Vol. 5, several valuable articles in relation to different branches of collecting. We are more than ever satisfied that a good paper at a low rate of subscription will pay. Help us by sending in your subscriptions and advertisements and we will surely give you your money's worth.

We have received from the author, Dr. C. C. Abbott, a few copies of his very valuable work on the "STONE AGE IN NEW JERSEY," a work of about 250 pages, containing over 200 illustrations of stone implements and weapons found in New Jersey. It is a work which should be in the library of every archaeologist. Price post paid 75 cents.

D. A. K. ANDRUS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THOSE ANSWERING AN ADVERTISEMENT WILL CONFER A FAVOR UPON ADVERTISER AND PUBLISHER, BY STATING THAT THEY SAW THE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

TERMS—10 Cents per line in advance.

John W. Hazeltine, 1,225 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Dealer in Coins, Autographs, Continental, Colonial and Confederate Paper Money, etc. Priced Catalogue of Coins for 1876 25 cts. Illustrated Catalogue of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, 1.50. Catalogue of Confederate Paper Money, 50 cts. Send stamp for list of Centennial Medals, Centennial relics, a Colonial Note of Pennsylvania, dated 1776. Genuine 50 cents. Please state where you saw this.

Wm. P. BROWN, 145 Nassau St. N. Y. Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Postage Stamps, old coins and other curiosities. Send for Circular, and state where this advertisement was noticed.

\$10 ⁰/₂₅ a day sure made by Agents selling our Chromos, Crayons, Pictures and Chromo Cards 100 samples worth \$1 sent postpaid for 75 cts. Illustrated circulars FREE. J. H. BURFORD'S SONS, Boston. Established in 1830

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

N. F. SEEBECK, P. O. Box 4926 New York, constantly has in Stock at very low prices a large and finely assorted stock of genuine Foreign Postage Stamps and American Foreign Stamp albums brought up to date. Descriptive price catalogue of all known stamps issued from 1815 to 1876, including price lists of albums, packets, etc., sent post free for 10c.

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to sell the best book of the **Revival Work**, and best thoughts of **Moody**, delivered in **Europe and America**. It is a **Dictionary of Revival Anecdotes, Incidents and Thoughts**, containing a copious **Index** to every subject, and the **only book with steel engravings of Moody and Sankey**.

Send 60 cents for copy and particulars. Sell at \$1.00.

N. TIBBALS & SONS,

3m 27 Park Row, New York.

THE MOTHER'S MAGAZINE

An old and popular monthly, aims to aid the Mother in her responsible duties, and to bear upon the family circle such influence as will tend to beget a purer and nobler home life, and consequent increase of domestic happiness. \$1.60 a year. Address: THE MOTHER'S MAGAZINE, P. O. Box 2157, New York.

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GOLD COLONIAL COINS.

185, Justice-eye; "Immune Columbia"	500 00	150 00
187, Sun-eagle; "Nova Eboraca,"	300 00	150 00

SILVER COLONIALS.

182, N E - XII; New England Shilling	25 00	15 00
182, N E - VI; "Sixpence	40 00	20 00
182, N E - III; "Threepence	100 00	40 00
180, Pinetree - XII; Masathusets shilling	50 00	30 00
182 " " " "	10 00	5 00
182 " " " " Smaller & thicker	8 00	3 00
182 " " " " XII; "Masathusets"	15 00	8 00
182 " " " " VI; "Masathusets" sixpence	15 00	5 00
182 " " " " III; " " threepence	15 00	5 00
182 " " " " II; " " twopence	15 00	5 00
182, Oaktree - XII; "shilling	5 00	3 00
182 " " " " VI; "sixpence	6 00	4 00
182 " " " " III; "threepence	8 00	4 00
182 " " " " II; "twopence	8 00	4 00
182 " " " " I; "penny	30 00	10 00

Wyatts counterfeiters of the above have lines across.

189, head-shield; Lord Baltimore shil'g	15 00	10 00
189 " " " " sixpence	20 00	10 00
189 " " " " fourpence	20 00	10 00
180, Cha's III - rose; Florida 1/2 dollar	30 00	30 00
173, Geo. III - shield; Virginia shilling	3 00	2 00
173, U. S. 1000-eye; "Nova Constellatio"	200 00	100 00
173, " 500 - " " 1/2 dollar	150 00	75 00
173, Justice-eye; " "	100 00	50 00
173, Hands clasped; Annapolis shilling	15 00	5 00
173 " " " " sixpence	15 00	8 00
173 " " " " threepence	15 00	8 00
170, head-Standish Barry threepence	25 00	10 00
176, Female head, "Castorland" 1/2 dollar	2 00	1 50

TIN COLONIAL.

180, Horseman-shields; James II tin piece	3 00	1 50
170, Sundial; "Continental Currency"	15 00	5 00

COLONIAL COPPER COINS.

1816 Hog-ship; "Sommer Islands" shilling	300 00	60 00
1816 " " " " sixpence	400 00	80 00
1804, Elephant; God preserve Carolina 1/2d	40 00	30 00
1804 " " " " New England 1/50d	150 00	50 00
1821, 2 L's; Col's Francoises, Louisiana	2 50	1 50
1782 " " " " " "	2 50	1 00
1787 " " " " stamped R. F. " "	2 00	1 00
1787 " " " " " " without " "	4 00	1 50
1786, head-ship; No stamps Pitt 1/2 penny	2 50	1 50
1773 Geo. III - shield; Virginia	1 25	50
1778 " " " " smaller size " "	75	25
U S A - 13 bars; Bar cent	3 50	2 00

1722, Geo. I - rose; Rosa Americana penny	4 00	1 50
1722 " " " " 1/2 " "	2 50	1 00
1722 " " " " farthing	3 00	1 50
1722 " " " " "Rosa Ameri" "	4 00	2 00
1722 " " " " not crowned " "	15 00	5 00
1722 " " " " "Rosa sine spina" 1/2d.	30 00	15 00
1722 " " " " Crowned rose; Rosa Americana 1d	4 00	2 00
1723 " " " " 1/2 penny	2 50	1 50
1724 " " " " " "	15 00	10 00
1723 " " " " farthing	2 50	1 50
1723 " " " " "Rosa Ameri" 1/2 penny	5 00	3 00
1733, Geo. II - "Rosa Americana penny	30 00	20 00
1737, deer-hammers; "Connecticut" cent	40 00	30 00
1737 " " " " "I am good copper, Granby" "	40 00	30 00
1739 " " " " " "	40 00	30 00
1737 " " " " "Connecticut" "	40 00	30 00
1737 " " " " "axe; I cut my way through" "	40 00	30 00
No date " " " " " "	40 00	20 00
1778, head-Indian; Non dependens, cent	25 00	15 00
1783 U. S. - eye; "Nova Constellatio" cent	1 00	40
1783 " " " " "Nova Constellatio" "	1 00	30
1785, U. S. - eye; " "	1 00	40
1783, liberty caged; Georgius Triumpho" "	3 00	1 25
1787, Indian-stars; Inimica Tyrannis "	20 00	10 00
1785 " " " " stars in circle; " "	20 00	10 00
1785 " " " " Scroll - triangle; Kentucky "	3 50	2 00
1785 " " " " "lettered edge " "	3 50	2 00
1796, Britannia-children; Brit. settlement	25 00	15 00
1787, Indian-eagle; Massachusetts cent	1 00	40
1787 " " " " " "	3 30	1 25
1788 " " " " " "	1 00	50
1788 " " " " " "	3 00	1 25
1787, sundial-links We are one, Franklin	50	25

New York Cents.

1786, head-Justice; Non vi virtute vici	75 00	40 00
1787, Indian-eagle; "Neo Eboracus"	50 00	30 00
1787 " " " " arms of N. Y.; "Excelsior"	40 00	20 00
1787, Geo. Clinton " " "	50 00	25 00
1787, eagle " " "	60 00	30 00
1787 " " " " " "	60 00	30 00
1787, Justice-eagle; Immune Columbia	8 00	4 00
1787, head-liberty to right; Nova Eborac	2 00	50
1787 " " " " left; " "	2 00	75

Vermont Cents.

1785, head-Justice; Immune Columbia	15 00	10 00
1785, Justice-eye; " "	25 00	15 00
1785, sun-eye; "Vermonts Respublica"	3 00	1 00
1785 " " " " Vermontis " "	5 00	2 00
1786 " " " " Vermontensium " "	2 50	1 00
1786, head-Britannia "Vernon Auctori"	60	30
1787 " " " " " "	50	25
1788 " " " " " "	75	30
1786, Baby head " " "	1 50	50
1787, head " " "Et lib Inde"	1 00	50
1787 " " " " "Britannia" "	1 00	40
1787 " " " " Geo. III rex. Inde et lib	2 00	1 00

New Jersey Cents.

1786, Horse head-shield; Nova Casarea	1 00	30
1786 " " " " (date under beam) "	60 00	30 00
1787 " " " " large size " "	60	25
1787 " " " " smaller " "	30	10
1787 " " " " "E pluribus" "	2 00	1 00
1788 " " " " " "	50	20
1788 " " " " Fox type " "	1 50	40
1788 " " " " "to left" "	4 00	1 00
1787, Justice-shield; Immune Columbia	25 00	15 00

Connecticut Cents.

1787, head to r-Britannia; Auctori Connec	25	10
1785-6-8 " " " " " "	50	20
1785, (Negro head) " " " "	7 00	50
1785, (Laughing head) " " " "	1 50	75
1785, head to left " " " "	50	20
1786-7-8 " " " " " "	50	25
1786-7 " " " " "Et lib Inde" "	1 00	50
1787-8 " " " " Auctori Connect	1 00	30

There are many more minor types of the Ct. & N. J.

SILVER DOLLARS.

	<i>Fine</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>
1794	50 00	25 00	15 00
1795, flowing hair	3 00	2 00	1 50
1795, fillet head	3 50	2 50	2 00
1796	3 50	2 50	2 00
1797, 5 stars facing	5 00	3 50	3 00
1797, 7 "	3 50	3 00	2 00
1798, 13 " sm. eagle	6 00	4 00	3 00
1798, 15 " "			5 00
1798, 13 " large "	3 00	2 00	1 50
1799, 5 stars facing	7 00	5 00	3 00
1799, 6 " "	2 00	1 60	1 40
1800, spread eagle	3 00	2 00	1 60
1801	5 00	3 50	2 85
1802	4 00	3 00	2 00
1803	3 00	2 00	1 60
1804		5 00 00	
1836, flying eagle	10 00	6 00	4 00
1838	40 00		
1839	40 00		
1840, liberty seated	2 00	1 60	1 40
1841	2 00	1 60	1 40
1842	2 00	1 60	1 40
1843	2 00	1 60	1 40
1844	3 00	2 25	2 00
1845	2 25	1 75	1 50
1846	2 00	1 50	1 40
1847	1 75	1 50	1 40
1848	2 50	2 25	1 75
1849	1 75	1 50	1 40
1850	4 00	3 00	2 00
1851		10 00	
1852		10 00	
1853	4 00	3 00	2 50
1854	0 00	5 00	3 00
1855	5 00	4 00	2 75
1856	5 00	4 00	2 50
1857	3 50	2 50	2 00
1858	10 00	8 00	5 00
1859	1 50	1 40	1 20
1860	1 50	1 40	1 20
1861	1 50	1 40	1 20
1862	1 50	1 40	1 20
1863	1 50	1 40	1 20
1864	1 50	1 40	1 20
1865	1 50	1 40	1 20
1866	1 50	1 40	1 20
1867	1 50	1 40	1 20
1868	1 50	1 40	1 20
1869	1 50	1 40	1 20
1870	1 50	1 40	1 20
1871	1 50	1 40	1 20
1872	1 50	1 40	1 20
1873	2 50	1 75	1 50
1873, Trade dollar	2 50	2 00	1 50
1874	1 75	1 50	1 40
1875	1 50	1 40	1 20
1876	1 20	1 15	1 10
1877	1 20	1 15	1 10

HALF DOLLARS.

1794, flowing hair	5 00	2 50	1 75
1795	2 50	1 00	75
1796, 15 stars	25 00	15 00	8 00
1796, 16 "	30 00	20 00	10 00
1797, 16 "	20 00	12 00	6 00
1801, fillet head	4 00	2 50	1 50
1802	3 00	2 00	1 50
1803	3 00	1 50	1 00
1805	2 00	1 50	1 00
1806	1 50	1 25	75
1807	1 50	1 25	75
1807, head to left.	1 50	1 25	75
1808	1 50	1 00	75
1809	1 50	1 00	75
1810	1 50	1 00	75
1811	1 50	1 00	75
1812	1 50	1 00	75
1813	1 50	1 00	75
1814	1 50	75	60
1815	3 00	2 25	1 50
1817	1 00	75	60
1818	1 00	75	60
1819	1 00	75	60
1820	1 00	75	60
1821	1 00	75	60
1822	1 00	75	60
1823	1 00	75	60

1824	1 00	75	60
1825	1 00	75	60
1826	75	60	55
1827	75	60	55
1828	75	60	55
1829	75	60	55
1830	75	60	55
1831	75	60	55
1832	75	60	55
1833	75	60	55
1834	75	60	55
1835	75	60	55
1836, lettered edge	75	60	55
1836, milled "	75	60	55
1837	75	60	55
1838	75	60	55
1839	75	60	55
1839, liberty seated	75	60	55
1840	75	60	55
1841	75	60	55
1842	75	60	55
1843	75	60	55
1844	75	60	55
1845	75	60	55
1846	75	60	55
1847	75	60	55
1848	75	60	55
1849	75	60	55
1850	75	60	55
1851	1 50	1 00	75
1852	1 50	1 00	75
1853	75	60	55
1854	75	60	55
1855	75	60	55
1856	75	60	55
1857	75	60	55
1858	75	60	55
1859	75	60	55
1860	75	60	55
1861	75	60	55
1862	75	60	55
1863	75	60	55
1864	75	60	55
1865	75	60	55
1866	75	60	55
1867	75	60	55
1868	75	60	55
1869	75	60	55
1870	75	60	55
1871	75	60	55
1872	75	60	55
1873, no arrows	1 00	90	75
1873, with "	70	60	55
1874	70	60	55
1875	70	60	55
1876	65	60	55
1877	65	60	55

Quarter Dollars.

1796, fillet head	6 00	3 00	1 50
1804	6 00	3 00	1 50
1805	3 00	1 50	1 00
1806	2 50	1 25	75
1807	2 50	1 25	75
1815, head to left.	2 50	1 25	75
1818	1 00	75	50
1819	1 50	1 00	75
1820	1 00	75	50
1821	1 00	75	50
1822	2 00	1 00	75
1823	30 00	20 00	15 00
1824	2 00	1 00	75
1825	1 00	75	50
1826	1 00	75	50
1827	30 00	20 00	15 00
1828	1 00	60	40
1829	75	50	40
1830	1 00	60	40
1831	75	50	40
1832	1 00	60	40
1833	75	50	40
1834	1 00	75	50
1835	75	50	40
1836	75	50	40
1837	75	50	40
1838	75	50	40
1839, liberty seated	75	50	40
1839	75	50	40
1840	75	50	40
1841	75	50	40
1842	75	50	40
1843	75	50	40
1844	75	50	40
1845	75	50	40
1846	1 50	1 00	75
1847	30	25	20
1848	30	25	20
1849	30	25	20
1850	30	25	20
1851	30	25	20

1844	75	50	40
1845	75	50	40
1846	75	50	40
1847	75	50	40
1848	75	50	40
1849	75	50	40
1850	75	50	40
1851	80	60	50
1852	80	60	50
1853, no arrows	8 00	5 00	3 00
1853, with "	75	50	40
1854	75	50	40
1855	75	50	40
1856	1 00	75	50
1857	40	35	30
1858	40	35	30
1859	40	35	30
1860	40	35	30
1861	40	35	30
1862	40	35	30
1863	40	35	30
1864	40	35	30
1865	40	35	30
1866	40	35	30
1867	40	35	30
1868	40	35	30
1869	40	35	30
1870	40	35	30
1871	40	35	30
1872	40	35	30
1873	40	35	30
1874	40	35	30
1875	40	35	30
1876	40	35	30
1877	40	35	30

Twenty Cent pieces.

1875, liberty seated	30	25	20
1876	50	40	30
1877	1 00	75	50

DIMES.

1796, fillet head	4 00	2 00	1 50
1797, 13 stars	6 00	3 00	2 00
1797, 16 "	8 00	4 00	2 00
1798, fillet head	6 00	3 00	2 00
1800	8 00	5 00	3 00
1801	6 00	4 50	3 00
1802	8 00	5 00	3 00
1803	4 00	2 50	1 50
1804	10 00	5 00	3 00
1805	1 50	75	50
1807	2 00	1 00	75
1809, head to left.	3 00	1 75	1 50
1811	3 00	2 00	1 50
1814	1 00	60	50
1820	75	50	40
1821	1 00	60	50
1822	6 00	3 00	1 50
1823	1 00	50	40
1824	2 00	1 50	75
1825	1 00	60	50
1826	50	40	30
1827	1 00	75	50
1828	60	40	30
1829	40	30	20
1830	40	30	20
1831	40	30	20
1832	40	30	20
1833	40	30	20
1834	40	30	20
1835	40	30	20
1836	40	30	20
1837	40	30	20
1837, liberty seated	40	30	20
1838, no stars	50	40	30
1838, with "	40	30	20
1839	40	30	20
1840	40	30	20
1841	40	30	20
1842	40	30	20
1843	40	30	20
1844	60	40	30
1845	40	30	20
1846	1 50	1 00	75
1847	30	25	20
1848	30	25	20
1849	30	25	20
1850	30	25	20
1851	30	25	20

1852	30	25	15
1853, no arrows	40	30	20
1853, with "	20	15	12
1854	20	15	12
1855	20	15	12
1856	20	15	12
1857	20	15	12
1858	20	15	12
1859	20	15	12
1860	20	15	12
1861	20	15	12
1862	20	15	12
1863	20	15	12
1864	20	15	12
1865	20	15	12
1866	20	15	12
1867	20	15	12
1868	20	15	12
1869	20	15	12
1870	20	15	12
1871	20	15	12
1872	20	15	12
1873, no arrows	60	40	25
1873, with "	20	15	12
1874	20	15	12
1875	20	15	12
1876	20	15	12
1877	20	15	12

HALF DIMES.

1794, flowing hair	5.00	3.00	2.00
1795	2.00	1.00	.50
1796, 13 stars	6.00	4.00	2.00
1797, 13 "	5.00	3.00	1.50
1797, 16 "	4.00	2.00	1.00
1800, fillet head	2.00	1.00	.50
1801	5.00	3.00	1.50
1802	100.00		
1803	5.00	3.00	1.50
1805	6.00	4.00	2.00
1829, head to left	30	20	10
1830	30	20	10
1831	30	20	10
1832	30	20	10
1833	30	20	10
1834	30	20	10
1835	20	10	08
1836	20	10	08
1837	20	10	08
1837, liberty seated	20	10	08
1838, no stars	60	40	30
1838, with "	60	40	30
1839	20	10	08
1840	20	10	08
1841	20	10	08
1842	20	10	08
1843	20	10	08
1844	40	25	15
1845	20	10	08
1846	20	10	08
1847	1.00	.75	.50
1848	20	10	08
1849	20	10	08
1850	20	10	08
1851	20	10	08
1852	20	10	08
1853, no arrows	20	10	08
1853, with "	20	10	08
1854	20	10	08
1855	20	10	08
1856	20	10	08
1857	20	10	08
1858	20	10	08
1859	20	10	08
1860	20	10	08
1861	20	10	08
1862	20	10	08
1863	20	10	08
1864	20	10	08
1865	20	10	08
1866	20	10	08
1867	20	10	08
1868	20	10	08
1869	20	10	08
1870	20	10	08
1871	20	10	08
1872	20	10	08
1873	40	30	20
1873, no arrows	60	40	30

Silver 3 Cent pieces.

1851	15	10	05
1852	15	10	05
1853	15	10	05
1854	50	30	20
1855	50	30	20
1856	15	10	05
1857	15	10	05
1858	15	10	05
1859	10	08	05
1860	10	08	05
1861	10	08	05
1862	10	08	05
1863	30	20	10
1864	30	20	10
1865	30	20	10
1866	30	20	10
1867	30	20	10
1868	30	20	10
1869	30	20	10
1870	10	08	05
1871	10	08	05
1872	10	08	05
1873	1.00	.60	.40

Nickel 5 Cent pieces.

1866	20	15	10
1867, with rays	75	50	25
1867, without rays	20	15	10
1868	20	15	10
1869	20	15	10
1870	20	15	10
1871	15	10	08
1872	15	10	08
1873	15	10	08
1874	15	10	08
1875	20	15	10
1876	15	10	08
1877	15	10	08

Nickel 3 Cent pieces.

1865	15	10	08
1866	15	10	08
1867	15	10	08
1868	15	10	08
1869	15	10	08
1870	10	08	05
1871	10	08	05
1872	10	08	05
1873	10	08	05
1874	10	08	05
1875	20	15	08
1876	10	08	05
1877	10	08	05

Two Cent pieces.

1864	20	10	05
1865	15	10	05
1866	20	10	05
1867	15	10	05
1868	15	10	05
1869	10	08	04
1870	10	08	04
1871	25	15	10
1872	40	30	25
1873	75	60	40

COPPER CENTS.

1798, chain, Ameri	15.00	10.00	4.00
1798, " America	8.00	5.00	3.00
1798, wreath	8.00	5.00	3.00
1798 " lettered edge	9.00	6.00	4.00
1798, liberty cap	10.00	6.00	4.00
1794 "	1.50	.75	.25
1795 " lettered edge	2.50	1.00	.50
1795 " thin die	1.50	.50	.25
1796 "	2.00	.75	.50
1796, fillet head	2.00	1.00	.50
1797 "	1.50	.40	.20
1798	1.00	.35	.05
1799	20.00	8.00	5.00
1800	1.00	.50	.10
1801	1.00	.50	.10
1802	.50	.25	.05
1803	.50	.25	.05
1804	10.00	6.00	3.00
1805	1.00	.50	.20
1806	1.25	.75	.30
1807	1.00	.40	.10

1808, head to left	2.00	.75	.25
1809	4.00	1.50	.75
1810	1.50	.40	.10
1811	3.00	1.00	.50
1812	1.00	.25	.05
1813	2.00	.75	.40
1814	.75	.25	.10
1816	.75	.20	.05
1817, 15 stars	1.50	.40	.20
1817, 18 "	.50	.30	.08
1818	.50	.15	.05
1819	.50	.15	.05
1820	.40	.10	.05
1821	1.50	.40	.15
1822	.50	.15	.05
1823	2.00	.50	.15
1824	.60	.20	.05
1825	.50	.20	.05
1826	.50	.20	.05
1827	.60	.20	.05
1828	.50	.15	.05
1829	.75	.20	.05
1830	.60	.15	.05
1831	.50	.10	.05
1832	.60	.10	.05
1833	.50	.10	.05
1834	.40	.10	.05
1835	.50	.10	.05
1836	.60	.10	.05
1837	.40	.10	.05
1838, head of 1838	.50	.20	.10
1839, booby "	.60	.30	.20
1839, head of 1840	.50	.20	.10
1840, " 1840	.40	.15	.10
1840	.40	.10	.05
1841	.50	.10	.05
1842	.40	.10	.05
1843	.40	.10	.05
1843, reverse of 1844	.60	.25	.15
1844	.50	.10	.05
1845	.40	.10	.05
1846	.40	.10	.05
1847	.40	.10	.05
1848	.40	.10	.05
1849	.40	.10	.05
1850	.25	.10	.05
1851	.25	.10	.05
1852	.25	.10	.05
1853	.20	.05	.03
1854	.25	.10	.05
1855, slanting date	.30	.10	.05
1855, straight "	.25	.10	.05
1856	.20	.05	.03
1857, large date	.50	.30	.25
1857, small "	.40	.25	.20

Nickel & Bronze Cents.

1856, eagle, nickel	4.00	3.00	2.50
1857	.20	.10	.05
1858	.20	.10	.05
1859, Indian head	10	05	03
1860	10	05	03
1861	20	10	05
1862	10	05	03
1863	10	05	03
1864	10	05	03
1864, bronze	10	05	03
1865	10	05	03
1866	10	05	03
1867	10	05	03
1868	10	05	03
1869	10	05	03
1870	10	05	03
1871	10	05	03
1872	.05	.03	.02
1873	.05	.03	.02
1874	.05	.03	.02
1875	.05	.03	.02
1876	.05	.03	.02
1877	.05	.03	.02

HALF CENTS.

1798, liberty cap	5.00	2.50	1.50
1794 "	2.50	1.50	.75
1795 " lettered edge	3.00	1.50	.75
1795 " thin die	2.50	1.00	.50
1796 liberty cap	40.00	20.00	10.00
1797 "	2.50	1.00	.75
1797 " lettered edges	8.00	5.00	3.00

1800 fillet head	1 00	80	30
1802	3 50	2 00	1 50
1808	50	30	20
1804	25	10	05
1805	50	25	15
1806	50	25	15
1807	50	25	15
1808	50	25	15
1809, head to left.	25	15	05
1810	2 50	1 50	75
1811	3 00	2 00	1 00
1825	40	20	10
1826	25	15	10
1828, 12 stars	40	25	15
1828, 13 "	20	10	05
1829	80	20	10
1831, (proof)	12 00		
1832	25	15	10
1833	25	12	08
1834	20	10	05
1835	20	10	05
1836, (proof)	12 00		
1840	8 00		
1841	8 00		
1842	20 00		
1843	8 00	5 00	
1844	8 00	5 00	
1845	8 00	5 00	
1846	8 00		
1847	15 00		
1848	8 00		
1849	8 00		
1849, large date	40	25	15
1850	80	20	10
1851	25	15	10
1852, (proof)	10 00	5 00	
1853	15	10	05
1854	25	15	10
1855	25	15	10
1856	20	10	05
1857	30	25	15

GOLD DOUBLE EAGLES.

1850, head to left.	25 00	23 00	22 00
1851	25 00	23 00	22 00
1852	25 00	23 00	22 00
1853	30 00	25 00	23 00
1854	23 00	22 50	22 00
1855			
to consecutive	22 00	21 75	21 50
1877			

GOLD EAGLES.

1795, head to right	15 00	13 00	12 00
1797, 16 stars	18 00	15 00	13 00
1797, "spread eagle	15 00	13 00	12 00
1798, 18 stars	15 00	13 00	12 00
1799, "spread eagle	15 00	13 00	12 00
1800	14 00	13 00	12 00
1801	14 00	13 00	12 00
1803	15 00	13 00	12 00
1804	15 00	13 00	12 00
1838, head to left.	15 00	13 00	12 00
1839	14 00	12 00	11 50
1840	14 00	12 00	11 50
1841	14 00	12 00	11 50
1842	14 00	12 00	11 50
1843	13 00	12 00	11 50
1844	14 00	12 00	11 50
1845	14 00	12 00	11 50
1846	13 00	12 00	11 50
1847	13 00	12 00	11 50
1848	13 00	12 00	11 50
1849	13 00	12 00	11 50
1850	13 00	12 00	11 50
1851	13 00	12 00	11 50
1852	13 00	12 00	11 50
1853	12 00	11 50	11 00
1854	13 00	12 00	11 50
1855			
to consecutive	11 50	11 00	10 80
1877			

Gold Half Eagles.

1795, head to right	10 00	8 00	7 00
1796, 16 stars	12 00	10 00	8 00
1797, "spread eagle	12 00	10 00	8 00
1798, 13 stars	8 00	7 00	6 00
1799	10 00	9 00	7 00
1800	10 00	8 00	7 00

1801	30 00	20 00	12 00
1802	10 00	8 00	7 00
1803	8 00	7 00	6 00
1804	8 00	7 00	6 00
1805	8 00	7 00	6 00
1806	8 00	7 00	6 00
1807	8 00	7 00	6 00
1808, head to left.	8 00	7 00	6 00
1809	8 00	7 00	6 00
1810	8 00	7 00	6 00
1811	8 00	7 00	6 00
1812	8 00	7 00	6 00
1813	8 00	7 00	6 00
1814	8 00	7 00	6 00
1815	30 00	20 00	10 00
1818	8 00	7 00	6 00
1819	8 00	7 00	6 00
1820	8 00	7 00	6 00
1821	8 00	7 00	6 00
1822	10 00	8 00	7 00
1823	7 00	6 50	6 00
1824	7 00	6 50	6 00
1825	7 00	6 50	6 00
1826	7 00	6 50	6 00
1827	7 00	6 50	6 00
1828	7 00	6 50	6 00
1829	7 00	6 50	6 00
1830	6 50	6 00	5 75
1831	6 50	6 00	5 75
1832	6 50	6 00	5 75
1833	6 50	6 00	5 75
1834	6 50	6 00	5 75
1835	6 50	6 00	5 75
1836	6 50	6 00	5 75
1837	6 50	6 00	5 75
1838	6 50	6 00	5 75
1839	6 50	6 00	5 75
1840	6 50	6 00	5 75
1841	6 50	6 00	5 75
1842	6 50	6 00	5 75
1843	6 50	6 00	5 75
1844	6 50	6 00	5 75
1845	6 50	6 00	5 75
1846	6 50	6 00	5 75
1847	6 50	6 00	5 75
1848	6 50	6 00	5 75
1849	6 50	6 00	5 75
1850	6 50	6 00	5 75
1851	6 50	6 00	5 75
1852	6 50	6 00	5 75
1853	6 00	5 75	5 50
1854	6 50	6 00	5 75
1855			
to consecutive	5 75	5 50	5 40
1877			

Gold Three Dollars.

1854, head to left.	4 00	3 75	3 50
1855	3 75	3 50	3 25
1856	4 00	3 75	3 50
1857			
to consecutive	3 50	3 40	3 25
1877			

Gold Quarter Eagles.

1796, without stars	7 00	5 00	3 50
1796, 16 stars	8 00	6 00	4 00
1797, 16 "	7 00	5 00	3 50
1798, 13 "	5 00	4 00	3 25
1802	6 00	5 00	3 50
1804	5 00	4 00	3 25
1805	5 00	4 00	3 25
1806	5 00	4 00	3 25
1807	5 00	4 00	3 25
1808, head to left.	5 00	4 00	3 25
1821	5 00	4 00	3 25
1824	5 00	4 00	3 25
1825	5 00	4 00	3 25
1826	6 00	5 00	3 50
1827	4 50	4 00	3 25
1829	4 50	4 00	3 25
1830	4 50	4 00	3 25
1831	4 50	4 00	3 25
1833	4 50	4 00	3 25
1833	4 50	4 00	3 25
1834	4 50	4 00	3 25
1835	4 50	4 00	3 25
1836	4 50	4 00	3 25
1837	4 50	4 00	3 25
1838	4 00	3 50	3 00

1839	4 00	3 50	3 00
1840	4 00	3 50	3 00
1841	4 00	3 50	3 00
1842	4 00	3 50	3 00
1843	4 00	3 50	3 00
1844	4 00	3 50	3 00
1845	4 00	3 50	3 00
1846	4 00	3 50	3 00
1847	4 00	3 50	3 00
1848	4 00	3 50	3 00
1849	4 00	3 50	3 00
1850	3 25	3 00	2 75
1851	3 25	3 00	2 75
1852	3 25	3 00	2 75
1853			
to consecutive	3 00	2 80	2 70
1877			

Gold Dollars.

1849, head to left.	2 00	1 50	1 25
1850	2 00	1 50	1 25
1851	1 40	1 25	1 10
1852	1 40	1 25	1 10
1853			
to consecutive	1 30	1 20	1 10
1877			

Washington Pieces.

1776, Button, G. W., 13 rings	2 00
1779, urn, He is in glory (gold)	15 00
Head of Wash'n in each side	50
Success to the U. S. brass	2 00
1783, Liberty seated, United S.	60
1783, head larger	1 00
1783, " " "Unity States"	60
1785, " " "Confederatio"	50 00
1791, cent, large eagle & scroll	6 00
1791, " small eagle 8 stars	8 00
1791, " " " 6 "	15 00
1792, " " " 15 "	20 00
1792, " " " 15 "	20 00
1792, 1/2 dollar " 15 stars, silver	50 00
1792, " large eagle, no stars "	50 00
1792, cent, head of Wash'n to r	30 00
1791, 1/2 penny, ship	5 00
1793, 1/2 " " harp, North Wales	3 00
1791, 1/2 " ship, Liverpool,	30 00
1793, 1/2 " " "	2 50
1795, eagle Liberty & security	5 00
No date	2 50
1795, " smaller size "	3 00
1795, London grate cent	2 50
1796, Gen of the Am armies & c	3 00

Early Pattern Pieces.

1792, Disme eagle flying silver	50 00
1792, 1/2 "	80
1792, cent, Lib par. of Science	50 00
1792, " smaller, "	30 00
1792, " Eagle on globe	5 00
1792, " (no legend) "	5 00
1854, " no stars	1 00
1855, " flying eagle, copper	1 00
1855, " brass	1 00
1850, Ring cent, 1-10th silver	1 00
1850, 3 cent, liberty cap,	1 00
1856, cent, eagle, copper	2 00
1858, " 8 varieties of patterns	1 00

Medals & Tokens.

Columbia token, several types	2 00
South Carolina, brass	5 00
1700, Voce populi, half penny	5 00
1760, " farthing	1 00
1722, " Wood half penny	1 00
1723, " " "	1 00
1723, " " farthing	1 00
1740, Danish West Indian piece	5 00
Mark Newby or St. Patrick far.	1 00
1779, Rhode Island medal brass	2 00
1781, North American token	3 00
1787, Auctori Plebis	3 00
1789, Mott's Jewelers token	5 00
1794, Talbot Allum & Lee cent	7 00
1795, " "	1 00
Ships Col. & Commerce Am flag	1 00
1837, cent Feuchtwanger, eagle	1 00
1837, 3 "	1 00
1837, 3 " " State arms	1 00
1864, 3 " " eagle	1 00





THE WASHINGTON MEDAL.

It is hardly necessary to recall, in detail, incidents of Washington's life, for his life is so conspicuous a part of our National history that there is probably no reader of this magazine unfamiliar with the least or more prominent particulars. We will therefore say, by way of induction, that George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, February 22, 1732; that ten years later his father died; that in 1751 he came into possession of the family estates by the death of his elder brother; that four years later served with credit in Braddock's disastrous campaign against the French and Indians; that in 1761 he married the young dowager of Colonel Castle; and that, at the outbreak of the revolution, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the American army.

The medal engraved in this number was awarded to General Washington because of his eminent services at the siege of Boston. According to Loring, he took command of the army at Cambridge on the 21st of July, 1775, and directed his efforts during the summer and autumn, to the capture or expulsion of the British troops. His army, 12,000 strong, extended from Cambridge on the right, to Prospect Hill, a mile north of Breed's Hill, on the left. The right was commanded by General Ward, the left by General Lee. In October, at Cambridge, was under the medical control of the Commander-in-Chief. Under this army Washington made the flag of the United States for the first time on New Year's Day, 1776. A large part, at this date, consisted of 12,000 men, badly led, worse clothed, and imperfectly disciplined, yet of a possession of sufficient strength to repulse the British army in Boston, and achieve the siege. The siege, however, continued until the latter days of February, 1776, by extraordinary efforts, the numerical strength of the Continental army was raised to the initial standard of 12,000 men. To provide for their payment Congress passed bills of credit, representing \$20,000,000, and Washington now felt constrained to pushing the league to an early end. On the evening of March 2, 1776, heavy cannonade was opened upon Boston from all the American batteries, which continued with brief intermissions until 1 o'clock. On the evening of that day General Thomas, with a strong party, proceeded secretly to a high hill near Dorchester, on the south side of Boston, and, before morning, cast up a line of intrenchments which bristled with heavy cannon, completely commanding the city and harbor. The works greatly alarmed and embarrassed the British, who found themselves compelled to either dare almost certain

destruction, surrender as prisoners of war, or evacuate the city. Washington agreed to allow them to depart without injury and they left Boston on the seventeenth of March, 7,000 soldiers, 4,000 seamen, and 1,500 families of Loyalists sailing for Halifax on that day, and the Americans immediately occupying the city. One week later Congress passed a resolution tendering General Washington a vote of thanks for his brilliant and successful conduct of the siege. He was also presented with the medal, of which an illustration appears elsewhere. Its description is as follows: OCCASION.—Evacuation of Boston by the British.

DEVICE.—Head of Washington in profile.
LEGEND.—Georgio Washington, supremo duci exercituum adsertori libertatis comite Americana.
REVERSE.—Troops advancing toward a distant town. Troops marching to a river. Ships in view. General Washington and mounted staff in front.

LEGEND.—Hostibus primo fugatis.
EXERCITUS.—Bostoniensi recuperatione, 17 Martii, 1776.

(Written for the Compiler: H. W. H. S.)

THE ANNALS OF NATION PRESERVED UPON COINS.

BY ROBERT KENNEDY, LL.D., NOMINATOR.

THE SECOND PART.



Julius Caesar died, B. C., 44.

It is a coin, chiefly, that we are indebted for reliable portraits of Caesar. His marble busts have poorly escaped the ravages of time, and barbarian hands. Paintings are of all things most ephemeral. Not among the great mistakes of his period,



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[Written for the CURIOSITY HUNTER.]

THE ANNALS OF NATIONS PRESERVED UPON COINS.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL.D., NUMISMATIST.

THE SECOND PAPER.



Julius Caesar died, B. C., 44.

It is to coins, chiefly, that we are indebted for reliable portraits of Caesar. His marble busts have poorly escaped the ravages of time, and barbarian hands. Paintings, are of all things most ephemeral. But, among the great mintages of his period,

among the millions of coins exhibiting his face and his name, and his offices, coins struck at Rome, and in the provinces and subsidiary mints, we see Cæsar as his friends saw him, as the conspirators saw him, when, on that fatal day of March, they struck him down with daggers, at the base of Pompey's statue. Julius Cæsar was one of a noble and kingly presence, tall, possessing a countenance which, though pale and thin with thought, was always animated with the light of his black eyes. Look at him as he faces to the right, his head crowned with laurel, his bust bare, every lineament animated with genius, "the foremost man of all the world." Look at him and record the scenes of that long war in Gaul, ably described in his own "Commentaries," and of the tremendous day of Pharsalia; and, finally, of the day of his untimely "taking off;" that is Cæsar, whom you see, and none other.

This coin was struck at Corinth, as the inscription shows; and, is of the class styled, colonials, or colony-coins. The words are LAVS IVLI, CORINT; for LAUS JULIA CORINTHUS.

Freely translated it signifies the Corinthian honor to Julius. This Corinth was the celebrated city of Achaia, "the light of all Greece." The old city having been captured, B. C. 140, plundered and prostrated, was restored a century later by Julius Cæsar, who was ever a lover of carving and the arts, and revered their ancient seats. Had he lived, he would have renewed the ancient glories of Corinth; as it was, its people felt so much in his debt as to pay him peculiar homage. Among the other compliments they struck very great numbers of coins, like the above, but with such slight variations as merely to prove that numerous dies were used. Some, for instance, read *Laus Julia Count. Col Laus J. Cor Col Laus Jul Aug Cor. Sc. Sc.*

Turning the coin over we discover on the reverse the money-mark of the city of Corinth, namely: "the hero Bellerophon, mounted upon his horse Pegasus, fighting the CHIMÆRA." The story of Bellerophon is associated with the early history of Corinth. This young warrior was pitted, life for life, with the monster; so mounting his winged horse, (Pegasus) he flew above, and pierced the Chimæra with arrows. For this and other exploits, he was made King of Corinth, and the municipal emblems adopted by the city embodied the horse, the hero and the monster, as we see above.

The legend, by which term we always imply the sentence or word upon the reverse of the coin—contains merely the name of the moneyer or the mint-master of Corinth at the period of minting this coin. This had long been the custom in the Roman mints, and was continued for 60 years after Cæsar's death; the purpose was to let the world know *who* struck the coin, and

this not merely to honor the moneyer, but to hold him responsible to government for the weight, purity and mechanism of the money issued. In the case before us the officers name is given in the dative case L ATO IVLIO II VIR, for Lucius Atoni Julio Duumviro, that is "To Lucius Atoni Julius, the duumvir." This word *duumvir*, refers to two men who were in charge of the mint, and held responsible for the accuracy of the coinage as above. Sometimes both names are given upon the coin, but usually only one.

I have not mentioned the metal of which this coin is made; it is *bronze*, as all Colony coins, with few exceptions are. These are often styled *copper*, sometimes *brass*, but neither term is correct. They have too much tin mixed in them to be called brass. In fact the ancients of that period were not acquainted with the composition styled brass. The true term for all this coinage is *bronze*.

My young reader, just commencing collections of ancient coins, should, by all means, secure one of Corinth. They are prized even from remote times and are either *autonomous*, (that is, struck before the age of the Emperors) or *imperial*, as having the head of an Emperor upon them. Those in silver have often a cock of belligerent mien, which is the emblem of Pallas, equally the divinity Athens; in some, the figure of Victory holding in her hand a serpent; in some, the head of Pallas crowned with laurel etc. Dolphins appear on some, implying the maritime position of Corinth situated upon two seas; on some are four fishes. The head of a female ornamented with wheat-ears, suggest the cereal abundance of the surrounding country. Upon gold coins of Corinth, the head of Venus is seen with carving and necklace, and upon the reverse, Bellerophon, with his flying horse and foe. The bronze coins often bear the head of Apollo, laureated, upon one side, and that of Sol in a four-horse chariot upon the other, holding in his right hand a whip, in the left, a globe; in others we see the trident, dolphin, oil-jar, tripod, head of Hercules, of Jupiter, Neptune, a temple of eight columns, a figure of Victory stepping briskly, and even other specimens of coin language.

Our Shells.

In the last issue of this magazine a few words were said concerning the collecting of land shells, and it was intended that merely the most fundamental and necessary points for a young collector to notice should be mentioned.

These few lines as to the collection and preparation of fresh water shells, will also touch on a few points which the amateur collector must bear in mind, and it has been thought best to omit the minute details of

apparatus and method familiar to the professional naturalist. Experience is a ready and sure teacher of such minutiae. To collect fresh water mollusca, one needs to provide himself with a basket of convenient shape—a fish basket is of a good pattern—some boxes and bottles suitable for carrying in the pockets and some alcohol. A dredge is very useful and often necessary and when this can not be obtained a rake will do very good work in shallow streams and along the bank of rivers. Any black smith can make a very good dredge, and the expense will be but little. One which I have seen used with very good success, consisted of a frame work of very strong sheet iron about 18 inches wide, 6 inches high and five or six inches deep, this frame opens in front directly into the water and has the plate forming the lower surface wider than that forming the upper so as to make a projecting lip for scraping up material. The back of this frame opens into a sack of strong canvass or wire cloth. Into this bag the material is gathered. The whole apparatus may be attached to a rope or pole by projecting arms from the sides and dragged over the bottom of rivers or ponds; a little practice will give all necessary skill to use an article like the one described. Where the water is not very deep or cold the best way is to go into the water in person, protected with rubber boots or not protected at all, and our hands act as a dredge. The smaller specimens should be put in alcohol and cleaned as was directed for land shells, and be sure to preserve the operculum in those shells in which it exists. The larger shells can be heated in water until the animal is softened and may be removed. Then, after rinsing the specimen, dry it and lay it aside. In treating bivalves, never separate the valves, if this has accidentally been done, keep the separate valves together. When the animal has been removed from bivalve shells, fasten the two valves tightly together with twine or thread if the specimen is large, if small, wrap tightly in paper. Dirt or foreign matter may be removed by a soft tooth brush and water acidulated with nitric acid. When perfectly clean a touch of sweet oil will complete the work. The specimens should be kept wrapped in twine until wanted for the cabinet.

Now let me add a word of caution: never, under any circumstances, varnish your specimens, it spoils them for a cabinet, and, moreover, it is in very poor taste; and do not remove the epidermis by boiling in potash, or grinding. A specimen so mutilated is valueless for scientific purposes. Some of the fresh water mollusks must be sought for in rapid streams, others in quiet waters. Some live in springs or their vicinity, others in stagnant pools. Pond, lake, river and brook must be thoroughly search-

ed over; in particular, examine the ponds left after floods. Some specimens live deep in the sand or muck, others upon the stones, leaves, plants, boards or timbers found in the water. The collector must find these localities for himself, and the satisfaction experienced in finding them will more than repay his labor.

BURLINGTON, VT., Sept. 4, 1877.

The Vermont Numismatic Society met according to adjournment with M. D. Gilman, President, in the chair. After the reading of the minutes, Messrs. E. G. Pettigrew, of Ludlow, W. Fennell, of Winooski, were elected resident members, and Robert Morris, L. L. D., of LaGrange, Ky., an honorary member. The regular exhibition of U. S. Colonials followed; Judge Hulburt, of Essex, and Mr. H. P. Allen, of Burlington, presenting some very fine varieties of the Vermont coinage. The number of colonials present was large, and some of them extremely fine specimens.

The society then adjourned until Tuesday, December 4th, at ten A. M.

C. P. THAYER, Sec'y.

A Carnivorous Bird.

The red-headed woodpecker is pronounced to be a carnivorous bird by a correspondent of the *Naturalist*, who relates the following incident as having occurred in Humboldt county, Iowa, last summer: "During that summer a friend raised a large number of black Cayuga ducks. It was noticed that while the birds were still very young many of them disappeared, one after the other, and the bodies of several were found with the brains picked out. On watching carefully to ascertain the cause, a red-headed woodpecker was caught in the act. He killed the tender duckling with a single blow on the head, and then picked out and ate the brains. Though my friend was an enthusiast in protecting the birds and squirrels that came about his premises, this provocation was too much. The woodpeckers were speedily shot."

The loss of the schooner Wm. J. Whaling near Grand Haven harbor, and the gallant rescue of her crew by Capt. Jerome McBride and the crew of the tug *Miranda*, are well remembered by most of our lake mariners. Senator Ferry, it is understood, has taken in hand the task of procuring medals for the heroes of that occasion, with such success that the medals will be struck and forwarded before fall. Only a short time ago, Alex Patterson, one of the heroes of the Whaling rescue, who is now a fireman on the steam barge *Tempest*, rescued a lumber-shover from drowning in one of the South branch ships, when every body who witnessed the accident supposed the man to be beyond succor.

We are under many obligations to Dr. C. P. Thayer, the gentlemanly Secretary of the Vermont Numismatic Society, for kindly and promptly furnishing us with proceedings of the Vermont Numismatic Society, and for the following, (speaking of the "Breeches Bible" mentioned in July number.) "The little notice of the 'Breeches Bible' attracted my attention, as I have a copy printed by Christopher Barker (a brother of Robert, I believe) in 1589, and brought to New England, in the *Mayflower* by *Jno Alden*, whose family record it contains."

S. K. Harzfield presents his patrons with a business card, well worthy of notice. It is a very finely engraved one dollar bill of the American bank, Baltimore, of beautiful design, executed by the national bank note company. Upon the back of which is his card; send 3 cent stamp for one of these bills and his circular of coins and you will thank us for writing this notice, if you are interested in this branch of collecting.

Our next number, issued Nov. 15, 1877, will contain an article on archaeology, from Dr. C. C. Abbott, author of the "Stone age in New Jersey." No. 3 of the series relative to ancient coins by Robert Morris, L.L. D. An article relative to the Rockford Tablet, with a fine photo engraving of the same, and other interesting matter. We need still a few more subscribers to make our undertaking a paying one, and if you think our Magazine worthy of patronage, we should be glad to receive your subscription.

The following in regard to the Savannah medal, adds a little more valuable numismatic information relative to its size which we could not obtain in our last:

SAVANNAH, GA., Oct. 1, 1877.

DEAR SIR:—It is a pity that the engraving, being so well executed, is at such great variance with the *Medal* in size. The medal being size 21, the engraving 36. American coin standard. Yours truly,

J. B. RIPLEY.

The following letter from Professor Jordan, the best authority on fresh water fish in the United States, will be of great interest to any one desiring to make a collection of them.

I shall be very happy to exchange our

fish, fresh water shells, fossil etc., from this section, for varieties from other sections. In this connection before proceeding to the letter, we wish to say that the *MANUAL OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS*, by Prof. Jordon, is by far the clearest, most concise and yet the fullest of any small work we have ever seen, we have been enabled by its use to name several specimens which we had given up. Every student of natural history should procure a copy from Jansen, McClurg & Co., or from this office, price, post paid \$2.00. Now then to the letter which is in reply to questions we had asked the Professor:—Ed.

BUTLER UNIVERSITY,
IRVINGTON, IND. Oct., 3d, 1877. }

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Esq., Dear Sir:—In answer to your questions of Oct. 1st, I have to say:

1. Fishes generally are only to be satisfactorily preserved in alcohol, and generally speaking, the stronger the alcohol the better, as any considerable number of fishes placed in it will very much dilute by their own juices. Small fishes are best kept in fruit jars; quinine bottles will do if the corks fit reasonably well. Avoid packing them very closely in the bottom of the jar, as the strong alcohol is light and rises to the top. Sun-fishes and cat-fishes keep much better than minnows and suckers. Fishes of six inches or more should have a hole made into the abdominal cavity, as the liver and the contents of the stomach readily spoil.

2. There is no satisfactory dry method of preserving small fishes. Large fishes may be skinned, or if too loose scaled, the flesh may be dug out of the skin, and the inside profusely sprinkled with dry arsenic and better, in addition washed with corrosive sublimate solution, and then be filled with cotton or sawdust and sewed up.

Gars, Sturgeons and the like make good specimens that way, but ordinary soft scaled fishes look poor at the best.

3. Small fishes may be sent in quantity in fruit jars in a box by express.

4. A few small specimens may be sent by mail and very cheaply by wrapping in wet cotton, wet with alcohol and then put in a tight box.

5. Craw fishes and other crustaceous may be treated precisely as fishes. They spoil however rather more readily.

Mollusks with the animal in should be similarly treated. It is customary however to save only the shells and to throw the animal away.

I do not care for any of these, except the fishes. Prof. W. F. Bundy, of Sauk City, Wis., is our best western authority on craw fishes.

Very truly yours,

D. S. JORDAN.

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THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

November, 1877. D. A. K. ANDRUS, Publisher: ROCKFORD, ILL. Vol. 5. No. 2.

The Rockford Tablet.

This Tablet, about which we have used our utmost endeavours to glean from various sources all that was known, with the theories of several archaeologists concerning what and whom it represents, has caused much controversy. We present our information below and an engraving of the Tablet which is remarkably good, except that some unaccountable mistake the engraver has placed the characters belonging on the right of the centre upon the left and those belonging on the left upon the right.

—[Ed.]

THE ROCKFORD TABLET.

Editor of Curiosity Hunter:

In compliance with your request, to give you a description of the celebrated Tablet in my possession, I will submit the following, a portion of which I published some weeks since in the *Chicago Times*. I am sorry I have not more time in order to give you some more concise idea of my theory of the Tamuli of the west. The investigation and study of which I have been deeply interested in for the past fifteen years.

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THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

November, 1877. D. A. K. ANDRUS, Publisher: ROCKFORD, ILL. Vol. 5. No. 2.

The Rockford Tablet.

This Tablet, about which we have used our utmost endeavours to glean from various sources all that was known, with the theories of several archaeologists concerning what and whom it represents, has caused much controversy. We present our information below and an engraving of the Tablet which is remarkably good, except that some unaccountable mistake the engraver has placed the characters belonging on the right of the centre upon the left and those belonging on the left upon the right.

—[Ed.]

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immediately with the stone implements, if any were found, and near this coal and the implements, I have found shells filled with pieces of fibrous bark which were much more perishable than bone, yet no traces of bone save a few small pieces, and they always showing the effect of fire,—which would prove to my mind the theory of cremation. Some two years since I unearthed a full skeleton from a mound on the east side of Rock river, and nearly opposite the point where I found the tablet. It was nearly decomposed, many of the small bones falling to pieces at the touch. This skeleton was readily pronounced that of a mound-builder; but with it I unearthed a small brass kettle and handle of a knife. These articles were rather quaint in design, etc., but evidently not over a hundred years old. This proves to me the fact so often denied, that the Indians did sometimes bury their dead in these mounds. But to the tablet. I must beg leave to differ with the many writers who have given their rendition of its characters, who have traced it back to the early Greek, Arabic, Sanscrit etc. I also consider it too small to be a history of any great importance. Those people were evidently tribal like our North American Indians and were not very far advanced in civilization, and their written language was evidently a picture language, like the ancient Egyptian, and similar to that used by the present Indians. Of course, any reading that may be given can only be classed as a conjecture. I am of the opinion that it is simply a picture record of a battle fought between two tribes at the point where the tablet was found, which I would read as follows: The central and top figure represents the sun (solsus), which being at the top indicates the sun at its highest point, (midsummer). The straight line beneath it with short base (a pole standing erect and casting a short shadow) is a further confirmation of the time of the season. The crescent at the left is the time in the month, as indicated by the new moon. The serpent, lizard and lighted torch, which complete the line of figures extending from top to bottom on the left side of the tablet, evidently indicate the character of the personage in honor of whom it was carved. The serpent made him wise, the lizard slow to advance in war, and the torch a leader of his people. The first three characters on the right and at the top of the stone, the first in shape resembles the letter Z, the second a crescent turned upon its back, and the third a small cross, may indicate the character of the opposing party, or be descriptive of the terrible struggle, while the four remaining figures denote the place of the battle, which may be read as follows: First, the head of an animal in connection

with the circular, oblong figures as meaning a trail. The double pair of parallel bars crossing each other at nearly right angles, meaning a crossing, and the fish below them signifying water or a stream, would read the crossing of the stream by the trail.

These mounds are situated on either bank of the river in great numbers, and would suggest that a terrible struggle had ensued between two contending parties. And just at this place is an old ford, long known to white men and Indians. The stone is of the character of gypsum or calcareous spar, and is quite soft. The rude characters indicate no great amount of labor, and it was evidently carved after the death of their leader, and perhaps after the close of the battle, and deposited with the charred remains of their chief. As to the likeness to the characters of the Phallic worship, or ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, I can see no similarity. I have seen much of the Phallic worship in India, and now have in my collection a specimen of the *lynga*, a representation of the male and female generative organs as worshiped by them. I have seen the Rosetta stone, found at Rashad, near the mouth of the Nile, and have spent days in the Egyptian museum of antiquities, at Cairo, Egypt. I have seen acres of hieroglyphics, and I must say I can see no similarity. That it is a rare specimen there is no doubt, but that their written language was very meagre is proven in the fact that so few specimens of it have been found.

That the authors of this and other tablets that have received the approval of scientists as being genuine—all bear the marks of a low form of civilization there is no doubt. The rude character of a picture language, while it may indicate an inferior origin, and only a semi-civilization, does not necessarily denote antiquity. Our North American Indians record their events of war or peace in pictures very rude. The same can be said of the Bushman of Australia, and the present tribes of New Zealand, while one of the oldest written languages known to scientists (the Sanscrit) is not a picture language, but almost phonographic and a most beautiful photograph of the classical thoughts of the men who lived along the banks of the Punjab beneath the Himalayas.

While such specimens as this are rare and of great interest to every student of archeology I have no hope that from these rude land marks we shall ever be able to trace back down the vista of the past decades to the time or place, of the name or race, of the people who wrote these strange characters reared these equally strange mounds which the shadow of the past has so completely hidden from our mental vision.

E. C. DUNN, M. D.

Another Opinion.

So much has been said about The Rockford Tablet at one time and another that it seems as though the public was by this time in possession of every detail that can by any means throw light on the "find". Yet, although the stone was discovered by a party of responsible and reputable explorers, there are doubts expressed regarding its genuineness by people whose ability claims respect and attention for their scepticism. These doubts, however, have not taken the definite form of direct charges, and the preponderance of testimony is largely in favor of accepting the tablet as a real relic of the Mound Builders. Whatever may be the opinion of others, the writer has abundant faith in its authenticity. There are generally no links wanting in the chain of evidence that binds about a fraudulent "discovery". The queries advanced in the present instance, therefore appear to give additional proof of validity. My own views are expressed in the following letter recently published by me in the Chicago TIMES:

Rockford, Ill., Sept. 22.—Complying with a suggestion recently offered by the Smithsonian Institute the Rockford Scientific Society has undertaken the task of exploring and locating the various circular and animal-shaped mounds which lie in large numbers along both banks of Rock river. Their latest expedition was to a series of tumuli situated about five miles south of the city, and, aside from flint implements and the like, their chief discovery was the complete skeleton of a man who must have towered pre-eminent among his fellows some two or three thousand years ago; for a tolerably accurate measurement, based upon the known proportions of the human body, places his height at nearly seven feet four inches. Although, upon exposure to the air, many bones crumbled at once to nothingness, there was ample time for noting some facts of importance. The remains lay facing toward the east and the river; the legs were drawn up, and the arms reached down as though the hands might have been tied or clasped about the knees. Indeed there was a general suggestion of colic about the way in which the antique sufferer doubled up. In getting out the skull and jaw-bones the same unexplained fact was noted which has often presented itself in previous "finds" of this kind. Some terrible upward stroke had crashed through the bones on the right side of the face with sufficient force to cause instant death. It would require a peculiar weapon or peculiar mode of sacrifice to deal such a blow, and a feeble idea of its character may be gained by noting that a pugilist's under-guard hit beneath the chin might duplicate the smashing process to a slight extent. The teeth alone were found to be in good order and fine preservation. They were much worn, but otherwise perfect, and garnished a brace of mighty jaws that would have found it no inconvenience to operate at a second-class hotel-table. In connection with the skeleton were traces of an attempt at cremation; burned stone, bits of chert coal and the like. Lastly, the mound was circular in shape, about twenty feet in diameter, and rose three feet above the natural level of the prairie. The relics were obtained at a depth of from four feet six inches to five feet.

Not very far distant from the site of these discoveries the famous Rockford tablet was unearthed in the summer of 1874. It is, as yet, unique in importance, and may possibly prove the first link in a chain of evidence which will give us some definite knowledge concerning the mysterious mound-builders; but, strange to say, it has never been hitherto described. One or two country editors who saw it concealed their ignorance of its real value to ethnology beneath a cloud of adjectives which told nothing, and left the reader in doubt whether the stone which had elicited such a flatulency of words was big as a mountain or small as a mouse. A little later, the question of

ownership arose, and one of the party lugged the tablet away to the "sacred privacy" (vide Mr. Wilkie's London letters) of his home. Of course it ought to be in the custody of the Smithsonian Institution, for it suggests, not a theory, but a series of facts which it might be well to follow to their ultimate conclusion. To begin with, the stone is nearly three and one half inches long and two inches wide. The engraved side is surrounded by a series of straight lines placed at an angle of 45 degrees to the edges, thus making the ornamentation a succession of diamonds and half-diamonds. The central and upper portion of the tablet is occupied by a figure of the sun overlaid by a figure of the new moon. The sun's surface is filled in with the details of a human face, while the moon, which rests upon the forehead, is divided by minute lines into five sections, the alternate ones—the second and fourth—being dotted. Below these, and filling the lower two-thirds of the centre, is a character like an elongated T turned upside down. On the right hand occur seven symbols, one placed below the other, and beginning at the top, with exact reproductions of the archaic Greek letters SIGMA and Upsilon. Below these come in order a cross, a fish, a water-cooler, two parallel marks crossed at right angles by two other parallel marks, and a second fish. To the left of the central figures are five symbols, beginning, as in the other case, with two letters of the Greek alphabet, also of the archaic, or most ancient form. These are the semi-circular, terminal, SIGMA, and the DELTA. Next comes a serpent, then a lizard, and lastly a mace, identical in form with the Egyptian hieroglyph representing military dominion or imperial rule. A queer mixture surely, and to the casual observer a most unmeaning one. But, pardon the apparent digression, oh gentle reader, did you ever hear of such a thing as Phallic worship? or did you ever associate the cross with obscenity or the church spire with licentiousness? Yet the Phallic faith is world-old, and the cross and spire are not emblems of a crucified Redeemer, but rather a legacy to Christianity from a passionate and sensual past which deified sex, and adored the generative principle as its sole divinity. Modern research and modern science having achieved their everlasting divorce from prelacy, declare that the Phallic belief, which was born in the mysticism of Egypt, and nourished in the creeds of Asia, gained its majority in the pantheism of Greece only to attain a ripe old age within the church of God. So, it would appear that the religions of every age and three continents have found their highest refinement, and their loftiest tenets spring from that elder idolatry, which bowed to the many named, poly-une deity, whom the Romans knew as the God Priapus. Emblems of the "sacred four," the triad and the unit, the T and the O everywhere came to light and told in a thousand ways the mystic tale of Ann, Asher and Hea. Only here, within the borders of America, were no traces of this venerable religion discovered; and, until recently, it seemed that the early dwellers of this far-off land had been more virtuous or less enlightened than their cotemporaries beyond the broad Atlantic. The Rockford tablet, however, must claim for its designers a kinship with the peoples of the Orient and Levant. To explain: In its integrity the Phallic religion was—and is, for it still flourishes in India,—a dualism which deified separately or together both male and female life. Its votaries drew from nature and from artifice numerous symbols to represent the central idea of their faith. Eight of the characters sunk in the surface of the Rockford tablet are identical with the sacred signs peculiar to the worship of sex. Besides these the mace, the fishes and the water-cooler have their duplicates in hieroglyphic inscriptions, and lastly, the stone itself is in proportion, size, and general appearance, a counterpart of the votive tablets which are among the most interesting relics left us by the ancient Phœnicians. The diamonds and half diamonds which form the bordering of the stone are the double triangles which even to this day are, in the Buddhist faith, associated with the worship of "Yoni" or "the unit"—the lesser or female deity. It is, in other words, an endless reduplication and doubling of the sign which came into written language as the Greek letter DELTA. The sun and the new moon, as described some paragraphs above, make up the "sacred four," and the T beneath them is the usual emblem of the triad. A kindred meaning probably lurks in the cross on the right and in the two sets of parallel lines intersecting each other. As for the serpent, it has from time immemorial been sacred to wisdom and desire.

So much we may glean from The Rockford tablet.

without attempting to elucidate the four early Grecian or late Phœnician letters, the key to whose meaning doubtless lies within the realm of early language which had ceased to be hieratic, but which had yet to evolve a complete series of vowels. With this clue to Phallicism in our hands we may account for what was formerly a puzzle. It explains the traces hitherto found of sun worship, of human sacrifices, of cinerary offerings. It accounts for the vast look-out mounds and pseudo-fortifications in many parts of the west, and it will be an important factor in determining the course of future exploration. That a great impetus has been given to American ethnology is apparent in the recent largely attended gatherings of scientists at Cincinnati, in the formation of numerous bodies like the Rockford scientific society, and in the added zeal of private enterprise; but the most important event in connection with this branch of research was the biennial session of the International Society of Americanists, which convened at Luxemburg on Sept. 10. The session of 1875 was held at Nancy, France, and was attended by the principal savants of both continents. The details of the affair were published by *The Times*, but it is believed that when the proceedings of the last meeting become public property that they will show a vast advance upon the work of two years since.

F. C. DAYTON.

MR. J. K. HORNISH,

of Keokuk, Iowa, who has been corresponding with Mr. Dayton about the tablet, says in one of his learned and interesting letters:

"With reference to the genuineness of the meaning of the Tablet there cannot be a doubt. No man ignorant of the secret science of sun-worship could invent it,—he might have copied it—unless he comprehended fully the sciences of the circle and of language. What I feared was that it might have been copied from some old discovery, which had escaped my notice, and imposed on your society as a Tablet connected with the mound builders of America. The meaning of the Tablet and its connection with sun-worship cannot be denied. But it must be connected with the mound builders beyond all question. Establish this point, and the Tablet will tell the most interesting story ever heard by science. It is a communication by Chiron, who taught Apollo to write. Was it sent to Europe or America? If really found in an Indian grave we can easily localize and connect its meaning.

Opinion of the Discoverer.

MR. H. R. ENOCH, EDITOR ROCKFORD "JOURNAL."

The "Rockford Tablet" as it is called, has excited a great deal of curiosity and caused considerable discussion as to its origin, by whom placed in the mound, where found, and for what purpose placed there. Being one of the party engaged in prospecting in these mounds at the time of the discovery, I have given the question of its origin, and the origin of that race of beings who constructed the mounds which are so abundant throughout the west some study, to, if possible, solve the mystery or arrive at some reasonable conclusion as to that race of beings whose only history now remains in the curiously shaped mounds, hillocks and earthworks so numerous along many of the Mississippi valley water courses. These investigations however, only result in speculation and theory, nothing more and nothing less. The opinion arrived at is only of value, in so far as it is supported by reasonable theories. My own theory is:

FIRST.—That this "tablet" was placed where found when the mound was constructed, and.

SECOND.—That the mounds where these ancient relics have occasionally been found, are the ruins of ancient cities, or dwelling places of the race of men who inhabited this continent long anterior to the time of its occupancy by the tribes of aborigines, and that they are not, as claimed by some, burying grounds or battle fields.

In support of this FIRST theory, we find that the tablet was some six or seven feet below the crown or highest point of the mound, directly in the centre and on a level with the surface of the surrounding plain. No tribe of Indians known to the whites since the dis-

covery of America in 1492, were in the habit of making deep excavations or constructing such earth works as are found throughout the entire region known as the "mound builders" country. Allowing that the mound had been dug into by the Indians, and this tablet and other articles found therein, had been placed there by some one of the Indian tribes inhabiting the Mississippi basin, is to concede to them habits of industry never shown by them to any of the whites or missionaries who mingled with them in this valley 200 years ago. The Indians were proverbial for their dislike of physical labor. The chase was their delight. Besides this, the fact is well known that they never buried their dead in the manner indicated by the mounds, if we concede that these mounds are graves.

The second theory, that these mounds are the debris of ancient cities is borne out by the following reasons, and state of facts which are so apparent they cannot be gainsaid.

Almost all that portion of the north-west, bordering on the Mississippi and its tributaries abounds with these mounds. We find them bordering the navigable water courses and smaller streams which are ordinarily capable of floating small water craft. They are never found any considerable distance from the banks of these streams, but, ALMOST INVARIABLY WITHIN A FEW RODS OF THEM. This shows that all their communications, intercourse and commerce was carried on by water. This theory is sustained by the well known fact that beasts of burden and the domestic animals were unknown on this continent, until after its discovery and settlement by the Europeans. When these latter came, there was neither the dog, cat, ox or horse on its wide expanse; what better means then of carrying on an international commerce, than by the water courses on which these primitive people could, on rafts or in boats, float the products of one section to exchange for that of another? Thus we find these evidences of a former people only along the margins of the water courses, the better to carry on their commerce, and to avoid the laborious land transportation incident to a people without beasts of burden.

These mounds at such frequent occurrence and so numerous along the Mississippi, Ohio, Yazoo, Illinois, Rock, Wisconsin, Kishwaukee, Muskingum, Wabash, and scores of other rivers and smaller streams, must dissipate the theory that they are either cemeteries or battle fields, and most strongly confirms the idea that they are the ruins of the former homes of those early races whose only history remains in the great stone axes, pottery and rude bronze and copper spear points, and daggers occasionally found in them.

The similarity of these mounds is found to correspond not only in formation, but also in location, with those of the Aztec race upon the lakes and river margins of Mexico and Central America. Hence, we conclude that the same nationality, but perhaps of a more remote, remove from an advanced civilization, owing to the more rigorous climate of a northern latitude, existed along the banks of the Mississippi and Rock rivers, and left their works along these river banks, in the pyramids of Cahokia, and the mounds on Rock river, as are to be found in the Aztec pyramids of Mexico, and the ruined cities of Central America.

This Tablet furnishes another link in the chain of testimony, to establish the identity between nationalities of the mound builders and the races of Mexico and Central America. And indeed, was there anything lacking to establish the same nationality between them, in the similarity of sign writing or picture writing and language, this simple piece of carved gypsum supplies it. All the figures on it correspond with, or are duplicates of those on the great Mexican stone calendar, found and captured by Cortez during his invasion of Mexico in 1540. This Calendar was buried by Cortez, it being too massive to carry away, and he being hard pressed buried it, where it remained undisturbed until 1791.

This great stone was a little over 12 feet square, and three in thickness, and weighed over 24 tons. One entire side of this great stone is covered with carved figures. In the centre is a face surrounded by an Aurora, or rays of light, evidently intended to represent the sun; around this, are drawn circles at regular distances, extending to the outer edge of the stone; these circles are cut into segments by lines running from the outer to the inner circle next to the face or sun; each of these innumerable sections or segments are filled with some kind of a figure, birds, fishes, reptiles, lizards and animals are all there.

Now, on this tablet is the same central figure, of

face, with the surrounding Aurora,—an exact counterpart of that in the centre of the great Mexican Stone Calendar. Each of the 12 other figures on the tablet are also to be found on the Mexican Calendar. Hence, we can come to but one conclusion, and that is, that the same nationality who made the one made the other. Both were evidently made by sun-worshippers, for we find the sun represented in each as the great central figure to which all the others are subordinate. What the figures represent, whether a historical event, a religious token, a national calamity or thanksgiving, is of course the merest conjecture. On this, we will not attempt to speculate; but we do claim, that it is the link which establishes the connection between the "mound builders" of the Mississippi valley, and the Aztec races of Mexico and Central America, and shows them to have unmistakably been of one nationality and one form of worship.

ERRATA.—In 17th line, second column of preceding page, read 1519 instead of 1540.

Archæological Notes.

Wherever ordinary Indian relics are found, east of the Rocky mountains, and north of Mexico, there occurs occasionally, a peculiar bird-like carved stone, that has puzzled archæologists from the time of Gallatin until the present. A score of suggestions have been offered as explanatory of the implement or ornament, but some grave objections are found to throw doubt upon them. The last explanation of these "bird-stones," is that mentioned by Gillman in the Smithsonian Report for 1874, that they are emblematic of marriage, and were worn only by married women, as indicative of maternity—that they were imitations of "brooding birds." Their general appearance certainly suggests something like this rather than that they were knife-handles for obsidian blades, as suggested by Schoolcraft. One that the writer found, some years ago, was in a grave, and in such a position, that, although every vestige of the skeleton had disappeared, it appeared to have been worn on the top of the head. But this emblematic explanation is all questioned, and I suggest that no worker in archæology, especially in the west, can do better than discover, if he can, the true meaning of these curiously carved stones. But how can merely finding specimens explain their meaning? This question has frequently been asked of other forms also.

My reply is, by collecting systematically. It is one thing to FIND a relic; another to COLLECT them scientifically. To do the latter, archæologists, so far as possible must be their own collectors, and when they go into the field; must note every particular connected with the finding of a specimen. It is very certain, that from the general surroundings, one can tell, whether a grave, a wigwam site, or a pitched battle is being worked over. Even may we find still, indications of the former sites of arrow-head maker's workshops, and where pottery has been made.

Now to return to the bird-shaped stones.

If every earnest archæologist would determine in every case the circumstances attending the discovery of one of these implements or ornaments, we would soon know the usual surroundings of these specimens, when found, and this fact, would throw some light upon their use. Are they characteristic of graves?—of village sites?—or unassociated with other relics, scattered, and apparently lost by their owners? I believe them to be ornaments, and emblematic. Will some one settle this beyond all doubt?

The few hints I have thrown out, suggested by my own experience in field work, may possibly be of use. With that thought in view, were they written for this PARTICULAR CURIOSITY HUNTER.

CHAS. C. ABBOTT, M. D.

From Life History of our Planet, GUNNING.

Dr. Abbott has made investigations which throw much light on the antiquity of the Indian and his growth in the arts. In a forest of beech, oak and chestnut, the increase to the depth of the soil from the decay of leaves, is estimated at 1-128th of an inch a year. Now arrow-heads of jasper and quartz are found in the valley of the Delaware, under ten inches of such vegetable soil. Ten inches would represent the accumulations of about thirteen hundred years.

The arrow heads found at such a depth, are badly formed and not well pointed. At the depth of two or three inches, arrow-heads are found smaller in size, more symmetrical in form, and neater in finish. They are between two hundred and fifty and four hundred years old.

The freshets of the Delaware it is estimated deposit—1-256th of an inch every year over the bottom they over-flow. Now hearths and shell heaps are found in the loess, two feet below the present meadow-surface. Two feet of the loess would represent the accumulation of 6,144 years. The implements found at the depth of two feet, are crude and unpolished. Those found nearer the surface are of more symmetrical form and neater finish.

The same law holds as to pottery. Coarse, unornamented pottery is found associated with coarse unskillfully chipped weapons. Finer pottery, made of carefully selected clay, mixed with pulverized shells, is found associated with more polished weapons.

The inference is that the Indian appeared on the Atlantic sea border about six thousand years ago; that he appeared first as a crude maker of arrow heads and pottery, and that he improved slowly in tool-craft and reached the limit of his powers about

two hundred years ago. But the modern Indian came as a usurper. Implements dropped by men of the "rough stone age," are found in river gravel older than the loess.

Note:—Attention is called to the advertisement of two works in Archæology, by Dr. C. C. Abbott, upon the second page of the cover of this Magazine.

BOOK PLATES.

THEIR EARLIEST USE IN AMERICA—SOME ODD SPECIMENS IN A PRIVATE COLLECTION.

To the Editor of the "Curiosity Hunter."

Perhaps some of your readers would kindly inform me, by reference or otherwise, as to the earliest use of book-plates in America, these tiny heraldic scraps being by no means devoid of historic and literary importance. The oldest American book-plate in my possession is that of Washington, within the cover of "Seneca's Morals," formerly in the library at Mount Vernon. It may assist any one who is interested to say that the earliest known book-plate in any country was engraved on wood by Albert Durer, in 1511, although book-plates were not adopted in Great Britain for a century later.

The oldest book-plate I have, dates from the reign of Charles the Second. It is that of a lady—the shield in a lozenge, denoting widowhood. The finest I have is of the Duke of Sussex, uncle to the Queen of England, with the royal arms exquisitely engraved, without his name, but with his personal motto: *SI DEUS PRO NOBIS, QUIS CONTRA NOS*. The quaintest I have is that of a Presbyter at the Sorbonne in Paris, who curiously borrows a motto from the vulgate of his church: *ITE AD VIDENTES ET EMITE VOBIS* ("Go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves"—St. Matthew, *xxv.*, 9)—the reply of the wise to the foolish virgins who wanted gratuitous oil to replenish their lamps. The largest book-plate in my small collection is that of the famous Ambrosian Library at Milan, its great dimensions admitting it only into quartos and folios. It is in a copy of "Thomas Aquinas's Commentaries on Lombard's Book of Sentences, 1492." The smallest specimen I possess is that of Edward Gibbons, the great historian.

C. F.

We are indebted to Mr. John K. Tiffany, of Philatelic fame, for kindly clipping and immediately forwarding the following to us. We hope all our readers will follow his example when they find items relative to any branch of curiosity hunting. [Ed.]

A Confederate Silver Coin.

We learned last night that such a coin is in existence as the Confederate quarter of a

dollar. On one side is "stamped with the head of President Jefferson Davis," and was coined in 1862. A gentleman of undoubted veracity said that he saw this piece of money while on the Alabama river, and that as high as \$25 was bid for the same by the captain of the steamer, others being made from \$5 upward, and higher prices would have been offered, but the owner of the "quarter" said he would not give it for the steamer and its contents. This, of course stopped the bidding, more especially after the gentleman said the memento could not be purchased at any price. His object is to sell it for an immense amount by some means unknown to any one.

That the Confederacy ever coined money is something new to us, as the Government never had a mint; How the above mentioned piece came into existence is a mystery, but we do not doubt the same as a truthful gentleman said that he saw it and offered \$5 for the same.—COLCUMBUS (GA.) ENQUIRER.

An Ingenious Map.

About the 1st of January, 1876 Professor Hitchcock, of the Geological Survey, and his assistants, began the construction, of a raised map of New Hampshire, the design of which was to combine all the present knowledge of the geography of the State which had been obtained in the geological survey made by Professor Hitchcock, Professor Huntington and others. This map has just been completed, and on Tuesday was placed in the State House.

The map is 14 feet 10 inches long, representing 178 miles in length (being constructed on a scale of one mile to the inch) and ninety-three miles in width, from the mouth of the Piscataqua river to the north-west corner of Hinsdale, showing the entire surface of the State, 9,336 square miles. It also shows all the rivers and brooks, ponds and lakes, hills and mountains, and the town and county lines, railroads, etc. The names of all cities and towns, rivers and principal brooks, lakes and ponds, mountains and high elevations, are given conspicuously, so that any one can find at a glance what they desire to look up. The height of the hills and mountains is given on a scale of one inch to 1,000 feet, and actual measurements are given when known.

The map is constructed of pine and bass wood, and the process of the work was this: A map was first drawn on paper of the same

size as the raised map, with all the outlines of towns, streams, ponds, etc., and contour lines for each 500 feet were drawn. Tracings of the contour lines were made on inch layers of pine and bass boards, maintaining as accurately as possible the relative size and shape. These are fastened upon each other, and the valleys are beveled out with chisels.—CONCORD (N. H.) MONITOR.

Written for the Curiosity Hunter.

The Annals of Nations Preserved upon Coins.

BY ROBT. MORRIS, LL. D., NUMISMATIST.
THE THIRD PAPER.



Hadrian and Sabina.

I am now prepared to exhibit a specimen very rare and curious, of the class of coins styled 'Greek Imperials' that is, coins having the Emperor's portrait upon the obverse, but giving the epigraphs on both sides, in the Greek language. The one figured above is somewhat abraded upon the obverse, but enough remains to enable us, by comparison with other coins of the same class, to read even the erased portions. It is a bronze coin of the Emperor Hadrian, who reigned from A. D. 117 to 138, and presents both his own portrait and that of his wife Sabina.

In the study of ancient coins, every indication however trifling, MEANS SOMETHING. The owner of a coin may not know how to read these marks; he may have no books or friends who can help to elucidate them, but he may feel confident that, like the hieroglyphics on the obelisks at Luxor, each one expresses a thought. These things yield to patient and persevering study. This very day I have succeeded in deciphering some Parthian coins which have been for several years in my possession, but without express-

ing any meaning to me. Look now at the portraits of the Emperor Hadrian and his wife, facing each other. This implies conjugal concord. When the question came up in the Senate, or most likely, in the Committee of the Senate, what devices to put upon this coin, some one suggested "the tenderness of agreement that existed between the Emperor and Empress," and this was the result! So all coin language is read. A leaflet of history was to be written, and there was a wealth of emblem well known, full of meaning, ready at hand, and the expert moneyer selected the proper one.

The head of Hadrian is laureated; that of Sabina is crowned with a coronet of her own hair, supplemented by artificial work. Her bust is decently draped as in all female busts upon Roman coins. Her face is delicate and handsome: all historians unite in commending her beauty. The inscription is in Greek, as already intimated; it signifies "Trajan Hadrian, the Augustus." If the sentence were complete it would read (turning Greek into Latin letters) Aut. Kais. Trajanos Adrianos Seb Upatos G. Patar Patridos, that is, "the Emperor Cæsar, Trajan Hadrian, the Augustus, the chief German, (or Germanicus) Father of the Country." This illustrates the capacity of coin-epigraphs in the way of abbreviations.

The reverse of our specimen presents a beautiful figure of Victory advancing to the left, upon a brisk run or as a soldier would say "at a charge step." This is indicated both in the position of her feet and in the manner in which her skirts have caught the air, and flown backward and upward. In her right hand is a crown held by the knot with which its ends are tied; in her left, a palm branch long enough to extend over her left shoulder. Her head is handsomely crowned; her vesture is open and free. The artist has expressed in all this, the perfect general sense of freedom from restraint.

The legend (in Greek) signifies, when translated, "A coin of the people of Hadrianapolis." This city is near Constantinople, and now styled Adrianople; it promises soon to become the scene of a great strife between Czar and Sultan, in the last great wrestle of those powers. At the time of Hadrian, there was a vast mint there whose issues are fully recognized by coin students even though the legends are sometimes wanting. It is proper to add, that Hadrian, familiarly known as the "Imperial Pilgrim" visited successively almost every province and city of his dominion; his advent and departure were marked by issues of coins in all the variety that the art of numismatics could suggest. Gibbon, the English historian says, in view of this fact, that though all written histories of Hadrian were de-

stroyed, a correct one could be constructed from his coins and inscriptions extant.

Looking once more at that delicate and imperial face, I beg leave to whisper in your ear that poor Sabina was as unhappy a lady as ever wore a crown. After living with her husband more than 30 years, she died the same year in which he did, (A. D. 138,) and according to the opinions of historians, by poison, administered by his orders. She had no children. In her will, she left a sum of money for founding a school for indigent girls, and I have a coin of hers with two little children, her hands pressed lovingly upon their heads.

My lady readers would like to have an account of the head-dress figured on this coin. The coronet is in three parts. The first band is narrow, and joined to the second which is broad; both are ornamented with indentations fitting into each other. Added to this, is a third band, narrow at the side, and projectively rising to a sort of pointed crown or coronet which seems to have been ornamented with jewels. The narrow band is flattened out at the end as if to fix it by its elasticity on the side of the head by the temples. The great Roman families vied with each other in the perfection to which these perruquiers (who were slaves) attained and it is quite painful to estimate the time, patience and perseverance necessary to build up such a capillary structure as we see upon this coin.

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Faithfully, ANDRUS.

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A. REDLICH.

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Plutarchi Chavonenis Vitae Parallelae, cum Signis Aliquot, Graece et Latine, Addunter Variantes Lectores ex mas codd. Veteres and Novae Doctorum Virorum Notae Emendationes, et Indice accuratissime Recensuit Austmus Brianus Londini ex officina Jacobi Zonson and Johannis Watts, XDCXXIX, Royal Quarto, 5 Volumes \$25 00. (Greek.)

Commentari Graecum,

— BVDAEO, BASILLIE 1556. —

Commentarii Linguae Graecae Gvlielmo Bvdaeo, Consilliaro Regio, Svpplicvmqve libellorum in Regio Magistro, auctori, ab eodem accurati recogniti atqve amplius tertia parte avcti, qvibus index svblecte est dvplex tam Graecae quam Latinae voces and phrasae demonstration. Royal Quarto, \$25 00.

BASILLIAE APVD NICO

Laun Episcopivm Ivnlarem anno MDLVI.

FR. PORTI CRETENSIS

COMMENTARI.

In Tres Aristotelis Rhetoricae, Sive de arte Dicendi Libros ab Aenillio Porto Fr. P. C. T. XVCXV PRIMVM in lucem emissi et Generoso Domino, Christophoro Georgio, a Berg Nobili Silesio Dedicati, Vtrius Lavdata Crescit Epirae apud Bernardvm Albinvm, 1593, (16 mo) \$5 00.

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were probably taken from the lake shore, as muscle shells were found from below the natural layer of soil, clear down to the bottom. The skeletons were found resting upon the yellow sand, ten feet below the surface and immediately above them the usual ashy substance composed chiefly of lime. From this mound twelve skeletons were removed, mostly in a badly broken condition, the bones showing great antiquity, still some of the larger bones were in a fair state of preservation. Two skulls were removed in good order, the most perfect in fact that have ever been secured in this region, and several upper jaws containing teeth well preserved. The next mound was seventy-five feet in diameter, and was at least twelve feet in depth. There was nothing new developed in this excavation, it being similar to the one first opened. Three smaller mounds were excavated and in one of them was found something never before exhumed in this section. Near the head was found a large number of pieces of pottery, and with them a very large shell and also the upper shell of a turtle. These were evidently ornaments and had been placed in the piece of pottery and buried with the "big Injun." The pottery will be patched up, and an idea can then be gained of its shape. It is the first pottery ever discovered in any of the mounds in this locality. Not a single bone or flint implement was found in any of the mounds, while in the one opened last fall a large number were exhumed. Among the bones exhumed were some that are of special interest to the students of anatomy, and those savants who make the study of pre-historic man a special feature. Four of the upper bones of the arm, HUMERUS, were secured in a good state of preservation, and had the peculiar perforation at the lower end, found only in the gorilla and the lowest order of the human family. This peculiar formation consists of a perforation at the lower end of the HUMERUS about one eighth of an inch in diameter, and is not found in the anatomy of any civilized race or the Indian tribes of the present age. In the top of the mound from which these remains were taken, at a depth of two feet, the skeleton of an Indian was removed, but the HUMERUS showed no perforation, and, in fact, the conformation would not admit of its being found, the bone being as thick at that particular point as it is in the HUMERUS of civilized man. This is conclusive evidence that the race interred in these mounds are a distinct race from the Indians now inhabiting this country, and, in fact, shows that they are an extinct race of people. Prof. Bailey has been presented with a HUMERUS having this peculiar perforation, and will place it in the anatom-

ical department of the Hahnemann Medical college, where Chicago savants can examine its peculiarities and deduce their own conclusions as to the truth of our position.

Further researches will be prosecuted in this great grave yard of an extinct race next spring, under the direction of Mr. Clarke, of this village, and new developments will probably be made.—CHICAGO TIMES.

Ancient Ruins in Southern Illinois.

During a recent trip through Southern Illinois, I visited the remains of an old fort, from which the modern town near by derived its name. The old "stone fort" is evidently the work of human hands, but of such ancient origin that all knowledge of whose they were, or for what purpose it was erected has been lost. It is said that the Indians who occupied the country at its first settlement by the white man, could tell nothing about it, except that it had always been there, as far back as their traditions reached. It is situated in Saline county, some two miles from the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad, on a high, narrow ridge, which forms one of the banks of the Little Saline river. The northern slope of this is as steep as can well be ascended with wagons, and the southeastern side of the ridge at this place is a solid face of volcanic rock, descending almost perpendicular for at least two hundred feet into the ravine through which the river flows.

This wall of rock shows unmistakably the marks of having been at some time melted, until it ran like lava. Inclosing a space of one, or one and a half acres with this perpendicular wall for the front, is the remains of a vast stone wall, now in ruins, built of the same kind of volcanic rock, and supposed to have been originally ten feet wide at the base, and at least fifteen feet high.

The older settlers tell us there have been huge quantities of this wall carried off for building purposes, and there are still larger quantities that have been thrown or rolled down into the ravine below by visitors, for the sake of hearing the crash and reverberations. Ending within the inclosure, there is an apparently natural stairway, which leads from the top down the almost perpendicular rock, into the ravine below.

This stairway is very steep, and in some places narrow, barely room for one person to pass at a time, especially at one point some eight or ten feet from the top, making it very easy for those within to prevent the approach of an enemy. Within the space

inclosed are two wells, walled up, but now filled with debris of various kinds. One of these had been dug out afresh, a few years ago, for the purpose of searching for tools, or anything that might give information as to its use, but nothing of consequence was found, though it was ascertained that the well had originally been thirty or forty feet deep.

The inclosure is nearly filled with trees of various kinds, from the size of a walking stick up to one and a half feet in diameter, and the rocks are generally covered with lichens. On the top at the north-east end, where the artificial wall joins the perpendicular face of the natural wall, there are prints of human feet in the solid rock, some natural, others evidently moccasin'd, just as distinctly marked as though made in the mud from yesterday's rain. At the bottom of the ravine are similar foot-prints, only much larger.

In walking around this ancient fortress, one can but think of the warriors that may have trod this same spot, centuries ago; of the midnight orgies over captured enemies; or the council fires and battle songs that may have rolled into the forest stillness around; of the tempest of battle; of the dreadful hour when savage cunning may have overcome even this almost impregnable retreat, or the wasted forms of the beleaguered hosts, shut within these walls, until famine and disease had done their work, leaving this monument of their skill and labor, voiceless and silent forever.

DELOS WOOD.

"S. K. Harzfeld presents his patrons with a business card, well worthy of notice. It is a very finely engraved one dollar bill of the American bank, Baltimore, of beautiful design; executed by the national bank note company, upon the back of which is his card; send 3 cent stamp for one of these bills and his circular of coins, and you will thank us for writing this notice, if you are interested in this branch of collecting."

The above we meant for an entirely friendly notice, and to help along Mr. Harzfeld. But it seems that it has worked rather to his disadvantage, as they looked too much like MONEY, and their issue was stopped by the government. Those who have them should certainly hold them, as they are beautiful and must soon be rare.

In relation to Mr. Harzfeld's sale of Oct. 25th and 26, we had intended to write a notice, but the following clipped from that really very valuable Numismatic Journal, "NUMISMA," published by Mr. Ed. Frossard of Irvington, N. Y., so exactly coincides

with our ideas, that we cannot refrain from copying it:

The first sale of Mr. S. K. Harzfeld took place at Bangs & Co., 656 Broadway, on the 25th and 26th ult. In making his selections for this sale, Mr. H. appears to have been guided by considerable good taste, and in boldly placing under the auctioneer's hammer not only several American coins of a high degree of rarity, but many of those rare Roman and Grecian pieces that command such high prices in Europe, he has given proof of his faith in the discriminative taste of American collectors, as well as of his confidence in their purchasing powers. Concerning the catalogue, we can only say that it is of the highest degree of excellence. Whenever necessary or possible authorities are cited, enabling the purchaser to classify his pieces with ease, and to form correct estimates of their value and rarity; the coins are systematically, nay chronologically classified, and two plates illustrating some of the specimens are interleaved. No. 65, the GLORIAM REGNA, 5 sous piece brought \$23; No. 67, NEW YORK in America, on account of its poor preservation, only \$3; No. 71, the rare French Colonial 1751 token of Louis XV, \$16; No. 520 a beautiful DIDRACHMA of rarest type, \$31.50; No. 525, a coin of Sybaris struck 2500 years ago, \$23; etc., etc. The efforts to make this sale successful, were crowned with success, buyers representing the foremost collectors in the United States being present, and the financial results gratifying to Mr. Harzfeld.

BURLINGTON, VT., Dec. 4th 1877.

D. A. K. ANDRUS, Dear Sir:—The regular meeting of the Vermont Numismatic Society was called to order at 10:30 o'clock A. M., in the parlors of the American Hotel, by M. D. Gilman, of Montpelier, President. After the journal of the September meeting by the Secretary, Mr. H. L. Sheldon of Middlebury, was unanimously elected a Resident Member of the Society. The Secretary was requested to prepare a paper upon some subject connected with numismatics, to be read before the Society at its next meeting. The Society voted to subscribe to the American Journal of Numismatics from January 1877. The Secretary called the attention of the society to the "CURIOSITY HUNTER," published at Rockford, Ill., which published the proceedings of the society. No further business appearing, the regular exhibition of coins followed, and Messrs A. B. Halbert and C. B. Palmer entertained the members with some fine uncirculated specimens of U. S. cents. The subject of the next

meeting was the U. S. Silver from 1800 to 1820. Society then adjourned to Wednesday, the 7th of March, at Montpelier.

C. P. THAYER, Sec'y.

A WONDERFUL CAVE,

Discovered on the Southern Illinois Penitentiary Grounds--A Partial Exploration of Its Subterraneous Caverns.

CHESTER, Ill., December 13, 1877.

On Sunday, December 8, near this city, upon the Penitentiary grounds, a party of gentlemen discovered an opening on the hillside, which, upon being investigated, proved to be a cave of no mean dimensions. On Monday, the day following, a party of explorers proceeded to the location, and with the assistance of ropes, lanterns, etc., effected an entrance, after removing obstructing rocks and debris. A newspaper reporter headed the exploring party, and found a big bonanza in the shape of material for an article.

The cave is located on the north side of the hill, and its full extent has not yet been ascertained, though sufficient is known to class it among the largest subterraneous caverns in the country, excluding the famous Kentucky cave. The smallest man in the party was first lowered into the opening by means of a properly adjusted rope, to a distance of about thirty feet, finding bottom. Having a lighted lantern, nothing could be discerned from that standpoint, when he commenced clambering the rugged rocky sides of the cave, and after laborious work found an opening leading in an easterly direction, through which crevice he found no trouble in gaining admission. The light of his lantern having disappeared from the view of his terrestrial brethren, and the sound of his hammer being audible to their ears, they soon became convinced that the bowels of the earth thereabouts contained wonders that were not dreamed of on terra firma. Soon an invitation to join the first adventurer in the recesses of the earth was complied with, and half a dozen eager curiosity-seekers made their way cautiously to view the splendors and wonders that had for centuries been hidden beneath the Indian mounds that cover that section of country.

An ascent from the bottom of the shaft of six feet found a horizontal opening of about ten feet. Then a narrow crevice, through which it became necessary to crawl, was encountered. Having successfully passed through these devious windings, the assiduous party were repaid for their labor by a view of unsurpassed grandeur. A beautiful chamber, about 20 feet in height and 40x50

feet in dimensions, festooned by magnificent hanging stalactites, and representing a growth of trees, shrubs, etc., of fantastic shapes and various colors, was presented to the view of the wondering beholders. About the center of this immense dome was suspended a large and sparkling pendant, of chandelier shape, which gave grace and artistic finish to the marai of smaller dimensions. When struck with a hammer, this huge pendant sounded clear and beautiful, not unlike a well-strung drum. The floor of this beautiful and capacious chamber is composed of the same clear substance as that of the ornamental hangings, and the walls on either side are splendidly encased and finished, as if by a master hand, whose skillful handiwork had wrought as it were by magic. Upon the floor of this room was found a stone battle-ax and fletcher, such as were in the early days used by the red man in the dressing of hides, etc. Numerous bats were discovered housed within this chamber, and the light emitted by the lamp seemed to disturb their peaceful repose. Still, proceeding further, another room was found, which vied with the first in splendor of decoration and elaborateness. It was larger in size, and somewhat dissimilar in furnishing, yet with the same general outlines. Radiating from this chamber were two passages, each of which were followed by the party, but in each case admission was barred by what seemed to be a lake of water. From the first chamber a passage was also noticed bearing in a different direction, but from the fact of the party being insufficiently provided with lights they were compelled to defer further exploration. Numerous hieroglyphics were also discovered, none of which could be satisfactorily deciphered.

About three hours were spent in the exploration, and the party are enthusiastic and confident that hidden wonders are yet remaining undiscovered, which will mark this cave among the most wonderful, if not the largest, upon the continent.

A number of beautiful stalactites, and other quaint specimens of nature's underground work, were carried away for inspection.

Palaontology.

Professor Nicholson thinks that it is to paleontology, more than any other science, that a solution must be looked for of the most important questions as to the past distribution of animals and plants as well as of many of the theories relating to the descent and origin of species. Within the past five or six years the progress made in paleontology has been very satisfactory.

The Annals of Nations Preserved upon Coins.

BY ROBT. MORRIS, LL. D., NUMISMATIST.
THE FOURTH PAPER.



Alexander Balas King of Syria.

On the 20th of May 1837, I climbed the long but pleasant ascent from the Sea of Galilee to the city of Safed. The scenes and events of the day are marked indelibly upon my memory; among the latter I recall the purchase, from a Jewish youth, of the coin that is figured above. It is a silver piece the STATER, weight about 220 grains, size as in picture, and intrinsically worth 60 cents. The name often given to it, tetradrachm, denotes that it is equal to four silver pennies (or drachmas) such as are described in my first paper. It was struck at the city of Tyre, by Alexander Balas, King of Syria who was crowned B. C. 150 and traitorously assassinated B. C. 146. His other names were Euergetes and Philopater. He is mentioned in the Books of Maccabees as a friend of those gallant restorers of Jewish liberty and after his death was succeeded by his unfortunate son Antiochus, known as Antiochus V I. Will the reader turn to I Maccabees, I. 16 for the sake of associating the coin with the Scriptural passage and read this! "So Alexander fled into Arabia there to be defended but King Ptolomee was exalted; for Zabdiel the Arabian took off Alexander's head and sent it unto Ptolomee." How much more clearly do such passages come up to us when we look upon a monument of the period, especially such a monument as this bearing the very face of the King of whom these things are written. The head which Zabdiel the Arabian "took off" and sent to Ptolomee, is here before you, looking out from the engraving.

The head is bound with a fillet or ribbon the same mark of royal dignity afterwards enriched with gems and pearls and styled a diadem. The shoulders are clothed with the general's cloak, styled in Latin, PALUDAMENTUM, and fastened under the right ear with a clasp. The hair of the head is long and bushy. He wears no beard.

Turning our coin over to the reverse side we have the grand eagle which after the

time of Alexander the Great was adopted as a mark of royal dignity by all those amongst whom his Kingdom was partitioned. A noble bird it is! I have seen many a one upon its native mountains of Lebanon and observing its strength of wing, keen eye and general spirit of rapacity can understand how appropriate is the type to such world-destroyers as Alexander and his successors. There is no passage in the Bible more vividly illustrated than that in which this very bird is depicted; turn to Ezekiel XVII. 3 - 8 and read it with this coin picture before you: "A great eagle with great wings, long-winged, full of leathers which had divers colors came unto Lebanon and took the highest branch of the cedar" etc., etc. The eagle in the coin stands majestically to the left. His head has assumed the boldest attitude of defiance. Behind his neck is a palmbranch; under his feet is a ship's rudder suggestive of the maritime superiority of the ancient Tyre, where this coin was struck and which no one one described with so much force as the same Ezekiel whose description of the eagle we have just read. He says "the merchants of Tyre were princes her traffickers the honorable of the earth;" this city "sealed up the sun, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty;" "silver was there heaped up as the dust and fine gold as the mire of the streets."

But we should know this coin was minted at Tyre by the mint-mark opposite the back, which is peculiar to that city. In front of the breast, there is a figure styled an acrostotium, used as an ornament upon the prow of a vessel, like the rudder, under the eagle's feet, this is an emblem of the commercial greatness of the city of Tyre. The three Greek letters under the palmbranch, are the date 163; this is reckoned from the Era styled Seleucidian of which frequent mention is made in the Book of Maccabees. It is equal to B. C. 312 and that gives the date at which this coin was struck.

The legend upon the reverse is, of course in Greek letters, as nearly all the money then current: when translated, "the money of Alexander the King." Numismatists observe that upon Roman coins the epigraphs are more frequently in the nominative case, but in Greek coins in the genitive. There will be frequent opportunities to observe this fact during my series of twelve papers. In regard to dating ancient coins, it is often the most difficult problem that I am obliged to solve. There were various methods employed as I will show from paper to paper. In early Egyptian and Tyrian coins the Seleucidian Era was employed as I said before. In early Roman coins the names of consuls are found and as a consul rarely served more than one

year, the name given the date by referring to the consular list. But this is a rich field for study and I will not forestall the reader's enjoyment.

It is a good place however to remark that among the secular and collateral advantages that have accrued to the human race, by the spread of the Christian religion, that of affording an ascertainable and uniform Era for coins and all chronological matters is none of the least. And nothing better proves the sluggishness of the intellect during the dark ages than the fact that money was not dated with figures referring to the Christian era until very recently. Kings controlled the mints and preferred their own pitiful Eras to that of the incarnate Jesus.

Orthoceratidae.

To the student of fossil shells there are perhaps few more interesting families than the Orthoceratidae. In the ancient seas these animals were the monarchs and their remains to-day are the wonder and admiration of the observer, be he learned or ignorant. The collector eagerly seeks them for his cabinet, the conchologist is delighted with this strange phase of molluscan life, and the evolutionist sees in these chambered columns the promise of the wonderful ammonites of the later seas. To all scientifically inclined these shells are of interest. Classical scholars will tell us that the name designating this large family is derived from the Greek *Orthos*, straight and *Ceras*, a horn, so orthoceros means straight horn, but by this name we gain but little idea of the structure of these animals. Let us examine them for a moment. We see that they are long, straight, tapering from one end to the other and marked by parallel transverse lines. If we look at the end of the specimen we see a circular marking giving the impression of a smaller tube contained in the larger columnar shell. If we break our specimen we shall see, in all probability, that the transverse lines are merely external indications of parallel septa dividing the shell at regular intervals and at any part where the shell may be fractured we shall find the little tube whose extremity we saw at the end of the large shell. This tube is known to scientists as the siphuncle and in some specimens is extremely complicated and a useful aid in classification. Now if we bear in mind the general shape of the shell the septa dividing it like transverse partitions and the siphuncle running through the whole specimen we shall have a tolerable idea of a typical specimen of this great and interesting family. But we are interested not only in dead fossil remains but in the life

history of our animal, we want to know how it lived what it looked like when alive and what purpose this long chambered shell subserved. We shall learn first of all, that this shell was not filled by the living animal as are our common snail shells but that each septum in turn separated the living animal from a recently occupied part of the shell, and that between these chambers and the living animal the siphuncle was the bond of connection. Thus we see in these septa imperishable records of the growth and development of this primeval inhabitant of our planet. The animal filling the last open chamber probably possessed long fleshy arms or tentacles with which it crawled over the muddy bottom of shallow seas or seized its prey. Probably the animal could not withdraw itself completely within the shell and must have had some other means of escaping its enemies. These shells, some of them twelve, fifteen or even twenty feet in length must have been filled with air and these floating erect, would have relieved the animals of their weight. How grotesque these old creatures must have looked crawling to and fro with their hideous tentacles in the muddy water, with their huge shells swaying and wavering over them.

In this family of shells besides the typical genus *Orthoceros*, naturalists give us seven or eight other genera; in the genus *Orthoceros* alone, we have described for us 240 species. They are found in the Silurian age, in North America, Europe, Australia, any situation in fact, where these ancient rocks are found. If we had time and opportunity we might see how these long straight shells first became slightly curved then more and more so until the closely coiled ammonite type was reached in some of the inhabitants of the later seas. The race diminished in number of individuals and species and to-day we have but the paper and pearly nautilii, as living distant representatives of our fossil *Orthoceros*. We must not think however that these *Ammonites* and *Nautilii* are true descendants of these ancient forms. They are merely different expressions of the same structural plan and we have no Geological evidence to show that anyone of these fossil forms may have been developed by evolution from any previous type, but we have no time to enter into this question and will leave it with this notice. We shall not either give any account of the mode of reproduction in our *Orthoceros*, however interesting it may be. So we see that from our study we have gained some slight idea of one the ancient Silurian animals and have distinguished a word in the great book of nature.

HERSCHEL'S WEATHER TABLE.

For foretelling the weather, throughout all the lunations of each year, forever.

This Table and the accompanying remarks are the result of many years actual observation, the whole being constructed on a due consideration of the attraction of the Sun and Moon, in their several positions respecting the Earth, and will, by simple inspection, show the observer what kind of weather will most probably follow the entrance of the Moon into any of its quarters, and that so near the truth as to be seldom or never found to fail.

If the New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, or last Quarter, happens	IN WINTER.
Between midnight and 2 o'clock	Frost unless wind South-west.
" 2 and 4 morning	.....Snow and Stormy.
" 4 and 6 "	.....Rain.
" 6 and 8 "	.....Stormy.
" 8 and 10 "	.....Cold rain if wind West, Snow if East.
" 10 and 12 "	.....Cold and high wind.
" 12 and 2 afternoon	.....Snow or rain.
" 2 and 4 "	.....Fair and mild.
" 4 and 6 "	.....Fair.
" 6 and 8 "	.....Fair and Frosty if wind North or N. East.
" 8 and 10 "	.....Rain or snow if South or Southwest.
" 10 and 12 "	.....Fair and frosty.

OBSERVATIONS—1 The nearer the time of the moon's change, first quarter, full and last quarter are to midnight the fairer will be the weather during the next seven days.

2. The space for this calculation occupies from ten at night till two next morning.

3. The nearer to MIDDAY or NOON the phases of the moon happens, the more foul or wet weather may be expected during the next seven days.

4. The space for this calculation occupies from ten in the forenoon to two in the afternoon. These observation refer principally to the Summer, though they affect Spring and Autumn nearly in the same ratio.

5. The Moon's change, first quarter, full and last quarter, happening during six of the afternoon hours, i. e., from four to ten, may be followed by fair weather; but this is mostly dependent on the WIND as is noted in the table.

6. Though the weather, from a variety of irregular causes, is more uncertain in the latter part of Autumn, the whole of Winter, and the beginning of Spring, yet in the main the above observation will apply to those periods also.

7. To prognosticate correctly, especially in cases where the WIND is concerned, the observer should be within sight of a good VANE, where the four cardinal points of the heavens are correctly placed.

Paper in Central Asia.

Nearly all the paper which is used in Central Asia is manufactured at Khokand, and at Tcharku, a little village in the Khanate of Khokand. The process of making it is rude and slow, yet interesting as a hint of the achievements of the native Asiatics in the industrial arts. We extract an account of the manufacture from the interesting work of Mr. Schuyler on "Turkistan." "The

raggs are alternately pounded and macerated until they are reduced to a thick pulp, which is then collected into a round ball. Portions of this are then placed in a tub of water and well mixed together. The paper-maker takes an oblong sieve, made of thin grass stretched over a wooden frame, and puts into it a certain quantity of the pulp, shaking and inclining it until it is equally distributed over the surface. After allowing it to stand a few moments, he turns it out on a board. In this way one man can make about 300 leaves per day, which are placed one on the other, with layers of felt between, and submitted to a heavy pressure to squeeze out the moisture. In the morning they are taken out, and hung for drying on a wall exposed to the south. The sizing and polishing are done in the bazaar, by a different set of workmen. The size usually employed is a kind of dextrine found nearly pure in the roots of the SHIRASH, a plant of the lily family; and the polishing is made by rubbing it with a smooth, heavy stone. By this process the value of the paper is nearly doubled (from 10 to 13 or 20 cents a sheet). Imperfect paper is, however, never thrown away; for, at the time of sizing, holes or fissures are patched up with their strips, and the surface is made so even that defects can only be discovered by holding the sheet up to the light. This paper which is usually gray, although sometimes colored pink and blue, is very tough and firm, and excellent for the gummy ink with which the natives write. For the purpose of the Europeans it is of little use, and the Russians have to import all the paper they require."

—Mr. Edward S. Morse writes from Tokio, Japan, that he has discovered a shell heap near Amori, which enables him to give positive evidence of a prehistoric race in the island. The deposit is about 200 feet wide, and varies from 1 to 6 feet in thickness.

It is covered by earth to a depth of three feet. As the heap is now nearly half a mile from the bay, the upheaval of the land must have been very great since the mound was first formed. In the deposit an immense quantity of ornate pottery has been found; but very few bone implements have as yet been discovered. There is an entire absence of flint flakes, and nearly so of stone implements. No human bones appear to have been contained in the deposit. The resemblance of this shell heap to those of New England is very interesting.

—See article in next issue concerning the Wonderful Cave at Chester, Ill.

Notings.

Mr. Quartitch, the London biblioplist, has discovered an old English example of the art called xylography. There is no book-book of English origin mentioned in Sötheby's PRINCIPIA, and it was not supposed that anything of the kind had ever existed. The curiosity in question is an almanac or calendar, printed from engraved blocks of either wood or metal, and suppose to have been produced in the monastery of St. Albans before the year 1537. It is on a sheet or strip of vellum, thirty inches by four, and is full of little figures of the English saints whose names occur in the calendar; while on the reverse there is a series of pictured illustrations of the months, similar to those in the early Missals and MSS.

Perhaps the most important discovery made by Professor Cope in Western Texas is that of a domestic hog, with undivided hoofs, similar to those of a horse. Nature, in a freak, first made one, and from that more came, and now they are quite numerous and raised for meat. The Professor has the skin and skeleton of one for his collection. This is one of the most important arguments known in favor of evolution, for here we have not only a new genus, but probably a new order of animals evolved or created.

The report that the arms of the Venus of Milo have been discovered is confirmed by a letter received at the State Department from Gen. Meredith Read, our Charge d'Affaires at Athens. He writes that they were found on the Island of Milo, at a distance of less than thirty feet from the place where the statue itself was found in 1820. He says: "The arms are exquisitely modeled. One holds a kind of disk or shield. The workmanship and the locality compel even the skeptical to acknowledge the authenticity of these wonderful relics." Gen. Read adds: "It is not a little singular that the news of the death of the finder of the famous Venus Victrix of Milo, now in the Louvre, has just reached Greece, at the moment when the other portions of that great work of art are being brought to light."

E. P. Boon, Agt. 86 Nassau St. N. Y.

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Notings.

Mr. Quaritch, the London biblioplist, has discovered an old English example of the art called xylography. There is no block-book of English origin mentioned in Sötheby's *Pricer*, and it was not supposed that anything of the kind had ever existed. The curiosity in question is an almanac or calendar, printed from engraved blocks of either wood or metal, and suppose to have been produced in the monastery of St. Albans before the year 1537. It is on a sheet or strip of vellum, thirty inches by four, and is full of little figures of the English saints whose names occur in the calendar; while on the reverse there is a series of pictured illustrations of the months, similar to those in the early Missals and MSS.

Perhaps the most important discovery made by Professor Cope in Western Texas is that of a domestic hog, with undivided hoofs, similar to those of a horse. Nature, in a freak, first made one, and from that more came, and now they are quite numerous and raised for meat. The Professor has the skin and skeleton of one for his collection. This is one of the most important arguments known in favor of evolution, for here we have not only a new genus, but probably a new order of animals evolved or created.

The report that the arms of the Venus of Milo have been discovered is confirmed by a letter received at the State Department from Gen. McCreith, *Com. en Charge d'Affaires at Athens*. He writes that they were found on the Island of Milo, at a distance of less than thirty feet from the place where the statue itself was found in 1820. He says: "The arms are exquisitely modeled. One holds a kind of disk or shield. The workmanship and the locality compel even the skeptical to acknowledge the authenticity of these wonderful relics." Gen. Read adds: "It is not a little singular that the news of the death of the ruler of the famous Venus-*Victrix* of Milo, now in the Louvre, has just reached Greece, at the moment when the other portions of that great work of nature being brought to light."

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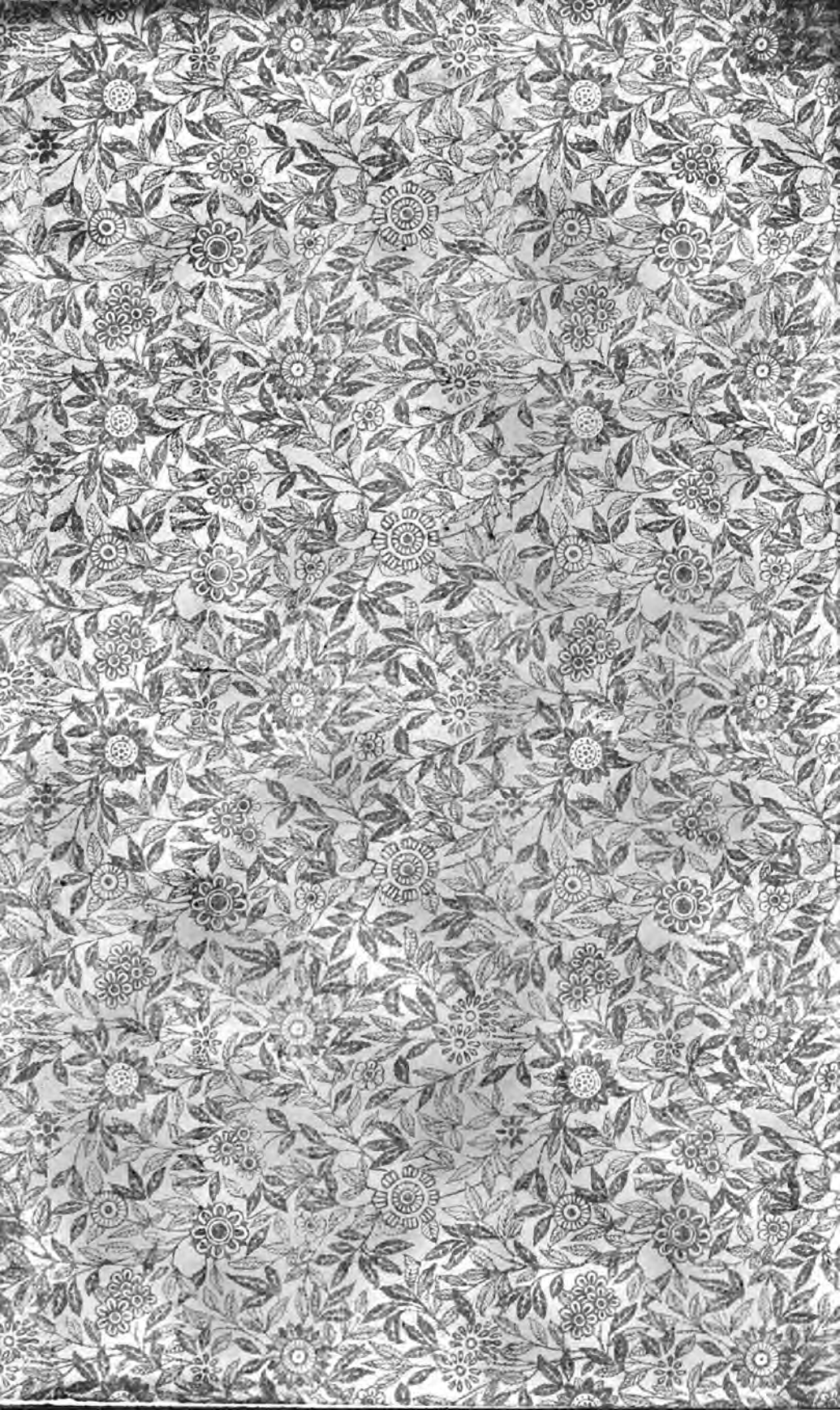
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